

Marriage and Fertility in Rural Nepal:  
A Study of the Chepangs  
in  
Pida VDC, Dhading

By  
Pramila Panta  
Exam Roll No: 3845  
TU Registration No: 4294-95

A Dissertation Submitted to  
The Central Department of Rural Development  
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences for  
The Partial Fulfillment of Master's Degree of Arts in  
Rural Development

Tribhuvan University  
Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal  
November, 2006

## **RECOMMENDATION LETTER**

This thesis entitled "Marriage and Fertility in Rural Nepal: A Study of the Chepangs in Pida VDC, Dhading" prepared by Ms. Pramila Panta, under my supervision in partial fulfillment for the Degree of Masters of Arts in Rural Development, is hereby recommended for its final evaluation. To the best of my knowledge this is her own innovative work presented in the format prescribed by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

---

Dr. Damodar Jnawali  
Research Supervisor

## **APPROVAL SHEET**

This is to certify that the thesis entitled "Marriage and Fertility in Rural Nepal: A Study of the Chepangs in Pida VDC, Dhading" submitted by Ms. Pramila Panta has been approved by the Department in the prescribed format of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Evaluation Committee

---

Head of the Department  
Dr. Pradip Kumar Khadka

---

External Supervisor  
Mr. Abdul Qayum

---

Supervisor  
Dr. Damodar Jnawali

## **ABSTRACTS**

The study on the “Marriage and Fertility in Rural Nepal: A Study of the Chepangs in Pida VDC, Dhading” was carried out by collecting primary data from the Chepang community. The main objectives of this study were to identify the factors affecting fertility behaviour among the Chepangs, to examine the pattern of fertility in the Chepang community and to assess the impact of demographic and socio-economic variables on fertility of the Chepangs.

The total sample population of the Chepangs was 611 at the time of survey. In the sex ratio, the number of male per 100, female was found to be 99.2 is lower than the national level (99.8). Mean age at marriage of the women was found to be 16.5 years is lower than the national (19.5).

The relationship between fertility and selected socio-economic and demographic variables were examined by using frequency tables, standard deviation, mean CEB and cross tables. An adjusted mean of the CEB was computed by controlling the selected independent variables where CEB was used as an indicator of fertility behaviour. The overall mean number of children ever born was found to be 3.918. The mean number of CEB was found to increase with the increasing age of mother and desire for mean additional children was found to be decreased with increasing age of mother. The highest mean CEB was found to be 7.0 for women in age group 40-49 years and the highest mean number of children additionally desired by respondents was found in age group 15-19 (2.636). The average desired family size of the Chepangs was 3.26 in a family. Out of the total respondents, about 35.7 percent desired additional child in which more than 22 percent desired sons and less than 14 percent desired daughter.

The nature and strength of relationship between selected variables and the number of CEB were analyzed using frequency and cross tables. The number of CEB was inversely related with women’s education and occupation and husband’s occupation. In the study area, contraceptive use of respondents was positively associated with the mean CEB of the Chepangs. It is due to one of the major cause that the Chepangs had been used contraception after having more than three children.

# LIST OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

ACRONYMS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ABSTRACT

**Page**

## **Chapter One**

### **INTRODUCTION**

**1 - 8**

1.1 Background of the Study

1

1.2 Statement of the Problem

4

1.3 Objectives of the Study

6

1.4 Significance of the Study

7

1.5 Limitation of the Study

7

1.6 Organization of the Study

7

## **Chapter Two**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY**

**9 - 20**

2.1 Origin of the Chepangs

9

2.2 Population and Settlement Area

10

2.3. Theoretical Issues on Fertility

11

2.4 Empirical Findings

13

2.5 Conceptual Framework

19

2.6 Hypotheses Formulated

20

## **Chapter Three**

### **BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY AREA AND METHODOLOGY**

**21 - 24**

3.1 Background of the Study Area

21

3.2 Research Methodology and Sources of Data	21
3.2.1 Selection of the Study Area	21
3.2.2 Sample Design	22
3.2.3 Nature and Source of Data	22
3.2.4 The Respondents	22
3.2.5 Questionnaire Design	22
3.2.6 Data Collection Technique	23
3.2.7 Identification of Variables	23
3.2.8 Analysis and Interpretation	24
3.2.9 Data Quality	24
3.2.10 Validity and Reliability	24

## **Chapter Four**

### **SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS AND DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY OF THE POPULATION**

**25 - 45**

4.1 Demographic Characteristics	25
4.1.1 Age Sex Composition and Sex Ratio	25
4.1.2 Percentage Distribution of Population by Marital Status	27
4.1.3 Distribution of Eligible Women by Age Group	28
4.1.4 Age at Marriage of Currently Married Women	29
4.1.5 Distribution of Respondents by Number of Living Children	32
4.1.6 Desired Number of Additional Children with Sex Preference	33
4.1.7 Child Loss Experience of the Eligible Women	34
4.2 Socioeconomic Characteristics	35
4.2.1 Education	35
4.2.2 Educational Status of Respondents	37
4.2.3 Dependency Ratio	39
4.2.4 Occupational Status of Population	40
4.2.5 Occupational Status of Eligible Women and their Husbands	41
4.2.6 Family Structure of the Study Area	43
4.3 Family Planning Characteristics	44
4.3.1 Ever Use of Contraception	44

## **Chapter Five**

<b>FERTILITY LEVEL BY SOCIO-ECONOMIC, DEMOGRAPHIC AND FAMILY PLANNING VARIABLES</b>	<b>46 - 61</b>
5.1 Mean CEB by Currently Married Women	46
5.2 Mean CEB by Literacy Status	47
5.3 Mean CEB by Use and Non use of Contraception	49
5.4 Mean CEB by Age at Marriage of Eligible Women	50
5.5 Mean CEB by Occupational Status of Eligible Women	53
5.6 Mean CEB by Husband's Occupation	54
5.7 Mean CEB by Child Loss Experience	55
5.8 Mean CEB by Family type	57
5.9 Mean No. of Living Children and Mean No. of Additional Children Wanted by the Eligible Women	58
5.10 Mean CEB by the Number of Living Children with the Number of Additional Children	60

## **Chapter Six**

<b>SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>62 - 68</b>
6.1 Summary	62
6.2 Conclusions	66
6.3 Recommendations	67
6.3.1 Recommendations for Policy Implications	67
6.3.2 Recommendations for Future Research Issues	68

## **REFERENCES**

## **APPENDIX**

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

## **LIST OF TABLES**

	<b>Page</b>
Table 1: Age-Sex Distribution and Sex Ratio in the Study Area	26
Table 2: Distribution of the Study Population by Marital Status	27
Table 3: Distribution of Eligible Women by Age Group	28
Table 4: Distribution of Currently Married Women by Age at Marriage	30
Table 5: Distribution of Eligible Women by Age at Marriage	31
Table 6: Distribution of Eligible Women by Number of Living Children	32
Table 7: Distribution of Eligible Women by Desired No. of Additional Children	33
Table 8: Distribution of Eligible Women by the Number of Children Dead	34
Table 9: Distribution of the Study Population by Literacy Status	36
Table 10: Educational Attainment of the Literate Population	37
Table 11: Educational Status of Eligible Women	38
Table 12: Dependency Ratio of the Chepangs in the Study Area	39
Table 13: Distribution of the Study Population by Occupation	40
Table 14: Occupational Status of Eligible Women and their Husbands	41
Table 15: Family Types of the Chepang Community in the Study Area	43
Table 16: Family Structure by the Number of Members	44
Table 17: Practice of Family Planning Method of the Eligible Women	45
Table 18: Mean CEB by Age Group of Eligible Women	46
Table 19: Mean CEB by Literacy Status of Women	48
Table 20: Mean CEB by Use and Non use of Contraception in Eligible Women	49
Table 21: Mean CEB by Age at marriage	51
Table 22: Mean CEB by Age at marriage and Current Age of Women	52
Table 23: Mean CEB of Eligible Women by Occupation	53
Table 24: Mean CEB by Husband's Occupation	54
Table 25: Mean CEB by Child Loss Experience	55
Table 26: Mean CEB by Child Loss Experience in Different Age Group	56
Table 27: Mean CEB by Family Type	57
Table 28: Distribution of Mean No. of Living Children, Additional Children and Desired Family Size by Age of Mothers	59
Table 29: Mean CEB by the No. of Living Children and Additional Children	60



## LIST OF FIGURES

	<b>Page</b>
Figure 1: Conceptual Framework for Analysis	19
Figure 2: Age-Sex Distribution of Study Population	26
Figure 3: Study Population by Marital Status	28
Figure 4: Distribution of Eligible Women by Age Group	29
Figure 5: Distribution of Eligible Women by Age at Marriage	30
Figure 6: Distribution of Eligible Women by Age at Marriage	31
Figure 7: Distribution of Eligible Women by the No. of Living Children	32
Figure 8: Distribution of Eligible Women by Desired No. of Additional Children	34
Figure 9: Distribution of Eligible Women by the Number of Children Dead	35
Figure 10: Distribution of the Study Population by Literacy Status	36
Figure 11: Distribution of Eligible Women by Literacy Status	38
Figure 12: Dependency Ratio of the Study Population	39
Figure 13: Distribution of the Study Population by Occupation	41
Figure 14: Distribution of Eligible Women by their Occupation	42
Figure 15: Distribution of Eligible Women and their Husbands by Occupation	42
Figure 16: Family Types in the Study Area	43
Figure 17: Current Users of Contraception	45
Figure 18: Mean CEB by Age Group of Eligible Women	47
Figure 19: Mean CEB by Literacy Status of Eligible Women	48
Figure 20: Mean CEB by Use and Non use of Contraception	50
Figure 21: Mean CEB by Age at marriage	51
Figure 22: Mean CEB by Current Age of Women	52
Figure 23: Mean CEB by Occupational Status of Eligible Women	53
Figure 24: Mean CEB by Husband's Occupation	55
Figure 25: Mean CEB by Number of Children Dead	56
Figure 26: Mean CEB by Family Type	58
Figure 27: Mean Desired Family Size of the Study Area	59
Figure 28: Mean CEB by Desired Additional Children	61

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I feel deep gratitude to Dr. Damodar Jnawali who through his learned guidance and affectionate supervision enabled me to complete this study.

I am very much grateful to Prof. Dr. Pradip Kumar Khadka, Head of the Central Department of Rural Development, T.U. for his valuable suggestions and encouragements. And I express my sincere gratitude to other faculty members of CDRD for their help in various stages of this study.

I express my sincere gratitude to Nepal Chepang Organization of district level and the Chepang community of Pida for their kind support to provide valuable information. And my special thanks go to my brothers Mr. Pravin Panta and Mr. Pramod Panta who helped me in computer typing and helped to collect data in the field survey.

I owe indebtedness to the CDRD and Central Library for providing me an opportunity to write this Project Work and several logistic supports to complete this work.

Pramila Panta

November, 2006

## ABSTRACTS

The study on the “Marriage and Fertility in Rural Nepal: A Study of the Chepangs in Pida VDC, Dhading” was carried out by collecting primary data from the Chepang community. The main objectives of this study were to identify the factors affecting fertility behaviour among the Chepangs, to examine the pattern of fertility in the Chepang community and to assess the impact of demographic and socio-economic variables on fertility of the Chepangs.

The total sample population of the Chepangs was 611 at the time of survey. In the sex ratio, the number of male per 100, female was found to be 99.2 is lower than the national level (99.8). Mean age at marriage of the women was found to be 16.5 years is lower than the national (19.5).

The relationship between fertility and selected socio-economic and demographic variables were examined by using frequency tables, standard deviation, mean CEB and cross tables. An adjusted mean of the CEB was computed by controlling the selected independent variables where CEB was used as an indicator of fertility behaviour. The overall mean number of children ever born was found to be 3.918. The mean number of CEB was found to increase with the increasing age of mother and desire for mean additional children was found to be decreased with increasing age of mother. The highest mean CEB was found to be 7.0 for women in age group 40-49 years and the highest mean number of children additionally desired by respondents was found in age group 15-19 (2.636). The average desired family size of the Chepangs was 3.26 in a family. Out of the total respondents, about 35.7 percent desired additional child in which more than 22 percent desired sons and less than 14 percent desired daughter.

The nature and strength of relationship between selected variables and the number of CEB were analyzed using frequency and cross tables. The number of CEB was inversely related with women’s education and occupation and husband’s occupation. In the study area, contraceptive use of respondents was positively associated with the mean CEB of the Chepangs. It is due to one of the major cause that the Chepangs had been used contraception after having more than three children.

## ACRONYMS

UN	United Nations
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
PRB	Population Reference Bureau
NFHS	Nepal Family Health Survey
NFS	Nepal Fertility Survey
CEB	Child Ever Born
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
VDC	Village Development Committee
HMG/N	His Majesty's Government/Nepal
NGO	Non – Government Organization
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
APPC	Asian and Pacific Population Conference
WB	World Bank
NFFPS	Nepal Fertility and Family Planning Survey
CDPS	Central Department of Population Studies
IUD	Intra Uterine Device
CBR	Crude Birth Rate
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
FP	Family Planning
MOH	Ministry of Health
CPR	Contraceptive Prevalence Rate
NCO	Nepal Chepang Organization
FY	Fiscal Year
NDHS	National Demographic and Health Survey
CDRD	Central Department of Rural Development