Marriage and Fertility in Rural Nepal:

A Study of the Chepangs
in
Pida VDC, Dhading

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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.

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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.

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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