

**VITAL REGISTRATION SYSTEM IN NEPAL : A CASE STUDY OF
BHARATPUR MUNICIPALITY, CHITWAN**

**A Dissertation Submitted to:
Central Department of Population Studies
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences for the Partial Fulfillment of
the Degree of Master of Arts in Population Studies**

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that, the dissertation entitled "**Vital Registration System in Nepal: A Case Study of Bharatpur Municipality, Chitwan**" is an independent work of **Mr. Parameshwar Paudel**, completed under my supervision as a partial fulfillment for the requirement for the Master Degree of Arts in Population Studies. To the best of my knowledge, this study is original and carries useful information about vital registration system in Bharatpur municipality. I, therefore, recommend this dissertation to evaluation committee for the final approval and acceptance.

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LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE

This dissertation entitled "**Vital Registration System in Nepal: A Case Study of Bharatpur Municipality, Chitwan**", submitted by **Mr. Parameshwar Paudel** has been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master Degree of Arts in Population Studies.

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This dissertation entitled "Vital Registration System in Nepal: A Case Study of Bharatpur Municipality, Chitwan" has been prepared in order to the partial fulfillment of the masters degree in population studies.

Any research work in the field of vital registration is both difficult and controversial. Being a continuous source of information about population, Vital Registration System becomes as a spot light to the eye sight of researcher. However, due to the lack of technical knowledge and other consideration, this study may not very near to reality and errorless.

This dissertation become in its shape and reality by the help, support and guidance from several people. Hence, I feel privileged to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to those respondents who spread their valuable time to respond my questionnaire seriously.

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ABSTRACT

Records of vital event registration is one of the important source of population information because it provides data on continuous basis. Keeping this importance in mind, Vital Registration System was introduced in Nepal in 2034 BS but yet the registration status can be said no-existence i.e. it is inferior in both quality and quantity.

The main objectives of the study were to analyze the extent of people's knowledge about civil events and actual use of knowledge in registering the events and to understand the main barriers of not registering the events as well as to identify the ways of improving Vital Registration System in Nepal based on this small scale study. A well organized semi-structured questionnaire was used as a main tool to obtain required information in order to fulfill the objectives.

The main component of this study comprised an interview of 140 households where at least one vital event was occurred during reference period (i.e. from Chaitra 2061 BS to Phalgun 2062 BS). Among the selected households (140), there were 149 vital events occurred in which 45 were births, 39 were deaths, 44 were marriages and 21 cases were migration. Only 11.5 percent of births, slightly greater than 5 percent of deaths, 20.4 percent of marriages and 9.5 percent of migration events were registered timely.

In contrast to the registration status, people were found to have sound knowledge about registration of vital events. Radio has dominated in procuring information about civil registration to other medias and sources. Similarly, majority of the respondents (36.8%) were found to have knowledge about accurate duration of time for registration. The main reason for not registering the event is no need of registration certificate but the reason differs to events. Only very few persons registered the events only having knowledge (i.e. by legal compulsion).

The main cause of registering a birth is need of birth certificate for enrolling children in school, where proof of actual birth date is required, and getting citizenship certificate. The not-registering this event is no need of birth certificate and not having

knowledge. Similarly, the main cause of registering the death is to transfer the assets and pension of dead person. Marriages are registered mainly to prove relationship, only if it is necessary and not registering migration is because of lack of knowledge and no need of migration certificate.

Therefore, in order to improve Vital Registration System, sufficient information about registration of all vital events should be provided, legal enforcement should be made strong, staffs who are engage in registering these events should be trained, integration and support from other related agencies is required, huge area for need of registration certificates should be created.

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ACRONYMS

AIDS	:	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
BS	:	Bikram Sambat
CBOs	:	Community Based Organizations
CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
CDPS	:	Central Department of Population Studies
DDC	:	District Development Committee
ECOSCO	:	Economic and Social Council (UNO)
FM	:	Frequency Modulation
HH	:	Household Head
HIV	:	Human Immuno -deficiency Virus
HMG	:	His Majesty's Government
INGOs	:	International Non-Governmental Originations
JOCVN	:	Japan Overseases Co-operation Volunteers in Nepal
LR	:	Local Registrar
MoH	:	Ministry of Home
MoPE	:	Ministry of Population and Environment
MoLD	:	Ministry of Local Development
NGOs	:	Non-Governmental Organizations
NPC	:	National Planning Commission
PRB	:	Population Reference Bureau
RCNP	:	Royal Chitwan National Park
SLC	:	School Leaving Certificate
T.U.	:	Tribhuvan University
UK	:	United Kingdom
UN	:	United Nations
UNFPA	:	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	:	United Nations International Children Emergency Fund
USA	:	United States of America
VDC	:	Village Development Committee
VPL	:	Vancouver Public Library
VR	:	Vital Registration
VRS	:	Vital Registration System
WHO	:	World Health Organization