

Population:

The country's population stands at 26,494,504 with an annual growth rate of 1.35 %. The male population is recorded as 12,849,041 while female stands at 13,645,463. Total population of children under 18 constitutes 44.4% of the total population of Nepal. (Population Census 2011)¹

Education:

The male literacy rate is 75.1% in comparison to female which is 57.4 %.¹ School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education) is 13 years of female and 12 years of male.¹ The literacy rate among adolescent and youth is 92 % (boys 95%; girls 88%).² In 2071, throughout the country, 2,201,313 girls and 2,134,042 boys made up a total of 4,335,355 students admitted into primary level. The ratio of number of girls admitted into the lower secondary and basic level is seen to be higher than that of boys admitted in the same.²⁰ The gender equality index is 0.99 for the primary level, 1.02 for lower secondary level, 0.99 for secondary level and 1.03 for the higher secondary level.²⁰ It is observed that 86.8% (87.5 boys and 86.5 girls) of children studied from grade 1 to grade 5 in the primary level while 74.6% (73.3 boys and 76.0 girls) studied till grade 8.²⁰

Birth Registration:

There has been a total of 8, 76,196 of which 4, 54,690 female birth have been registered.²⁰

Physical Abuse:

24% of adolescent and youth faced physical violence from any one of their family members.² Compared to girls (21%), a higher proportion of boys (27%) reported that they were beaten by their family members.²

Discrimination:

7% of the girls reported that they stayed in dark room and four percent stayed in a shed far from the house during their first menstruation. About 30 % of young girls stayed in a separate room without being allowed to touch until the purification takes place in about a week or so.² Girls aged 10-14, for instance, work twice as many hours compared to boys of same age group.³

Child Marriage:

Child Marriage is defined as a formal marriage or informal union entered into by an individual before reaching the age of 18. However, Nepal Government has recently declared that marriage below the age of 20 is illegal. Nepal has the third-highest rate of child marriage in Asia, with 37 percent of girls marrying before age 18, and 10 percent before 15, though the minimum age of marriage for both women and men is 20 under Nepali law. Median age at first marriage for males is 19 years and that for females, 17 years. Median age of first birth is found 19 years.² More than 25% of girls aged 14-18 are married and, therefore, likely to get pregnant and give birth before the end of adolescence.³ Early and forced marriage has led to suicide among adolescent girls; suicide is in fact the leading cause of death for women of reproductive age in Nepal.⁴ Of the total female population of the age group 15-18, 23.1% of the girls are married.⁵ Rates of child marriage are especially high in hilly and mountainous areas. The highest proportion of young marriages are practiced among Muslims (60.5%), followed by Hindus (43.5%) with Christians practicing the least number.^{19, 2} UNICEF data indicates that Nepal has

the third highest rate (41%) of child marriage in Asia, after Bangladesh (52%) and India (47%).²¹ The Nepal government held its own national “Girl Summit” in Kathmandu in March 2016, this goal had shifted to ending child marriage by 2030, to align with the 2030 end date of the global Sustainable Development Goals.²¹

Nutrition:

There has been a remarkable improvement in nutritional status as the proportion of underweight children under five years of age declined from 43 percent in 2001 to 29 percent in 2011. Stunting currently stands at 41 percent among children under five years of age. 35 percent of all women and 39 percent of adolescent girls are anemic. Though this represents a decline over the past ten years, it still remains high.⁶

Malnutrition:

Malnutrition prevalence, weight for age, female (% of children under 5) in Nepal was 28.40 and height for age, female (% of children under 5) in Nepal was 39.50 as of 2011.⁷ Nepal Demographic and Health Survey indicates that more rural children are stunted (low height for age), 42% than urban children (27%). Regional variation in nutritional status of children is substantial. Stunting levels are way above the national average in the mountains (53 %). Wasting (low weight for height) and underweight (low weight for age) are also high in mountains with 11% and 36 % respectively in comparison with Terai and Hills. In Terai there is 37 % stunting, 11 % of wasting and 29 % of underweight and in Hills it shows 42 % of stunting, 11% of wasting and 27% of underweight.¹⁸

Child Labor:

According to the Nepal Force Labor Survey 2008, the labor force participation rate for currently active girls (37.8 %) outnumbers the boys (30.2 %).⁸ According to the Nepal Child Labor Report 2012 (ILO, 2012a), 40 percent of the 7.77 million estimated number of children in Nepal are working children.¹⁷

In fiscal year 2071/72, Child Helpline 1098 has been successful in rescuing 109 boys and 86 girls and is also successful in rescuing 195 children from child labor and those rescued ones were reunited with their families. Likewise, out of 56 children, Central child Welfare Board have helped in the rescue of 25 boys and 31 girls involved in child labor.²⁰

In 2016, out of 520 domestic workers (surveyed in 4086 HHs), 34% were below 18 years with 62% of girls and 38% of boys. In 2009, among 2324 domestic workers, 61% were below 18 years (Girls: 65%, Boys: 35%).²⁵

Girl Trafficking:

Two studies ordered by the Supreme Court and conducted by the GoN in 2008 uncovered that there were nearly 1,200 massage parlors, dance bars, and cabin restaurants in Kathmandu alone; employing nearly 50,000 workers out of which 80% were women aged 12 to 30. Approximately 50% of them suffer from some form of exploitation, including 9,000-15,000 of them who are underage.⁹ 5,000 – 15,000 women and girls are trafficked annually to India for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation.¹⁰ In 2014, out of 864 children are reported to have victims of which girl trafficking constituted 58 girls.¹⁷ Out of 1000 to 2000 children who are working in the circuses in different cities of Nepal and India at any time, 90% are girls and could have been trafficked from their place of origin.¹¹ Nepal police along with Women and Children Service Directorate have reported that 184 cases of children under 18 years of age related to human trafficking. 425 children (212 boys and 213 girls) were rescued from sell and human trafficking in fiscal year 2071/72.²⁰

Armed Conflict:

During the decade-long conflict between the Maoists and the Government of Nepal, which ended with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2006, over 10,000 children became victims of human trafficking for military purposes and served as child soldiers in the Maoist army.¹² According to the findings collected from 20 different districts by the Central Child Welfare Board, a total of 790 children (448 boys and 342 girls) have lost both their parents directly/indirectly as a result of armed conflicts. A total of 16906 children have been found to be affected by armed conflicts on some level or other.²⁰ Children, i.e. girls under 18 years old, were particularly vulnerable during the conflict period. More than one third of the victims of sexual violence were children, with many under 15 years old. There are even cases where the victim was under ten. A number of cases affected multiple victims, often when sexual violence was reportedly committed by Security Forces personnel in the course of search operations. There are cases where victims were allegedly sexually abused when pregnant, and of victims with mental disabilities. Further, some victims lost their life as a result of unwanted pregnancy caused by rape or during the course of abortion following such pregnancies.²³

Child Sexual exploitation:

95% of the girls are exposed to various forms of sexual abuse. Most of them are abused at home, in educational institutions, work places or any given place.¹³ Data reveal that of the total 864 recorded girl's child victims of different crimes in 2014, out of which 525 were victim of rape and 216 were victim of sexual exploitation.¹⁷

Child Delinquency:

Among 127 cases registered in child delinquency acts, 2 girls and 136 boys were involved a perpetrator in the fiscal year 2071/072. In respect to the age-wise distribution, 64 were below the age of 14 constituting 47.1% of the total while the group of children between the ages of 14 and 16 accounted to 73 constituting 52.9%.²⁰

Safety of girls in cyberspace:

74% of girls and 91% boys of Kathmandu valley use the internet and 66.6% of children reported seeing sexually explicit materials (CWIN, 2008).¹⁵

Child Care Homes:

According to fiscal year 2071/72, 577 number of child care homes were established in 44 districts with the total number of 16,400 children (7,989 male and 8,499 female). In Kathmandu district, there are a total of 201 child care home where each of the 17 districts has one child care home.²⁰ CCWB monitored 998 child care home in the fiscal year 2071/72. 47 boys and 52 girls were rescued from child care homes operated without fulfillment of minimum criteria. Likewise, 2 boys and 5 girls were rescued from sexual harassment, 25 boys and 31 girls were rescued from labour works and 15 abandoned children (12 boys and 3 girls) were also rescued by CCWB. Of the record, 227 boys and 139 girls were rescued and reunited, reestablished and reintegrated with their families after the earthquake.²⁰

Rescue:

With the help of 6 different organizations and Child Helpline 1098, a total of 4096 (2184 male and 1885 female) have been rescued along with other emergency services including counseling support, medical support and some children have also been reunited with their family.²⁰

Female Feticide:

A hospital-based review conducted in Patan, an urban area adjacent to Kathmandu, also found the sex ratio at birth to be skewed toward males (114 boys to 100 girls) during the 5- year study

period, 2003 to 2007.²² A study by Fuse (2008) which measured gender preference attitudes using Demographic and Health Survey data from 40 countries including Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2006 found that among all the 40 countries, women from Nepal stood at fifth position in terms of son preference and second (to Pakistan) when compared to its South Asian counterparts. In the same study Nepal showed the least preference for a daughter (1.6 percent) putting it at top of the rank in terms of low daughter preference.²⁴ 70% of the women agreed that there was nothing wrong in knowing the sex of the fetus while 81% of them agreed that it is better for women to abort their current female foetus if they already have two or more daughters. The latter proportion was highest in Kanchanpur, followed by kaski and Chitwan.²⁴ Son preference is found to be the highest in families where there are already two or more daughters. Women from such families are the key group who are most likely to carry out sex selective abortion. Even if girls survive sex selective abortion they are still vulnerable to different forms of gender based discrimination beginning from their birth. Girls are found to be discriminated in terms of nutrition, health, education and access to economic opportunities.²⁴

According to the Status of the rights of children (SOROC) prepared by CWIN¹⁶

- Of the 754 total cases of Violence against children:
 - Murder 56 (24 girls & 32 boys)
 - Attempted Murder 15 (4 girls & 11 boys)
 - Infant Killing 18 (4 girls, 2 boys & 12 unid)
 - Corporal Punishment 29 (4 girls, 25 boys & unid)
(19 cases reported by Child Helpline-CH)
 - Physical/Mental Abuse/Torture 62 (26 girls & 36 boys) (55 cases reported by CH)
 - Mentally Retarded 34 (20 girls & 14 boys) (29 Cases reported by CH)
 - Children in trouble/ Family Conflict 46 (28 girls & 18 boys) (reported by CH)
 - Online/Telephone Abuse 2 girls (reported by CH)
- Total of 388 reported rape cases 34.79% were of under 18 & 23.96% minors cases were of children below 10 years, youngest being 13 Month old. 1.03% was murdered after rape. 9.27% cases were of gang rape. 54.12% cases were of Individual rape. 5.41 % cases were of incest rape. Culprits were arrested in only 215 cases.
- There were total of 316 cases of child labor reported of which 81 were girls.
- 60 cases of child marriage were published of which 56 were girls.

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