

**Regional Training Course on Genderizing the Population and Housing Census
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**Country Report on
Genderizing the Population and Housing Census in Nepal**

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Introduction:

Nepal is a landlocked country located between two giant neighbors surrounded by the China in the north and India in the south, west and east. The area of the country is 147,181 Sq. KM. The average length east to west is 885 KM. and average width north to south is 193 KM.. The total population of the country was counted in the latest PHC-2001 as 2,31,51,423 in which, male is 49.9 % and female 50.01. Total households size was 42,53, 220 with the average household size 5.45 and the population growth rate was calculated 2.25 percent per year.

Ecologically country is divided into three regions running east to west. They are namely Mountain, Hill and Terai(plains). Similarly the country is divided administratively into five development regions and 75 districts.

There is a growing realization to have gender sensitive statistics to formulate gender sensitive policies and programmes and effort have been made to engender the population census in many countries around the world.

For the first time, in 1995 , the National Planning Commission (NPC) and UNIFEM's exercise on “ Mainstreaming Gender Consideration into National Development” had recommended that Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) should collect sex disaggregated data in all sectors for all kind of surveys and census that CBS conducts. The recommendation was made to provide gender analysis training to CBS personnel in all level. The inclusion of women in census 50 % as enumerators and to take expert's consultation for the gender specific data collection in the forth coming census was made.

The recommendations were made with an objective to make women's contribution visible and to institutionalize the capacity of the focal agency to produce gender sensitive data. UNIFEM played an important role in the UN interagency group comprising of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNIFEM. The gender sensitization process of PHC 2001 in Nepal was mainly intended to review the traditional approach in order to produce gender statistics by using improved concepts, definitions, classifications and methods to reflect the gender issues in the society. With the regional experience in women's unpaid and undocumented work the CBS with other concerned stakeholders began to follow the 1993 SNA concept of work activity and incorporate various categories of work in the questionnaire and instruction manual. This led to the household work being modified to make it more gender friendly with a new category-concept namely "Extended Economic Activity". This category was introduced for the first time in the history of census-taking in Nepal. Some previously categorized household work of women such as collecting firewood, fetching water, producing goods for own consumption were separately categorized and collected under "Extended Economic Activity". Probing of such kind of women's activities during enumeration period was able to measure women's real contribution in national economy as a part of the advocacy for women's dignity, their presence and their significance role and responsibility towards household. The presentation after this is in line with the guidelines provided by the training course coordinator of the SIAP.

1. The Census organization:

Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) is the government agency responsible for conducting the decennial Population and Housing Census (PHC) in Nepal since 1911 A.D. However prior to 1958 CBS was known by different names, for instance, "Jana Shankhya Goswara (Population General's office)"; "Shankhya Bivag (Department of Number)" etc.

To date 10 population censuses have been conducted. The upcoming population and housing census (PHC) is the 11th in its series and it marks the 100 years' census taking history of Nepal.

The population censuses conducted up to 1941 was nothing more than a simple head count. The modern method was used first time in 1951 introducing modified De-jure

method by changing slightly in the De-jure method. i.e., “Legal place of residence was replaced” by the “Usual place of residence”.

As per the legal aspect, the statistical system of Nepal is highly centralized. However, in practice it is decentralized. So we call it de’facto decentralized system. With the view to develop sound statistical system an apex body in the name of National Statistical Council (NSC) was established to develop an integrated statistical system, to co-ordinate and standardized statistical activities in 1988. The Director General of the CBS used to work as member secretary of the council. It is almost passive at present.

Status of CBS is not high enough to coordinate with other government agencies (ministries) who are producing data according to their needs.

In central office about 10 personnel at different capacity and level have been directly involved in the data collection, data processing, data analysis and data dissemination of the census.

As in the previous censuses the required field staff for the upcoming census each District Census Office requests to the District education office to make available the certain number of teachers to work as enumerators and supervisors in the district Census enumerators will be taken in deputation from the primary level’s teachers.

The selection criteria for the enumerators would be adopted as having the educational qualification of at least SLC passed, local people, local language, young & energetic will be chosen. Out of the total enumerators 40 percent would be female. Women Development Officers and other Government Staff including FCHW (female community health worker) found more effective in rural areas as enumerators during pilot . If the number of teachers , WDO, FCHW provided is not enough then District census officer complete the requirement from the fresh recruitment

Under the district census office there will be Illaka(Area) census offices headed by the Illaka supervisors. The number of such Illaka may varies from 2 to 7 in one district. The District Census Officers and Illaka Supervisors will be deployed from those working permanently in the government services thus it may be partly from the CBS and partly from outside of the CBS

2. The Census of Population and Housing :

The PHC - 2010 round is scheduled to be conducted during 17 to 27 June, 2011.

The broad objectives of the census can be deemed as: to create the basis in order to assess the impact of development program implemented since 2001, to monitor the MDG indicators, to provide baseline data for the newly created states as the country is divided into different federal states or it may provide the basic data to determine the shape, size and demarcation of the newly created federal states, to help to determine the size of Legislature, determination of Municipality, Sub-metro, Metropolitan City.

Information to be obtained from the PHC-2011 is expected as: data collected from the complete count can be used up to the lowest level of administrative division i.e., up to ward level of the each village development committee. In addition to that the gender disaggregated or gender responsive and socially inclusive data by age, caste/ethnicity, language, religion, disability, marital status etc. would be processed. Similarly, economic characteristics of population, information on education, fertility, mortality/ MMR, migration, and disability would be obtained. At the housing level' information - sources of drinking water, lighting, household amenities, and major source of household income etc.

The PHC 2011 is expected to strengthen the technical capability of central data processing unit of CBS in processing, analyzing and presentation of population data by using modern equipment and information technologies.

The census result used by the government can be mentioned mainly in the following areas :

to know the size, structure, distribution and growth of the population.

to formulate, implement, monitoring and evaluation of the periodic development plans at national, regional and local level.

to monitor the MDG indicators.

to prepare the frame for the agriculture census and other periodic surveys e.g., Nepal labor force survey, Nepal Living Standard Survey, Poverty Mapping, NMIC survey, DHS, etc.

Census result was used to fix the number of the electoral constituency in the recently conducted CA election, to implement the reservation scheme for the disable person , disadvantage groups, indigenous & lower cast people, backward regions and female in the public service and police force by amending in the related Acts of the civil service and police service.

The latest result of the population census has been used to design the social security schemes for instance, old age allowance, widow and single women allowance.

In budget speech as government's annual program has announced for rebate on tax for registration of house and land on women's name.

Focused group policies and programs for single women and other excluded groups.

Foreign employment Act has been enacted with special focus to protect the rights of women migrant workers.

The whole area of the country will be enumerated in the upcoming census as in the previous censuses.

The data items to be included in the census are as follows:

Data Items	100 % Coverage	Sample
On Person	15 Questions	16 Questions
On Household	12 +8 Questions*	_____
On Housing	2 Questions	_____

*12 questions are in Schedule no. 1 and 8 questions are related with listing form.

CBS is organizing various workshops/ seminars by gathering the different types of data users while determining the data items and questions to be included in the census. Data users' seminars were conducted different parts of the country including various communities, members of the civil societies, local people, teachers, professors etc. By constituting the census technical committee under the chair of DG of CBS, comprising the leading figures and experts, professionals, academia, researchers etc. as members, the series of meetings of this technical committee are being organized by the CBS. Brain storming discussions on the various issues are made during the meetings of the technical committee. Besides that CBS has

constituted various thematic committees as Gender and social inclusion, Census mapping, Publicity etc. comprising the subject matter expert, experienced persons of the concerned field as members. Many members of such committee are the data users themselves.

Actual respondent while administrating the questionnaire has been found male.

The census report will be published by gender perspective and socially inclusive. by geographical regions, by cast and ethnicity, by industrial and occupational classification in the broad category, by urban and rural etc.

The census report will be disseminated through the Bureau's web site, press release, news papers, radio, television, report publication at the national level, regional level and district level.

3. Gender concerns:

The government of Nepal has given due priority to the gender mainstreaming and women empowerment issues in its planning document. Among the various action plans most important three action plans can be mentioned as follows:

- a. The agencies directly involving in the area of gender mainstreaming and women empowerment, would be helped to empower and capacity enhancement.
- b. With the view to empower the single women, programs related with the employment and social security scheme would be implemented with high priority.
- c. Gender sensitive budgeting system would be adopted in the formulation process of all sectoral programs with more effective and meaningful way and institutionalizing such process would be extended up to the local level.

The ministry of women, children and social welfare, and National Women's Commission are primarily responsible for the gender concerns in Nepal.

The secretary of the Ministry of women, children and social welfare is the member of the apex body of the PHC i.e, Steering Committee on PHC formed under the chairmanship of the honorable Vice chairmen of the NPC. Likewise, secretaries of the ministry of Health, Education and Local development are also represents in the steering committee.

To date, no any separate unit has been established to be responsible only for the gender statistics in the CBS. Social Statistics Section collects and publishes annual publications as “Some Statistical fact on Nepalese Women” a leaflet type publication and “Women in Nepal some statistical Facts” a book type of publications are published by the Social Statistics Section of the CBS.

Gender and social inclusive training manual has been prepared to train the enumerators and supervisors so as to make them enable to understand the concept, definition and importance of gender responsive and socially inclusive data.

The UNIFEM and CBS are working jointly for the mainstreaming gender and social inclusion’s concerns in planning, design and operations of the PHC 2011. In this process a three–day residential TOT program on gender and social inclusion for the core staff of the CBS was organized few months back.

A total of 6 workshops (one seminar at the central level and five seminars at the regional level) have been proposed to be conducted during the period 2010. These seminars and workshops will be very useful to conduct the trainings to the census field staffs which are expected to be more than 350 training event.

CBS is always conscious as to the genderizing the upcoming population census by considering each process from gender perspective. It is hoped that the present regional training on genderizing population census would be instrumental to move in this direction because of the training has been organized in time.

On the whole, to complete the upcoming population and housing census with maintaining its standard norms and values will be a great challenge for CBS, due to the country’s transitional period and unlimited desires and expectations of the different communities of the people. However CBS is moving forward with firm determination to complete the decennial census operation within the expected time frame by protecting its universal standards.

