

**DETERMINANTS OF UNINTENDED PREGNANCY AMONG
CURRENTLY PREGNANT MARRIED WOMEN IN NEPAL**

RAMESH ADHIKARI

**A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS
(POPULATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH)
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES
MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY
2005**

**ISBN 974-04-6393-2
COPYRIGHT OF MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY**

DETERMINANTS OF UNINTENDED PREGNANCY AMONG CURRENTLY PREGNANT MARRIED WOMEN IN NEPAL**RAMESH ADHIKARI 4738659 PRRH/M****M.A. (POPULATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH)****THESIS ADVISORS: PRAMOTE PRASARTKUL Ph.D.,
KUSOL SOONTHORNDHADA, Ph.D.**

Nepal has one of the highest maternal and infant mortality rates in the world. One important factor contributing to high level of maternal and infant mortality is unintended pregnancy. This study aims to determine the factors influencing unintended pregnancy among currently pregnant married women in Nepal. The study has used the data from 2001 Nepal demographic health survey. Only currently pregnant women (N=723) at the time of survey were selected for this study.

Unintended pregnancy is the dependent variable of the study. There are 14 independent and 2 intervening variables in the study. Univariate, bivariate and multivariate analyses were used to analyze the data. Logistic regression was used to assess the net effect of several independent and intervening variables on unintended pregnancy. Unintended pregnancy was also predicted by using some conceptually important significant variables in the logistic model.

The analysis has revealed that several variables such as age of women, ideal number of children, age at first marriage, radio exposure, spousal communication, religion and Family Planning (FP) knowledge were statistically significantly related to unintended pregnancy. The results of the study indicate that knowledge of FP and mass media (radio) exposure are the key indicators that affect pregnancy intentions. Thus, it can be suggested that providing more exposure on radio about FP messages, other information, education and communication (IEC) program, and expansion of FP services for women in Nepal is imperative to bring the changes in the situation of unintended pregnancy. In addition, the findings also showed that women's age at first marriage has significantly negative impact on unintended pregnancy. So programs should also focus on creating awareness about marriage law and this law should be strictly implemented. Furthermore, such a program should focus to make 100 percent intended pregnancy a goal by focusing all these identified issues so that abortion, infant and maternal morbidity and mortality will be decreased and the overall health of the family can be improved with appropriate birth spacing and family size.

**KEY WORDS: UNINTENDED PREGNANCY/DETERMINANTS/WOMEN/
PREGNANT/MARRIED /FAMILY PLANNING/NEPAL****70 P. ISBN 974-04-6393-2**