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THE STUDY OF STATUS OF WOMEN AND FERTILITY AND FAMILY  
PLANNING IN NEPAL

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#### ABSTRACT

This study attempts to examine the relationship between the Status of Women and Fertility and Family Planning in Nepal. The main objectives of this study are to examine fertility pattern of Nepalese women by district, to study the relationship between the status of women and family planning. Women's status is measured by level of education and work outside home, especially higher status job like services. And level of fertility is measured by number of children ever born and family planning is measured by current use of contraceptives. The study is based on two sources of

data. For calculation of Total Fertility Rate for 75 districts of Nepal the 1981 census has been used and for analyzing the relationship between Status of Women and Fertility and Family Planning survey data from Nepal Fertility and Family Planning Survey (NFFS), 1968 has been used. Altogether 5029 households were selected in NFFS, 1986. The rural sample consists of 3774 households while the urban sample was 1255 households. There were altogether 5150 respondents. Data has been collected from the currently married women in the reproductive age group of 15-50. In this study, women aged 50 have been excluded from the study.

The cumulative fertility for all sampled women is found 5.82. Slightly lowered fertility is observed in urban areas compared to rural areas. The level of female education is found to be inversely related with fertility. In case of employment, lowered fertility is found among the women who are employed in higher status job compared to the housewives and women who are employed in other types of jobs. Age at marriage and also interspousal communication are found to be inversely related with children ever born.

The relationship between education and contraceptive use is found to be positive both in urban

and rural areas. Level of education is positively related with contraceptive use. Use of contraceptive is found higher in urban women specially among higher status job holders and also the women who married at lower age. Couples who have interspousal communication are found higher percentage of contraceptive user compared to the women who have no interspousal communication.

