

AN ANALYTICAL STUDY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF NEPALESE WOMEN

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Abstract

Women are the back bone of their family, pillar of community life and care taker of next generation, but most of their works are unpaid, invisible and unrecognized. Now days, Nepal is in transition phase of federal republic democracy. The process of new constitution is going to materialize. So it hopes that the future constitution will be inclusive in nature on basis of gender equality. This paper tries to explain the socio economic status of Nepalese women on the basis of population, age group distribution, education, political involvement, and health status, participation in civil services, manufacturing establishment and agriculture sector.

KEYWORDS

Civil services, Education, Female population, Health status, Political involvement.

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INTRODUCTION

In Nepal, there is patriarchal family pattern. The male is the head of the household and he is the owner of family property and right. All authorities reserve to the male person and father is the supreme of the family. By the cause of this, women have faced the partiality in the field of economic, political and social sectors. Now days, there are no doubt of providing woman rights legally. There are so many areas where the woman rights equally stated. Practically, the gender equality has not practiced in the real ground.

The female right is only for educated and elite women who are earning money as activist of NGO and INGO by taking the issues of female awareness (Rijal, 2010: p 1). But in the country side, women are living as the life of animal. Still they have not got the facilities of basic needs like food, health, education etc. It is a remarkable point that male and female are two sides of a coin. It means that both of them get the equal chance of opportunity and feel the equal responsibility towards the nation. The female population is covered by more than 50% in Nepal but the participation of female representation in various sectors of the nation is very low. Due to the lack of primary health facilities, they reach the door of death in stage of pregnancy and maternity. But woman are the back bone of their family, pillar of community life and primary care taker of next generation. In addition, they manage house hold and prepare foods. In the absence of supporting policies, laws, services and time saving technologies, women works take more hour on an average than men. Most of their works are unpaid, invisible and unrecognized. The average daily working load of a woman is 10.9 hours while it is 7.8 hours for a man (Dhakal, 2012:p109).

In the Interim Constitution of Nepal 2063, article 20, woman rights are expressed as the fundamental right of nation. There are so many positive factors are written in the constitution about the women rights. Besides of this, various partial rules and regulations between the male and female are amended, but problems are not going to solve by the week implementation.

The traditional society the status of women is generally low. In such society, child bearing itself restores prestige of wife, for a childless woman is looked down upon (Bhende & Kanitkar, 2010: p 489). Similarly, high growth rate of population means more children birth by a woman. If a woman is busy to birth more children, she can not get the opportunities of education, training, employment and other social activities (Luitel, 2007: p 45). Now days, Nepal is in transition phase of federal republic democracy. The process of

making new constitution is going to materialize. In 2063 B.S. (2006 A.D.), the concurrent legislative assembly gave a decision that it must be provided 33% woman representation in the different field of nation. So it hopes that the future constitution of Nepal will be inclusive in nature on the basis of gender equality. Gender equality refers to same status, right and responsibility for women and men. It is necessary to give the reproductive right to women constitutively as the fundamental right of them.

The International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo 1994) has emphasized women empowerment as a basic tool for country's overall development and improving the quality of life. In ICPD 1994, reproductive rights are defined as the basic right of couples and individual to decide freely and responsively the number, spacing and timing of their children and highest standard of sexual and reproductive health. It also includes their right to make decisions concerning reproduction free from discrimination, coercion and violence. The fourth world conference on women (Beijing 1995) has also followed the theme of Cairo conference as improving women's access to and control over economic resources can be a key lever for lifting families and communities out of poverty.

Despite many international conference affirming women's human rights, girls and women are still much more likely than men to be poor, malnourished and illiterate and to have less access than men to medical care, property ownership, credit training and employment (Bist and Joshi, 2065: p 70). Gender equality is first and foremost a human right. Women are entitled to live in dignity and in freedom from fear. Empowering women is also an indispensable tool for advancing development and reducing poverty. Empowered women contribute to the health and productivity of whole families and communities and to improve prospects for next generation.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of this study is to analyze the socio-economic status of Nepalese women on the basis of age wise population, education, civil services, manufacturing establishment, agriculture, political involvement and current health status. It is also to test whether there is association between gender and socio-economic variable among the Nepalese people in the different sectors of nation.

METHODOLOGY

The present study is descriptive as well as analytical in nature which is based on the published source of secondary data. Some descriptive statistics such as percentage, average, pie diagram, multiple bar diagram are used to compare the status of male and female in various sectors. Inferential statistics such as chi square test for independent of attributes is used to test whether there is association between gender and socio-economic variables among the Nepalese people in the different sectors of nation.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

All analysis and discussion have been based on published source of secondary data such as National Population and Housing Census 2011(CBS), Statistical year book of Nepal 2009(CBS), Nepal in figures 2010 (CBS), Women in Nepal Some Statistical facts 2006 (CBS), Census of manufacturing Establishments 2006/07 (CBS), Flash 1 report 2009(Education Department), T.U. Bulletin 2009 etc. According to the National Census 2011, the total population of Nepal is 26,620,809. Among the total population, the share of women is 13,693,378 which are the 51.44% of the total population. Table1 indicates that the female population is around 51.81%, 50.74%, 49.65%, 48.77%, 50.13%, 50.04% and 51.44% in the census years 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 respectively i.e. the female population in Nepal is more or less fifty percent from the census year 1951 to 2011.

FEMALE POPULATION BY AGE DISTRIBUTION

According to the national census 2011, the male and female population by different age group is as follows to Table 2 which shows that the female population under the age 0-4 years (48.79%) is less than the male population of the same age. Similarly, the population of female between the ages 5-14 years (49.10%) is less than the male population of the same age. The population of female between the ages 15-59 years (53.16%) is greater than the male population of the same age. Similarly, the population of female over the age 60 years (50.57%) is also greater than male population of the same age. It shows that still people are wanted to birth son rather than daughter. The population of different age group of female is significantly different from that of male

FEMALE IN EDUCATION

Education is the most prominent factor of empowering women with knowledge, skill and self confidence. According to the "Nepal in Figures 2010", the literacy rate (%) of Nepalese people is 54.1. Among of them, male literacy rate is 65.5 but corresponding figure of female is 42.8. Table 3 shows the enrollment of boys and girls in the school from primary to higher secondary level. There are 50.07% of girls are enrolled in primary level where as it is 49.01%, 48.05% and 51.12% of girls are enrolled in lower secondary, secondary and higher secondary levels respectively. It indicates that the enrollment of girls in primary level is higher then the enrollment of boys. But this scenario is exactly opposite in the lower secondary and secondary level education. After SLC level, some boys of urban areas go to aboard study and boys of rural areas migrate to the Middle East as low class workers. Tribhuvan University is the oldest and pioneer university of Nepal. More than 80% of students have been steady in T.U. Table 4 shows the report of Tribhuvan University 2010, the enrollment of boys and girls in deferent levels .There are 34.19% and 34.12% of girls are enrolled in certificate and bachelor levels respectively where as it is only 28.82% in master level. Among the students of higher education, there are only 34.74%of girls. It shows that in the 21st century, still there are discrimination between son and daughter to get the higher education. Among the students of higher education, there are only 34.74%of girls. It shows that in the 21st century, still there are discrimination between son and daughter to get the higher education. The school level education of female is significantly different from that of male. Similarly, the higher level education of female is significantly different from that of male.

FEMALE IN POLITICAL SECTOR

After the election of constitutional assembly, the representation of female participation in politics is significantly increased. There are 197 women representatives in the house of parliament. Table 5 shows that there are in total 32.56% female representatives in the house of constitutional assembly. There are 12.5% female are elected by direct election, 48.06 % female are elected by inclusive election and 20% female are nominated in the house of representative. It indicates that

female awareness is gradually increased in the political sector with compare to past decades. The participation of female in the parliament is significantly different from that of male.

FEMALE IN CIVIL SERVICES

There is very little participation of women in civil service of Nepal. Table 6 shows that the female participation is the lowest with compare to male participation in the civil services of Nepal. But according to the second amendment of civil service acts 2049, 45% is supposed to be 100%, among this 33% is separated to the female candidates. So it is hoped that the female participants in civil service are going to increase in the future. But at present, in the gazette level, the participation of female are 2.27%,3.87%,3.57%and 5.68% in the special class, first class, second class and third class respectively. In the non gazette level, the participation of female are 10.23%, 12.31%, 32.73% and 3.77% in the first, second, third and fourth class respectively. There is 6.27% of female are in non classified level such as helper and peon. In total only 11.34% share of participation of female in civil services. The participation of female in the civil services is significantly different from that of male.

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Nepal is an agriculture country. More than 85.80 % people live in the rural areas and 76% of people are engaged in agriculture activities. So, agriculture is the mainstay of the economy accounting for one third of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The average working load of women is 10.9 hours while it is 7.8 hours for male. Table 7 shows that female have actively participated in agriculture sector with compare to male but they have limited property right. The table indicates that women are holding only area of 143.8 thousand hectares land but men are holding area of 2654.1hectars land. It also indicates that 9646.7 thousand women are completely engaged in agriculture sectors but 9385.8 thousand men are engaged in it.

WOMEN IN MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS

According to the census of manufacturing establishments Nepal 2007, the numbers of women who are working in the manufacturing sector are only 28,988 in number. Table 8 shows that there are only 18.04 percent of women are working in the industrial and manufacturing sector among them 5.73 percent are managers, 6.87 are administrators, 4.63 percent are technicians and 20.53 percent are helper (peon and non classified level). It indicates that women are involved in a low productivity, low wage and higher risk of physical works under the employment sector. The participation of female in the manufacturing establishments is significantly different from that of male.

HEALTH STATUS OF WOMEN

The female mortality rate and fertility rate are the maximum in Nepal. Most of the women in the remote area have not got the primary health facilities. So, they have reached in the door of death in the stage of pregnancy and maternity. Table 9 shows the health status of Nepalese women where the fertility rate is 3.1 i.e. one woman has give to more than three child in her life. There are 281 women have died in the stage of pregnancy and maternity per lakh alive birth. In the economic year 2009/10, the expected pregnant women were 984,251 but only 15.1% pregnant women had got the maternity service from health post and hospital. Similarly, only 31.6 % had got the maternity service by health workers and 67.9% had got the facility of first time pregnancy examination service and 37.7% got the first time maternity service. The average life expectancy of women is 64.5 years.

CONCLUSION

Nepal is one of the least developed countries of the world. Among 26.6 million people of the country as per census of 2011 A.D., 83.0 percent of people live in the rural areas. There is not only one factor to decrease the status of women, social and cultural values are equally responsible about it. If we compare the socio-economic status between male and female in many areas, overall situations of Nepalese women are down. Various efforts have been conducted in

the different national development planning to promote the status of female among the Nepalese people. But sufficient facilities have not been reached to target group buy the cause of ecological diversity, ignorance of people and other social and economical factors. So it should be prevented the discrimination against girls and gender based violence in various sectors by implementing the strong rules and regulations. It should be provided full authority of reproductive decisions to the women. If we able to protect to female's reproductive rights, they have freedom to participate fully and equally in the society. Government should be provided the right to non discrimination and equality in education and employment sectors. The gender equality is the basic human right; it offers the multiple rewards that can accelerate social and economic progress with positive impact on future generations. In Nepal, women have suppressed in all walks of life by generation to generation, women empowerment is far easier said than that done. This is in certain respect demand a revolutionary change in socio-culture values of the society.

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TABLE: 1
Population of Male & Female

Year	Total population	Female population	% of female population
1951	8,235,079	4,184,472	50.81
1961	9,412,996	4,776,963	50.74
1971	11,555,983	5,738,780	49.65
1981	15,022,839	7,327,503	48.77
1991	14,891,097	9,270,123	50.13
2001	23,151,423	11,587,502	50.04
2011	26,620,809	13,693,378	51.44

Source: National Population and Housing Census 2011, CBS.

FIGURE: 1

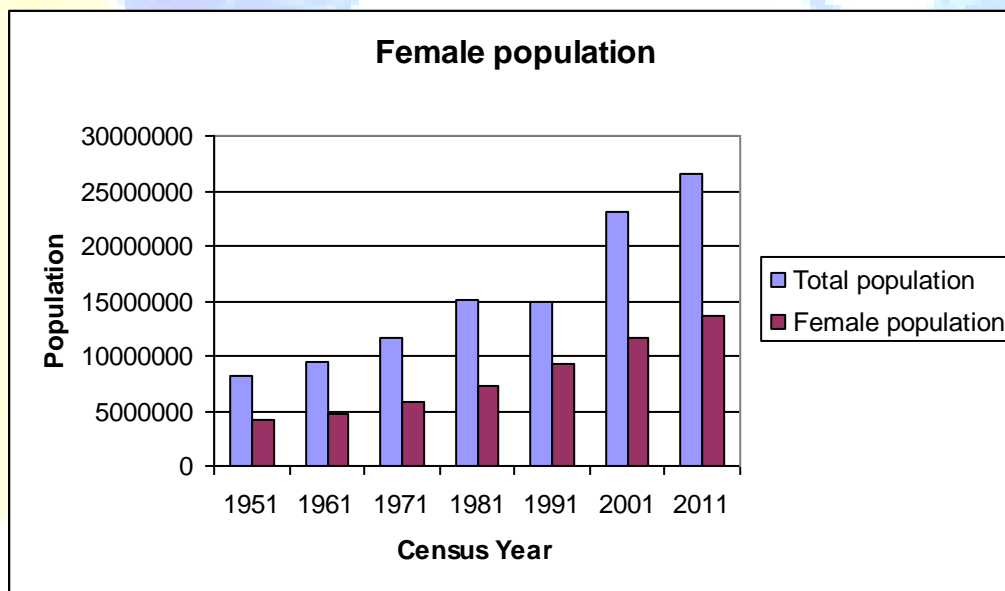


TABLE: 2
Female Population by Age Distribution

Age in years	Total population	Female population	Male population	% of Female
0-4	2,567,963	1,253,006	1,314,957	48.79
5-14	6,680,283	3,280,477	3,399,806	49.10
15-59	15,091,848	8,022,509	7,069,339	53.16
60 and above	2,154,410	1,089,471	1,064,939	50.57
Total	26,494,504	13,645,463	12,849,041	51.50

Source: National Population and Housing Census 2011, CBS.

FIGURE: 2

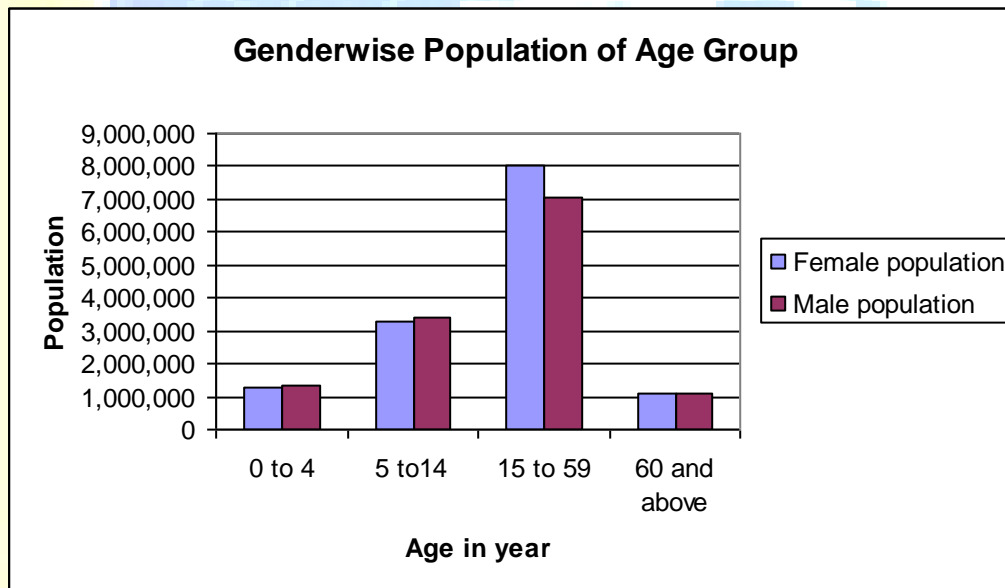


TABLE: 3

Education Status of Female in School Level

Level	Boys	Girls	Total	% of girls
Primary	2,446,728	2,453,935	4,900,663	50.07
Lower secondary	818,063	786,359	1,604,422	49.01
Secondary	410,522	379,826	790,348	48.05
Higher secondary	136,654	143,793	280,447	51.12

Source: Tathyanka Gatibidhi, 2010, March-June, CBS

FIGURE: 3

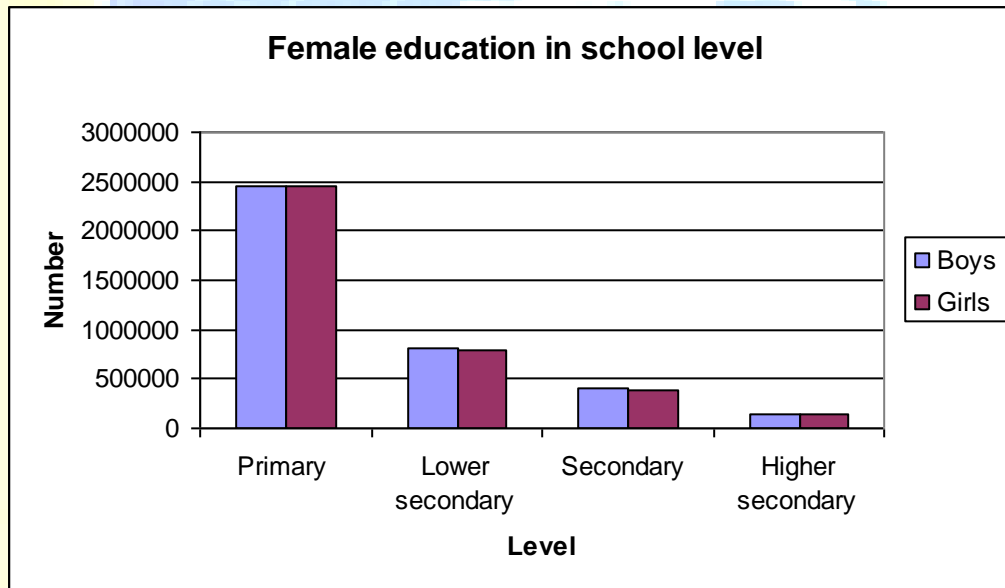


TABLE: 4
Women in Higher Education

Level	Boys	Girls	Total	% of girls
Certificate	31,844	16,549	48,393	34.19
Bachelor	58,983	30,548	89,531	34.12
Master	20,746	8,400	29,146	28.82

Source: Tathyanka Gatibidhi, 2010, March-June, CBS

FIGURE: 4

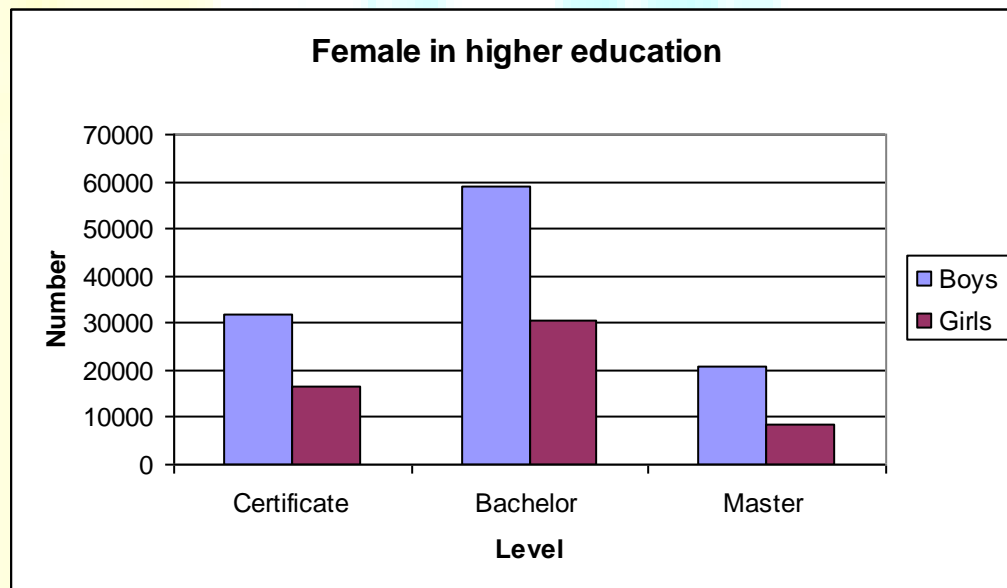


TABLE: 5

Female Representatives in the House of Constitutional Assembly

Type of Election	Female	Male	Total	% of Female
Direct election	30	210	240	12.50
Inclusive election	161	174	335	48.05
Nominated	6	24	30	20.00
Total	197	408	605	32.56

Source: www.election.gov.np

FIGURE: 5

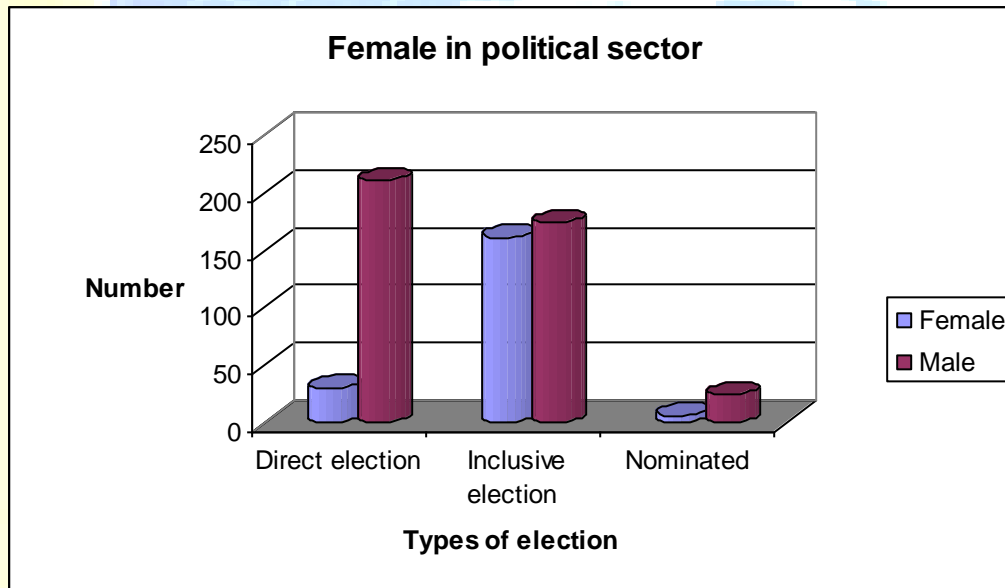


TABLE: 6

Women Participation of Civil Services

	Total civil servants	Female civil servants	% of female civil servants
Gazetted specials class	44	1	2.27
Gazetted first	336	13	3.87
Gazetted second	2019	72	3.57
Gazetted third	6579	374	5.68
Non gazetted first	15008	1535	10.23
Non gazetted second	19296	2376	12.31
Non gazetted third c	8674	2839	32.73
Non gazetted fourth	1352	51	3.77
Non classified	24018	1505	6.27
total	77326	8766	11.34

Source: Nijamati Kitab khana, Pulchok, 30 June 2011.

FIGURE: 6

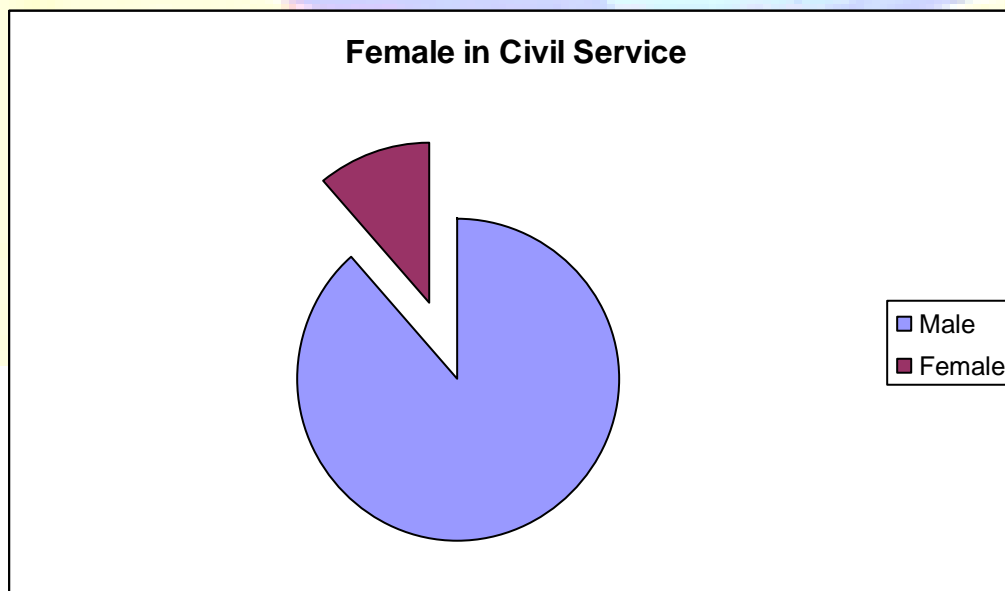


TABLE: 7

Women in Agriculture Sector

	Area of land holding(000hector)	No. of agriculture holder(per000)	Average size of holding land (hector)	Total population of farmers(000)
Male	2654.1	3092.6	0.82	9385.8
Female	143.8	271.5	0.53	9646.7
Total	2797.9	3364.1	0.8	19032.5

Source: Women in Nepal Some Statistical facts, CBS 2006

FIGURE: 7

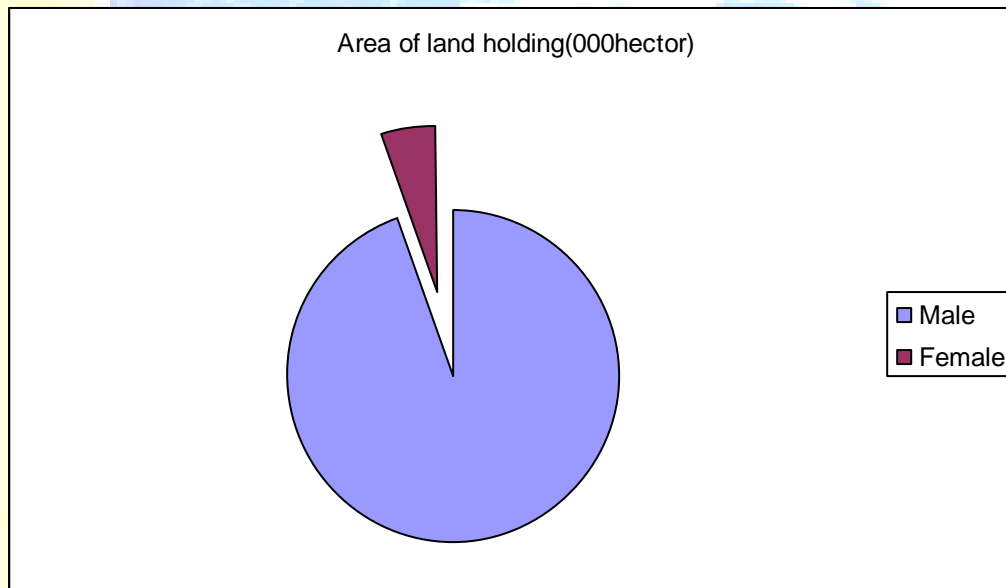


TABLE: 8

Women In Manufacturing Establishment

Level	Women	Men	Total	% of women
Manager	110	1809	1919	5.73
Administrator	1224	16859	18104	6.87
Technician	363	7463	7826	4.63
Helper	27270	105544	132814	20.53
Total	28988	131675	160663	18.04

Source: Census of Manufacturing Establishments Nepal 2006/07.

FIGURE: 8

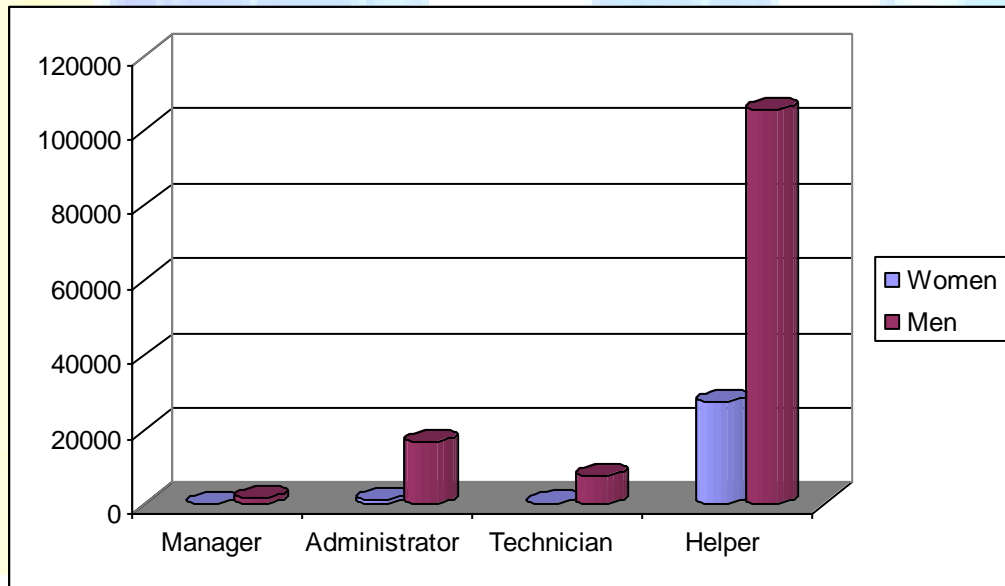


TABLE: 9
Health Status of Nepalese Women

Condition	Statistics
Total fertility rate	3.1
Maternal mortality rate	281per lakh alive birth
Average life expectancy of women	64.5 years
Maternity service by health professionals	31.6%
First time pregnancy examination service	67.9%
Maternity at health post and hospital	15.1%
First time maternity service	37.7%

Source: Annual Report 2010, Department of Health service

HYPOTHESIS: 1

Chi Square Test for Age wise Population of Male and Female

Null Hypothesis (H_0): The population of different age group of female is not significantly different from that of male.

Alternative Hypothesis (H_1): The population of different age group of female is significantly different from that of male.

Level of significant (α)	0.05
No. of rows (r)	4
No. of columns (c)	2
Degree of freedom (r-1) (c-1)	3
Calculated value of chi square	34796.087
Tabulated value of chi square	7.815
Decision	H_1 is accepted

HYPOTHESIS: 2**Chi Square Test for School Level Education of Female and Male**

Null Hypothesis (H_0): The school level education of female is not significantly different from that of male.

Alternative Hypothesis (H_1): The school level education of female is significantly different from that of male.

Level of significant (α)	0.05
No. of rows (r)	4
No. of columns (c)	2
Degree of freedom (r-1) (c-1)	3
Calculated value of chi square	1702.243
Tabulated value of chi square	7.815
Decision	H_1 is accepted

HYPOTHESIS: 3**Chi Square Test for Higher Level Education of Female and Male**

Null Hypothesis (H_0): The higher level education of female is not significantly different from that of male.

Alternative Hypothesis (H_1): The higher level education of female is significantly different from that of male.

Level of significant (α)	0.05
No. of rows (r)	3
No. of columns (c)	2
Degree of freedom (r-1) (c-1)	2
Calculated value of chi square	307.833
Tabulated value of chi square	5.991
Decision	H_1 is accepted

HYPOTHESIS: 4**Chi Square Test for Participating in Parliament by Female and Male**

Null Hypothesis (H_0): The participation of female in the parliament is not significantly different from that of male.

Alternative Hypothesis (H_1): The participation of female in the parliament is significantly different from that of male.

Level of significant (α)	0.05
No. of rows (r)	3
No. of columns (c)	2
Degree of freedom (r-1) (c-1)	2
Calculated value of chi square	82.786
Tabulated value of chi square	5.991
Decision	H_1 is accepted

HYPOTHESIS: 5**Chi Square Test for Participating in Civil Services by Female and Male**

Null Hypothesis (H_0): The participation of female in the civil services is not significantly different from that of male.

Alternative Hypothesis (H_1): The participation of female in the civil services is significantly different from that of male.

Level of significant (α)	0.05
No. of rows (r)	9
No. of columns (c)	2
Degree of freedom (r-1) (c-1)	8
Calculated value of chi square	5030.233
Tabulated value of chi square	15.507
Decision	H_1 is accepted

HYPOTHESIS: 6**Chi Square Test for Participating in Manufacturing Establishments by Female and Male**

Null Hypothesis (H_0): The participation of female in the manufacturing establishments is not significantly different from that of male.

Alternative Hypothesis (H_1): The participation of female in the manufacturing establishments is significantly different from that of male.

Level of significant (α)	0.05
No. of rows (r)	4
No. of columns (c)	2
Degree of freedom (r-1) (c-1)	3
Calculated value of chi square	3260.128
Tabulated value of chi square	7.815
Decision	H_1 is accepted