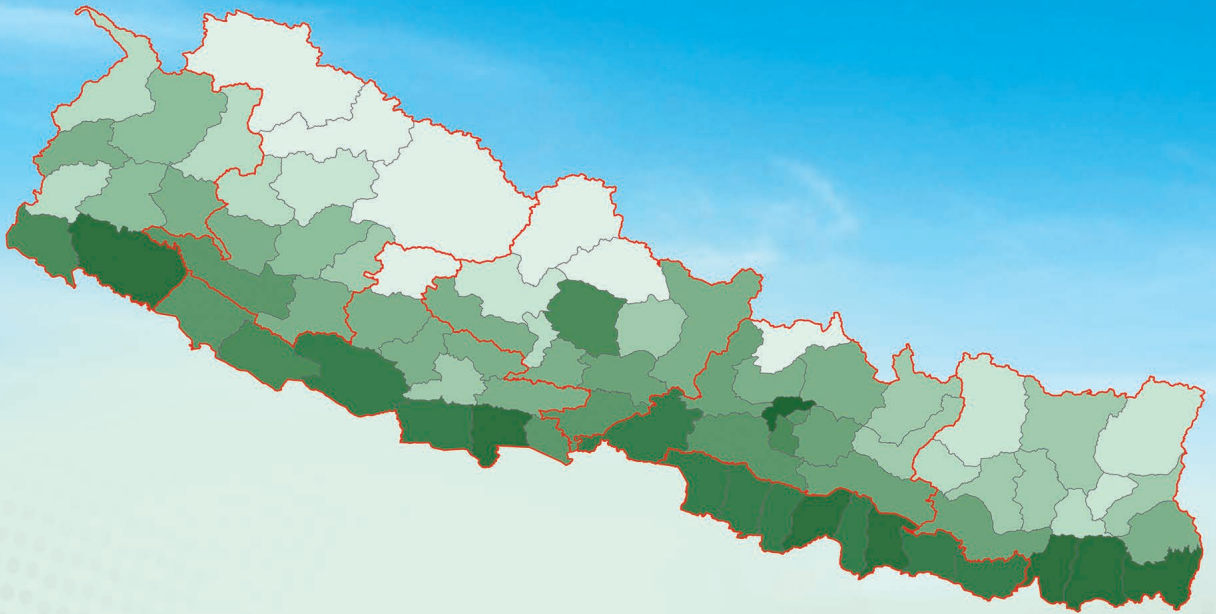
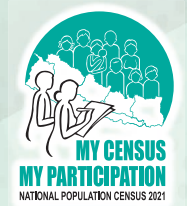


National Population and Housing Census 2021

Adolescents and Youth in Nepal



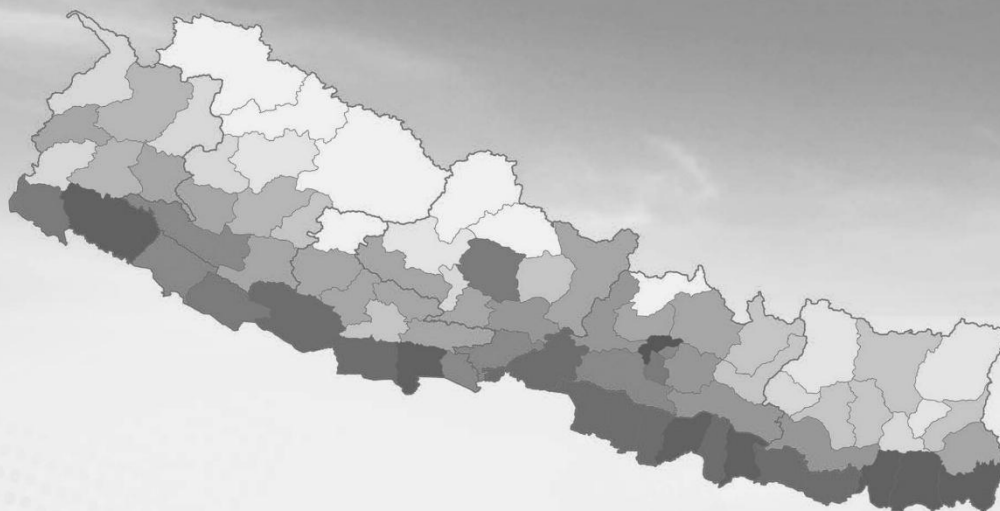
Government of Nepal
Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers
National Statistics Office
Thapathali, Kathmandu



Thematic Report- XIV

National Population and Housing Census 2021

Adolescents and Youth in Nepal



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Cover Map : Population distribution by district, NPHC 2021



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Foreword

The National Population and Housing Census (NPHC) is the only source that consistently provides demographic and housing data down to the lowest administrative unit, i.e., the Ward. To meet the needs of a broad range of users, we have included brief explanations of the data in our reports. Over the years, the National Statistics Office (NSO) has focused not just on statistical reports but also on valuable analytical ones that cater to a wide audience, both within and outside the country. The production and dissemination of quality statistics are not merely public goods but national resources in the data and information age.

The NSO is committed to serving as the central provider of high-quality official statistics to support informed decision-making. In the past, the former Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) published population monographs following the release of all statistical results. This time, however, 21 thematic reports will be published, each focusing on key sectors of the national development plan.


I am pleased to present the long-awaited report *Adolescents and Youth in Nepal*. Adolescents and youth are the foundation for shaping the country's future. This report highlights their demographic profile, education, employment, health, and social inclusion. Understanding the challenges and opportunities faced by this segment of the population is essential for developing targeted interventions that support their growth, ensure their well-being, and enable their full participation in national development.

I extend my appreciation to all contributors for their dedication in bringing this important analysis to light. I am confident that these findings will guide policymakers and planners in shaping development strategies for a more prosperous and sustainable future.

I would like to specifically commend the Population Section staff for their tireless efforts in generating data, providing support, and reviewing the report. The Head of the Social Statistics Division at NSO played a crucial role in coordinating all activities, and I greatly appreciate his contributions. Special thanks to adolescents and youth experts Dr. Balkrishna Mabuhang and Mr. Naba Raj Thapa for analyzing crucial data and presenting important findings, and to Mr. Uttam Narayan Malla, former Director General of the Central Bureau of Statistics, for reviewing the report from a government perspective. I also acknowledge the technical support provided by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Additionally, I extend my gratitude to the British Embassy Kathmandu and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) for their financial support at various stages of this report's development.

Lastly, I encourage constructive feedback from our users to improve future editions of this report.

April 2025


Maddhu Sudan Burlakoti
Chief Statistician

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Additional Support

1.	Mr. Atul Joshi	Map Designer	Map generation
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कार्यकारी सारांश

समाजमा किशोरकिशोरी र युवा जनसङ्ख्या अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण समूह हो किनभने यो समूह भविष्यको जनसांख्यिकीय, सामाजिक, आर्थिक र राजनीतिक विकासका लागि जिम्मेवार हुन्छ। किशोरकिशोरी र युवाको आवश्यकता, चाहना र व्यवहार उमेर, लिङ्ग, धर्म, संस्कृति, जाति र जातीयता, शारीरिक तथा मानसिक स्वास्थ्य, विकासको अवस्था, जीवन परिस्थिति र सामाजिक-आर्थिक अवस्थाका आधारमा फरक हुन सक्छ। किशोरकिशोरी र युवालाई शिक्षा प्रदान गर्नु, उनीहरूको प्राविधिक सीप अभिवृद्धि गर्नु, सुरक्षित वातावरण सुनिश्चित गर्नु र रोजगारीको अवसर उपलब्ध गराउनु आर्थिक समृद्धि एवम् समग्र कल्याणका लागि महत्वपूर्ण हुन्छ।

यस प्रतिवेदनले किशोरकिशोरी र युवासम्बन्धी नीति निर्माण तथा प्राज्ञिक क्षेत्रमा योगदान पुऱ्याउने उद्देश्य राखेको छ। प्रतिवेदनले किशोरकिशोरी तथा युवा वर्गको प्रजनन, मृत्युस्थिति, बसाइँसराइ, जनसङ्ख्या संरचना, वैवाहिक अवस्था, साक्षरता, आर्थिक क्रियाकलाप र अपाङ्गतासम्बन्धी विषयहरूको विस्तृत लेखाजोखा गरेको छ। यो प्रतिवेदन मूलतः राष्ट्रिय जनगणना २०७८ बाट प्राप्त तथ्याङ्कीय आधारमा तयार भएको छ।

जनसांख्यिकीय विशेषता, बसोबासको अवस्था र सम्पन्नताको स्तर

नेपालको कुल २,९९,६४,५७८ जनसङ्ख्यामध्ये किशोरकिशोरी (१०-१९ वर्ष) को जनसङ्ख्या २०.१ प्रतिशत रहेको छ भने युवा (१५-२४ वर्ष) जनसङ्ख्या कुल जनसङ्ख्याको १९.७ प्रतिशत रहेको छ। नेपालको किशोरकिशोरी जनसङ्ख्या वि.सं. २०१८ मा १८ लाख ७० हजार थियो जुन वि.सं. २०६८ मा ६४ लाख १० हजार रहेको थियो। यस्तो वृद्धिका बावजुद वि.सं. २०७८ मा यो सङ्ख्या घटेर ५८ लाख ८० हजारमा सीमित भएको छ। युवा जनसङ्ख्या भने वि.सं. २०१८ को १६ लाखबाट निरन्तर वृद्धि भई वि.सं. २०७८ मा ५७ लाख ५० हजार पुगेको छ। किशोरकिशोरीको जनसङ्ख्या युवाको तुलनामा केही बढी रहेको देखिएको छ। यस्तो अवस्था देखिए तापनि अघिल्लो दशकमा किशोरकिशोरीको जनसङ्ख्यामा आएको गिरावटका कारण भविष्यमा युवाहरूको जनसङ्ख्या पनि घट्दै जाने प्रवृत्ति देखिन्छ।

किशोरकिशोरी जनसङ्ख्याको वृद्धिदर वि.सं. २०१८ देखि २०५८ सम्म २ प्रतिशतभन्दा माथि रहेको थियो। त्यसपछिको अवधिमा किशोरकिशोरी तथा युवा दुवै समूहको जनसङ्ख्या वृद्धिदरमा कमी आएको देखिन्छ। वि.सं. २०६८-२०७८ को अवधिमा किशोरकिशोरीको जनसङ्ख्याले ऋणात्मक वृद्धिदरको सामना गर्नुपऱ्यो। यसै अवधिमा युवा जनसङ्ख्या वृद्धिदर ०.८ प्रतिशतका दरले बढेको छ।

वि.सं. २०६८ देखि २०७८ को अवधिमा नेपालमा किशोरकिशोरीको जनसङ्ख्या वृद्धिदर ऋणात्मक (-८.३%) रहेको देखिन्छ। यसको विपरीत युवा वर्गको जनसङ्ख्या वृद्धिदर भने ८.७ प्रतिशत रहेको छ। हिमाली तथा पहाडी क्षेत्रमा पछिल्लो एक दशकमा किशोरकिशोरीको जनसङ्ख्या वृद्धिदर ऋणात्मक नै रहेको छ। यस्तो ऋणात्मक वृद्धिदर गण्डकी, कोशी, लुम्बिनी, सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेशका साथसाथै ग्रामीण र अर्धसहरी क्षेत्रमा समेत

देखिएको छ । अर्कोतिर पहाड, गण्डकी प्रदेश, बागमती प्रदेश र ग्रामीण क्षेत्रमा २०६८ देखि २०७८ को अवधिमा युवा जनसङ्ख्याको वृद्धिदर ऋणात्मक रहेको देखिन्छ ।

तराईमा किशोरकिशोरी र युवाको कुल जनसङ्ख्याको आधाभन्दा बढी हिस्सा रहेको छ । अधिकतम किशोरकिशोरी तथा युवाहरू मधेस र अर्धसहरी क्षेत्रमा बसोबास गर्दछन् । एकचौथाइभन्दा बढी किशोरकिशोरी तथा युवा पहाडी जातजातिका र अर्को एकचौथाइ किशोरकिशोरी र युवा पहाडी जनजातिका छन् । सम्पन्नताको विपन्न (अति विपन्न र विपन्नसमेत) वर्गमा पर्ने परिवारभित्र भण्डै ४० प्रतिशत किशोरकिशोरी तथा युवाहरूको हिस्सा रहेको देखिन्छ ।

किशोरकिशोरी तथा युवाको कुल जनसङ्ख्यामध्ये १५-१९ वर्ष उमेर समूहको हिस्सा ३४.३ प्रतिशत रहेको छ, । यो समूहको भन्दा १०-१४ र २०-२४ वर्ष उमेर समूहहरूको अनुपात थोरै माथि रहेको छ । पुरुषहरूतर्फ १०-१४ वर्ष उमेर समूहको अनुपात १५-१९ तथा २०-२४ उमेर समूहको तुलनामा बढी छ । त्यस्तै, २०-२४ वर्ष उमेर समूहका महिलाको अनुपात १०-१४ तथा १५-१९ उमेर समूहका महिलाको तुलनामा केही उच्च रहेको देखिन्छ ।

हिमाली क्षेत्र, ग्रामीण क्षेत्र, मधेस प्रदेश, धार्मिक समुदाय र सम्पन्नताको तल्लो वर्गमा पर्ने समूहमा १०-१४ वर्षका किशोरकिशोरीको अनुपात सबैभन्दा धेरै रहेको छ । युवा जनसङ्ख्यातर्फ थोरै बढी अनुपात बागमती प्रदेश, सहरी क्षेत्र, तराई जनजाति र अन्य जातजाति समूहमा रहेको देखिन्छ ।

समग्र जनसङ्ख्याको तुलनामा किशोरकिशोरीतर्फको लैङ्गिक अनुपात अधिक रहेको छ जसले महिलाको तुलनामा पुरुषको जनसङ्ख्या धेरै रहेको देखाउँछ । यसको विपरीत युवातर्फ समग्र जनसङ्ख्याको तुलनामा लैङ्गिक अनुपात न्यून रहेको छ ।

नेपालमा १०-१७ वर्षका किशोरकिशोरीमध्ये तीनचौथाइभन्दा बढी उनीहरूको अभिभावकसँगै बसोबास गरिरहेको देखिन्छ । बाँकी एकचौथाइमध्ये करिब १८ प्रतिशत एकजना मात्र अभिभावक (बाबु वा आमा) भएको घरपरिवारमा, १६.५ प्रतिशत आमासँग मात्र र १.४ प्रतिशत बाबुसँग मात्र बसोबास गरिरहेको देखिन्छ । वि.सं. २०७८ को जनगणनाको तथ्याङ्कअनुसार किशोरकिशोरीको कुल जनसङ्ख्यामध्ये ०.७ प्रतिशत र युवाहरूको कुल जनसङ्ख्यामध्ये १.३ प्रतिशत संस्थागत घरपरिवारमा बसोबास गरिरहेको अवस्था छ ।

पुरुषतर्फका किशोर र युवा जनसङ्ख्याको तुलनामा महिलातर्फका किशोरी र युवा जनसङ्ख्या विपन्न हुने गुञ्जायस कम देखिएको छ । हिमाली तथा पहाडी क्षेत्र र कर्णाली एवम् सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेशका किशोरकिशोरी तथा युवा जो हिमाली/पहाडी जनजाति, तराई जनजाति र तराई दलित समुदायका छन् - उनीहरू विपन्न हुनसक्ने सम्भावना अधिकतर देखिएको छ । अविवाहित किशोरकिशोरीको तुलनामा पारपाचुके भएका र छुट्टिएका किशोरकिशोरी विपन्न वर्गमा पर्ने सम्भावना पनि उच्चै रहेको देखिन्छ ।

वैवाहिक स्थिति र प्रजनन

वैवाहिक स्थिति र प्रजनन अन्तरसम्बन्धित छन् । उमेर नपुगदै हुने विवाह र किशोरीहरूको प्रजननलाई सम्बोधन गर्नका लागि विशेष ध्यान दिनु वाञ्छनीय छ । वि.सं. २०६८ देखि २०७८ को अवधिमा विवाह नभएका किशोरकिशोरी तथा युवाको अनुपात बढेको भए तापनि महिला र पुरुष दुवैतर्फ विवाह भएका किशोर तथा युवा वर्गको हिस्सा घटेको देखिन्छ । विधुर/विधवाको र पारपाचुके वा छुट्टिएको अनुपात हेर्ने हो भने पुरुषको तुलनामा महिलाकै हिस्सा ठुलो देखिन्छ । विश्लेषणले किशोरकिशोरी तथा युवा वर्गको वैवाहिक अवस्थाको वितरण उनीहरूको पृष्ठभूमिजन्य विशेषताअनुसार फरक फरक रहेको देखाएको छ ।

किशोरीहरूको प्रजननदर वि.सं. २०४८ को प्रतिहजार ८९ बाट घटेर वि.सं. २०७८ मा ४७ देखिएको छ । विसदेखि २४ वर्षसम्मका एकचौथाइ महिलाहरूसँग तुलाना गर्दा १५-१९ वर्षसम्मका आधाभन्दा बढी महिलाहरूले कुनै बच्चा जन्माएको देखिँदैन । त्यसैगरी १५-१९ वर्षसम्मका किशोरीहरूले औसतमा ०.५१ जना बच्चालाई जन्म दिएको देखिन्छ जब कि २०-२४ वर्ष उमेर समूहका महिलाहरूले औसतमा १.०६ जना बच्चा जन्माएको देखिन्छ । यस तथ्याङ्कले किशोरीहरूको प्रजननदर घटाउनका लागि सरकारले विशेष नीति तथा कार्यक्रमहरू लक्षित गर्नुपर्ने आवश्यकतालाई औँल्याएको छ ।

वि.सं. २०७८ को जनगणनाबाट पहिलोपटक विवाह गर्दाको औसत उमेर पुरुषहरूको हकमा २५.५ वर्ष र महिलाहरूको हकमा २१.८ वर्ष रहेको देखिन्छ, । यसले स्पष्ट रूपमा ३.७ वर्षको उमेर अन्तर रहेको देखाएको छ ।

वि.सं. २०६८ को २३.८ वर्षबाट पुरुषहरूको पहिलोपटक हुने गरेको विवाहको औसत उमेर २३.८ वर्ष बाट बढेर वि.सं. २०७८ मा २५.५ वर्ष पुगेको छ । महिलाहरूको हकमा यो मान वि.सं. २०६८ को २०.६ वर्षबाट सुधार भई २१.८ वर्ष पुगेको छ । पहिलोपटक हुने विवाहको औसत उमेरमा पनि व्यक्तिहरूको पृष्ठभूमिसम्बन्धी विशेषताका कारणबाट विभिन्नता देखिएको छ ।

समग्र किशोरकिशोरी तथा युवाहरूको उन्नत जीवनको लागि प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पर्ने गरी बालविवाहको गलत परम्परा अबै पनि विद्यमान रहेको देखिन्छ । अठार वर्षको उमेर नपुगदै हुने विवाहलाई बालविवाहका रूपमा लिइने गरेको छ । राष्ट्रिय जनगणना २०७८ ले २०-२४ वर्षसम्मका २१.९ प्रतिशत महिलाहरूको १८ वर्ष उमेर नपुगदै विवाह भएको देखिन्छ भने अर्को ३ प्रतिशतको १५ वर्ष पनि नपुगी विवाह भएको देखिन्छ । बालविवाह विशेषतः तराई, मधेस प्रदेश र अर्धसहरी क्षेत्रमा भएको देखिन्छ । जातजातितर्फ तराई दलित र सम्पन्नताको सबैभन्दा तल्लो वर्ग (अति विपन्न) मा व्यापकता देखिएको छ ।

बसाइँसराइ

राष्ट्रिय जनगणना २०७८ अनुसार किशोरकिशोरीको कुल जनसङ्ख्यामध्ये बसाइँसराइ नगर्ने (जो हाल बसोबास गरिरहेकै स्थानमा जन्मिएका थिए) ८३ प्रतिशत रहेको देखिन्छ भने १७ प्रतिशतले आन्तरिक र अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय बसाइँसराइ गरेको देखिन्छ । आन्तरिक बसाइँसराइ भएका किशोरकिशोरीको हिस्सा १५.५ प्रतिशत छ भने

अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय बसाइँसराइ गर्ने १.१ प्रतिशत रहेका छन् । त्यसैगरी युवा जनसङ्ख्यामध्ये ७२.३ प्रतिशत बसाइँसराइ नगर्नेमा पर्दछन् । करिब २६ प्रतिशत आन्तरिक बसाइँसराइ गर्नेमा पर्दछन् भने अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय बसाइँसराइ गर्नेमा करिब २ प्रतिशत रहेका छन् । आन्तरिक बसाइँसराइतर्फ किशोरकिशोरी र युवा दुवै समूहतर्फ अर्को स्थानीय तहमा बसाइँसराइ गर्नेको तुलनामा अर्को जिल्लामा बसाइँसराइ गर्ने बढी देखिन्छन् । किशोरकिशोरीको तुलनामा आन्तरिक बसाइँसराइ गर्नेमा युवाहरूको जनसङ्ख्या निकै नै बढी देखिएको छ ।

पछिल्लो बसाइँसराइका सन्दर्भमा १६ प्रतिशत किशोरकिशोरीले यस्तो बसाइँसराइ गरेका छन् । आन्तरिक बसाइँसराइ भएका किशोरकिशोरीमध्ये ४.९ प्रतिशतले जिल्लाभित्रकै एक स्थानीय तहबाट अर्को स्थानीय तहमा बसाइँसराइ गरेका छन् भने ११.१ प्रतिशतले अन्तरजिल्ला बसाइँसराइ गरेको देखिन्छ । कुल युवामध्ये एकचौथाइभन्दा बढी युवाले पछिल्लो बसाइँसराइ गरेको देखिन्छ । युवा जनसङ्ख्यामध्ये १७.३ प्रतिशतले एक जिल्लाबाट अर्को जिल्लामा बसाइँसराइ गरेका छन् भने ९.२ प्रतिशतले जिल्लाभित्रकै एक स्थानीय तहबाट अर्को स्थानीय तहमा बसाइँसराइ गरेका छन् । हिमाल, पहाड र तराईमा पछिल्लो आन्तरिक बसाइँसराइ हेर्दा पहाडबाट सर्वाधिक (भौगोलिक क्षेत्रानुसारको आन्तरिक बसाइँसराइको ५५.३%) व्यक्तिहरू बाहिरिएको (विशेषतः तराईमा) देखिन्छ । प्रदेश तहमा बसाइँसराइको दर हेर्दा गण्डकी प्रदेशबाट सर्वाधिक २०.८ प्रतिशत मानिसहरू अरु प्रदेशमा गएको देखिन्छ । कोशी र मधेश प्रदेशबाट क्रमशः १९.४ र १८.० प्रतिशत व्यक्तिहरू अन्य प्रदेशमा बसाइँसराइ गरी गएको देखिन्छ । आन्तरिक बसाइँसराइ गरी आउने जनसङ्ख्या हेर्दा बागमती प्रदेशमा ५९.० प्रतिशत आन्तरिक बसाइँसराइदर रहेको देखिन्छ ।

बसाइँसराइको बहावलाई हेर्ने हो भने ग्रामीण क्षेत्रबाट ग्रामीण क्षेत्रमै र सहरी क्षेत्रबाट सहरी क्षेत्रमै हुने प्रवृत्ति अत्यधिक देखिन्छ । नेपालको कुल अनुपस्थित जनसङ्ख्यामध्ये १७.३ प्रतिशत किशोरकिशोरी रहेका छन् भने ४४.५ प्रतिशत युवा रहेका छन् । किशोरकिशोरी तथा युवाको कुल अनुपस्थित जनसङ्ख्यामध्ये भण्डै दुईतिहाइ विदेशमा तलब, ज्याला वा रोजगारीको उद्देश्यले गएको देखिन्छ । किशोरकिशोरी तथा युवाको मुख्य गन्तव्य भारतपछि मध्यपूर्वका देशहरू, दक्षिणपूर्वी एसियाली देश (मलेसिया, सिङ्गापुर, ब्रुनाइ, थाइल्याण्डसमेत) र प्रशान्त क्षेत्रका देशहरू रहेका छन् ।

साक्षरता र शिक्षा

राष्ट्रिय जनगणना २०७८ अनुसार किशोरकिशोरीको समग्र साक्षरतादर ९५.९ प्रतिशत छ जसमध्ये पुरुषको ९६.३ प्रतिशत र महिलाको ९५.५ प्रतिशत रहेको छ । युवा (१५-२४ वर्ष) जनसङ्ख्यातर्फ समग्र साक्षरतादर ९३.८ प्रतिशत छ जसमध्ये पुरुषको ९५.२ प्रतिशत र महिलाको ९२.५ प्रतिशत रहेको छ । यसले स्पष्टतः किशोरकिशोरी तथा युवा जनसङ्ख्यामा पुरुष साक्षरताको दर नै माथि रहेको देखाएको छ । लैङ्गिक समता सूचकलाई हेर्दा मधेश प्रदेशमा मधेश/तराई दलित समुदाय र धार्मिक समूह (इस्लामधर्मी) का किशोरीहरू किशोरहरूको तुलनामा कम साक्षर रहेको देखिन्छ । त्यसैगरी तराई, मधेश प्रदेश, अर्धसहरी क्षेत्रका साथसाथै तराई जातजाति, तराई दलित, धार्मिक समूह र सम्पन्नताको सबैभन्दा तल्लो तह (अति विपन्न) परिवारका युवा महिलाहरू पुरुषको तुलनामा न्यून साक्षर रहेको देखिएको छ । प्रत्येक तीन जना किशोरीमध्ये एक जना

र प्रत्येक पाँच जना युवा महिलाबाट एक जनाले निम्नमाध्यमिक (६-८ कक्षा) तहको शिक्षा प्राप्त गरेको देखिन्छ। त्यसैगरी तीन जनामध्ये एक जना किशोरी र तीन जनामध्ये दुई जना युवा महिलाले माध्यमिक शिक्षा पूरा गरेको देखिएको छ।

विद्यालय जाने किशोरकिशोरी तथा युवा जनसङ्ख्यालाई विश्लेषण गर्दा पूर्व किशोरावस्था (१०-१४ वर्ष) समूहको उच्चतम हिस्सा हाल विद्यालय गइरहेको देखिन्छ। प्राथमिक तहमा बाहेक अरु सबै तहमा पुरुषको तुलनामा महिलाहरूकै 'हाल विद्यालय गइरहेको' दर थोरैले बढी देखिन्छ। हाल विद्यालय गइरहेको स्थितिलाई खुद अर्थात् निश्चित उमेर समूहअनुसार विश्लेषण गर्दा तराईका, अर्धसहरी क्षेत्रका र अति विपन्न परिवारका किशोरकिशोरी तथा युवा दुवै समूहमा न्यूनतम रहेको देखिन्छ। किशोरकिशोरी र युवाले दश जोड दुई र सोभन्दा माथिको तहमा कुन विषय अध्ययन गर्दछन् भन्ने सवालमा प्रत्येक पाँचमध्ये दुई जना युवाले व्यवस्थापन सङ्घाय अध्ययन गरेको देखिन्छ। किशोरकिशोरीतर्फ प्रत्येक तीन जनामध्ये एक जनाले व्यवस्थापन विषय अध्ययन गरेको देखिन्छ।

आर्थिक क्रियाकलाप

उमेरको बढोत्तरी सँगसँगै किशोरकिशोरी तथा युवाको श्रम सहभागितादरमा वृद्धि हुने गरेको छ। तथ्याङ्कले १० देखि १४ वर्षका २८.७ प्रतिशत किशोरकिशोरीहरू श्रमशक्तिमा रहेको देखिन्छ। यो मान वृद्धि भएर २०-२४ वर्ष उमेर समूहमा ६७.३ प्रतिशत पुगेको अवस्था छ। श्रमशक्ति सहभागितादरलाई लैङ्गक आधारमा हेर्दा उस्तै प्रवृत्ति देखापरेको छ। किशोरकिशोरीको समग्र श्रमशक्ति सहभागितादर ३५.८ प्रतिशत छ जुन पुरुषतर्फ ३५.९ प्रतिशत र महिलातर्फ ३५.७ प्रतिशत रहेको छ। युवामध्ये संयुक्त (पुरुष तथा महिला) श्रमशक्ति सहभागितादर ५४.७ प्रतिशत छ जुन पुरुषतर्फ ५६.९ प्रतिशत र महिलातर्फ ५२.६ प्रतिशत रहेको देखिन्छ।

किशोरकिशोरीहरूले अपनाएको पेसालाई हेर्दा जनगणनाले उनीहरूको करिब आधा जनसङ्ख्या प्राथमिक पेसामा छन् र त्यसपछिको हिस्सा क्रमशः दक्ष कृषि कामदार, वन तथा मत्स्य क्षेत्रमा संलग्न रहेको देखिन्छ। त्यसैगरी युवा जनसङ्ख्यामध्ये ४७ प्रतिशत कृषि, वन र मत्स्यपालन क्षेत्रका दक्ष कामदारका रूपमा क्रियाशील देखिन्छ। प्रत्येक तीन जनामा एक जना युवा पुरुष प्राथमिक पेसामा क्रियाशील रहेको अवस्था छ।

किशोरकिशोरी तथा युवा जनसङ्ख्या कुन प्रकारको औद्योगिक क्षेत्रमा क्रियाशील रहेका छन् भन्ने सवालमा वि.सं. २०७८ को जनगणनाले प्रत्येक ५ जनामध्ये ३ जना किशोरकिशोरीहरू कृषि, वन र मत्स्य क्षेत्रमा संलग्न रहेको देखिन्छ। युवातर्फ यस क्षेत्रमा ५६.४ प्रतिशत श्रमशक्ति सक्रिय रहेको छ। काम गर्दाको हैसियत के थियो भन्ने प्रश्नमा बहुसङ्ख्यक किशोरकिशोरीहरूले परिवारलाई सघाएको र बहुमत युवाहरूले आफ्नै काम गरेको देखिन्छ। काम गर्दाको संस्थागत क्षेत्र वर्गीकरण गर्दा किशोरकिशोरी तथा युवा दुवै समूहका लागि घरपरिवार क्षेत्र नै सबैभन्दा ठुलो रहेको छ भने त्यसलाई गैरवित्तीय क्षेत्रले पछ्याएको देखिन्छ। करिब २५ प्रतिशत युवा रोजगारी, शिक्षा र तालिमभन्दा बाहिर रहेको देखिन्छ भन्ने यो मानमा भौगोलिक क्षेत्र, प्रदेश, ग्रामीण-सहरी र परिवारको सम्पन्नताको तहअनुसार भिन्नता रहेको छ।

नीतिगत सवाल

किशोरकिशोरी तथा युवा वर्ग कुल जनसङ्ख्याको अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा हुन् र त्यस मानेमा विकासका सवालमा उनीहरूलाई केन्द्रमा राखिनुपर्दछ । समाजको उत्पादनशील सदस्यका रूपमा उभ्याउनका लागि किशोरकिशोरी र युवा वर्गको सशक्तीकरणका प्रयासहरूलाई सुदृढ गर्नु बाञ्छनीय छ । त्यसैगरी उनीहरूलाई बालविवाह, उमेर नपुग्दै हुने विवाह र जबर्जस्ती विवाह गरिदिने जस्ता व्यक्तित्व विकासमा नकारात्मक प्रभाव पर्ने अभ्यासहरूबाट मुक्त गर्नका लागि पहल गरिनुपर्दछ । किशोरकिशोरी तथा युवाको अनुपस्थिति मूलतः तलब/ज्याला र नोकरीका लागि भएको देखिन्छ । यसर्थ, रोजगारीको सिर्जना, रोजगारीमा सन्तुष्टिको वातावरण र सीपमूलक शिक्षामा प्राथमिकता नै यी सवालहरू सम्बोधनका सम्भावित उपाय हुनसक्दछन् । गरिबी न्यूनीकरण र असमानता न्यूनीकरणमा शिक्षाले महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका खेल्दछ । यसलाई हृदयङ्गम गर्दै किशोरकिशोरी तथा युवाको पहुँचयोग्य र गुणस्तरीय शिक्षामा पहुँच वृद्धि गर्नु जरुरी छ । उनीहरूका लागि प्राविधिक तथा व्यावसायिक तालिमको व्यवस्था र अन्य संसाधनको प्रबन्ध पनि उत्तिकै आवश्यक रहेको छ । वर्तमान समयमा करिब एकचौथाइ युवा जनसङ्ख्या शिक्षा, रोजगारी र तालिमको परिधिभन्दा बाहिर रहेको देखिन्छ । यो एकचौथाइ जनसङ्ख्यामा पनि भौगोलिक क्षेत्र, प्रदेश, आर्थिक सामाजिक पृष्ठभूमिअनुसार उल्लेखनीय विषमता विद्यमान रहेको छ । यसको उचित सम्बोधनका लागि तीनै तहका सरकारहरूले शिक्षा र तालिममा पहुँच अभिवृद्धि गर्नका लागि औपचारिक र अनौपचारिक दुवै माध्यमबाट प्राथमिकतामा राख्नुपर्ने देखिन्छ ।

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The adolescent and youth population in a society is a critical segment as it is responsible for the demographic, social, economic, and political development of the country. The needs, desires and behaviours of adolescents and youth differ based on age, sex, religion, culture, caste and ethnicity, physical and mental health, states of development, life circumstances, and socio-economic status.

This report aims to inform policy measures and foster academic discourse on issues related to adolescents and youth. It examines key demographic and socioeconomic aspects including fertility, mortality and migration, population composition, marital status, literacy and education, economic activity, and disability. This report has shaped its scope by analyzing data sourced from the twelfth National Population and Housing Census 2021 (NPHC 2021).

Demographic characteristics, living arrangements and wealth status

Of the total 29,164,578 population of Nepal in 2021, the adolescents (10-19 years) population accounts for 20.1 percent of the population and youth (15-24 years) account for 19.7 percent of the total population.

The adolescent population of Nepal was at a figure of 1.9 million in 1961 and reached 6.4 million by the 2011 census. Despite this growth, the number of adolescents decreased to a figure of 5.9 million in the 2021 census. The youth population has seen steady growth, from 1.6 million in 1961 to 5.8 million in 2021. The adolescent population appears slightly higher than youth population in Nepal, however the decline in the adolescent population during the past decade suggests that the youth population may also experience a decline in the future.

The annual growth rate of the adolescent and youth population seems to have remained above 2 percent during the 1961-2001. However, following this period, both the adolescent and youth population growth rate declined. During the 2011-2021 decade, the adolescent population experienced a negative growth rate of 0.83 percent, whereas the youth population grew at a rate of 0.8 percent.

The decadal growth rate of the adolescent population in Nepal is seen at a rate of -8.3 percent during the period of 2011 to 2021. Conversely, the growth rate is 8.7 percent for the youth population. Mountain and Hill zones, Gandaki, Bagmati, Koshi, Lumbini and Sudurpashchim provinces, and rural and peri-urban areas show a negative adolescent decadal growth rate.

Similarly, the Hill zone, Gandaki and Bagmati provinces, and rural areas have a negative youth decadal growth rate during the period of 2011 to 2021.

Over half of the adolescents and youth population are living in the Tarai zone. Most adolescents and youth live in Madhesh Provinces and peri-urban areas. More than a quarter of adolescents and youth from Hill Caste and about a quarter of adolescents and youth from the Hill Janajati. However, about two-fifths of adolescents and youth belonging to low (lowest and lower) household status.

Of the total adolescent and youth population, the 15-19 years age group comprises 34.3 percent, with slightly higher proportions seen in the 10-14 and 20-24 years age groups. The proportion of males in the 10-14 year age group exceeds that of those in the 15-19 and 20-24 years age groups. Similarly, the proportion of females in the 20-24 year age group is slightly higher than of that in the 10-14 and 15-19 years age group.

Mountain zone, Madhesh Province, rural areas, religious groups, and lowest wealth quintile have the highest proportion of adolescents aged 10-14 years, whereas Bagmati Province, urban areas, Tarai Janajati and 'other' caste and ethnic groups have slightly higher proportion of youth population.

The sex ratio of adolescents in Nepal has consistently been higher than the overall population, showing a greater number of males than females. Conversely, sex ratio of youth has generally been lower than that of overall population.

Over three-quarters of adolescents aged 10-17 years in Nepal live with both parents. Of the remaining quarter of adolescents, 17.9 percent live in single parent households, 16.5 percent live with only their mother, and 1.4 percent live with only their father. At the time of 2021 census enumeration, 0.7 percent of total adolescent population and 1.3 percent of the total youth population have lived in institutional households.

Female adolescents and youth are less likely to be impoverished than male adolescents and youth. Adolescents and youth from Mountain and Hill zones, from Karnali and Sudurpashchim provinces, who belong to Mountain/Hill Janajati, Tarai Janajati and Madhesh/Tarai Dalit have higher odds of being impoverished compared to their respective reference categories. Adolescents who are divorced and separated are more likely to be impoverished compared with unmarried adolescents.

Nuptiality and fertility

Nuptiality and fertility are interconnected. Attention need to be paid toward addressing early marriage and adolescent fertility. The proportion of the population of adolescents and youth who have never married has increased, while the proportion of married adolescents and youth

has decreased among both males and females during the period 2011-2021. The proportion of widow/widower and divorced/separated is higher for female youth than for male youth. The analysis showed that marital distribution of adolescents and youth differs by background characteristics.

The singulate mean age at marriage is 25.5 years for males and 21.8 years for females, with an age gap of 3.7 years in 2021. The singulate mean age at marriage increased from 23.8 years in 2011 to 25.5 years in 2021 for males and from 20.6 years to 21.8 years in 2021 for females. Variations in the singulate mean age at marriage are observed across the various background characteristics.

Child marriage has numerous adverse effects on overall well-being of the adolescents and youth. Marriage before age of 18 is considered as child marriage. The NPHC 2021 data shows that 21.9 percent of women aged 20-24 years are married before the age of 18, and 3 percent are married before the age of 15 in Nepal. Child marriage is observed to be more common in Tarai zone, Madhesh Province, peri-urban areas, among Madhesh/Tarai Dalits, and in households in the lowest wealth quintile.

The adolescent fertility rate has declined from 89 births per 1,000 women in 1991 to 47 births in 2021. More than half of women aged 15-19 years have never given birth, compared to one-quarter of women aged 20-24 years. The average number of children ever born to women aged 15-19 years is 0.5, while the average number for women aged 20-24 years is 1.1. It implies that government policies and programmes should be focused adolescents in order to reduce adolescent fertility.

Mortality and disability

Available data on the causes of death (CD) of adolescents and youth is constituted 9,437 deceased persons in 2021. The disease is the leading cause of death among adolescents and youth aged 10-24 years, implying that both communicable and non-communicable disease significantly contribute to death in this age group. Crime and suicide are major causes of death among adolescents and youth, with females exhibiting higher proportion of death (26.5%) compared to males (20.5%). Accidents are another common cause of death, with significant differences between males and females. Pregnancy-related causes are the prominent cause of death among adolescents and youth females, accounting for 4.2 percent death among adolescent females and 12.1 percent among youth females.

Data on disability shows that among adolescents and youth population, physical disability is the most prevalent, followed by visual impairment, multiple disabilities, hearing impairments, speech problem, mental or psycho-social disabilities, and intellectual disability. Similar patterns appear among male and female adolescents and youth.

About 2.2 percent of the total population reported some form of disability, 1.4 percent among adolescents and 1.5 percent among youth in 2021. Among the both adolescents and youth, the prevalence of disability is higher in males than in females.

Migration

According to 2021 census, of the adolescent population, non-migrants (or individuals enumerated at the same municipality as their birth) account for 83 percent, followed by internal migrants (15.5%), and foreign migrants (1.1%). Of that non-migrants account for 72.3 percent followed by internal migrants (25.9%), and foreign migrants (1.8%). Internal migration to other districts is observed more commonly in comparison to internal migration to other municipalities for both adolescent and youth populations. Although at a low rate, external or international migration of youth is much greater than that of the adolescent population. In terms of recent migration, about one-fifth of adolescent population are recent migrants, with 11.1 percent inter-district and 4.9 percent intra-district (migrated to other palika of same district) migrants. Similarly, more than a quarter of youth are recent migrants, comprising 17.3 percent inter-district and 9.2 percent intra-district migrants. Considering inter-zonal migration, Hill zone has the highest out-migration rate (55.3% of total inter-zonal migrants). By provinces, Gandaki Province has the highest out-migration rate (20.8%), followed by Koshi (19.4%) and Madhesh (18.0%), whereas Bagmati Province has the highest in-migration rate (59.0%).

With regard to migration flow, rural to rural and urban to urban migration is seen in a far greater trend than rural to urban or urban to rural migration. Of the total absentee population in Nepal, 17.3 percent are adolescents and 44.5 percent are youth. About two-thirds of total absentee adolescents and youth population have been found to be abroad for salary/wage, job. India, followed by middle east counties, ASEAN countries and countries in the Pacific Ocean region countries are identified as the main destination for absentee adolescents and youth.

Literacy and education

In the context of Nepal's education development, the 2021 census data shows an average adolescent literacy rate of 95.9 percent for both sexes, with 96.3 percent for males and 95.5 percent for females, whereas literacy rate among youth stands at 93.8 percent for both sexes, with 95.2 percent for males and 92.5 percent for females, indicating that male adolescents and youth have higher literacy rate than females. Looking for gender parity index, female adolescents from Madhesh Province, those belonging to Madhesh/Tarai Dalit, and religious groups, are more disadvantaged in terms of literacy compared to male adolescents. Similarly, female youth from Tarai zone, Madhesh Province, peri-urban areas, and those from Madhesh/Tarai caste, Madhesh/Tarai Dalit and religious groups, and the lowest wealth quintile are more disadvantaged in literacy relative to male youth. One in every three female adolescents

and one in every five female youth have attained the lower secondary (grades 6-8) level of education. Likewise, one in every three female adolescents and two in every three youth have completed secondary education.

When addressing the school attendance of adolescents and youth, early adolescent (10-14 years) populations comprise the highest percentage currently in attendance. Females have a slightly higher school attendance ratio than males in all education levels, with the exception of primary level. The lowest net attendance ratio is found among adolescents and youth in Tarai, Madhesh Province, peri-urban areas, and those from most impoverished household wealth status. Regarding the major study of subjects in which the adolescents and youth are engaged in at 10+2 grade and above, almost two in five of male adolescents and youth are engaged in management streams, and about one out of every three female adolescents and youth are studied in the management field.

Economic activity

The labour force participation rate of adolescents and youth increase with age. Data shows that 28.7 percent of adolescents aged 10-14 years are in the labour force, reaching 67.3 percent in the age group 20-24 years. A similar trend is observed when addressing labour force participation by sex. Labour force participation rate among adolescents is 35.8 percent for both sexes, comprising 35.9 percent for males and 35.7 percent for females. Among youth, labour force participation rate rises to 54.7 percent for both sexes combined, with 56.9 percent for males and 52.6 percent for females.

When addressing occupations in which adolescents are engaged during the census enumeration, about half of the adolescents are involved in elementary occupations, followed by skilled agriculture, forestry and fishery works. Similarly, among the youth population, 47 percent are engaged in skilled agriculture, forestry and fisheries while one in every three youth are involved in elementary occupations.

Regarding adolescent and youth populations engaged in the industrial sector in the 2021 census, around 3 in 5 adolescents work in agriculture, forestry and fishing industries, with youth populations seen at a slightly lower rate (56.4%). In terms of status of working, the majority of employed adolescents worked as family support, whereas majority of youth worked on their own account worker. Looking at institutional sector for economic activity, household sector is the largest for both adolescents and youth, followed by non-financial sector. About 25 percent of youth are not in employment, education or training, with disparities among ecological zones, provinces, urban and rural areas and household wealth status.

Policy implications

Adolescents and youth represent a crucial segment of population and should, therefore, be at centre of our development priorities. Strengthening the empowerment of adolescents and youth is essential to help them become productive members of their societies. Likewise, efforts must be made to eliminate harmful practices including child, early and forced marriages and prevent teenage pregnancies. Therefore, focusing skill education would be more effective strategies to acquire job opportunities and creating job satisfaction environments.

Education plays a critical role in reduction of poverty and inequality. Considering this facts, adolescents and youth should have access to affordable, quality education, as well as technical and vocational training and other necessary resources. Currently, about one-quarter of youth are not in Education, employment or training (NEET), with notable differences across ecological zones, provinces, and socioeconomic groups. Local, provincial and national government should prioritize improving access to quality education and training through both non-formal and informal modes.

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ABBREVIATIONS

A and Y	Adolescents and youth
ASFRs	Age-specific fertility rates
ASRH	Adolescent sexual and reproductive health
AYRH	Adolescent and youth reproductive health
AYYP	Adolescents, youth and young people
CAS	Constituent Assemble Secretariat
CEB	Child ever born
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CD	Cause of death
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DPHO	District Public Health Office
EBDM	Evidence-based decision making
GAGE	The gender and adolescents global evidence
GAR	Gross attendance ratio
GoN	Government of Nepal
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
LICs	Low-income countries
LMICs	Low and middle-income countries
LNOB	‘Leave No One Behind’
MoHP	Ministry of Health and Population
NAR	Net attendance ratio
NCDs	Non-communicable diseases
NCCR	National Centre of Competence in Research
NDHS	Nepal Demographic and Health Survey
NEET	Not in education, employment or training
NPC	National Planning Commission
NPHC	National Population and Housing Census
NSO	National Statistics Office

NYC	National Youth Council
PoA	Programme of action
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SDGs	Sustainable development goals
UNASAI	United Nations age sex accuracy index
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The term adolescence was first coined by G. Stanley Hall in the 20th century and is defined as a period of dependency and preparation for adulthood (Crosnoe & Jonson, 2011). The concept has been reinforced through more recent social changes, including economic restructuring and changing cultural norms about parenting (Goldin & Kartz, 2008; Settersten, et al., 2005). In 1989, research on adolescence moved from psychological to contextual approaches, understanding the impact of environments in securing health and well-being of adolescents today as vital for the health of future generations. Low and middle-income countries (LMICs) face changing realities in terms of induced inequalities – namely due to urbanization, globalization, migration, and economic adversity – which shape adolescent development and health, as well as successful transitions between adolescence and young adulthood (Shinde, et al., 2023). It is estimated that, in 2023, 89 percent of the global population of adolescents live in LMICs (United Nations, 2024), yet data inadequacy places limitations on the evidence-based concerted policies and programs needed to address the distinctive developmental and health needs of adolescents. With regard to national data, population censuses do not pose a direct question regarding adolescence or youth. However, censuses ask the completed age of every family member upon enumeration, which in turn provides a basis for data on adolescents and youth.

The definition of adolescence varies across countries and cultures yet generally begins at the biological changes of puberty and ends with the adoption of adult social roles and responsibilities (Population Reference Bureau, 2014) The United Nations (2008) defines children as persons under 18 years of age and adolescents are defined as persons aged 10-19 years. Adolescence is a critical stage of life characterised by rapid biological, emotional, and social development (Laski, 2015). This period of adolescence is often associated with creativity, passion, courage, and experimentation. According to the National Youth Council (NYC) of Nepal, youth are persons between the ages of 16 and 40 years. However, United Nations defines youth as persons aged between 15 and 24 years.

Since Nepal possesses a wide range of diversity and both tangible and intangible cultural heritages, many Indigenous Nationalities (INs) express their concerns regarding the proper reporting and counting of their linguistic, ethnic, and religious population in every census. Therefore, the various linguistic caste and ethnic viewpoints impacting how adolescent and

youth populations are perceived could be considerable determinants which impact national census data.

In 2021, Nepal's population of young people (10-24 years) accounts for 29.7 percent of the total population, followed by adolescents (10-19 years) at 20.2 percent, children (0-9 years) at 17.9 percent, and youth (15-24 years) at 19.7 percent (National Statistics Office, 2023). Due to high levels of fertility over the past few decades met by very recent fertility decline, Nepal is facing a large adolescent and youth population composition (Aryal & Adhikari, 2003). As they enter into their reproductive life-span, adolescent and youth populations embody potential population growth for following decades. Nepal's declining fertility level precedes the increase of adolescent and youth population over the past one and half decades. Despite this, a long-term and rapid decline in fertility leads to a shrinking working-age population and resulting increasing aging population, and the government should take prompt action to address the potential problems associated with these changes in age structure (Shrestha & Gubhaju, 2016).

Adolescence represents a series of procedures and processes a society establishes to prepare young people to enter adulthood (Gottlieb & Heinsohn, 1973). According to Chaku and Davis-Kean (2024), adolescence, nominally described as the second decade of life, is a unique developmental period connecting childhood and adulthood. It is further characterized by unique experiences and goals beginning at the onset of puberty and adolescents experience dramatic physical and cognitive changes that lead to reproductive maturity and the attainment of adult cognitions and behaviours which navigate and excel in increasingly complex relationships and environments, leading to the attainment of adult social status. The central goals of adolescents can include developing their identity, establishing their autonomy, and building intimate peer and partner relationships. Adolescence, therefore, is not only a biological or physical life span or period, but a social procedure and unique social process in which a child in their second decade of life is being prepared to enter into adult life.

Background characteristics of adolescence and youth are an integral part of the national population. The National Population and Housing Census is part of an integrated national statistical system which includes other censuses, surveys, registers, and administrative files. It provides, at regular intervals, the benchmark population count at national, provincial and local levels. Since it collects data of each individual, it provides the total population's socioeconomic, demographic, and cultural and political domains. Therefore, the data generated by the NPHC provides a solid database in which adolescent, youth and other related studies can be designed and conducted by drawing a sample population by different agencies, including government related.

1.2 National Population and Housing Census

Evidence-based decision-making (EBDM) is critical to the successful functioning of any organization (HakemZadeh & Rousseau, 2024). It is a universally recognized paradigm of efficient economic and social affairs management. Generating relevant, accurate and timely statistics is an indispensable component of this model and is required in order to produce detailed statistics.

Census data is considered as a primary population data source and it is used in policy formulation and program design. Despite this, many countries do not conduct regular censuses and therefore regular facts and figures regarding demography are not publicly available. For example, in Myanmar's post-independence period, two comprehensive population and housing censuses were undertaken in 1973 and 1983 respectively, and the 2014 census was the country's first census in three decades (Department of Population , 2017).

In the context of Nepal, adolescent and youth population and numerous other related issues are addressed in most of the country's specific reports, commonly through monograph publication. Nepal has been recording census data since 1911, with the most recent twelfth national census called the National Population and Housing Census, 2021 (NPHC 2021).

According to Gill (2007), census enumeration in each country is done mainly with two objectives in mind: firstly, to record facts about demographic and other related socio-economic attributes of a population, and secondly, to construct demographic, socio-economic and socio-cultural characteristics by introducing new categories and/or replacing the earlier ones for the purpose of data collection.

1.3 Thematic Report on Adolescents and Youth

The CBS (at present NSO) has published a monograph in single or multiple volumes following every decennial census, covering population dynamics along with socio-economic and socio-cultural characteristics of the population. For the first time, the National Statistics Office (NSO) of Nepal has been commissioned to prepare a range of thematic reports based on National Population and Housing Census 2021. Among them, this thematic report on *Adolescents and Youth* provides a comprehensive overview of the situation of young people aged 10-24 years in Nepal. The report presents a detailed data analysis of the current demographic situation, with particular regard to marriage and fertility, cause of death and disability, migration, education, economic activities of adolescents and youth as by ecological zones, province, residence, and socio-economic characteristics. The findings of the report will serve as a guide for policymakers, programme implementers and other stakeholders in the development of policies and

programmes which promote development of adolescents and youth in accordance with their needs.

1.4 Objective of the report

This study intends to highlight the demographic situation of adolescents and youth in Nepal. The objective of the report is to contribute information for policy measures as well as add to the academic discourse on adolescents and youth. Specifically, the study aims to:

- Examine the demographic characteristics, living arrangements and wealth status of adolescents and youth;
- Analyse the marital status, fertility, mortality and disability, and migration of adolescents and youth as interrelated with different background characteristics;
- Examine variations in the literacy and educational, and economic activity of adolescents and youth with regard to background characteristics; and
- Present potential policy recommendations to address the situation of adolescents and youth.

1.5 Conceptual and theoretical review

Demographic changes in the past decades have led to the largest generation of young people in Nepal to date, comprising of adolescents and youth. In 2011, around 33 percent of the population of Nepal was considered to be adolescent or youth, or between the ages of 10 and 24 years. While this proportion is expected to decline in the next 15 years, it is expected to remain above 25 percent until 2031 (UNFPA, 2017).

In many countries, continuing population growth reflects an ongoing high rate of unplanned pregnancies and incidence of child marriage. Malmberg, et al. (2024) argue that early or unplanned pregnancy is an obstacle to the well-being of adolescent girls, especially as early motherhood has health and social consequences on the young mother and the newborn. This also negatively impacts maternal and infant morbidity and mortality. Studies found that the prevalence of unplanned first pregnancies was 80.1 percent, where frequency of unplanned first pregnancies was higher among adolescent who had reached secondary school or higher (85.7%), those who had spent their socialization period in big cities (88.5%) and those whose financial needs were not met (84.8%). The main explanatory factor identified was unmet financial needs and adolescents with unmet financial needs were 1.7 times more likely to have an unplanned first pregnancy than those whose needs were met.

Adolescent populations seem to bear the double burden of a continuing presence of communicable diseases combined with a rising incidence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

and this reality is observed in many countries. As precursors to future NCDs such as malnutrition, obesity and poor mental health continue to rise among adolescent populations across the globe, the double burden of disease will continue to be a problem experienced in least-income countries (LICs). This means that youth population are at high risk of death even in developed regions due to both communicable diseases and due to behaviour-based non-communicable diseases.

According to UNFPA (2017), of the almost 1.5 billion global 10 to 25 years population, more than half of all youth survive on less than USD \$2 a day and more than 100 million adolescents do not attend school. Furthermore, 15 million adolescent girls become mothers every year and the infant mortality rates of mothers under the age of 20 years average at 100 deaths per 1,000 live births and a rate of 72-74 deaths per 1,000 live births among mothers aged 20-29 and 30-39 respectively. With regard to non-communicable diseases, 6,000 young people are infected with HIV every day, with most of them being girls in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. In South Africa, the ratio of new female-to-male infections among young people between ages 15-24 years is as high as 8:1 in South Africa. Given this reality, there is an urgent global need for new investment programmes to improve the well-being of adolescents. Transformative investment in three key platforms or systems is pointed out: universal health coverage including primary health care, enhanced schools that focus on learning, health, nutrition and student well-being; and support systems based in local communities.

Whilst the number and growth rate of adolescent and youth populations is significant, it is equally important to focus on the risk of both communicable and non-communicable diseases. In general, children (0-9 years) and older person (70+ years) population groups are considered most vulnerable when contrasted with adolescent and youth populations. However, although adolescent and youth populations are deemed to be healthier with regard to affliction of communicable diseases, they do experience a higher risk of fatality due to non-communicable diseases.

Regarding mortality from NCDs, road traffic injuries rank as the eighth leading cause of death worldwide among people of all ages, and the top cause of death for children and young adults aged 5–29 years. In Nepal, road traffic crashes resulted in 14,736 injuries and 2,789 deaths during the fiscal year 2018–2019 (National Planning Commission, 2020). In addition, 2022 Nepali police reports register a total of 2,883 individual deaths and 7,282 severe injuries due to road traffic crashes during the fiscal year of 2021–2022 (Nepal Police, 2022).

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The 2030 Sustainable Development Goal framework, premised on the goal to ‘Leave no one behind’ (LNOB), centers the global development agenda around the world’s most disadvantaged and overlooked populations (Guglielmi et al., 2021). In practice, the SDG agenda calls for robust

and disaggregated data collection that captures the inequalities faced by women and girls and young people more broadly in order to effectively address the unique challenges faced by marginalised populations.

Adolescent and youth reproductive health was one of the priorities of the Millennium Development Goals, which expired in 2015, and is currently one of the focuses of the SDGs in relation to health (Mintogbe, et al., 2024). Similarly, the GAGE programme's conceptual framework was developed as an integral part of the world largest global study on adolescent in low-and middle-income countries LMICs. The GAGE framework is closely aligned to the adolescent wellbeing conceptual framework. Based on these frameworks, the following SDGs are taken as the indicators relevant to adolescents well-being capabilities: 2) Zero hunger; 3) Good health and well-being; 4) Quality education; 5) Gender equality; 6) Clean water and sanitation; 8) Decent work and economic growth, and; 16) Peace, justice and strong institutions (Ghimire, et al., 2024).

SDGs 4 concerns the provision of quality education and is most specifically related to adolescents and youth. The SDGs projection for Nepal's national youth literacy rate (15-24 years) is set at a target rate of 98 percent to be achieved by 2025 and at the target of 99 percent to be achieved by 2030.

SDGs 5, set to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, accordingly targets ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls in the public and private spheres – including all forms of violence, trafficking, and sexual and other types of exploitation – and eliminating all harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation. With regard to reproductive rights, the goal makes particular reference to ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health for women and girls. Ensuring women's full and effective participation in political, economic and public life is a further priority contained within this goal. In light of the priorities set under SDG 5, Nepal has narrowed the gender gap in important socio-economic domains, notably in education, health, and with regard to participation in political decision-making process.

Of particular note is SDG 8's focus on labour rights via decent work and economic growth, which contains a broader goal related to economic empowerment and skills. Within this goal, SDG indicator 8.6.1 directly addresses the proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) who are not in education, employment or training (NEET), laying the ground to implement an assessment of the variation by sex and geographical location at the national level.

Policy review

Brown and Hardee (2024) position the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) as an impetus for normalizing population discourse, arguing that the ICPD

has come to represent shorthand for the shift from family planning programs which were funded based on macro demographic variables to focusing global attention on sexual and reproductive health and rights and on the lives and opportunities of individual women acknowledging and enhancing individual health and rights, contributing to the demographic transition. Country policies since ICPD have expanded to incorporate components of the Cairo Consensus, focusing on population and sustainable development, with an expanded focus on reproductive health, individual choices, and women's empowerment. Despite this, the global discourse on population has grown more polarized. With regard to adolescent and youth populations, the Program of Action (PoA) of the ICPD mentioned a separate chapter on adolescents. Similarly, policies on youth are further highlighted. Despite this recommendation, the National Population Policy, Nepal-2071 B.S. has not mentioned specific policy measures.

The Fifteenth Plan has envisaged a sector-wise role in its development, offering a distinct approach given that none of the other social sector approaches constitute youth separately. In this approach, a child-friendly society is envisioned through ending all kinds of physical and psychological violence, discrimination, abuse, exploitation, and neglect against children and adolescents. Working policies envisage strategies on framing abortion as rights-based programmes and increasing the capacity of adolescents and youth through employment-oriented and life-skills focused education (NPC, 2020). The Sixteenth Plan (Fiscal Year 2024/25-2028/29) has provisioned a number of programmes and priorities in chapter 4 (Productive employment, decent jobs and sustainable social security), chapter 5 (Health, educated and skilled human capital formation) chapter 8 (Gender equality, social justice and inclusive society) and chapter 9 (Reduction of poverty and inequality and building an equitable society). To be more specific, provisions for adolescents and youth, focusing on education, employment, health, and empowerment are maintained. It emphasizes skill development programs to enhance employability, particularly in technical and vocational fields, and promotes entrepreneurship through startup support and access to financing. The plan also aims to improve sexual and reproductive health education, mental health services, and counseling programs tailored for young people. Additionally, it seeks to increase youth participation in governance and decision-making while addressing migration-related challenges by creating domestic job opportunities. Digital literacy and sports/cultural activities are also prioritized to foster holistic development. Overall, the plan recognizes youth as key drivers of Nepal's growth and aims to equip them with the tools for sustainable futures (National Planning Commission, 2024).

With regard to the broader policy of children and adolescents, the rights of the child are guaranteed as a fundamental right in Nepal's constitution and the formulation and implementation of child related acts, policies, plans, programs and institutional mechanisms

from the local to the federal level are to be set along with children and adolescent-related recommendations present in the Sustainable Development Goals and the Act Relating to Children 2075 (2018). Prioritizing the education and health of children, protection of children falling under the jurisdiction of all three levels of government, increasing the coordination, cooperation, facilitation, and collaboration between the government, non-government organizations, and the civil society, and increasing awareness and collaboration between organizations regarding the rights of the children are the key opportunities of this sector.

1.6 Methodology

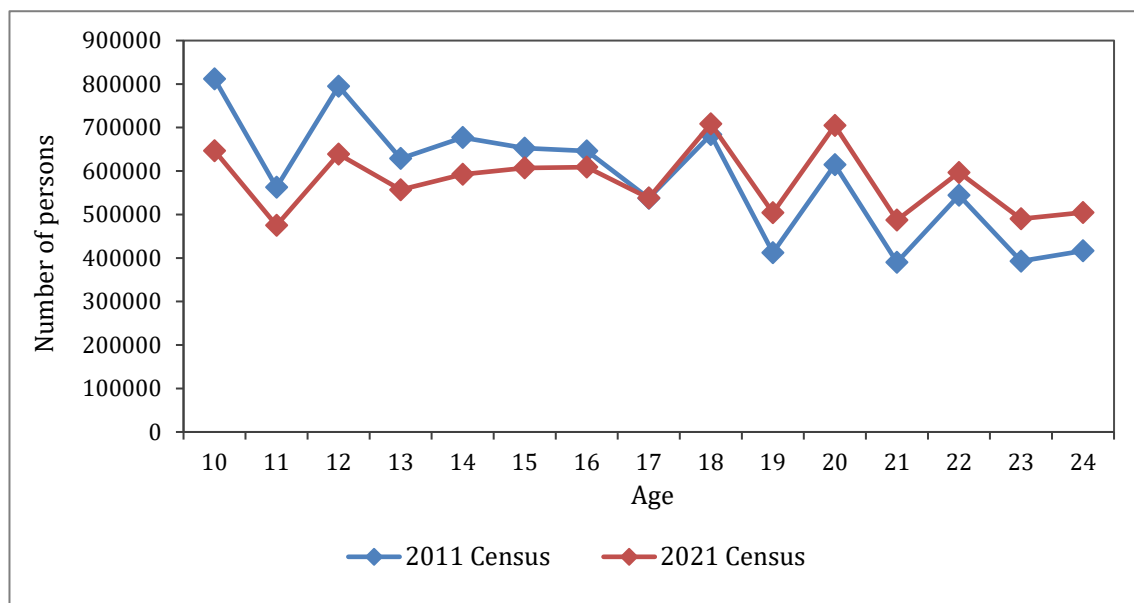
Whilst this report is primarily based on data of NPHC 2021, other relevant data sources have been consulted, for example: NDHS, 2023; NPHC, 2011; and NPHC, 2001, among others. Despite numerous questions being posed in the questionnaire of each census and survey, this report focuses on the questions posed in NPHC 2021 which are related to adolescents and youth for analysis and interpretation. The NPHC 2021 questionnaire primarily consists of three domains – introduction, households, and individuals.

This thematic report on adolescents and youth addresses a cross-section of an entire population of the country and therefore may deal all sectors and characteristics of the population, with the exception of the older population. Data tables provided by the NSO fulfil the required data and additional data sources are approached through the rigorous use of descriptive, cross-tabulation, and further types of analysis.

1.7 Data quality

Since the 1971 census, Nepal has applied the Whipple's Index to assess the quality of age data reported in successive censuses. The results of the application of the Whipple's Index on the subsequent six censuses shows a 98-point decrease from the 1971 to the 2021 census, indicating a significant improvement in the reporting of age data. The Myer's Index was calculated at 24.3 for the 1971 Census, compared to only 9.9 for the 2021 census, demonstrating a large improvement in data accuracy. With regard to the United Nations Age Sex Accuracy Index (UNASAI), the 1971, 1981 and 1991 censuses recorded 'highly inaccurate' result scores, improving in the 2001, 2011 and 2021 censuses with a figure of half the previous score, however the index still registers as 'inaccurate'. Gurung and Shrestha (2021) note the UNASAI figures at the lowest in 1971 with a figure of 51.9, followed by 43.5 in 1981, 41.9 in 1991, 21.1 in 2001, 23.2 in 2011, and 21.2 in 2021. Among adolescent and youth populations, there is clearly evidence of some preferences for reporting of ages 10, 12, 18, 20 and 22 years. A similar pattern of reporting age preferences is seen in both the 2011 and 2021 censuses (Figure 1.1).

Figure 1.1: Reported number of adolescents and youth by single year of age, 2011 and 2021 Census



The Post Enumeration Survey (PES) was carried out after the completion of the Population and Housing Census 2021 in Nepal (National Statistics Office, 2023). The PES calculated the coverage error via under-count or over-count of households, likely seen to occur mainly due to the omission or the erroneous inclusion of enumeration units during the census count.

As the PES shows, the overall counting status present in both PES and census counts was found to be at a rate of 96.2 percent, which is slightly lower (96.1%) in the urban areas. Data counted in the PES and not in the initial census count was found at a rate of 2.1 percent, which was recorded higher (2.4%) in the urban areas. Similarly, data counted at the time of census recording but not in the PES was identified at a rate of 0.3 percent, with a slightly higher figure (0.3%) seen in the urban area.

At the national level, the net omission rate is 2.7 percent. By domain, Kathmandu shows the highest rate (4.3%), followed by Lumbini (3.0%) and Sudurpashchim (3.0%) provinces, compared to the lower net omission rates which are seen in Koshi (1.9%) and Madhesh (2.0%) provinces. This implies a significant variation in the net omission rates at national and province level. The summary, measured from Whipple's Index, Myers' Index, and the United Nations Age Sex Accuracy Index, indicates some comparative improvement and a reduction in age heaping in data from NPHC 2021 compared to prior censuses. With the exception of missing recorded place of birth for migration data and occasional missing cause of death data, there are no major quality issues identified in National Population and Housing Census 2021.

1.8 Limitations

This study is based on data from the National Population and Housing Census 2021. As previously discussed, many important topics concerning adolescents and youth are not directly covered in the census enumeration process. These include but are not limited to issues concerning reproductive health, mental health, maternal mortality, intermarriage between caste and ethnic groups, health risk behaviour (alcohol consumption, tobacco use, smoking, use of drugs), risk of trauma and road injuries, and interpersonal or domestic violence. Therefore, these concerning factors are beyond the scope of this report and its data set. Additionally, this study does not include an analysis of the housing and household characteristics of adolescents and youth.

1.9 Organization of the report

This thematic report contains eight chapters which cover the topics pertaining to the adolescent and youth population in Nepal.

Chapter 1 is concerned with broader conceptualization of report, including the concept and backgrounds of adolescents and youth, significance of this thematic report, objectives of this study, methodology of the study, data quality, and limitations of the report.

Following the background and methodology components of the report, Chapter 2 provides information on the population size and growth of adolescents and youth, distribution of adolescents and youth, as well as decadal growth by ecological zones, provinces, and urban and rural areas. This chapter further provides statistics on the age and sex composition of adolescents and youth populations, which explain the variation in age composition and sex ratios across background characteristics. Additionally, this chapter assesses the living arrangements and wealth status of adolescents and youth populations.

Chapter 3 cites latest information on nuptiality and fertility pertaining to adolescents and youth with the purpose to help to understand the age patterns of marital status, as well as variation in marital status and mean age at first marriage in relation to background characteristics. This chapter also focuses on the fertility behaviors of adolescents and youth, as measured by age specific fertility rates and mean number of children ever born.

Focusing on mortality and disability, Chapter 4 provides information on cause of death, types of disability, and prevalence of disability in relation to the background characteristics of adolescents and youth populations. Chapter 4 further analyzes factors associated with cause of death and disability among adolescents and youth.

The spatial mobility of adolescents and youth is analyzed in Chapter 5, focusing on internal migration and international migration using information of place of birth, former place of residence, absent abroad and reasons for absence.

Chapter 6 focuses on the literacy status and education among adolescents and youth as a way of securing a better quality of life in the future. This chapter also discusses on educational attainment, current school attendance, and major field of the study among adolescents and youth and contributes to a better understanding of present literacy status, gender gap in literacy and variations in literacy across background characteristics.

An account on the participation in economic activity by adolescents and youth is provided in Chapter 7, as well as occupational involvement, industrial sector of economic activity, employment status, institutional sector of economic activity and youth not in employment, and education or training .

Finally, the concluding chapter (Chapter 8) presents the report's conclusions and its onward policy implications.

CHAPERT 2

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS, LIVING ARRANGEMENTS AND WEALTH STATUS

As per United Nations estimates, the number of adolescents and youth reached 1.94 billion in 2023, accounting for almost a quarter of the world population (United Nations, 2024). This demographic shapes social and economic development by challenging social norms, values, and building the foundation of the future world (UNFPA, 2013).

Among the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries with relatively high fertility rates, the highest proportion of adolescents in 2023 were seen in Afghanistan (24.1%) and Pakistan (22.4%). The proportion of adolescents and youth to total population in Nepal is 29.8 percent, which is higher than that of all SAARC countries except Afghanistan and Pakistan. The proportion of Nepal's adolescents is slightly lower than that of youth in India, and Bhutan. This may be attributed to the rapid decline in fertility during the past two decades. As a result of the decline of the proportion of adolescents and youth in Nepal, these new dynamics call for more investment in improving opportunities for adolescents and youth to achieve healthy and productive futures. The situation of adolescents and youth in Nepal can be sourced from the NPHC 2021, and since NPHC 2001, the analysis of situation of adolescent and youth has been included separate chapter in Population Monograph of Nepal.

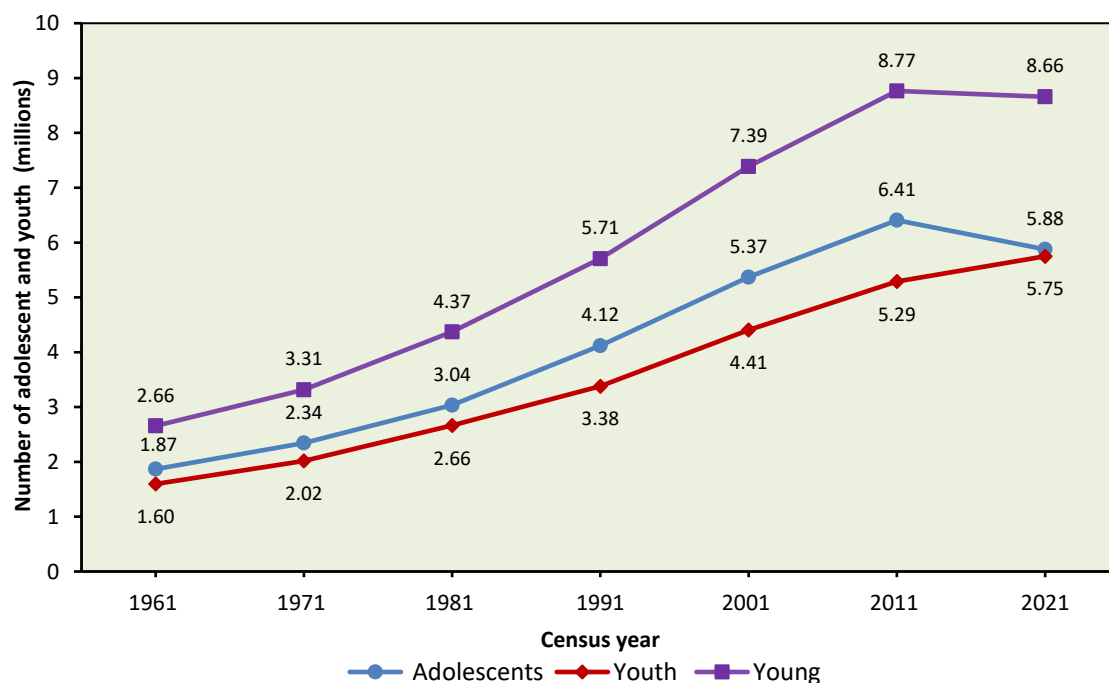
This section examines the size, distribution and growth, as well as age-sex structure of adolescents and youth by selected background characteristics.

2.1 Size and growth

The population of adolescents and youth in various censuses since 1961 is presented in Figure 2.1. The adolescent population of Nepal was 1.9 million in 1961, increasing to 4.1 million in 1991 and 6.4 million in 2011. Over the five decades, the adolescent population increased by 3.4 times. During the past decade, the number of adolescents has decreased by 8.3 percent to a figure of 5.9 million in 2021. The size of the youth population has increased steadily from 1.6 million in 1961 to 3.4 million in 1991, 5.3 million in 2011 and 5.8 million in 2021, an increase of 8.7 percent over the last decade. There is slightly higher adolescent population than youth population in the 2021 National Population and Housing Censuses (NPHC). The size of the adolescent and youth population in the age group of 10-24 years was 2.7 million in 1961, increasing to 8.8 million in 2011 and decreasing to 8.7 million in 2021. During the last decade, number of adolescents and

youth population has decreased by 1.2 percent. The population size of adolescents and youth has increased proportionately, yet the decline in the adolescent population in the last decade indicates that the youth population will decline in the coming years.

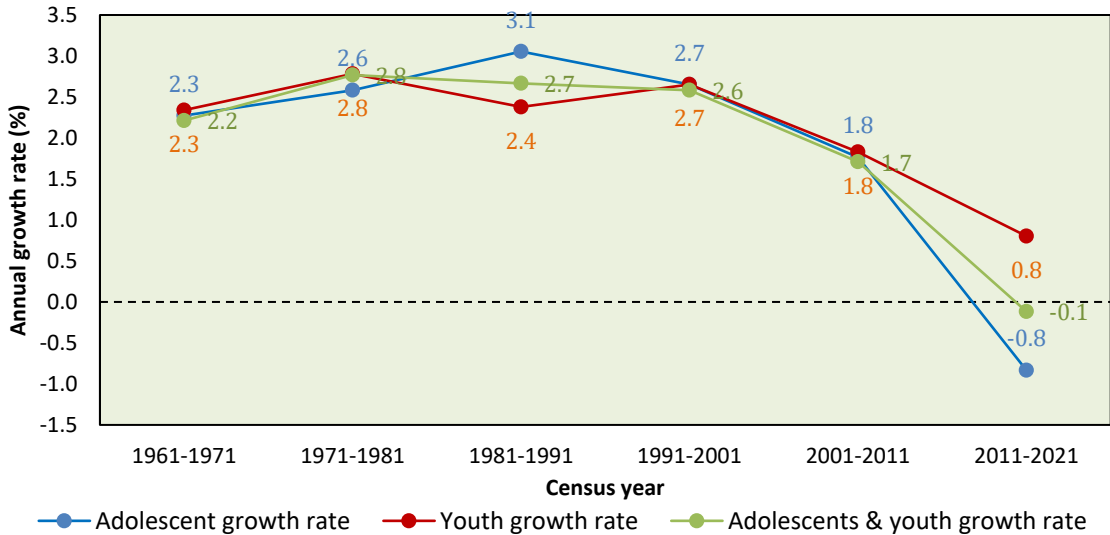
Figure 2.1: Population size of adolescents and youth (in millions) in Nepal, 1961-2021 censuses



Regarding the growth rate of the adolescent population, census recordings from 1961 to 2001 indicate a growth rate of more than 2 percent, with the highest growth rate reaching 3 percent during the period 1981-1991. Between 2001 and 2011, the adolescent population grew at a rate of 1.8 percent per year, which was followed by negative growth rate of -0.8 percent between 2011 and 2021. A plausible explanation for the negative growth rate in this period may be due to a decline in the birth and death rates over the decade. Figure 2.2 also depicts the growth rate of the youth population, revealing that the growth rate remained above 2 percent over the four decades from the 1961 to 2001 census. However, a continuous decline in the youth population growth rate is seen since the 2001 census. Between 2001 and 2011, the youth population grew at rate of 1.8 percent, followed by a 0.8 percent growth rate during the period between 2011 and 2021. When combining adolescent and youth populations, the data shows that the population aged 10-24 years has more than tripled from 2.7 million in 1961 to 8.66 million in 2021. Since 1961, over four decades, the rate of population growth of adolescents and youth remained above 2 percent per annum, with the adolescent and youth population growth rate declining slightly to the rate of 1.7 percent between 2001 and 2011. In the 2021 census, a

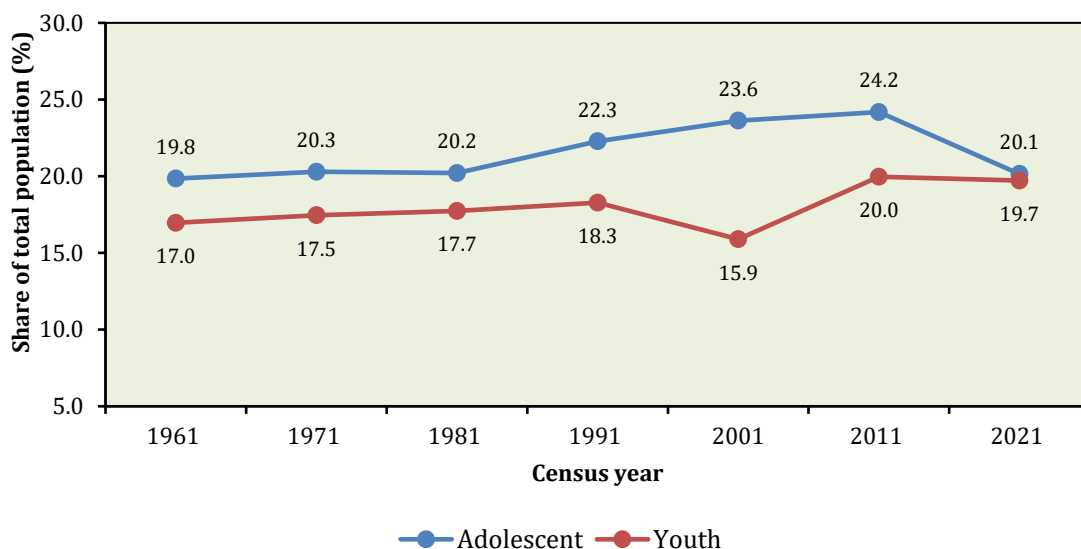
negative growth rate of the adolescent and youth population was observed at -0.1 percent. This may result in a decline in the fertility and mortality rates, as well as in the rate of migration of the youth population (National Statistics Office, 2024).

Figure 2.2: Annual growth rate (%) of adolescents and youth population in Nepal, 1961-2021 censuses



The proportion of the adolescent population has remained around 20 percent from 1961 to 1981. It steadily increased to 22.3 percent in 1991, 23.6 percent in 1991 and 24.2 percent in 2011. The proportion of the adolescent population has since decreased to 20.1 percent in 2021. The proportion of the youth population remained around 18 percent from 1971 to 1991, fluctuating thereon– it decreased to 15.9 percent in 2001, increased to 20.0 percent in 2011 and then slightly decreased to 19.7 percent in 2021. Since 1961, both the adolescent and youth population increased steadily until 2011, after which both showed a decreasing trend in the decade between 2011 and 2021. The youth population saw a significant decline during the decade between 1991 and 2001, but increased significantly between 2001 and 2011. The significant fluctuation of the youth population varies greatly from the steady increase in the adolescent population during 1991-2011 period, however a clear trend in the declining growth rate is seen for both the adolescent and youth population since 2011 (Figure 2.3).

Figure 2.3: Percent share of adolescent and youth to total population in Nepal, 1961-2021 censuses



2.2 Distribution

The distribution of adolescent and youth populations according to selected background characteristics is presented in Table 2.1. This analysis is crucial in determining the type of policies and programmes that should be implemented to ensure that adolescent and youth populations can effectively contribute to the economic development of the country. Table 2.1 shows that Tarai, the most populous zone, contains the largest number of adolescents and youth; 3.2 million adolescents and 3.1 million youth reside in Tarai, accounting for 54.4 percent of the total adolescent population and 53.6 percent of the total youth population respectively. Following Tarai, 2.3 million adolescents and 2.3 million youth live in the Hill zone, accounting for 39 percent of the total adolescent and 40.3 percent of the youth population respectively. Mountain is the least populous zone in terms of adolescent and youth population, accounting for 6.6 percent of the total adolescent and 6.1 percent of the total youth population.

Table 2.1 shows a variation in the distribution of the adolescent and youth population by province. The share to the total adolescent population varies from 6.9 percent in Karnali to 22.3 percent in Madhesh. Likewise, the share of the youth population varies from 6.4 percent in Karnali to 20.8 percent in Madhesh and Bagmati.

With regard to population distribution of adolescents and youth in urban and rural areas, peri-urban areas account for the highest share of adolescent and youth populations, followed by

rural and urban areas. As shown in Table 2.1, 40 percent of the total adolescent and 39.1 percent of the total youth population live in peri-urban areas. Collectively, peri-urban and urban areas accounted for about two-thirds of the total adolescent and youth population.

Concerning the population of caste and ethnic groups, the proportion of adolescents is seen highest in Hill Caste (28.7%), followed by Hill Janajati (24.7%), and Madheshi caste (17.1%). The rest of the caste and ethnic groups hold a total proportion of less than ten percent, whereas the ‘Others’ classification accounts for the lowest proportion (0.4%). A similar tendency is further seen in the youth population, with three groups – Hill Caste (28.9%), Hill Janajati (25.9%) and Madheshi caste (16.2%) – holding a considerably higher proportion of the youth population compared to the remaining groups.

The share of adolescent population varies from 16.6 percent in highest household wealth status to 22.3 percent in the lowest household wealth status. Conversely, the share of youth is lowest in the highest household (18.5%) and highest in lower household (21.3%) wealth quintiles.

Table 2.1: Distribution of adolescent and youth population by background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	Adolescent (10-19)			Youth (15-24)		
	Population aged 10-19	Percent of total population	Percent of total adolescent population	Population aged 15-24	Percent of total population	Percent of total youth population
Nepal	5,876,269	20.1	100.0	5,749,464	19.7	100.0
Ecological Zones						
Mountain	387,397	21.9	6.6	349,681	19.7	6.1
Hill	2,290,233	19.5	39.0	2,316,517	19.7	40.3
Tarai	3,198,639	20.5	54.4	3,083,266	19.7	53.6
Provinces						
Koshi	936,938	18.9	15.9	933,114	18.8	16.2
Madhesh	1,312,371	21.5	22.3	1,196,853	19.6	20.8
Bagmati	1,081,509	17.7	18.4	1,194,179	19.5	20.8
Gandaki	454,060	18.4	7.7	461,115	18.7	8.0
Lumbini	1,063,978	20.8	18.1	1,037,546	20.3	18.0
Karnali	405,116	24.0	6.9	368,005	21.8	6.4
Sudurpashchim	622,297	23.1	10.6	558,652	20.7	9.7
Urban and rural areas						
Urban	1,493,280	19.1	25.4	1,611,287	20.6	28.0
Peri-urban	2,351,607	20.5	40.0	2,247,030	19.5	39.1
Rural	2,031,382	21.2	34.6	1,891,147	19.7	32.9

Background characteristics	Adolescent (10-19)			Youth (15-24)		
	Population aged 10-19	Percent of total population	Percent of total adolescent population	Population aged 15-24	Percent of total population	Percent of total youth population
Caste and ethnic groups						
Hill Caste	1,684,714	19.2	28.7	1,660,704	18.9	28.9
Madhesh Caste	1,004,132	21.4	17.1	93,280	19.9	16.2
Hill Janajati	1,448,704	19.0	24.7	1,477,717	19.4	25.7
Tarai Janajati	483,776	18.5	8.2	532,265	20.4	9.3
Hill Dalit	582,394	23.2	9.9	533,081	21.3	9.3
Tarai Dalit	308,047	22.1	5.2	280,761	20.2	4.9
Religious Group	342,968	23.9	5.8	301,783	21.0	5.2
Others	21,534	14.6	0.4	29,873	20.2	0.5
Wealth quintile						
Lowest	1,299,737	22.6	22.3	1,095,218	19.0	19.3
Lower	1,268,648	21.5	21.7	1,205,721	20.4	21.3
Middle	1,216,992	20.3	20.9	1,184,397	19.8	20.9
Higher	1,081,942	19.8	18.5	1,140,836	20.8	20.1
Highest	966,146	16.6	16.6	1,046,671	18.0	18.5

With regard to the percentage of adolescents to the total population, less than 20 percent of the adolescent population is accounted for in the Hill zone. Similarly, among the provinces, Koshi, Bagmati and Gandaki hold less than the national average (20.1%) of the adolescent population, with the same seen for urban and peri-urban areas.

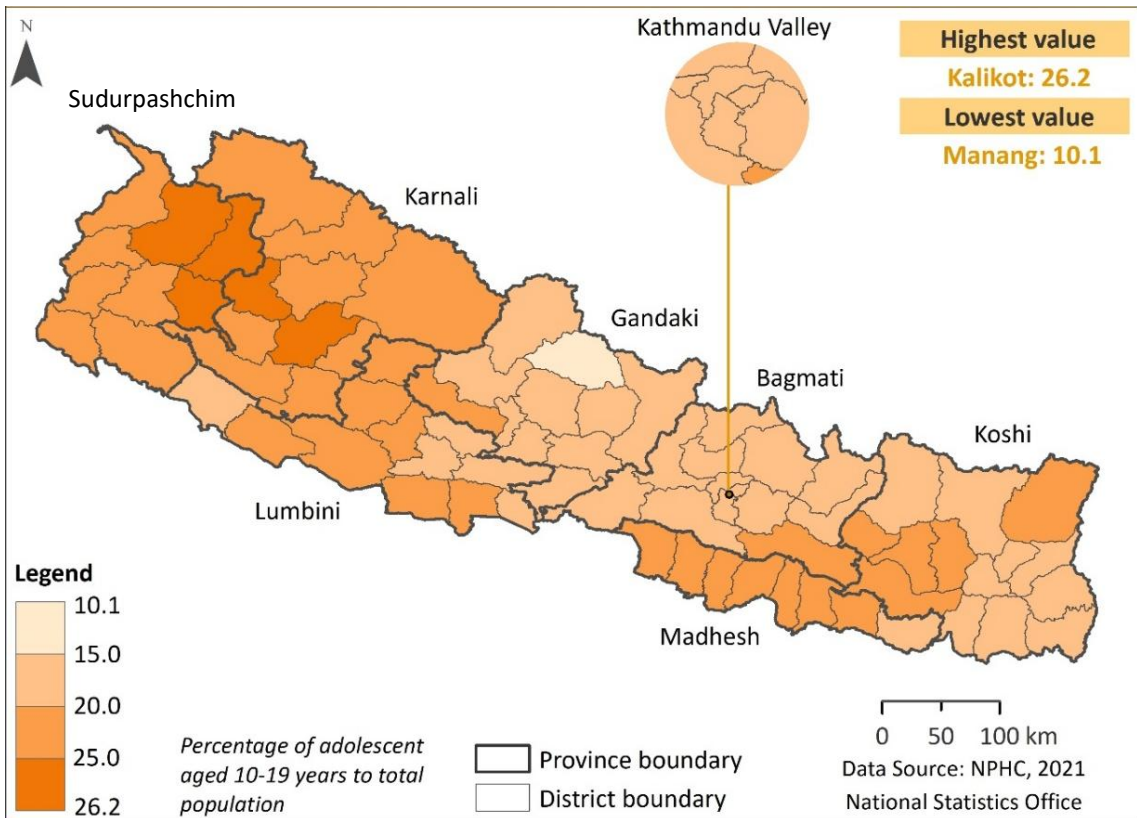
On the other hand, the percentage share of the youth population to the total population in Lumbini, Karnali and Sudurpashchim provinces was higher than the national average of adolescents (19.7%), with a similar trend again seen for the urban and peri-urban areas.

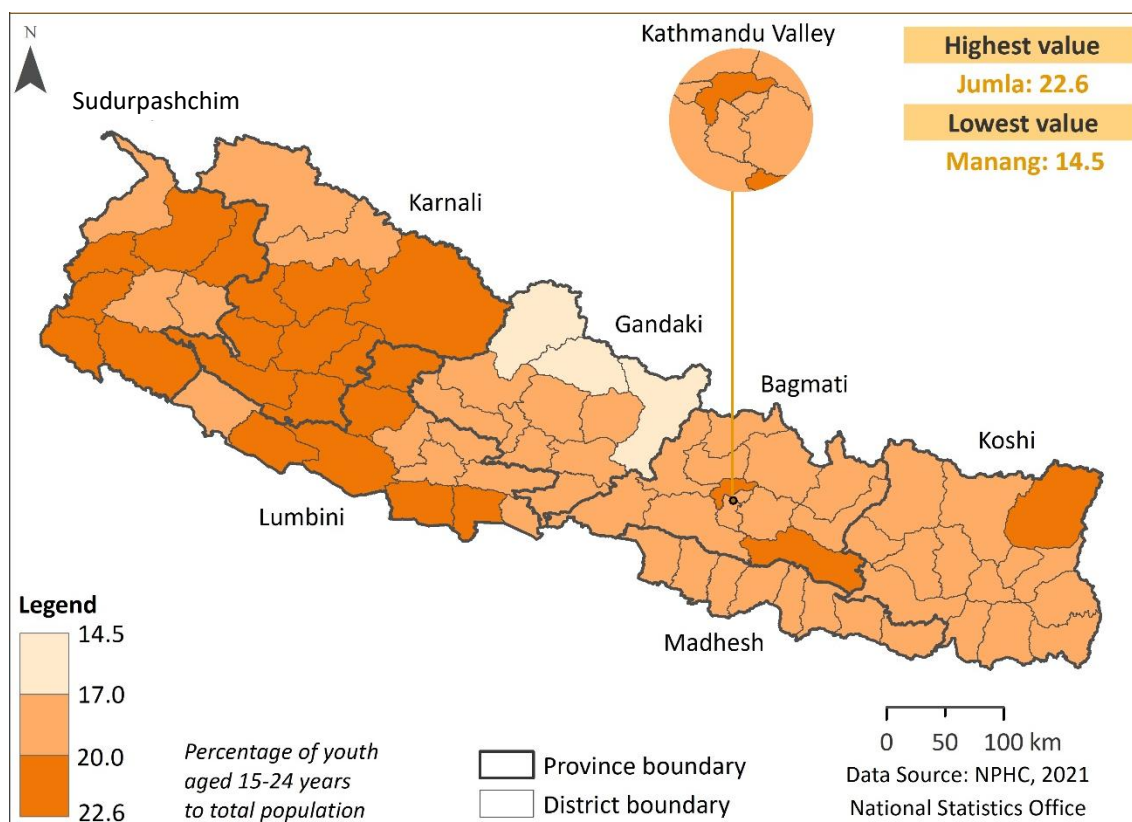
Religious groups hold the highest share of the adolescent population (23.9%), followed by Hill Dalits (23.2%). Other caste/ethnic groups show the lowest share of adolescents (18.5%). Hill Dalits followed by religious groups have highest share of youth to total population, while the Hill Caste shows the lowest share of youth population. The share of adolescents to the total population falls below the national average (20.2%) in the higher and highest households. The lowest and highest household quintiles show the lowest share of the youth population compared to the national average (19.6%).

Regarding the districts, the percentage share of the adolescent population to the total population is shown in Map 2.1. Six districts – namely Kalikot, Bajhang, Jajarkot, Achham, and Bajura – reported more than 25 percent or 1 in 4 persons as adolescents. Around half of the

districts (37 districts) show a lower percentage than the national average of the adolescent population. In terms of the percentage share of youth to the total population, five districts hold more than 22 percent of the youth population, whereas 37 districts hold a lower percentage of the youth population than the national average (Map 2.2).

Map 2.1: Percentage share of adolescent population to the total population by district, NPHC 2021



Map 2.2: Percentage share of youth population to the total population by district, NPHC 2021

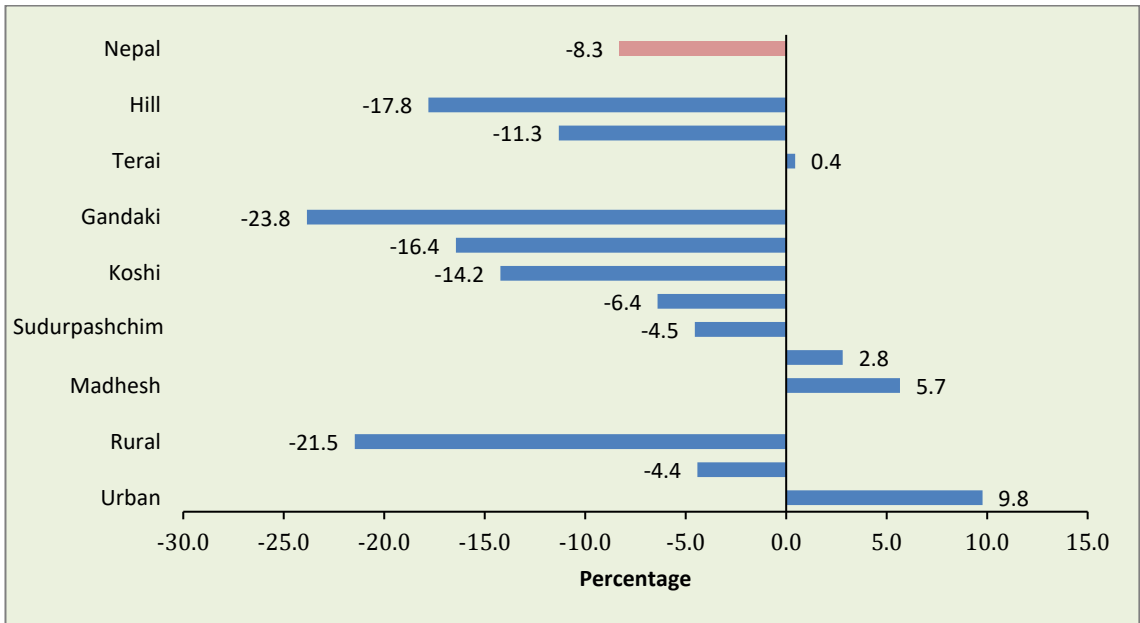
2.3 Decadal growth

Decadal changes in the population of adolescents and youth by ecological zones, provinces, urban and rural areas, and districts are important dimensions to the analysis as they indicate the dynamic nature of the two segments of the population and help to identify areas where immediate programmes could be formulated and implemented to support the well-being of adolescents and youth.

The decadal growth of adolescents in Nepal is at a rate of -8.3 percent during the period of 2011 to 2021. Figure 2.4 shows that Mountain (-17.8%) and Hill (-11.3%) zones have a negative adolescent population decadal growth rate, whereas Tarai zone shows a small positive decadal growth rate (0.4%). The negative growth in Mountain and Hill may be due to a decline in fertility and foreign migration for the purposes of education and employment. Among the provinces, Gandaki (-23.8%) shows the highest negative decadal growth rate for adolescents, followed by Bagmati, Koshi, Lumbini, and Sudurpashchim provinces. The negative growth rate in these provinces can also be attributed primarily due to the decline in fertility rates during the last

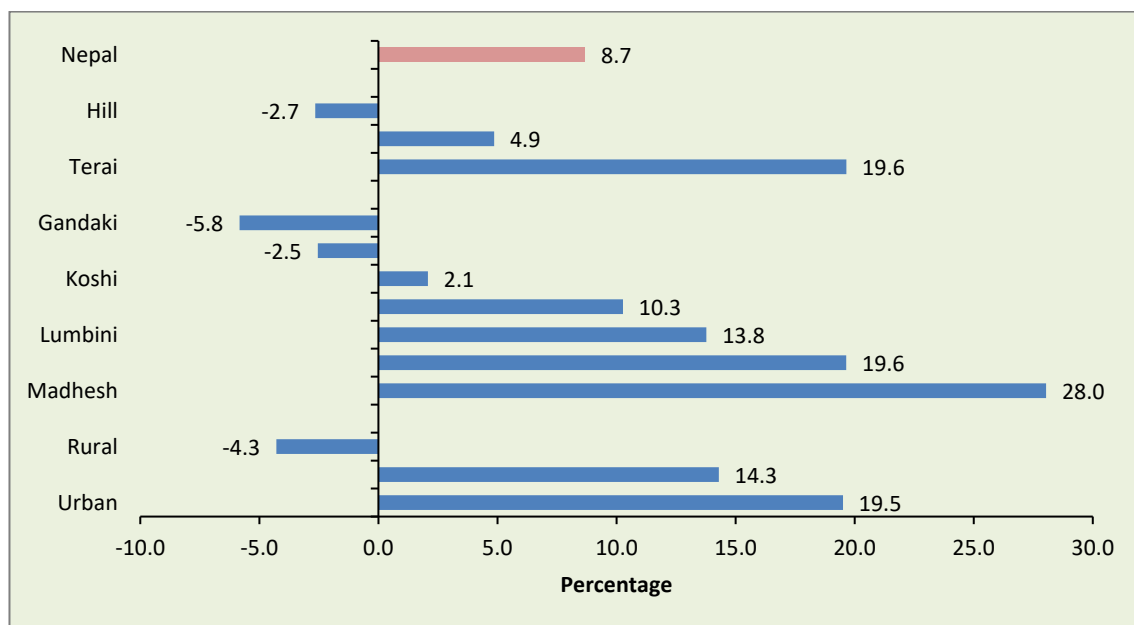
decade and foreign migration of adolescent and youth for study and work. Aside from these provinces, Madhesh and Karnali have a higher total fertility rate, which appears to contribute to positive decadal growth rate of adolescents. The decadal growth rate of adolescents shows a negative trend in rural and peri-urban areas, yet shows a positive trend in urban areas. This may be attributed to adolescent migration to urban areas for study, or to accompany their parents.

Figure 2.4: Decadal growth rate of adolescents by ecological zones and provinces, NPHC 2011-2021



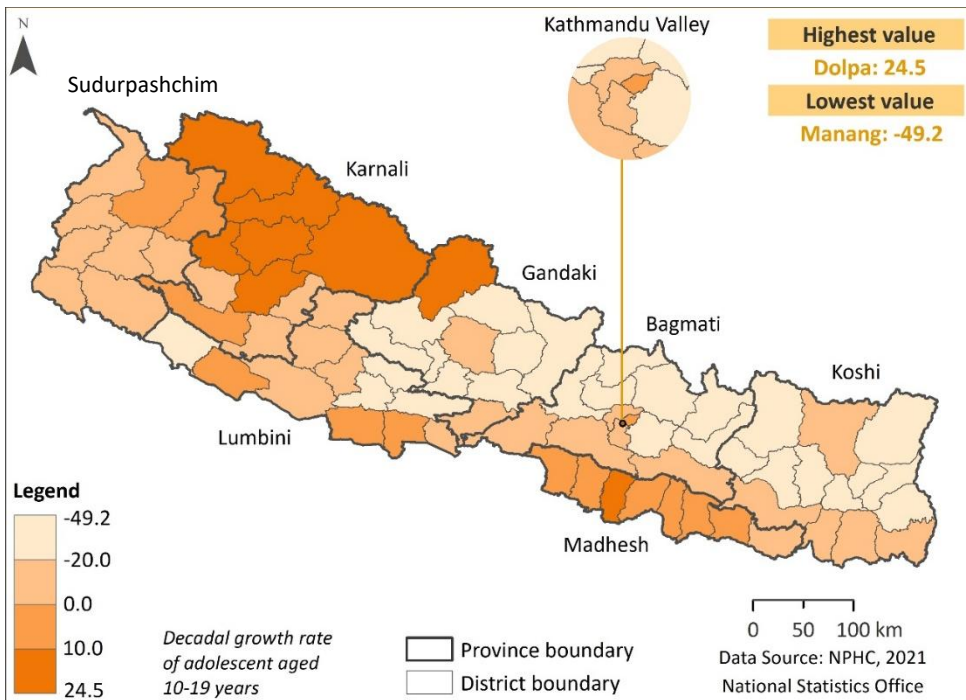
The overall decadal growth rate of Nepal’s youth population is 8.7 percent during the period between 2011 to 2021. Figure 2.5 reveals that Tarai zone (19.6%) has the highest decadal growth rate of youth, followed by Mountain, whereas Hill has a negative decadal growth rate. Among the provinces, Gandaki and Bagmati have a negative decadal youth growth rate. Migration of youth to foreign countries for study and work may be attributed to the negative growth rate in these provinces. On the other hand, the highest positive decadal growth rate is found in Madhesh (28.0%), followed by Karnali (19.6%), Lumbini (13.8%), Sudurpashchim (10.3%), and Koshi (2.1%) provinces. The decadal youth growth rate is found to be negative in rural areas (-4.3%), whereas it is significantly higher positive in urban areas (19.5%) and peri-urban areas (14.3%).

Figure 2.5: Decadal growth rate of youth population by ecological zones and provinces, NPHC 2011-2021

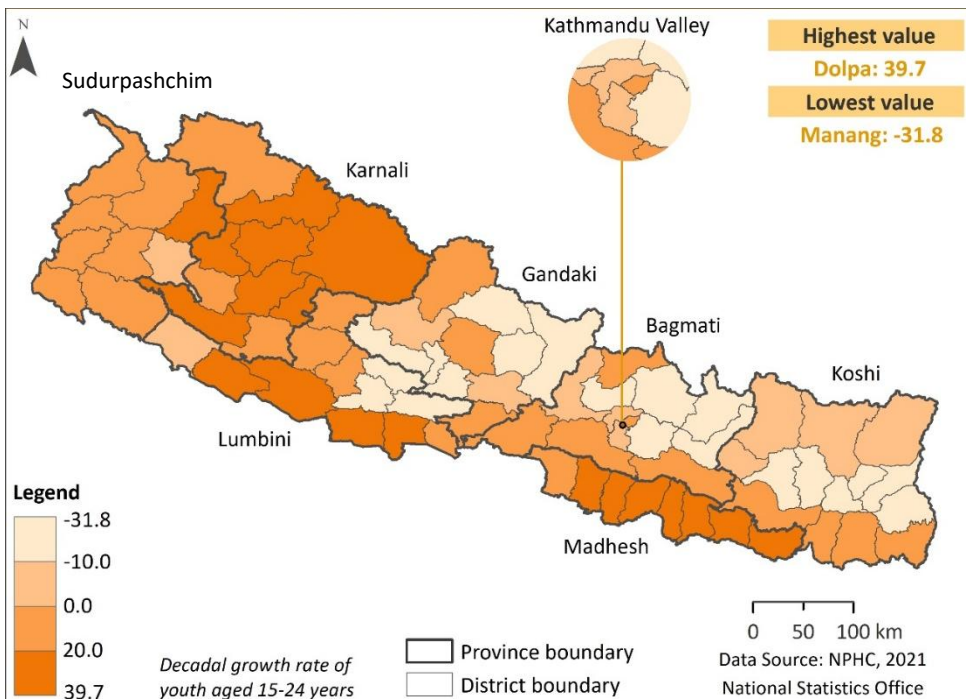


At the district level, the decadal growth rate of the adolescent population is shown in Map 2.3. Twenty-one districts show a positive decadal growth rate of adolescents and 56 districts show a negative growth rate during 2011-2021. The highest positive decadal growth rate is found in the Mountain and Hill zones, where Taplejung accounts for the highest rate of 24.5 percent, followed by Sankhuwasabha (23.6%), Solukhumbu (17.4%), Okhaldhunga (17.3%), and Khotang (16.0%). In the Hill districts, Achham (-39.3%), Doti (-35.2%), and Dadeldhura (-34.9) show the highest negative decadal growth rate of adolescents. In the Tarai zone, Kanchanpur accounts for the highest negative decadal growth rate of adolescents at a rate of -49.2 percent, followed by Kailali (-41.1%).

Map 2.3 Decadal growth rate of adolescent population by district, NPHC 2011-2021



Map 2.4 Decadal growth rate of youth population by district, NPHC 2011-2021



Between 2011 and 2021, it is observed that 46 districts show a positive decadal youth population growth rate and 31 districts have negative growth rates. The decadal growth rate of the youth population was highest in Taplejung (39.7%), Sankhuwasabha (39.6%), Solukhumbu (33.5%), Okhaldhunga (32.3%), and Khotang (32.3%). Similarly, the highest negative decadal growth rate is recorded in Kanchanpur (-31.8%), Kailali (-23.7%), Achham (-21.7%), Doti (-21.1%), and Dadeldhura (-19.7%) (Map 2.4).

2.4 Age and sex composition

Age composition

The age composition of adolescent and youth populations is the most important demographic characteristic captured by a population census. Age is a factor which largely influences an individual's needs and role in society. Age structure refers to the distribution of adolescents and youth in different age groups. The age structure of adolescent and youth populations is determined by levels of fertility, mortality and migration of the young population (aged 10-24 years). Nepal is experiencing a change in the age structure of the population along with a changing fertility level and the changing age structure of the adolescent and youth population is of particular interest and with multiple consequences. National development planning is based on the present and potential age distribution of population. In addition, along with institutional, technological, political and cultural factors, age structure plays significant roles in expanding economic and societal development of the country (Malmberg, et al., 2023).

The distribution of the adolescent and youth population by age groups are shown in Table 2.2 and Figure 2.6 indicates that the proportion of adolescents and youth in the age group 15-19 years is higher (34.3%) than the age groups of 10-14 years (33.6%) and 20-24 years (32.1%). However, the proportion of males in the 10-14 years age group is slightly higher than in the 15-19 and 20-24 years age groups. Similarly, there is a slightly higher proportion of females in the 20-24 years age group than those in the 10-14 and 15-19 years age groups. Of the total adolescent and youth population, adolescents account for 67.9 percent, whereas youth account for 66.4 percent. This trend indicates that the high proportion of the adolescent population is gradually shifting from childr to late adolescent and entering into an early youth population stage.

Table 2.2: Distribution of adolescent and youth by age and sex, and Sex ratio, NPHC 2021

Age	Both sexes		Male		Female		Sex ratio
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
All ages	8,659,329	100.0	4,291,495	100.0	4,367,834	100.0	98.3
10	646,772	7.5	338,785	7.9	307,987	7.1	110.0
11	475,016	5.5	246,281	5.7	228,735	5.2	107.7
12	638,817	7.4	330,149	7.7	308,668	7.1	107.0
13	556,890	6.4	281,718	6.6	275,172	6.3	102.4
14	592,370	6.8	299,021	7.0	293,349	6.7	101.9
10-14	2,909,865	33.6	1,495,954	34.9	1,413,911	32.4	105.8
15	607,128	7.0	305,750	7.1	301,378	6.9	101.5
16	608,979	7.0	306,773	7.1	302,206	6.9	101.5
17	537,901	6.2	272,098	6.3	265,803	6.1	102.4
18	708,386	8.2	360,584	8.4	347,802	8.0	103.7
19	504,010	5.8	249,318	5.8	254,692	5.8	97.9
15-19	2,966,404	34.3	1,494,523	34.8	1,471,881	33.7	101.5
20	704,630	8.1	331,157	7.7	373,473	8.6	88.7
21	487,099	5.6	233,905	5.5	253,194	5.8	92.4
22	596,573	6.9	280,879	6.5	315,694	7.2	89.0
23	490,146	5.7	223,481	5.2	266,665	6.1	83.8
24	504,612	5.8	231,596	5.4	273,016	6.3	84.8
20-24	2,783,060	32.1	1,301,018	30.3	1,482,042	33.9	87.8
Adolescent (10-19)	5,876,269	67.9	2,990,477	69.7	2,885,792	66.1	103.6
Youth (15-24)	5,749,464	66.4	2,795,541	65.1	2,953,923	67.6	94.6

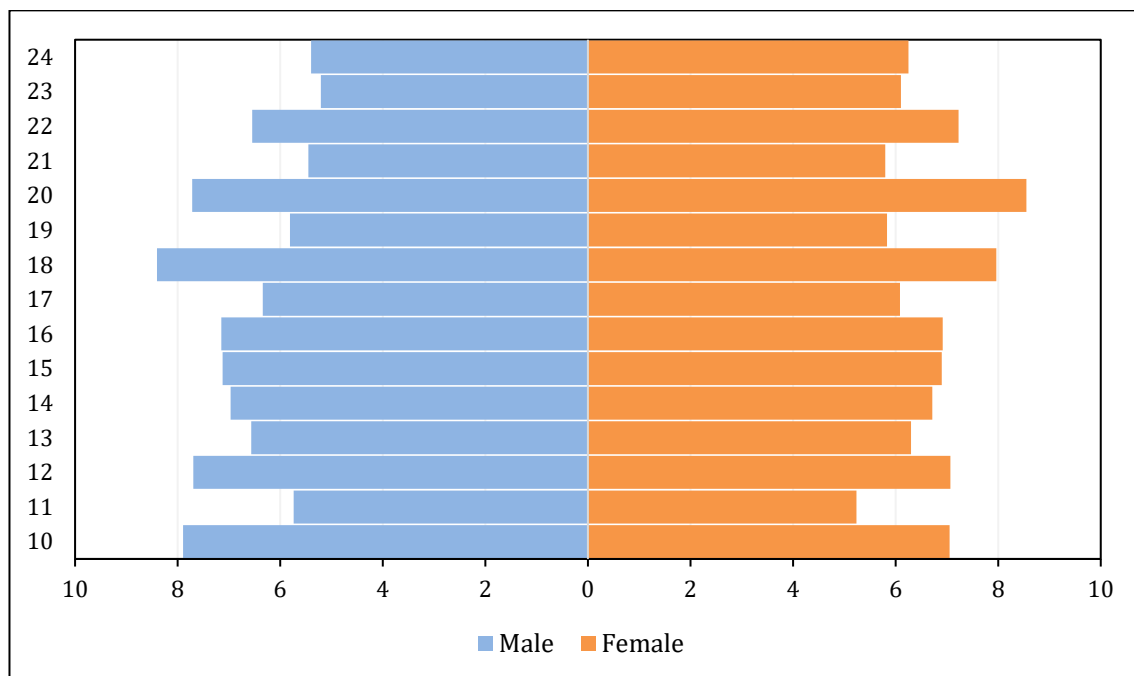
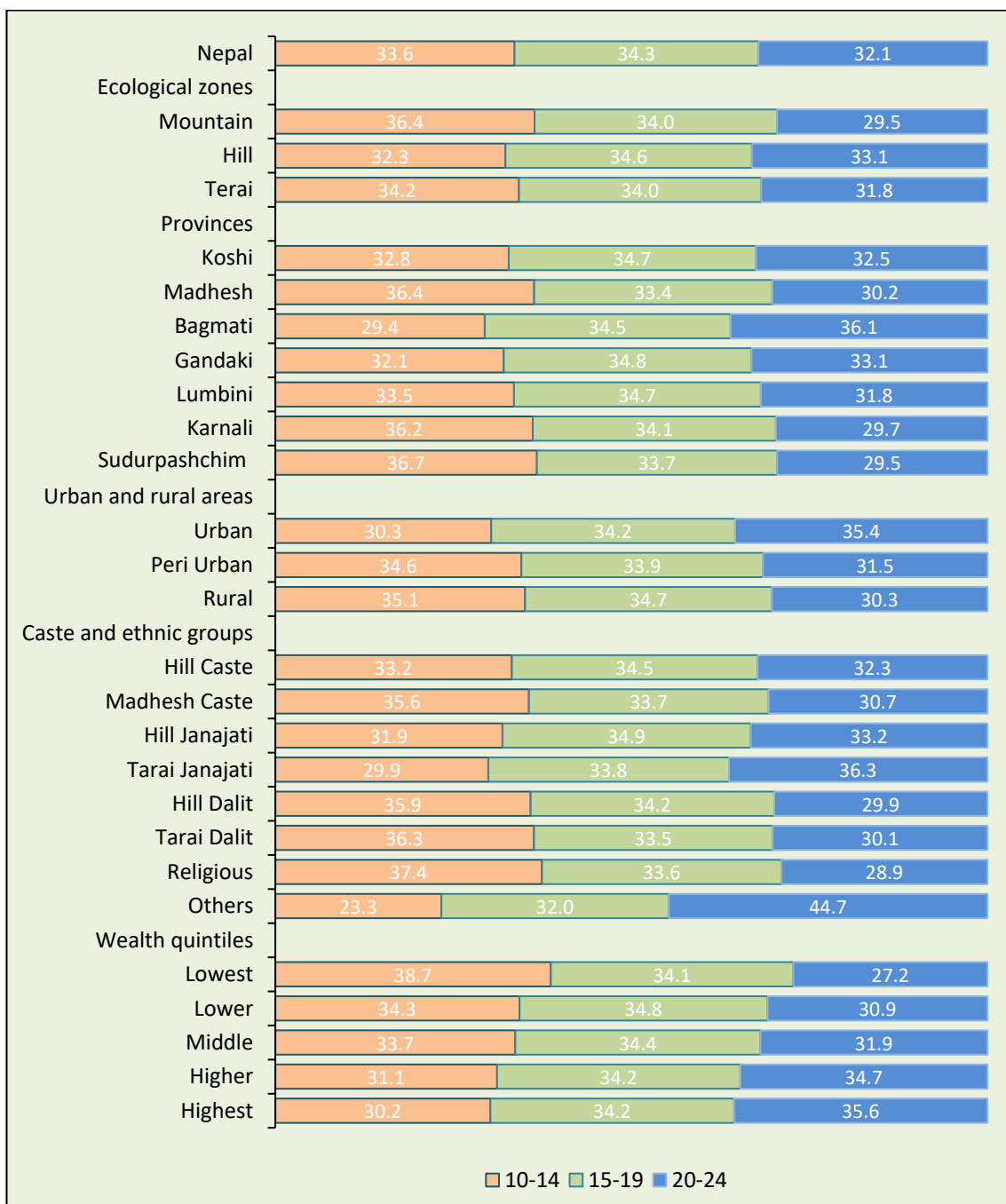
Figure 2.6: Single year age pyramid of adolescents and youth, NPHC 2021

Figure 2.7 shows the percentage distribution of the adolescent and youth population by age group and background characteristics. Adolescent and youth populations are split into three age groups: earlier adolescents (10-14 years); late adolescents or earlier youth (15-19 years), and; late youth (20-24 years). In Nepal, the late adolescent or earlier youth population accounts for 34.3 percent, followed by earlier adolescents (33.6%) and late youth (32.1%). However, no significant difference is seen between the three age groups in the context of Nepal.

There are some significant variations observed with regard to background characteristics of the population. Earlier adolescents in Bagmati Province and from Tarai Janajati and other caste and ethnic groups account for the lowest proportion, or below 30 percent of the total adolescent and youth population, when compared against the late youth population, in which other caste and ethnic groups account for the highest (44.7%) proportion, followed by Tarai Janajati (36.3%) groups and Bagmati Province (36.1%). The intersection of adolescents and youth (15-19 years) do not show any significant variation except for the case of caste and ethnic groups, which ranges between other caste and ethnic groups (32.2%) and Tarai Janajati (34.9%).

Among the ecological zones, Mountain shows the largest share of adolescents (70.4%), followed by Tarai zone. Hill zone shows the lowest share of adolescents (66.9%). Likewise, Hill zone shows a higher share of youth (67.7%) and Mountain zone shows the lowest (63.6%).

Figure 2.7: Percentage distribution of adolescents and youth population by age group and background characteristics, NPHC 2021



With regard to provinces, Sudurpashchim, followed by Karnali, had over 70 percent of their population in adolescent age group, whereas Bagmati Province shows the smallest share of

adolescents (63.9%). On the other hand, Bagmati Province had highest share of youth (70.6%) and Sudurpashchim (63.3%), followed by Madhesh and Karnali provinces, shows the lowest share of the youth population. Rural areas had largest share of adolescents (69.8%) while urban areas had largest share of youth (69.6%).

Figure 2.7 also indicates that lowest households have the highest share of adolescents, followed by lower and middle wealth quintiles, whereas the households at highest wealth quintiles have the highest share of youth, followed by households at higher wealth quintiles. Among the different caste and ethnic groups, religious groups and Hill Dalits showed greatest share of adolescents, and other caste and ethnic groups showed the lowest share of adolescents. Similarly, other caste and ethnic groups and Tarai Janajati showed the highest share of youth, whereas religious groups followed by Tarai Dalits showed the lowest share of youth in their population. Annex A2.2 provides more details distribution.

Sex composition

Sex composition is a basic demographic characteristic which is an important dimension within the study of adolescent and youth. It is argued that sex composition of adolescents and youth has important implications for demographic and socioeconomic development of the country, as well as toward labour force participation and gender relations.

Sex ratios provide more information about underlying demographic, social and economic dynamics of the population, as well as son and daughter preference and sex-selective termination of pregnancy (Department of Population, 2017). Figure 2.8 depicts the sex ratio of adolescents, youth, and overall population from the 1961 to 2021 censuses. Compared to overall sex ratios, adolescents and youth sex ratios have clearly exhibit the different patterns. The sex ratio of adolescents has consistently been higher than overall population, indicating higher number of males compared to females, whereas the sex ratio of youth has generally been lower than that of overall population, suggesting that there are lower males than females. The sex ratio of adolescents was 108 in 1961. This ratio peaked at 114 in 1971, and has since declined to 103 in 2001, reaching 104 in 2021. On the other hand, the sex ratio of youth was 94 in 1961, which increased to 101 in 1971. This sex ratio decreased by 12 points to 89 in 2011. By 2021, the sex ratio had increased to 95, indicating some improvement but still indicating a gender imbalance with fewer males than females.

Figure 2.8: Sex ratio of adolescents, youth, and overall population, NPHC 1961-2021

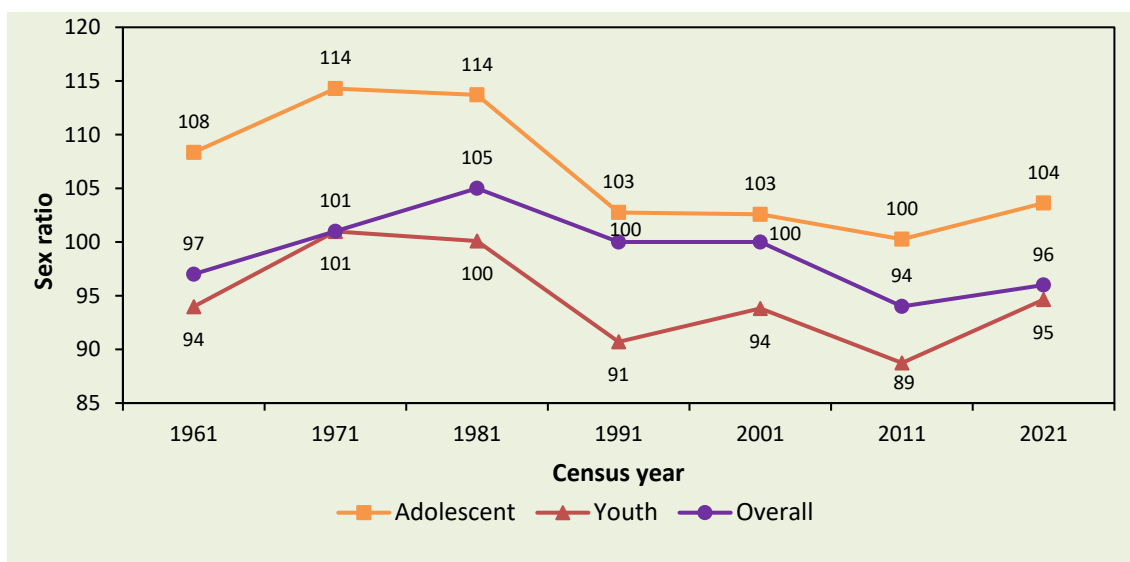


Table 2.2 shows that sex ratio of adolescents and youth varies from 84 to 110. The sex ratio is found to be higher (above 100) until age 18 and declines to below 100 after age of 19, reducing further with increasing age. Additionally, the sex ratio was noticeably higher in adolescents (104) than in the youth population (95). The greater number of adolescent males than females may be attributed to patriarchal societal norms and the persistence of son preference through prenatal sex screening and sex selective termination of pregnancy (Sharma and Tripathi, 2014). Conversely, the greater number of overseas male migration for work and study purposes are the possible causes of lower sex ratio in population of youth (National Statistics Office, 2024).

Table 2.3 shows the sex ratio and masculinity proportion by background characteristics and by adolescent and youth population figures. At the national level, in 2021, the adolescent and youth sex ratio was 104 and 95 respectively. Among the ecological zones, Tarai showed the highest sex ratio with 105 males per 100 females, followed by Hill (103) and Mountain (98) zones.

Among the provinces, the adolescent sex ratio was highest in Bagmati with 108 males per 100 females, followed by Madhesh (107) and the lowest in Sudurpashchim (97). The sex ratio appears to be nearly balanced in Lumbini and Karnali provinces. In urban municipalities, urban and peri-urban areas showed a sex ratio of above 100.

Adolescents from Madhesh/Tarai caste have a higher sex ratio (111), which may be attributed to previous practice of sex selective abortion among the Tarai caste. Adolescents belonging to ‘Other’ caste and ethnic groups – which includes others, foreigners, and not stated – show a notably higher sex ratio (157). Prenatal sex selection is one plausible explanation for this finding.

Adolescents from the highest household wealth quintiles have a considerably high sex ratio (111), followed by higher households (106) and middle households (102).

Regarding the sex ratio of youth population, a greater number of females than males are seen in all three ecological zones, with a sex ratio below 100. Among the provinces, the highest sex ratio was recorded in Bagmati (103) and the lowest sex ratio was recorded in Sudurpashchim (83). When considering urban and rural areas, the urban area showed a higher sex ratio (102) and rural areas showed the lowest sex ratio (89). The youth sex ratio varies significantly among caste and ethnic groups, indicating a gender imbalance.

Tarai Dalits showed an almost balanced sex ratio. Hill Dalits have the lowest sex ratio (85), whereas Tarai Castes have the highest sex ratio (107). Youth from 'Other' groups appeared to show an unusually high sex ratio (166).

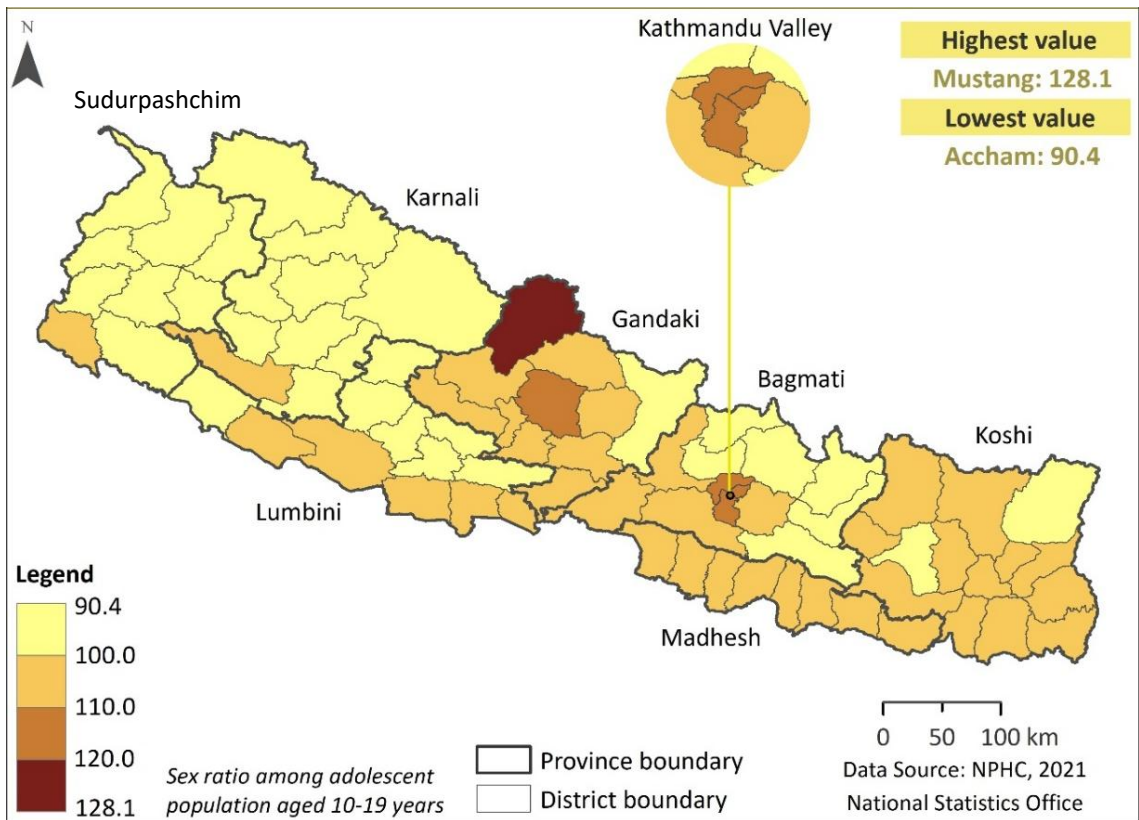
Youth from the highest household have the highest sex ratio (91), followed by higher households (93) and lowest households (93). The sex ratio appears to be lowest for those from lower households.

Table 2.3: Sex ratio and masculinity proportion by background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background	Adolescents		Youth	
	Sex ratio	Masculinity proportion	Sex ratio	Masculinity proportion
Nepal	104	50.9	95	48.6
Ecological zones				
Mountain	98	49.5	93	48.1
Hill	103	50.8	95	48.7
Tarai	105	51.2	95	48.6
Provinces				
Koshi	103	50.6	95	48.6
Madhesh	107	51.8	100	50.0
Bagmati	108	51.9	103	50.6
Gandaki	105	51.2	95	48.6
Lumbini	101	50.3	89	47.1
Karnali	99	49.7	90	47.4
Sudurpashchim	97	49.3	83	45.2
Urban and rural areas				
Urban	111	52.5	102	50.5
Peri-urban	104	51.1	94	48.5
Rural	98	49.5	89	47.1
Caste and ethnic groups				
Hill Caste	104	51.0	93	48.1

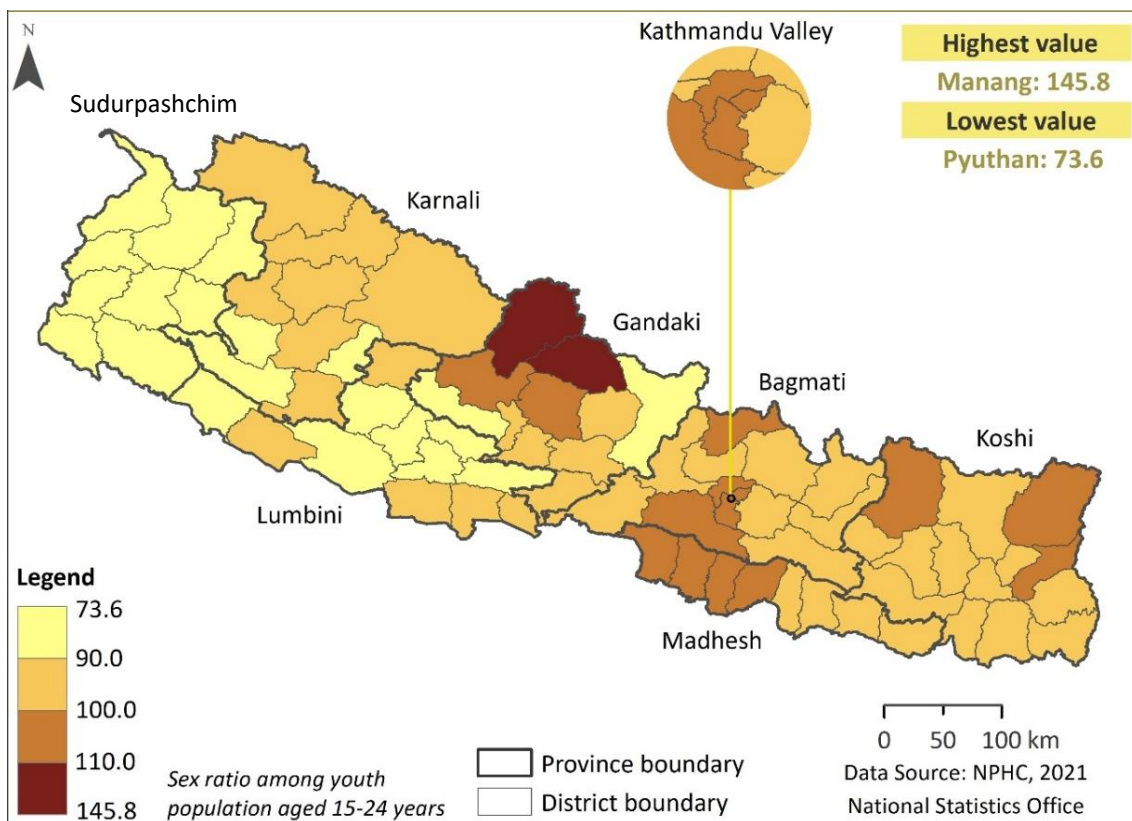
Background	Adolescents		Youth	
	Sex ratio	Masculinity proportion	Sex ratio	Masculinity proportion
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	111	52.6	107	51.6
Hill Janajati	101	50.3	93	48.2
Tarai Janajati	101	50.2	91	47.7
Hill Dalit	96	49.1	85	45.9
Tarai Dalit	105	51.3	99	49.8
Religious	103	50.8	94	48.4
Others	157	61.0	166	62.4
Wealth quintiles				
Lowest	100	49.9	93	48.2
Low	100	50.0	91	47.7
Middle	102	50.5	92	48.0
Higher	106	51.4	93	48.2
Highest	111	52.7	97	49.4

The adolescent sex ratio is shown to vary by district in Nepal. The 2021 census revealed that 56 districts had a higher sex ratio than national average. Among the districts, the highest adolescent sex ratio was noted in Mustang (128), followed by Kathmandu (117), Bhaktapur (115), Kaski (112), Lalitpur (111), Chitawan (110), Parsa (110), Dhanusa (109), Siraha (109) and Bara (108). There are 21 districts with lower adolescent sex ratio than the national average. Achham showed the lowest adolescent sex ratio (90), followed by Pyuthan (91), Bajhang (93), Ramechhap (95), Doti (95), Bajura (95), Dolpa (96), Rolpa (96), Arghakhanchi (96), and Dailekh (96). It is also observed that ten districts have almost a balanced sex ratio, with 99.5 to 100.4 (Map 2.5). Most districts within Koshi and Gandaki provinces and all districts within Madhesh province showed higher adolescent sex ratios, whereas the adolescent sex ratio was below 100 in districts of Lumbini and Sudurpashchim provinces.

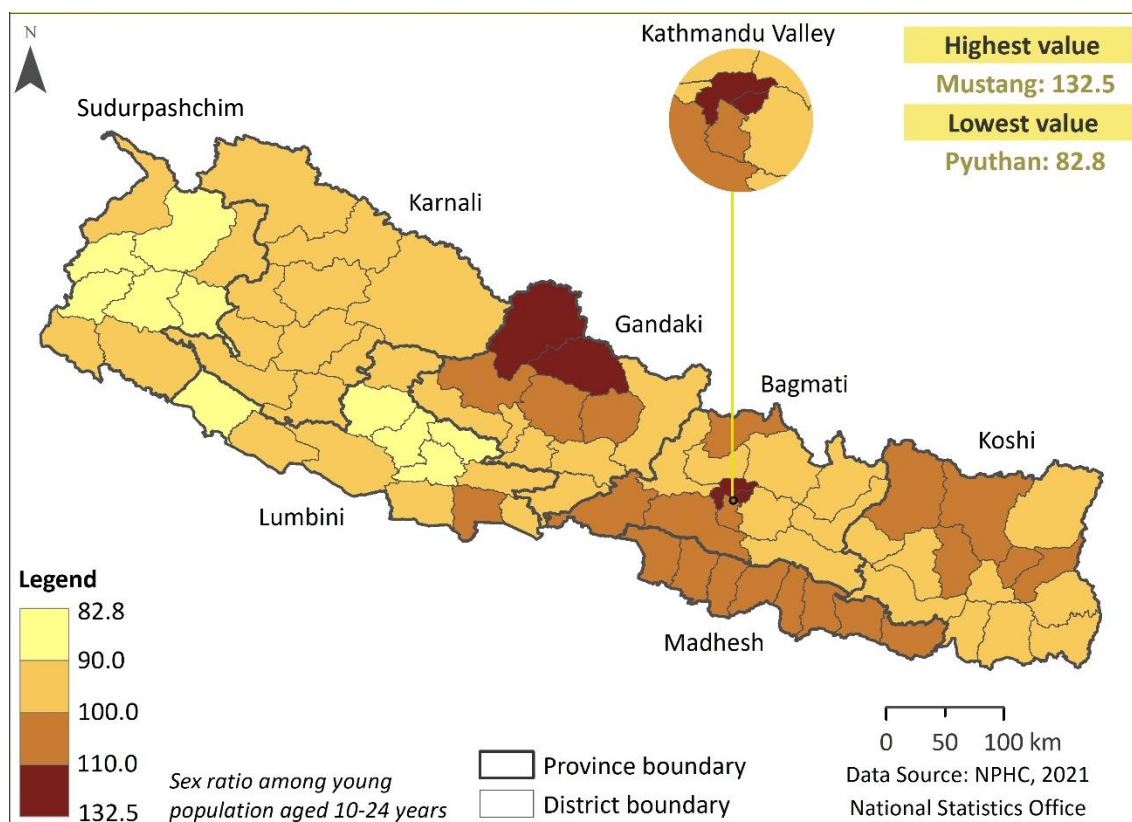
Map 2.5: Sex ratio among adolescent population by district, NPHC 2021

The 2021 census identified that 43 districts have a higher youth sex ratio, while 34 districts have a lower youth sex ratio than the national average. The sex ratio of the youth population was highest in Mustang (146), followed by Kathmandu (137), Bhaktapur (110), Kaski (109), Lalitpur (108), Chitawan (107), Parsa (105), Dhanusa (105), Siraha (103), and Bara (103). On the other hand, the lowest youth sex ratio was reported in Achham (74), followed by Pyuthan (74), Bajhang (77), Ramechhap (78), Doti (78), Bajura (80), Dolpa (81), Rolpa (81), Arghakhanchi (81), and Dailekh (81) (Map 2.6). The results show that districts within Sudurpashchim Province have the lowest youth sex ratio when compared to districts within Karnali and Lumbini provinces.

Map 2.6: Sex ratio among youth population by district, NPHC 2021



The sex ratio of young persons aged 10-24 years is found to be highest in Mustang (132), followed by Manang (127), Kathmandu (112), Bhaktapur (111) and Parsa (110). The lowest sex ratio is found in Pyuthan (83), Achham (85), Arghakhanchi (85), Gulmi (87), and Doti (87). However, Terhathum, Bhojpur, Lamjung, Taplejung and Nawalparashi (West) have almost a balanced sex composition (Map 2.7).

Map 2.7: Sex ratio among young population by district, NPHC 2021

2.5 Living arrangements

Living arrangements are a crucial component to the overall well-being of adolescents. Types of living arrangements are associated with the education, health, safety, psychological development, intellectual development, recreation, social interaction, and daily lives of adolescents. Living arrangements refer to the types of parents with whom adolescents reside, as well as their relationship status with parents.

The NPHC 2021 collected detailed information on living arrangements of children under the age of 18. Therefore, it is possible to explore the living arrangements of adolescents aged 10-17 years. It is found that 76 percent of adolescents in Nepal were living with both their father and mother, while 17.9 percent of adolescents were living in single parent households, 16.5 percent of the adolescents were living with only their mother, and 1.4 percent with only their father. It clearly shows that living with only the mother is more likely than living with only the father. However, this indicates that mother or father is the main guardian of adolescents in the household. About 5 percent of adolescents are found to be living under the guardianship of

other relatives such as brothers, sisters, grandparents, uncles/aunts, or other extended family members. Additionally, 0.5 percent of adolescents were living in step-parent households, and 0.1 percent were living in the home of employer as a worker.

Table 2.4: Living arrangements of adolescents aged 10-17 by provinces, NPHC 2021

Province	Total	Both mother and father	Single parent household		Blended family household		Alternative household		Other and not stated	
			Mother only	Father only	Father and step mother	Mother and step father	Other relative	Employer	Other	Not stated
Nepal	4,663,873	76.0	16.5	1.4	0.4	0.1	4.5	0.1	0.9	0.1
Koshi	739,721	75.2	15.7	2.1	0.7	0.1	5.5	0.0	0.6	0.1
Madhesh	1,057,274	82.3	14.9	0.6	0.2	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.3	0.1
Bagmati	830,710	76.4	12.2	2.0	0.5	0.1	6.3	0.2	2.2	0.1
Gandaki	356,886	65.4	24.1	1.6	0.6	0.1	5.7	0.1	1.7	0.6
Lumbini	845,233	74.4	19.1	1.3	0.4	0.1	3.9	0.0	0.6	0.1
Karnali	326,529	79.9	12.6	1.2	0.5	0.1	4.9	0.0	0.8	0.2
Sudurpashchim	507,520	71.0	20.5	1.1	0.4	0.0	6.2	0.0	0.5	0.1

Living arrangements of adolescents and youth in institutional households is less likely for adolescents and youth compared to living with family. This term encompasses the population reported to be residing in barracks, hostels, cantonments, and prisons at the time of census (UNFPA, 2017). The NPHC 2021 recorded that 239,098 people (0.8% of total population) were living in institutions in Nepal. However, 42,804 adolescents – which accounted for 0.1 percent of total population and 0.7 percent of total adolescent population – were living in institutions at the time of 2021 census. For youth, the figure of 76, 621 is seen, which represents 0.3 percent of total population and 1.3 percent of the total youth population. Table 2.5 indicates that the Hill zone had the highest percentage of male adolescents living in institutions (1.5%), whereas Tarai zone had the lowest percentage of female adolescents living in institutions (0.3%). Similarly, male youth in Hill zone have the highest rate of individuals living in institutions (2.9%), whereas female youth in Tarai show the lowest rate. The percentage of adolescents living in institutions varies by provinces, ranging from 0.2 percent in Madhesh (0.3% males and 0.1% females) to 2 percent in Bagmati (2.4% males and 1.6% females). Similar patterns were identified among youth. Bagmati Province records the highest proportion of youth living in institutions, whereas Madhesh Province has the lowest. Table 2.5: Number and percentage of adolescents and youth living in institutions by sex by ecological zones and provinces, NPHC 2021.

Table 2.5: Number and percentage of adolescents and youth living in institutions by sex by ecological zones and provinces, NPHC 2021

Areas	Adolescent (10-19)			Youth (15-24)		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
Number living in institutions						
Nepal	42,804	27,466	15,338	76,621	57,739	18,882
Ecological zones						
Mountain	4,098	2,490	1,608	5,375	4,367	1,008
Hill	26,725	16,959	9,766	45,439	32,957	12,482
Tarai	11,981	8,017	3,964	25,807	20,415	5,392
Provinces						
Koshi	3,667	2,754	913	9,914	8,213	1,701
Madhesh	2,745	2,303	442	3,341	2,911	430
Bagmati	21,561	13,345	8,216	33,624	23,683	9,941
Gandaki	6,453	4,117	2,336	9,185	6,822	2,363
Lumbini	5,192	2,855	2,337	12,695	9,491	3,204
Karnali	1,525	825	700	3,217	2,645	572
Sudurpashchim	1,661	1,267	394	4,645	3,974	671
Percentage living in institutions						
Nepal	0.7	0.9	0.5	1.3	2.1	0.6
Ecological zones						
Mountain	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.5	2.6	0.6
Hill	1.2	1.5	0.9	2.0	2.9	1.1
Tarai	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.8	1.4	0.3
Provinces						
Koshi	0.4	0.6	0.2	1.1	1.8	0.4
Madhesh	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.1
Bagmati	2.0	2.4	1.6	2.8	3.9	1.7
Gandaki	1.4	1.8	1.1	2.0	3.0	1.0
Lumbini	0.5	0.5	0.4	1.2	1.9	0.6
Karnali	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.9	1.5	0.3
Sudurpashchim	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.8	1.6	0.2

It is observed that, across ecological zones and provinces, youth populations have the highest percentage of those living in institutions compared to adolescents, with the exception of females in Mountain zone and Gandaki Province.

2.6 Wealth status

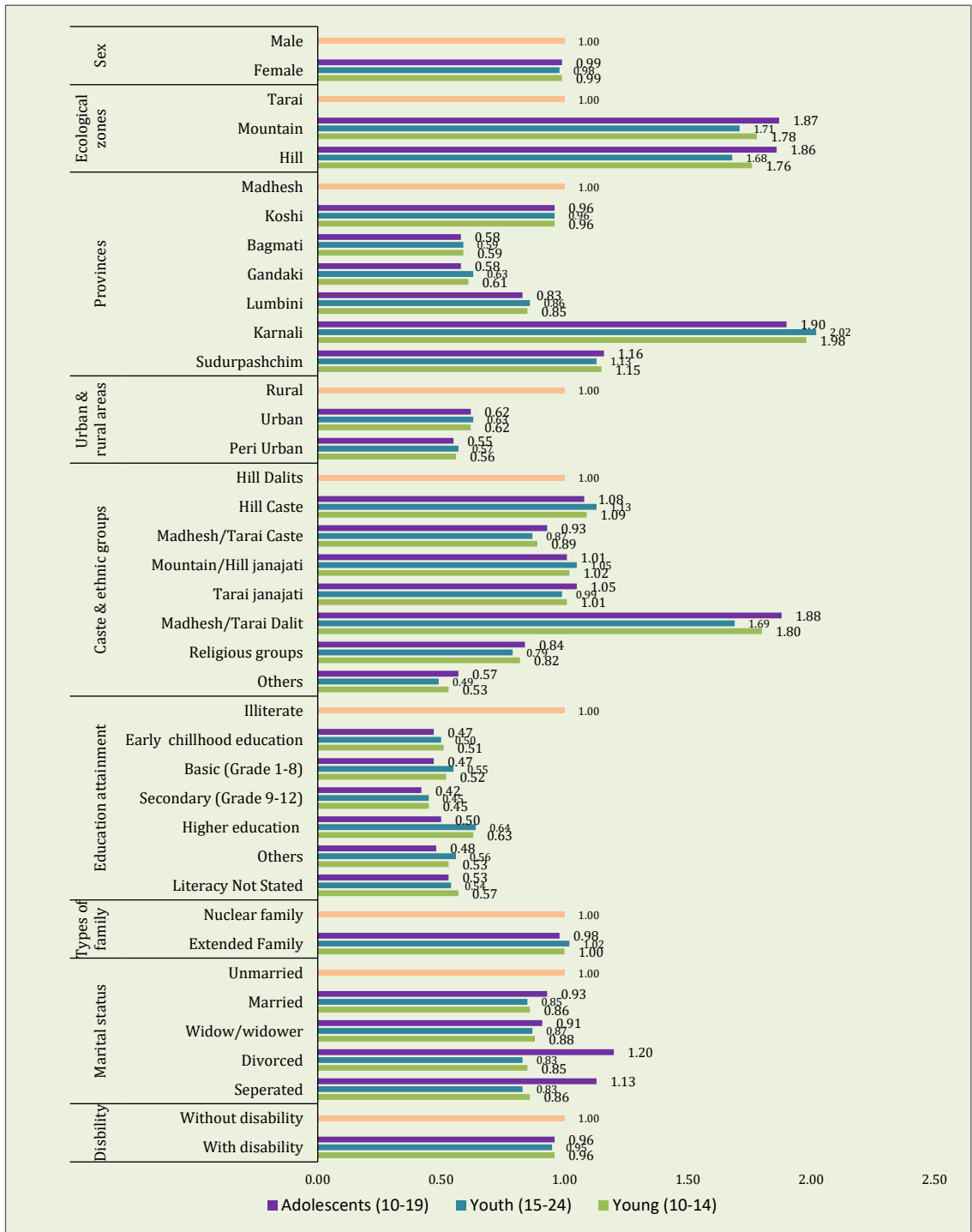
The wealth index is an indicator of socioeconomic status of household. For the first time, National Statistics Office constructed a wealth index based on National Population and Housing Census 2021 data. The wealth index or wealth quintile is estimated by using variety of household characteristics, utilities and amenities. Thus, wealth index is a composite measure of household socioeconomic status and living standards. The wealth index divides the population into five wealth quintiles, or five equally sized groups of population each representing 20 percent of the total population. Households in the first quintile have the lowest wealth index, suggesting that they experience a greater rate of disadvantages in terms of household facilities and assets, whereas households in the fifth wealth quintile show the highest wealth index, indicating that they are the most advantaged in terms of household facilities and assets. The census does not provide direct information on income and poverty.

The wealth index can be used to assess poverty. The wealth index categorized household wealth into five categories, namely: lowest, lower, middle, higher, and highest. In this study, the household wealth quintiles have been re-categorized into two categories – impoverished (lowest, lower) and non-impoverished (middle, higher and highest) – and are referred to as such. A logistic regression was used to investigate the impact of several background variables on poverty among adolescents and youth. The logistic regression analysis includes the following explanatory variables: sex, ecological zones, provinces, urban and rural areas, caste and ethnic groups, education, types of family, marital status and disability.

To diagnose potential multicollinearity problems among independent variables, a collinearity diagnostic test – the variance inflation factor (VIF) – has been applied. A variance inflation factor value above 10 is regarded to indicate multicollinearity. All VIF values are below 10. Figure 2.9 presents the odds ratio for several background variables among adolescents, youth, and young people. The odds ratio demonstrates the ratio of the probability of experiencing poverty to the probability of not experiencing poverty. The results of the logistic regression show that female adolescents and youth have lower odds of experiencing poverty than male adolescents and youth.

Adolescents and youth from Mountain and Hill zones have higher poverty odds when compared to those from Tarai, indicating that adolescents and youth from Mountain and Hill zones are more likely to experience poverty than when compared to those from Tarai zone. Similarly, adolescents and youth who reside in Koshi, Bagmati, Gandaki, and Lumbini provinces have a lower poverty odds ratio, while those residing in Karnali and Sudurpashchim provinces have higher poverty odds ratio than when compared with those who reside in Madhesh Province. For example, adolescents and youth in Karnali have the highest poverty odds ratio (OR=1.90 for adolescents and OR=2.02 for youth), whereas Bagmati shows the lowest poverty odds ratio (OR=0.58 for adolescents and OR=0.59 for youth).

Figure 2.9: Logistic regression odds ratio showing association between poverty and background variables, NPHC 2021



The data shows that adolescents and young people living in urban and peri-urban areas are considerably less likely to experience poverty than those living in rural areas. The odds ratio for caste and ethnic groups further reveals notable differences. A striking feature is that adolescents and youth who belong to the Hill caste and Mountain/Hill Janajati groups have a higher poverty odds ratio than those who belong to the Hill Dalits. Similarly, Madhesh/Tarai Dalit adolescents and youth also have a higher poverty odds ratio when compared with Hill Dalits.

Educational attainment has explained the likelihood of experiencing poverty. The odds ratio for educational attainment shows that the higher the level of educational attainment, the lower the probability of experiencing poverty. Adolescents and youth with early childhood education, basic education, secondary education, and higher education have a lower poverty odds ratio compared with those who are illiterate. Youth have a slightly higher odds ratio compared to adolescents.

Adolescents and youth living in an extended family are less likely to experience poverty than those living in nuclear family. When approaching the data by marital status, it is seen that marital status influences the likelihood of experiencing poverty among adolescents and youth. Adolescents and youth who are married or widowed have a lower poverty odds ratio than when compared with unmarried adolescents and youth, whereas divorced and separated adolescents are more likely to experience poverty, and divorced and separated youth are less likely compared with unmarried adolescents and youth.

With regard to disability, both adolescents and youth with disabilities have a lower poverty odds ratio than when compared with those without disability.

CHAPTER 3

NUPTIALITY AND FERTILITY

Nuptiality is defined as the characteristics, frequency and dissolution of marriages in a population. The analysis of marriage, separation, widowhood, and remarriage are collectively referred to as nuptiality analysis in population studies. Marriage specifically concerns the “accepted social sanction required for two individuals to live together and to enter into a legitimate relationship for the biological continuity of the population” and can be defined as a “social consent for union of two individuals” (Raj, 2023). In Nepal, marriage is a universal phenomenon and an important factor in population dynamics as it holds a significant impact on processes of fertility behaviour, with further indirect impact on other demographic, social and economic population aspects.

In the 2021 census, questions were posed to each household member aged 10 years and above regarding their marital status and their age at the first marriage if the individual was married at the time of census enumeration. Marital status is categorized as unmarried, married, widow/widower, divorced, and separated. Marriage is a principal factor influencing adolescent and young women’s risk of becoming pregnant, especially in societies such as Nepali society where the door of sexual activity is opened after marriage. So, marriage is also considered a proximate determinant of fertility. Addressing and understanding marriage patterns is therefore of key importance as it directly or indirectly impacts the economic and social well-being of adolescents and youth.

This chapter constitutes marital status (never married, married, separated/divorce, widow/widower), age patterns, variations on marital status, age at first marriage, and child marriage.

3.1 Marital status

Among the 6.4 million adolescents in Nepal, 7.4 percent were married in 2011. Of the 5.9 million adolescents in the 2021 census, 4.7 percent were married, as presented in Table 3.1. Data on the marital status distribution of adolescents shows some changes in the composition of adolescents by marital status during the census period 2011 and 2021. For example, the proportion of never married adolescents increased by a rate of 2.8 percent and the proportion of married adolescents declined by a rate of 36.5 percent in the period between 2011 and 2021.

Similarly, during the period between 2011 and 2021, the proportion of married adolescent males decreased from 3.4 percent in 2011 to 2 percent in 2021, and that of married adolescent females decreased from 11.3 percent in 2011 to 7.6 percent in 2021. The proportion of widow/widower adolescents is seen to be increasing against a decreasing number of divorced/separated adolescents, although by a small number.

Among 5.3 million youth population in 2011 in Nepal, 65.1 percent were never married, followed by 34.7 percent of married and 0.1 percent widow/widower and divorced/separated youth. In 2021, of the 5.7 million youth population, 72.2 percent never married, followed by 27.5 percent who were married and 0.1 percent of widow/widower and divorced/separated youth.

Similarly, the proportion of male and female youth who were never married increased between 2011 and 2021, which is particularly notable when compared against the decreasing proportion of the married youth population for both males and females. The proportion of widower and divorced/separated youth populations remained unchanged for males but was seen to double for female youth, increasing by 0.1 percentage points between 2011 and 2021.

It is clear that the highest proportion of ‘never married’ against the married and other marital status categories for both sexes is accounted for under the adolescent population and this is likely due to the group’s inclusion of early age groups which tend to have never married.

Even so, the proportion of the ‘never married’ population is shown to be increasing against the ‘married’ population. The proportion of the ‘widow/widower’ and ‘divorced/separated’ populations are seen in much smaller small numbers.

Table 3.1: Marital status of adolescent and youth by sex, NPHC 2011-2021

Sex and marital status	Adolescent				Youth			
	2011		2021		2011		2021	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Both sexes								
All statuses	6,407,404	100.0	5,876,269	100.0	5,290,051	100.0	5,749,464	100.0
Never married	5,932,392	92.6	5,595,239	95.2	3,445,661	65.1	4,152,403	72.2
Married	472,730	7.4	278,395	4.7	1,834,200	34.7	1,582,473	27.5
Widow/Widower	720	0.0	1,386	0.0	3,794	0.1	6,312	0.1
Divorced/Separated	1,562	0.0	1,249	0.0	6,396	0.1	8,276	0.1
Males								
All statuses	3,207,821	100.0	2,990,477	100.0	2,487,172	100.0	2,795,541	100.0
Never married	3,097,423	96.6	2,929,367	98.0	1,943,385	78.1	2,332,465	83.4
Married	109,776	3.4	60,280	2.0	540,586	21.7	458,516	16.4
Widower	166	0.0	474	0.0	1,003	0.0	1,744	0.1
Divorced/Separated	456	0.0	356	0.0	2,198	0.1	2,816	0.1

Sex and marital status	Adolescent				Youth			
	2011		2021		2011		2021	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Females								
All statuses	3,199,583	100.0	2,885,792	100.0	2,802,879	100.0	2,953,923	100.0
Never married	2,834,969	88.6	2,665,872	92.4	1,502,276	53.6	1,819,938	61.6
Married	362,954	11.3	218,115	7.6	1,293,614	46.2	1,123,957	38.0
Widow	554	0.0	912	0.0	2,791	0.1	4,568	0.2
Divorced/Separated	1,106	0.0	893	0.0	4,198	0.1	5,460	0.2

Age patterns of marital status

Marital patterns are shown to differ by age. As shown in Table 3.2, a majority of both males and females in the 20-24 years are reported to be married in 2021. Over a two-thirds majority of males aged 20-24 years have never married, followed by the married (30.9%), widower (0.1%), and divorced/separated (0.2%) population. Of the female population aged 20-24 years, an opposite trend is seen when compared to their male counterparts; the married population accounts for the highest proportion at 61.6 percent, followed by never married (37.9%), widow (0.3%), and divorced/separated (0.3%) populations. This shows a clear discrepancy in the marital status by age group across male and female young populations. Females are more likely to be married at late youth age. Furthermore, 3.8 percent of males and 14.4 percent of females in the 15-19 years age group were married, however by the age group of 20-24 years the proportion of married population increased to 30.9 percent of males and 61.6 percent of females. Data on marital status by age suggest that the propensity to marry tends to increase with age; the proportion of married males was lower among adolescent and youth males than among females in all age groups.

Younger males have a higher tendency to remarriage than young females. Likewise, younger man are more likely to remarry than younger females in Nepali society.

Table 3.2: Marital status of adolescent and youth (10-24 years) by sex and by age groups, NPHC, 2011 - 2021

Sex and age group	Proportion, 2011					Proportion, 2021					% change in proportion of married, 2011-2021
	Total (=100%)	Never married	Married	Widow/Widower	Divorced/Separated	Total (=100%)	Never married	Married	Widow/Widower	Divorced/Separated	
Male											
All ages	4,251,802	87.0	12.9	0.0	0.1	4,291,495	89.1	10.8	0.0	0.1	-0.17
10-14	1,764,630	99.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	1,495,954	99.8	0.2	0.0	0.0	-0.49
15-19	1,443,191	92.9	7.1	0.0	0.0	1,494,523	96.1	3.8	0.0	0.0	-0.46
20-24	1,043,981	57.7	42.0	0.1	0.2	1,301,018	68.8	30.9	0.1	0.2	-0.27

Sex and age group	Proportion, 2011					Proportion, 2021					% change in proportion of married, 2011-2021
	Total (=100%)	Never married	Married	Widow/Widower	Divorced/Separated	Total (=100%)	Never married	Married	Widow/Widower	Divorced/Separated	
10-19	3,207,821	96.6	3.4	0.0	0.0	2,990,477	98.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	-0.41
15-24	2,487,172	78.1	21.7	0.0	0.1	2,795,541	83.4	16.4	0.1	0.1	-0.25
Female											
All ages	4,513,673	70.8	29.1	0.1	0.1	4,367,834	73.9	25.9	0.1	0.1	-0.11
10-14	1,710,794	98.9	1.1	0.0	0.0	1,413,911	99.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	-0.58
15-19	1,488,789	76.8	23.1	0.0	0.1	1,471,881	85.5	14.4	0.1	0.1	-0.38
20-24	1,314,090	27.3	72.3	0.2	0.2	1,482,042	37.9	61.6	0.2	0.3	-0.15
10-19	3,199,583	88.6	11.3	0.0	0.0	2,885,792	92.4	7.6	0.0	0.0	-0.33
15-24	2,802,879	53.6	46.2	0.1	0.1	2,953,923	61.6	38.0	0.2	0.2	-0.18

Variations in marital status

Zonal, provincial, and urban-rural differences in the distribution of marital status for male and female adolescents are presented in Table 3.3. The 2021 census reported that the proportion of married male adolescents was lower than that of the female adolescents in all ecological zones. For example, the proportion of married male adolescents in Mountain is seen at 3.1 percent, whereas the proportion of married female adolescents is 8.1 percent. Tarai showed the highest proportion of never married male and female adolescents, followed by Hill and Mountain zones. The highest proportion of male and female adolescents who are married was clearly observed in the Mountain zone, which is particularly notable given the total population difference of all three ecological zones.

Marital status by province showed relatively small differences among male adolescent as compared to female adolescent populations. Male adolescents in Bagmati Province showed the highest proportion of those who have never married (98.4%) and the lowest proportion of the married (1.6%) population. The proportion of married female adolescents is lowest in Bagmati (5.3%) and highest in Karnali (11.3%) provinces. Conversely, the proportion of never married female adolescents is highest in Bagmati (98.4%) and lowest in Karnali (95.7%) provinces.

The proportion of adolescents who have never married is higher in urban areas where as the proportion of those who married is highest in rural areas for both male and female.

When addressing the distribution of adolescent marital status by caste and ethnic groups, Hill Dalits show the highest married proportion, accounting for 3.6 percent of the male and 11.6 percent of the female population. Madhesh/Tarai caste showed the lowest proportion of married male adolescents, followed by Hill caste. The Hill caste showed the lowest proportion of married female adolescents, followed by the Madhesh/Tarai caste group. The highest proportion of widows is seen amongst female adolescents the 'Other' caste and ethnic groups.

The data also shows that the incidence of adolescent divorce or separation is found to be highest among Hill Dalits.

Table 3.3: Marital status of adolescent by sex and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	Male					Female				
	Total (=100%)	Never married	Married	Widower	Divorced/Separated	Total (=100%)	Never married	Married	Widow	Divorced/Separated
Ecological zones										
Mountain	191,580	96.9	3.1	0.0	0.0	195,817	91.8	8.1	0.0	0.0
Hill	1,162,375	97.8	2.2	0.0	0.0	1,127,858	92.3	7.6	0.0	0.0
Tarai	1,636,522	98.2	1.8	0.0	0.0	1,562,117	92.5	7.4	0.0	0.0
Province										
Koshi	474,260	98.1	1.8	0.0	0.0	462,678	92.6	7.4	0.0	0.0
Madhesh	679,537	98.3	1.7	0.0	0.0	632,834	91.5	8.5	0.0	0.0
Bagmati	561,463	98.4	1.6	0.0	0.0	520,046	94.7	5.3	0.0	0.0
Gandaki	232,401	98.1	1.9	0.0	0.0	221,659	92.1	7.8	0.0	0.1
Lumbini	534,945	97.9	2.1	0.0	0.0	529,033	92.4	7.5	0.0	0.0
Karnali	201,223	95.7	4.2	0.0	0.0	203,893	88.6	11.3	0.0	0.1
Sudurpashchim	306,648	97.6	2.3	0.0	0.0	315,649	92.7	7.3	0.0	0.0
Urban-rural areas										
Urban	784,543	98.7	1.2	0.0	0.0	708,737	94.9	5.1	0.0	0.0
Peri-Urban	1,201,145	98.2	1.7	0.0	0.0	1,150,462	92.5	7.5	0.0	0.0
Rural	1,004,789	97.0	2.9	0.0	0.0	1,026,593	90.5	9.4	0.0	0.0
Caste and ethnic groups										
Hill Castes	859,210	98.5	1.5	0.0	0.0	825,504	94.4	5.5	0.0	0.0
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	528,272	98.7	1.3	0.0	0.0	475,860	93.1	6.9	0.0	0.0
Mountain/Hill Janajati	728,776	97.7	2.3	0.0	0.0	719,928	92.2	7.7	0.0	0.0
Tarai Janajati	242,970	97.5	2.5	0.0	0.0	240,806	92.5	7.4	0.0	0.0
Hill Dalits	285,833	96.3	3.6	0.0	0.0	296,561	88.3	11.6	0.0	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	157,993	97.6	2.4	0.0	0.0	150,054	89.4	10.5	0.0	0.0
Religious groups	174,283	97.9	2.1	0.0	0.0	168,685	91.1	8.8	0.0	0.0
Others	13,140	97.9	2.1	0.0	0.0	8,394	86.4	13.5	0.1	0.0
Wealth quintiles										
Lowest	648,700	97.1	2.9	0.0	0.0	651,037	90.7	9.2	0.0	0.0
Lower	634,888	97.3	2.7	0.0	0.0	633,760	90.3	9.6	0.0	0.0
Middle	614,253	97.9	2.0	0.0	0.0	602,739	91.9	8.1	0.0	0.0
Higher	556,453	98.4	1.5	0.0	0.0	525,489	93.4	6.5	0.0	0.0
Highest	508,717	99.3	0.7	0.0	0.0	457,429	96.9	3.1	0.0	0.0

The greatest proportion of male and female married adolescents were seen in the both lowest and lower wealth quintiles, with the highest proportion for males in the 'lowest' (2.9%) and the highest for females in the 'lower' (9.6%) wealth quintiles. In contrast, adolescents belonging to the 'highest' wealth quintile showed the lowest proportion of married populations for both males and females. It is of note that the incidence of divorce or separation is found to be higher among those adolescents belonging to the 'lowest' wealth quintile.

Table 3.4 shows the proportion of youth by marital status – namely ‘never married’, ‘married’, ‘widowed’, and ‘divorced/separated’ – separated by sex and by background characteristics. The youth population who had never married, are seen to be male youth than that of the female youth. However, when addressing the data via ecological zones, a higher proportion of the male youth population reported to be married compared to female youth population. Similarly, a greater prevalence of widowed and divorced or separated populations are observed among female youth than when compared to male youth.

The marital status of youth by sex and wealth quintile shows the remarkable differences among various background variables. The ‘lowest’ wealth quintile holds the lowest (77.1%) proportion of the never married population and the highest (44.8%) proportion of the married for both males and females. Conversely, youth populations from the highest wealth quintiles showed the highest proportion of those who have never married and the lowest proportion of the married population for both males and females. It is observed that as the quintiles increase with regard to wealth status, the share of the married youth population decreases.

Table 3.4: Marital status of youth by sex and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	Male					Female				
	Total (=100%)	Never married	Married	Widower	Divorced/Separated	Total (=100%)	Never married	Married	Widow	Divorced/Separated
Ecological zones										
Mountain	168,189	76.5	23.3	0.1	0.1	181,492	59.9	39.8	0.2	0.2
Hill	1,128,995	84.0	15.8	0.1	0.1	1,187,522	64.6	35.0	0.1	0.2
Tarai	1,498,357	83.8	16.1	0.1	0.1	1,584,909	59.6	40.1	0.2	0.2
Provinces										
Koshi	453,475	85.7	14.1	0.1	0.2	479,639	63.5	36.1	0.2	0.3
Madhesh	597,911	83.1	16.8	0.1	0.0	598,942	52.9	46.8	0.2	0.1
Bagmati	604,621	87.5	12.4	0.1	0.1	589,558	72.3	27.4	0.1	0.2
Gandaki	224,065	86.7	13.1	0.1	0.2	237,050	63.5	36.1	0.2	0.3
Lumbini	488,567	82.0	17.8	0.1	0.1	548,979	61.2	38.5	0.2	0.2
Karnali	174,346	70.2	29.5	0.1	0.2	193,659	51.9	47.7	0.2	0.3
Sudurpashchim	252,556	79.4	20.5	0.1	0.1	306,096	60.7	39.1	0.2	0.1
Urban and rural areas										
Urban	813,404	88.8	11.1	0.0	0.1	797,883	71.4	28.4	0.1	0.2
Peri-Urban	1,090,839	83.3	16.6	0.1	0.1	1,156,191	58.5	41.2	0.2	0.2
Rural	891,298	78.7	21.1	0.1	0.2	999,849	57.5	42.1	0.2	0.2
Caste and ethnic groups										
Hill Castes	798,662	87.5	12.4	0.1	0.1	862,042	67.5	32.3	0.1	0.2
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	481,552	85.3	14.6	0.1	0.0	451,728	56.4	43.3	0.2	0.1
Mountain/Hill Janajati	712,729	83.5	16.2	0.1	0.2	764,988	65.5	34.1	0.1	0.3
Tarai Janajati	253,651	80.4	19.5	0.1	0.1	278,614	62.5	37.3	0.1	0.1
Hill Dalits	244,423	75.2	24.6	0.1	0.2	288,658	53.2	46.3	0.2	0.4
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	139,877	76.5	23.4	0.1	0.1	140,884	47.2	52.4	0.3	0.1
Religious	146,005	80.8	19.1	0.1	0.1	155,778	53.8	45.9	0.2	0.2
Others	18,642	83.3	16.6	0.0	0.1	11,231	42.8	56.9	0.2	0.1

Background characteristics	Male					Female				
	Total (=100%)	Never married	Married	Widower	Divorced/S eparated	Total (=100%)	Never married	Married	Widow	Divorced/ Separated
Wealth quintiles										
Lowest	528,345	77.1	22.7	0.1	0.2	566,873	55.0	44.6	0.2	0.2
Lower	574,994	79.3	20.5	0.1	0.1	630,727	55.6	44.0	0.2	0.2
Middle	568,009	82.4	17.4	0.1	0.1	616,388	58.4	41.2	0.2	0.2
Higher	549,810	85.8	14.1	0.1	0.1	591,026	63.6	36.1	0.1	0.2
Highest	516,644	93.1	6.9	0.0	0.0	530,027	76.2	23.7	0.1	0.1

3.2 Age at marriage

The 2021 census includes a question regarding the age at first marriage. It is therefore customary to estimate the average age of marriage through the indirect method named the singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM), which uses data relating to the proportion of those never married in each age group from 15-19 to 50-54 years. The singulate mean age at marriage is an estimate of the average number of years in which the married population had lived as never married or single before the age of 50. The SMAM is computed by dividing the number of years lived in a single state before the age of 50 by the total number of persons married by age 50 (Newell, 1990).

According to the National Population and Housing Census 2021, it has been estimated that the national level singulate mean age at marriage is 25.5 years for males and 21.8 years females, indicating that females tend to marry earlier than males, with a 3.7 year age between the two averages, as shown in Table 3.5. The singulate mean age at marriage has been rising for males and females, with Nepal's male singulate mean age at marriage increasing from 23.8 years in 2011 to 25.5 years in 2021 and for female from 20.6 years to 21.8 years in 2021. The singulate mean age at marriage for males in Nepal is higher than in Afghanistan and lower than that of other countries.

Table 3.5: Singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM) for selected SAARC countries by sex

Country	Year	Males	Females	Gender gap (in years)
Afghanistan	2015	24.3	21.3	3.0
Bhutan	2017	26.4	23.8	2.6
India	2015	26.1	21.3	4.8
Maldives	2016	26.1	22.7	3.4
Myanmar	2014	26.1	23.6	2.5
Nepal	2021	25.5	21.8	3.7
Pakistan	2017	26.9	22.7	4.2

Source: NSO, 2024, and United Nations, 2019. World Marriage Data 2019

Table 3.6 shows data on the singulate mean age at marriage for males and females by background characteristics, illustrating variation in age at marriage across ecological zones,

provinces, urban and rural areas, caste and ethnic groups, and by household wealth status. The estimated age at marriage for females ranges from a figure of 21.4 years in Tarai zone to 22.4 years in Hill, whereas the figure varies from 24.1 years in Mountain to 26.0 years in Hill zone for males. The age gap between sexes was seen largest in Tarai (3.7 years), suggesting that females in Tarai zone marry at an earlier age than their male counterparts.

At the provincial level, the estimated age at marriage for females is seen to vary from 20.5 years in Karnali and Madhesh to 23.7 years in Bagmati. On the other hand, the mean age at marriage for males is seen lowest (22.6 years) in Karnali and highest (26.9 years) in Bagmati provinces. This finding indicates that geographic and socio-economic development factors across each province have a direct impact on differentials in the age at marriage for both males and females. The age gap between males and females is lowest in Karnali (2.2 years) and highest in Gandaki (4.3 years), followed by Madhesh and Koshi provinces. The urban area has a higher age at first marriage for both males and females than compared to the rural area, which may be mostly associated with increases in education attainment and other effects of urbanization.

There are significant differences in the estimated age at marriage among males and females across caste and ethnic groups. Females from the Hill caste show the highest estimated age at marriage (22.5 years), while those from Madhesh/Tarai Dalit have the lowest age at marriage (19.8 years). The estimated age at marriage for males is found to vary from 23.5 years among Madhesh/Tarai Dalits to 26.4 years among Hill castes. Marriage is one of the most fundamental institutions across all social groups and variations in the age at marriage is expected among different social groups depending on culture, social customs, and traditions (Thapa, 1989).

When addressing age at marriage by wealth quintile, a positive relationship between wealth quintiles and age at marriage for both males and females is seen. Both males and females from households in the lowest wealth quintile tend to marry at a younger age, whereas those from households in the highest wealth quintile generally marry at an older age. It can be inferred that wealthier households are able to afford to educate their children in order for marriage to be pursued at a later age.

Table 3.6: Singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM) by sex and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	Both sexes	Male	Female	Gender gap (in years)
Nepal	23.5	25.5	21.8	3.6
Ecological zones				
Mountain	22.7	24.1	21.4	2.7
Hill	24.1	26.0	22.4	3.6
Tarai	23.2	25.2	21.5	3.7
Provinces				
Koshi	23.9	26.1	21.9	4.2
Madhesh	22.6	24.8	20.5	4.2
Bagmati	25.3	26.9	23.7	3.3
Gandaki	23.9	26.3	22.0	4.3
Lumbini	23.1	24.8	21.7	3.1
Karnali	21.5	22.6	20.5	2.2
Sudurpashchim	22.8	24.2	21.6	2.6
Urban-rural areas				
Urban	25.2	27.0	23.4	3.6
Peri-urban	23.0	25.0	21.3	3.7
Rural	22.6	24.4	21.1	3.3
Caste and ethnic groups				
Hill Castes	24.3	26.4	22.5	3.9
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	23.1	25.3	20.9	4.3
Mountain/Hill Janajatis	24.1	25.9	22.5	3.4
Tarai Janajatis	23.4	24.8	22.2	2.6
Hill Dalits	22.0	23.5	20.7	2.9
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	21.5	23.4	19.8	3.6
Religious groups	22.3	24.3	20.6	3.7
Others	23.6	25.9	20.1	5.8
Wealth quintiles				
Lowest	22.0	23.6	20.5	3.2
Lower	22.5	24.4	20.9	3.5
Middle	23.0	25.0	21.3	3.6
Higher	23.8	25.8	22.2	3.6
Highest	25.9	28.0	24.1	3.9

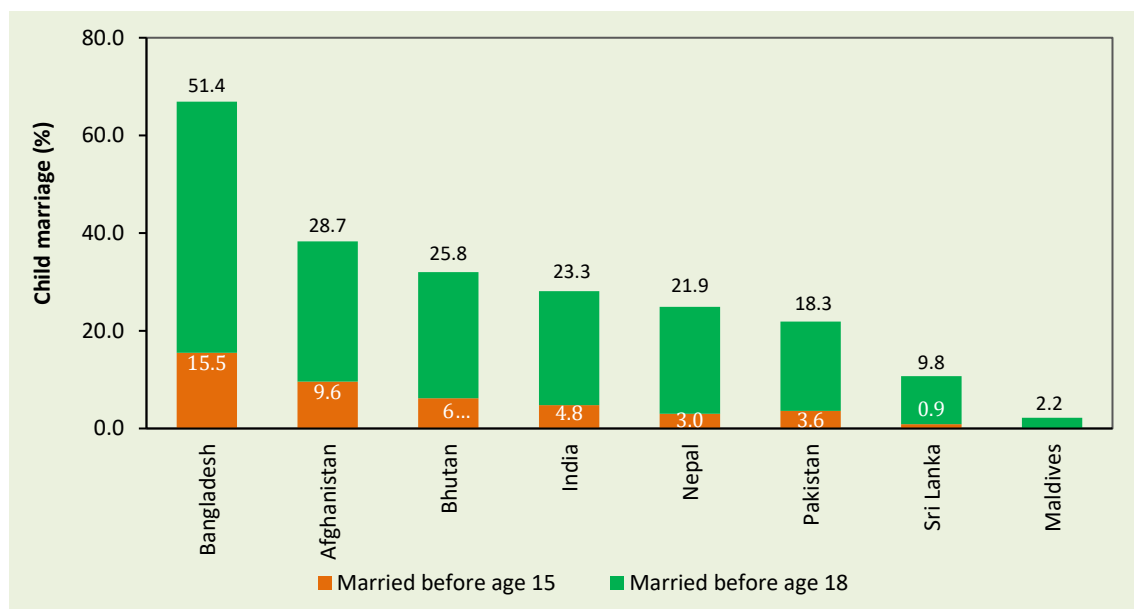
3.3 Child marriage

Child marriage is a violation of child rights. Every child has the right to protection against child marriage, which have devastating consequences for the individual and for society. Child marriage is an issue to be addressed with concern of the global agenda and UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 5.3 aims to eliminate harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage by 2030 (United Nations Children’s Fund, 2023).

In Nepal, the Marriage Registration Act fixed the legal age of marriage to 20 years for both males and females, with marriage before age of 18 years considered as child marriage. Using the international definition of child marriage, the National Population and Housing Census 2021 considered marriage earlier than the age of 18 years as child marriage. In order to assess the prevalence of child marriage in Nepal, this study opted to use SDG indicator 5.3.1 – the percentage of women aged 20-24 years who were married before age 18 – in relation to South Asian countries. In addition, this study further utilize the percentage of women aged 20-24 years who were married before age 15 as a further indicator of the prevalence of child marriage.

Figure 3.1 shows that the level of child marriage – or the percentage of women aged 20-24 years who married before age 18 – varies across SAARC countries, from 2.2 percent in Maldives to 51.4 percent in Bangladesh. Additionally, the percentage of women aged 20-24 years who married before age 15 ranges from 0.9 percent in Sri Lanka to 15.5 percent in Bangladesh. The 2021 census found that 21.9 percent of women aged 20-24 years in Nepal were married before age 18, which is at a greater rate than Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Maldives and much lower than Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Bhutan, and India. In addition, Nepal shows a higher percentage of women aged 20-24 who were married before age 15 than compared to Sri Lanka, yet a lower percentage rate than the other SAARC countries.

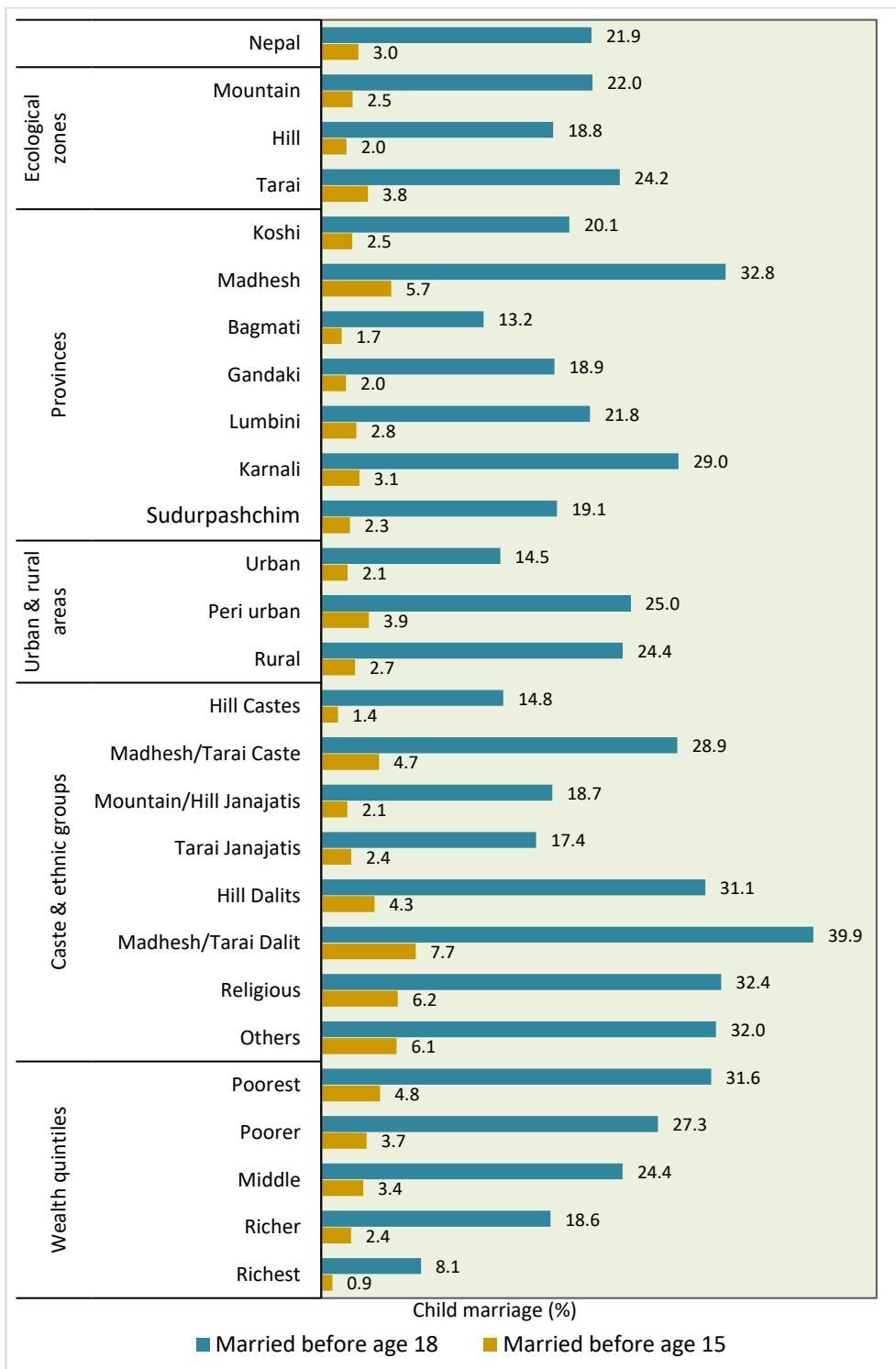
Figure 3.1: Percentage of women aged 20-24 who were married before age 15 and 18 for South Asian countries



Source: NSO 2021 and data.unicef.org

Examining the differentials in child marriage by background characteristics reveals that the Tarai zone has a higher prevalence of child marriage (24.2%), while Hill shows the lowest (18.8%). Disparities in child marriage are observed among the provinces, where the prevalence of child marriage before age 15 and before age 18 is highest in Madhesh (5.7% and 32.8%), followed by Karnali (3.1% and 29.0%). Bagmati Province shows the lowest percentage of child marriage before 18 and 15 years (1.7% and 13.2% respectively).

Figure 3.2: Prevalence of child marriage among women aged 20-24 years, NPHC 2021



Variations by caste and ethnic groups indicate that child marriage is more common among Madhesh/Tarai Dalit groups, with 39.9 percent marrying before age of 18 and 7.7 percent marrying before age of 15. Conversely, rates of child marriage are seen to be less common among Hill caste groups, with 14.8 percent marrying before the age of 18 and 1.4 percent marrying before the age of 15. These rates indicate that each caste and ethnic group has diverse beliefs and attitudes towards early marriage.

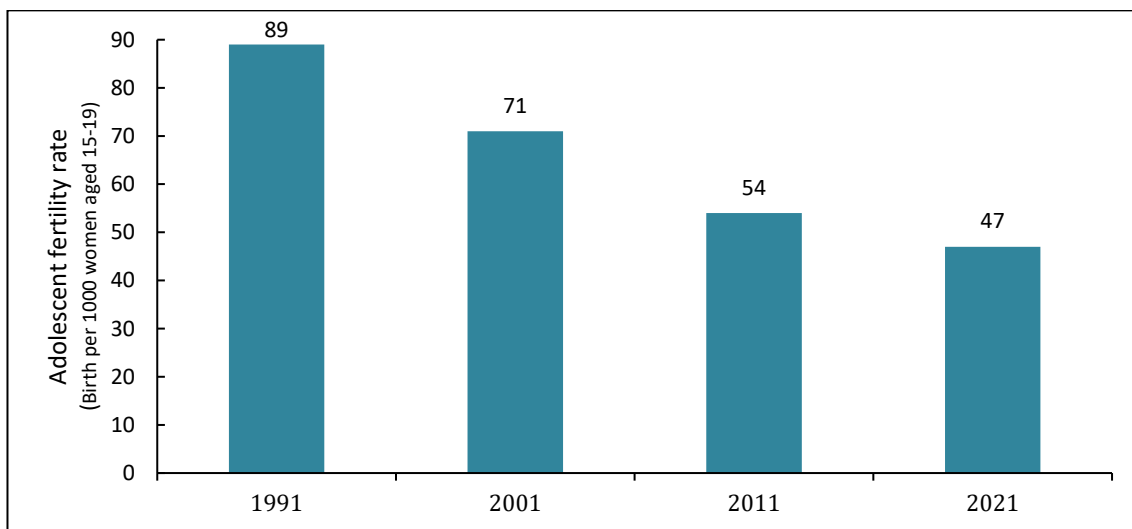
A further notable characteristic concerns variations in child marriage by household wealth index. According to the NPHC 2021 census data, 31.6 percent of women from the lowest wealth quintile were married before the age of 18, and 4.8 percent were married before the age of 15. In stark contrast, only 8.1 percent of women from the highest wealth quintile were married before the age of 18, and just 0.9 percent were married before the age of 15. The result suggests that women from the highest households are much less likely to experience child marriage than when compared to women from higher, middle, lower and lowest households.

3.4 Fertility

Fertility in adolescents is closely related to the incidence of early marriage, impacting in the form of increased incidences of pregnancy in adolescents which directly affects the health of mothers and babies (Ernawati, et al., 2021). It is observed that the younger the age at marriage, the higher the fertility rate. Populations living in the Hill and Mountain zones, as well as other remote areas in Nepal, are characterized by numerous linguistic and ethnic communities which are isolated through varying levels of information and communication exchange with other groups. Consequently, early marriage is often seen in the early age, leading to the formation of families at a young age, which often further entails lower rates of completion of education among the same groups.

The adolescent fertility rate is the number of births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years. It represents the age-specific fertility rate for this age group. Figure 3.3 depicts age-specific fertility rates – or the number of live births per 1,000 women in specific age group – based on estimates using Brass method in 1991 and Arriaga's method in 2001, 2011 and 2021 censuses.

Figure 3.3: Trends in adolescent fertility rates in Nepal, 1991-2021 censuses

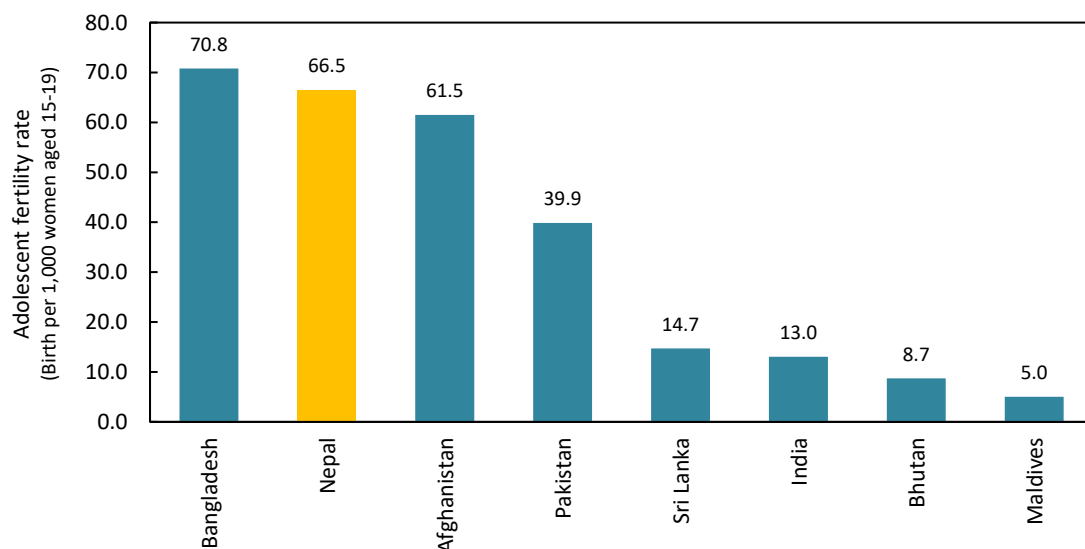


Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, 2014 and National Statistics Office, 2025

The adolescent fertility rate is 89 births per 1000 women in 1991, which declines to 71 births per 1000 women in 2001. The adolescent fertility rate has continued to decline, reaching 54 births per 1000 women in 2011 and 47 births per 1000 women in 2021. During the last decade, adolescent fertility rate is declined by 7 births per 1000 women. Several factors may have contributed to the declining fertility rate in Nepal, such as improvement in communication and increased access to modern contraceptive methods. Spousal separation caused by migrants seeking work in foreign countries may have also contributed to fertility decline (Ministry of Health and Population, New ERA, and ICF International Inc., 2012).

There is significant variation in the current level of adolescent fertility between South Asian countries (Figure 3.4). In 2024, the adolescent fertility rate in South Asian countries ranged from 5.0 births per 1,000 women in Maldives to 70.8 births per 1,000 women in Bangladesh. Adolescent fertility is considerably lower in Maldives, Bhutan, India, and Sri Lanka than in Nepal, which holds an adolescent fertility rate of 66.5 births per 1,000 women as of 2024 data. At a rate of 70.8 births per 1,000 women, only Bangladesh shows a higher prevalence of adolescent fertility compared to Nepal. The prevalence of early marriage practices in Nepal could explain the higher level of adolescent fertility. Efforts to reduce adolescent fertility should therefore be focused towards comprehensive approaches that address the root cause of child marriage, gender inequality, and the limited access to sexual and reproductive health care services (United Nations, 2025).

Figure 3.4: Adolescent fertility rate (birth per 1,000 women ages 15-19) by South Asian countries, 2024



Source: United Nations, 2024

Children ever born (CEB) is one means to measure fertility from census data and refers to the number of children born alive to a woman up to a census date, or the date of census of survey enumeration. In adolescent and youth data analysis, the total number of CEB to a woman of the 15-19 years and 20-24 years age groups is taken into account.

Data from table 3.7 depicts that 57.2 percent of women aged 15-19 years have never given birth. This percentage rate declines to 27.6 percent among women aged 20-24 years. It is found that 35.9 percent of women aged 15-19 years have given birth to one child, whereas 45.3 percent of women aged 20-24 years have given birth to two children. As expected, the mean number of CEB increases with increasing age. Adolescent women aged 15-19 years have given birth to an average of 0.51 children, whereas the figure increases to an average of 1.06 children by the end of age 24 (age group 20-24 years). However, since the fertility of a woman is measured by live births produced across the entire reproductive lifetime, the fertility measurement of adolescents and youth counts only as a partial fertility measurement.

Table 3.7: Percent distribution of ever married women aged 15-24 by number of children ever born (CEB) and mean number of children ever born by age group, 2021

Age	Number of children ever born						Number of women	Mean number of children ever born
	0	1	2	3	4+	Total		
15-19	57.2	35.9	5.9	0.8	0.2	100.0	213,320	0.51
20-24	27.6	45.3	21.3	4.7	1.0	100.0	920,665	1.06
15-24	33.2	43.6	18.4	4.0	0.9	100.0	1,133,985	0.96

Table 3.8 shows the percent distribution of ever married women aged 15-24 years by mean number of CEB. It is observed that at least one third of women residing in the Hill and Tarai zones have never given birth. A higher proportion of women living in Hill are seen to have given birth to one child than compared to the Mountain and Tarai zones. Conversely, a greater proportion of women residing in the Tarai zone are seen to have given birth to three or more children. Women living in the Mountain zone have a higher average number of children ever born compared to women living in Hill and Tarai zones. By province, Bagmati has a higher proportion of women who have never given birth compared to other provinces. The proportion of women with one child is seen highest in Koshi, Gandaki, and Bagmati. According to the data, the highest proportion of women who have three or more children are seen in Madhesh followed by Karnali provinces. Women living in Madhesh Province show the highest mean number of CEB, whereas Bagmati and Gandaki provinces show the lowest mean number of CEB. The mean number of CEB is higher among women who live in rural areas compared to urban areas, with the data from peri-urban areas reflecting a mix of both urban and rural tendencies across the age groups.

The number of CEB and the mean number of CEB vary significantly among caste and ethnic groups. Women belonging to Hill caste groups show a higher (34.9%) proportion of those without children, while those in Hill Dalit groups show the lowest (30.0%) proportion. Around half of the women from Mountain/Hill Janajati and Madhesh/Tarai Janajati groups are shown to have given birth to a single child. A high proportion of women who have given birth to two children are found to be in Madhesh/Tarai caste groups. However, women who belong to Madhesh/Tarai Dalit and Religious groups are seen to be more likely to have three or more children. It can be seen that the mean number of CEB is higher among women who belong to Madhesh/Tarai Dalit (1.16) and Religious groups (1.13). The data further shows that women from lowest wealth quintile hold the lowest proportion of those who have never given birth, while a higher proportion of women from the highest wealth quintile have had no child. A noticeable finding is that women in the lowest wealth quintile have a consistently higher proportion of those with one or more children. It is further noted that women in the lowest wealth quintile have a higher mean number of children ever born, whereas those in the highest wealth quintile have a lower mean number. Table 3.8: Percent distribution of ever married

women aged 15-24 by number of CEB and mean number of CEB, and background characteristics, 2021 Census

Background characteristics	Number of children ever born						Total number of women	Mean number of children ever born		
	0	1	2	3	4+	Total		15-19 years	20-24 year	15-24 year
Ecological zones										
Mountain	30.0	44.0	20.9	4.2	0.9	100.0	72,760	0.52	1.16	1.02
Hill	33.3	47.5	16.4	2.4	0.5	100.0	420,462	0.50	0.99	0.89
Tarai	33.5	41.0	19.5	4.9	1.1	100.0	640,763	0.51	1.10	0.99
Provinces										
Koshi	32.3	48.6	16.0	2.6	0.5	100.0	175,150	0.52	0.99	0.90
Madhesh	31.2	34.8	24.3	7.8	1.9	100.0	282,069	0.56	1.28	1.15
Bagmati	36.1	48.1	13.6	1.8	0.3	100.0	163,245	0.51	0.88	0.82
Gandaki	35.8	48.6	13.8	1.6	0.3	100.0	86,566	0.49	0.90	0.82
Lumbini	35.3	45.2	16.2	2.7	0.6	100.0	213,297	0.46	0.98	0.88
Karnali	29.3	43.0	22.3	4.4	0.9	100.0	93,195	0.53	1.22	1.05
Sudurpashchim	32.6	44.5	18.7	3.5	0.7	100.0	120,463	0.44	1.07	0.95
Urban and rural areas										
Urban	37.9	42.6	15.4	3.3	0.8	100.0	228,419	0.48	0.94	0.87
Peri-urban	33.2	40.9	19.8	5.0	1.1	100.0	480,349	0.51	1.11	1.00
Rural	30.6	47.2	18.5	3.1	0.6	100.0	425,217	0.52	1.09	0.96
Caste and ethnic groups										
Hill Caste	34.9	46.2	16.2	2.3	0.4	100.0	279,937	0.45	0.95	0.87
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	32.0	34.8	24.6	7.1	1.5	100.0	196,814	0.53	1.23	1.12
Mountain/Hill Janajati	33.6	49.9	14.2	1.9	0.3	100.0	263,570	0.51	0.94	0.85
Tarai Janajati	34.5	49.1	13.9	2.1	0.4	100.0	104,405	0.46	0.92	0.85
Hill Dalit	30.0	45.6	19.7	3.9	0.8	100.0	135,109	0.53	1.15	1.00
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	31.2	33.9	24.5	8.3	2.0	100.0	74,405	0.58	1.32	1.16
Religious group	33.7	33.1	22.8	8.0	2.4	100.0	72,022	0.55	1.27	1.13
Others	32.6	34.6	23.4	7.5	1.8	100.0	6,378	0.58	1.23	1.12
Wealth quintiles										
Lowest	29.1	41.1	22.6	5.9	1.4	100.0	255,150	0.56	1.26	1.10
Lower	30.3	44.6	20.0	4.2	0.9	100.0	279,764	0.52	1.14	1.01
Middle	32.5	44.1	18.5	4.0	0.9	100.0	256,218	0.50	1.07	0.97
Higher	35.7	45.2	15.8	2.8	0.5	100.0	215,112	0.45	0.95	0.87
Highest	44.4	42.9	10.8	1.6	0.3	100.0	126,396	0.39	0.74	0.71

CHAPTER 4

MORTALITY AND DISABILITY

Mortality is a factor which affects the size, structure, and growth of a population. Nepal exemplifies a developing country in which fertility is high and mortality has declined, steadily resulting in a population momentum (UNFPA, 2017). The World Health Organization (WHO) states that over 1.5 million adolescents and young adults aged 10-24 years died in 2021, at an average of 4,500 deaths per day. Injuries (including road traffic injuries and drowning), interpersonal violence, self-harm, and maternal conditions are the leading causes of death among adolescents and young adults. Half of all mental health disorders in adulthood start by age 18, however most cases are undetected and untreated. An early onset of substance use is associated with higher risks of developing dependency and other related problems during adult life, and younger people are disproportionately affected by substance use than compared to older persons. Young adolescents aged 10-14 years are shown to have the lowest risk of death among all age groups (WHO, 2024).

Census data provides a unique opportunity to analyze various aspects of mortality. Mortality is declining in Nepal due to increased access and improved health services. The NPHC 2021 has included nine causes of death in the questionnaire, namely: communicable diseases; non-communicable diseases; vehicle accident; other accident; reproductive/childbirth complication; homicide; suicide; natural disaster, and; other. Analysis of mortality from census data is crucial as it provides key indicators for policy formulation, strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation of health, and other demographic analyses. This section of the report largely focuses on causes of death among adolescents and youth.

Cause of death

The health of adolescent and youth populations has a significant impact on the population's well-being and economic development of a country. The 2021 census collected data on cause of death of deceased persons and the findings are depicted in Figure 4.1, Figure 4.2, Figure 4.3 and Figure 4.4. The figures show that disease is the leading cause of death among adolescents and youth, affecting both sexes at a similar rate. The data implies that infectious diseases and chronic diseases in particular are significant contributors to mortality among adolescents and youth.

Figure 4.1: Percent distribution of adolescents aged 10-14 by causes of death and sex, NPHC 2021

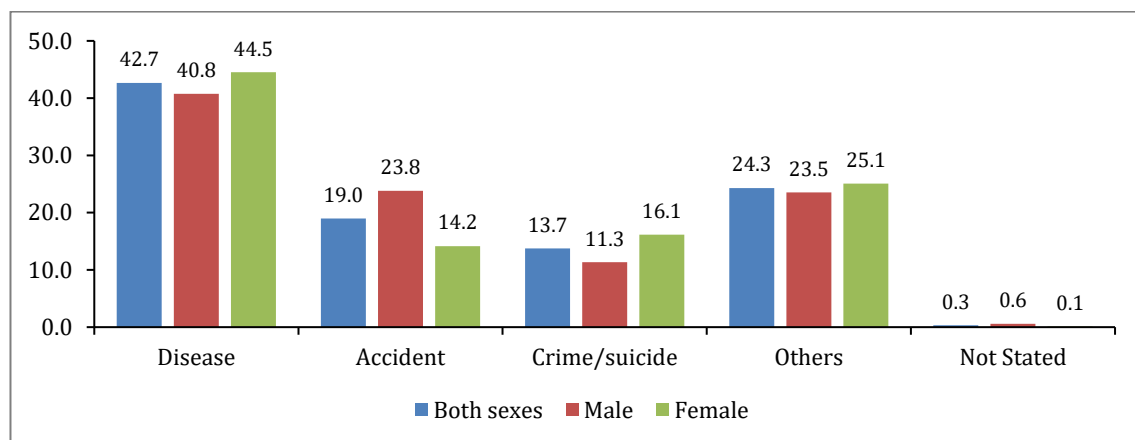
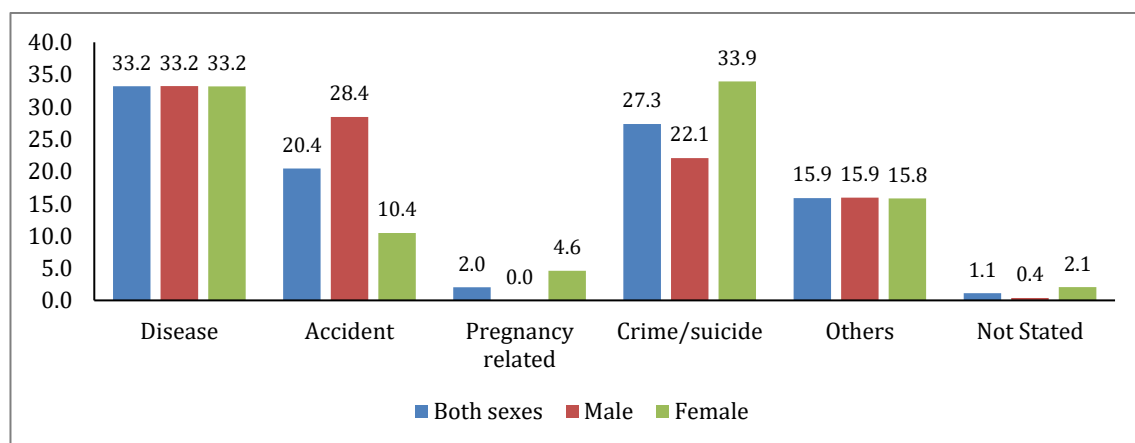


Figure 4.2: Percent distribution of adolescents aged 15-19 by causes of death and sex, NPHC 2021



Pregnancy-related causes of death stand as a predominant cause of mortality among female adolescents and youth. The highest proportion of deaths due to pregnancy related causes are seen in female youth aged 20-24 (12.1%), highlighting maternal death risks associated with youth pregnancies. A small proportion of female adolescents aged 15-19 years died due to pregnancy related cause and they are more prone to death due to pregnancy related causes, in addition to crime and suicide related causes.

Figure 4.3: Percent distribution of youth aged 20-24 by causes of death and sex, NPHC 2021

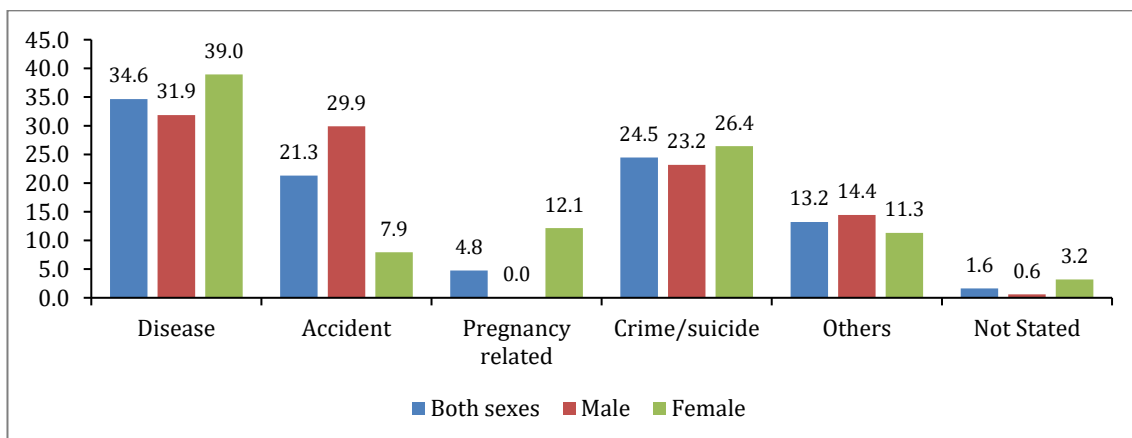
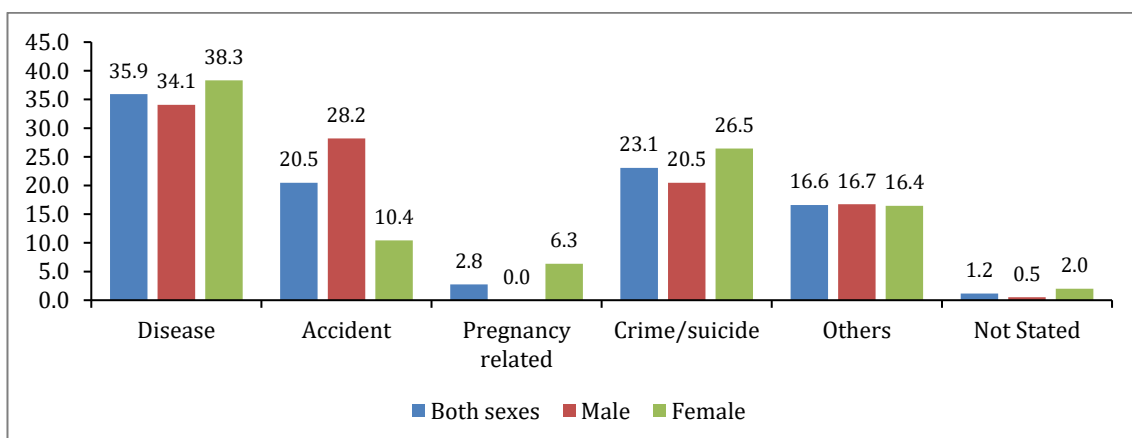


Figure 4.4: Percent distribution of young population aged 10-24 by causes of death and sex, NPHC 2021



Other causes include those that are not classified into the major categories and appear to account for a considerable cause of deaths among adolescents and youth. A small proportion of adolescent and youth deaths are classified as ‘Not stated’.

Data presented in Table 4.1 shows that the leading causes of death among male adolescents and youth are disease, accidents, and crime and suicide. Across the ecological zones, disease appears to be the leading cause of death among adolescents and youth, followed by accidents, and crime and suicide. The proportion of adolescent deaths due to disease is highest in Tarai (42.1%), seen among the male adolescent population aged 10-14 years. Accidents are a common cause of death in the Mountain (30.4%) zone, primarily among male youth aged 20-24 years.

Crime and suicide as a cause of death is relatively more prevalent in the Hill zone than compared to the Tarai and Mountain zones.

With regard to the provinces, disease is the leading cause of death among male adolescents aged 10-14 years, with Koshi Province showing the highest proportion of disease-related deaths, followed by Gandaki and Bagmati provinces. Accidents are the primary cause of death among male youth in Madhesh (32.4%) and Sudurpashchim (31.4%) provinces and the second leading cause of death among adolescents aged 10-14 years and 15-19 years in Karnali Province. Crime and suicide are the most prevalent causes of death among male adolescents aged 15-19 years in Gandaki Province, followed by Koshi Province, while this cause is most commonly seen among male youth aged 20-24 years in Karnali and Koshi provinces.

In peri-urban areas, accidents are the most prevalent cause of death among male adolescents aged 10-14 and male youth aged 20-24, however in rural areas, accidents are relatively more prevalent as a cause of death among male adolescents aged 15-19 years. Crime and suicide appear to be relatively more prevalent as a cause of death among male adolescents and youth in rural areas.

Table 4.1: Percent distribution of male adolescents and youth by causes of death and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	10-14					15-19					20-24				
	Disease	Accident	Crime/suicide	Others	Not Stated	Disease	Accident	Crime/suicide	Others	Not Stated	Disease	Accident	Crime/suicide	Others	Not Stated
Total	40.8	23.8	11.3	23.5	0.6	33.2	28.4	22.1	15.9	0.4	31.9	29.9	23.2	14.4	0.6
Ecological zones															
Mountain	38.8	22.5	11.3	27.5	0.0	36.0	28.0	21.6	13.6	0.8	26.1	30.4	23.0	20.5	0.0
Hill	39.2	25.2	14.3	20.8	0.5	34.5	29.7	21.8	13.5	0.4	33.4	27.6	24.8	13.2	1.0
Tarai	42.1	23.1	9.4	24.8	0.7	32.0	27.6	22.3	17.9	0.3	31.5	31.5	22.1	14.6	0.4
Provinces															
Koshi	48.2	17.3	15.7	18.3	0.5	42.0	21.6	25.1	11.2	0.0	34.8	28.6	26.8	9.6	0.2
Madhesh	34.4	25.6	9.2	30.4	0.4	24.5	29.9	20.1	25.3	0.3	29.0	32.4	20.4	17.8	0.4
Bagmati	44.8	22.4	14.0	18.2	0.7	40.9	26.1	21.0	11.6	0.4	34.2	29.4	21.6	14.1	0.8
Gandaki	45.2	23.3	11.0	20.5	0.0	30.1	30.7	27.5	11.1	0.7	33.9	27.8	25.1	11.9	1.3
Lumbini	41.0	23.5	11.5	23.0	1.1	33.3	31.7	20.4	14.2	0.3	33.4	30.6	20.4	14.8	0.8
Karnali	37.7	33.8	6.5	22.1	0.0	32.5	35.0	17.9	12.0	2.6	26.1	26.1	27.5	19.7	0.7
Sudurpashchim	36.8	26.3	9.0	27.1	0.8	26.3	28.8	23.2	21.7	0.0	25.9	31.4	25.5	16.7	0.4
Urban and rural areas															
Urban	50.0	18.1	9.0	22.3	0.5	38.6	26.1	20.8	14.2	0.3	33.8	28.5	23.0	14.3	0.4
Peri-urban	37.4	27.3	10.6	24.2	0.5	31.4	28.6	22.4	17.6	0.0	31.7	31.2	22.3	14.1	0.6

Background characteristics	10-14					15-19					20-24				
	Disease	Accident	Crime/suicide	Others	Not Stated	Disease	Accident	Crime/suicide	Others	Not Stated	Disease	Accident	Crime/suicide	Others	Not Stated
Rural	40.0	22.9	13.0	23.4	0.7	32.4	29.4	22.4	15.1	0.8	31.0	29.3	24.1	14.8	0.7
Caste and ethnic groups															
Hill Caste	43.0	22.1	12.8	22.1	0.0	34.9	27.1	24.1	13.5	0.5	29.0	31.7	25.2	13.1	1.0
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	38.5	29.6	13.0	18.3	0.6	24.8	25.2	24.4	25.6	0.0	28.2	28.8	23.1	19.4	0.6
Mountain/Hill Janajati	44.0	21.8	9.5	23.6	1.1	38.2	29.8	19.9	11.7	0.4	38.5	29.8	18.7	12.6	0.5
Tarai Janajati	40.7	22.0	8.8	28.6	0.0	30.0	30.6	23.9	15.0	0.6	23.1	37.7	23.5	15.8	0.0
Hill Dalit	38.4	23.2	18.1	20.3	0.0	29.3	31.6	25.9	12.5	0.8	30.1	24.6	31.2	13.3	0.9
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	27.3	27.3	7.6	36.4	1.5	35.6	23.1	17.3	24.0	0.0	35.9	24.6	22.5	16.2	0.7
Religious	45.7	20.0	2.9	30.0	1.4	41.4	31.0	8.0	19.5	0.0	40.9	29.1	14.5	15.5	0.0
Others	16.7	66.7	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	80.0	0.0	40.0	60.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Wealth quintiles															
Lowest	37.7	26.0	10.2	25.4	0.6	34.3	25.7	22.5	17.5	0.0	33.8	26.6	22.2	16.8	0.6
Lower	39.5	21.7	12.4	25.6	0.8	35.3	27.5	19.4	16.9	1.0	30.1	30.4	23.9	15.4	0.3
Middle	40.6	23.6	11.8	24.0	0.0	30.9	33.4	20.0	15.4	0.3	29.1	30.5	25.0	14.4	1.0
Higher	44.0	26.2	12.8	17.0	0.0	28.5	27.8	27.2	16.2	0.3	30.0	31.7	24.5	13.0	0.7
Highest	51.1	18.2	9.1	19.3	2.3	38.0	28.9	23.0	9.6	0.5	38.4	33.0	19.0	9.2	0.3

Causes of death among male adolescents and youth appear to vary across the caste and ethnic groups. Disease is a leading cause of death among male adolescents aged 10-14 years across all caste and ethnic groups, followed by accidents, and crime and suicide., with exceptions seen in percentage rates under the other group classification. Similarly, disease is the leading cause of death among male adolescents aged 15-19 years belonging to Hill caste, Mountain/Hill Janajati, Madesh/Tarai Janajati, and religious groups. Male adolescents aged 15-19 years from the Madhesh/Tarai caste and Hill Dalit groups have a slightly higher incidence of death due to accidents. Hill Dalit male adolescents aged 15-19 years are more likely to experience death due to crime and suicide compared to those classified under ‘Other’ caste and ethnic groups. Among the male youth population aged 20-24 years, disease is a leading cause of death which is seen largely across the Mountan/Hill Janajati, Madhesh/Tarai Dalit, and religious groups. Accidents are more prevalent as a cause of death among male youth aged 20-24 years from the Hill caste, Madhesh/Tarai caste, and Tarai Jananati groups. However, crime and suicide appear to be the leading cause of death among the male youth population belonging to Hill Dalit groups.

The data shows an increasing trend in disease-related deaths among male adolescents aged 10-15 years as household wealth increases. A similar trend is seen among adolescents aged 15-19 years. However, death from diseases among male youth decreases until the middle wealth

quintile, after which it increases in the higher and highest wealth quintile. Accidents are shown to be the second leading cause of death among male adolescents and youth across wealth quintiles, however they do not follow a unidirectional trend as household wealth increases.

Whilst the proportion of deaths caused by diseases decreases with an increase in age, the proportion of death caused by accidents and by crime and suicide has slightly increased among adolescents aged 15-19 years and youth aged 20-24 years. Table 4.2 shows that, among female adolescents and youth, the four leading cause of death are disease, accidents, crime and suicide, and pregnancy related complications. Accidents constitute the leading cause of death in Mountain zone, whereas crime and suicide are seen to be more prevalent in the Hill zone. In Koshi and Bagmati provinces, disease accounts for more than half of all deaths among female adolescents aged 10-14 years. Likewise, accidents are a more prevalent cause of death in Madhesh and Sudurpashchim provinces. Among female adolescents (10-14 years), crime and suicide are the most common cause of death in Bagmati and Karnali provinces, each representing 23.3 percent of all deaths. Within the same age group, the highest rate of deaths in urban areas are seen to have resulted from diseases (47.8%), with the highest proportion in peri-urban areas caused by accidents (15.8%) and by crime and suicide related causes in rural areas (20.1%).

As outlined, disease is a leading cause of death among female adolescents aged 10-14 years across all caste and ethnic groups, with Tarai Janajati showing a higher proportion of disease-related deaths, followed by religious groups and Mountain/Hill Janajati. Accidents tend to be a relatively more common cause of death among female adolescents belonging to Madhesh/Tarai Dalit groups, whereas crime and suicide appear to be more common causes of death among female adolescents from Hill Dalit groups.

The data shows that female adolescents aged 10-14 years from wealthier households are more likely to die from diseases. For example, disease-related factors constituted 56.3 percent of deaths in the highest wealth quintile and 41.4 percent of deaths in the lowest wealth quintile. Furthermore, accidents are more common among female adolescents from the lower wealth quintile, while crime and suicide are slightly more commonly recorded in the lowest wealth quintile.

Table 4.2: Percent distribution of female adolescents and youth by cause of death and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	10-14					15-19						20-24					
	Disease	Accident	Crime/suicide	Others	Not stated	Disease	Accident	Pregnancy related	Crime/suicide	Others	Not stated	Disease	Accident	Pregnancy related	Crime/suicide	Others	Not stated
Total	44.5	14.2	16.1	25.1	0.1	33.2	10.4	4.6	33.9	15.8	2.1	39.0	7.9	12.1	26.4	11.3	3.2
Ecological zones																	
Mountain	44.8	20.9	16.4	17.9	0.0	30.6	19.8	4.5	33.3	11.7	0.0	26.2	13.1	15.0	30.8	12.1	2.8
Hill	42.3	12.8	21.2	23.4	0.3	29.9	10.8	5.6	39.2	12.9	1.7	41.9	9.5	9.0	26.4	11.4	1.8
Tarai	45.8	14.2	13.2	26.8	0.0	35.3	9.0	4.1	31.1	18.0	2.5	38.6	6.3	13.8	25.9	11.2	4.2
Provinces																	
Koshi	52.3	11.9	17.0	18.8	0.0	33.3	6.6	3.5	39.1	15.1	2.3	42.4	3.7	11.8	26.2	14.4	1.5
Madhesh	37.4	17.8	13.0	31.9	0.0	32.3	9.6	4.2	28.4	20.1	5.4	36.6	7.1	14.8	23.4	11.1	7.1
Bagmati	50.8	7.5	23.3	17.5	0.8	37.6	11.8	2.8	37.1	10.1	0.6	43.2	9.3	3.8	30.1	12.3	1.3
Gandaki	48.1	16.5	15.2	20.3	0.0	29.4	11.9	4.6	41.3	10.1	2.8	46.3	8.9	8.1	28.5	6.5	1.6
Lumbini	49.3	10.9	13.9	25.9	0.0	36.5	8.4	4.4	30.7	19.3	0.7	39.8	5.7	14.2	25.3	12.3	2.7
Karnali	24.7	15.1	23.3	37.0	0.0	27.7	18.5	11.8	27.7	14.3	0.0	31.3	13.4	19.6	24.1	7.1	4.5
Sudurpashchim	44.8	18.7	14.9	21.6	0.0	30.2	13.6	4.3	38.9	13.0	0.0	31.1	13.7	13.2	29.5	10.0	2.6
Urban and rural areas																	
Urban	47.8	9.8	13.6	28.8	0.0	34.8	11.6	3.0	31.3	18.0	1.3	42.8	8.3	8.6	26.5	11.2	2.6
Peri-urban	46.4	15.8	13.7	24.1	0.0	36.4	8.0	4.7	31.7	16.7	2.6	37.1	6.4	14.4	26.9	11.0	4.3
Rural	40.9	14.2	20.1	24.5	0.2	28.8	12.8	5.1	37.6	13.9	1.8	39.0	9.3	11.6	25.9	11.8	2.4
Caste and ethnic groups																	
Hill Caste	41.3	16.4	16.9	25.3	0.0	28.7	15.8	3.8	38.2	13.2	0.3	35.3	11.5	9.6	32.6	9.0	1.9
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	37.9	15.3	11.8	35.0	0.0	33.8	7.9	4.1	27.4	22.9	3.8	33.9	6.4	16.3	24.7	11.3	7.4
Mountain/Hill Janajati	50.8	13.0	16.7	19.1	0.4	38.1	10.9	4.7	32.6	12.0	1.8	46.2	7.0	9.6	24.2	11.8	1.1
Tarai Janajati	57.1	14.3	16.7	11.9	0.0	33.3	5.9	3.7	41.5	11.1	4.4	36.2	6.2	11.9	31.1	11.3	3.4
Hill Dalit	35.3	11.8	28.8	24.2	0.0	31.6	10.5	6.7	40.2	10.5	0.5	41.9	7.9	12.3	24.7	11.0	2.2
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	46.2	18.5	9.2	26.2	0.0	29.6	7.8	3.5	33.0	21.7	4.3	32.7	9.3	16.8	23.4	15.9	1.9
Religious	53.4	9.6	4.1	32.9	0.0	38.0	7.0	7.0	12.7	33.8	1.4	47.2	2.8	15.3	11.1	15.3	8.3
Others	75.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0
Wealth quintiles																	
Lowest	41.4	13.7	17.9	26.7	0.3	33.4	9.5	8.2	29.9	16.7	2.2	35.0	9.4	11.8	26.6	14.3	3.0
Lower	42.8	18.2	16.4	22.7	0.0	34.6	11.0	4.1	31.0	15.7	3.6	41.5	7.6	12.9	24.4	10.5	3.2
Middle	43.0	13.1	16.3	27.6	0.0	31.3	10.2	2.6	39.8	14.9	1.2	38.3	5.7	14.0	26.9	10.9	4.3
Higher	49.1	11.8	16.0	23.1	0.0	31.1	8.5	4.7	35.4	18.4	1.9	38.9	6.6	10.2	29.1	11.1	4.1
Highest	56.3	10.3	9.2	24.1	0.0	36.5	15.3	0.0	36.5	11.7	0.0	43.6	11.7	10.1	26.3	7.8	0.6

Table 4.2 further presents the distribution of causes of death among female adolescents (15-19 years) across background characteristics. When addressed by ecological zone, the data reveal

that a higher proportion of deaths in Tarai are caused from disease. Accidents accounted for the highest proportion of deaths in the Mountain zone, while deaths due to crime and suicide were most prevalent in the Hill zone. Considerable provincial disparities in the cause of death among female adolescents (15-19 years) are of note, with Bagmati Province reporting the highest proportion of disease-related deaths (37.6%), followed by Lumbini (36.5%). Accident-related deaths are seen highest in Karnali (18.5%) and lowest in Koshi (6.6%) province. Crime and suicide-related deaths were found to be highest in Gandaki (41.3%), followed by Koshi (39.1%) and Sudurpashchim (38.9%) provinces. Analysis by urban and rural areas indicated variations in the cause of deaths among female adolescents aged 15-19 years. Disease-related death is consistently higher across urban and rural areas, with deaths attributed to accidents seen to be more prevalent in rural areas (12.8%). Crime and suicide-related deaths are more common in rural areas compared to urban and peri-urban areas.

The highest share of deaths as a result of disease are reported in the Mountain/Hill Janajati (38.1%), followed by religious groups (38.0%). Accident-related deaths are seen highest in Hill caste (15.8%), followed by Mountain/Hill Janajati and Hill Dalit groups. Crime and suicide are the leading cause of death in Tarai Janajati, Hill Dalit and Hill caste groups, with this cause responsible for 41.5 percent, 40.2 percent, and 38.2 percent of all deaths for each respective caste and ethnic group. The data reveal that disease is the leading cause of death among female adolescents aged 15–19 from the lowest and lower wealth quintiles, accounting for 33.4% and 34.6% of deaths, respectively. In contrast, crime and suicide are the leading causes of death in the middle wealth quintile (39.8%), followed by the higher wealth quintile (35.4%). Accident-related deaths are more common among female adolescents belonging to highest wealth quintile (15.3%).

From Table 4.2, it is observed that disease, crime and suicide, pregnancy-related causes, and accidents are the four leading causes of death among female youth aged 20-24 years.

The data reveal that deaths resulting from disease are considerably higher in Hill zone (41.9%) and Gandaki Province (46.3%), followed by Bagmati (43.2%) and Koshi (42.4%) provinces, and in urban areas (42.8%). Across the caste and ethnic groups, disease-related deaths were seen higher among female youth aged 20-24 years who belong to religious groups (47.2%), Mountain/Hill Janajati (46.2%), and Hill Dalit (41.9%) caste groups. Furthermore, deaths attributed to disease are more prevalent among female youth aged 20-24 years who belong to the highest wealth quintile. The incidence of deaths associated with crime and suicide for the same female youth group aged 20-24 years are reported to be highest in peri-urban areas (26.9%), in the Mountain zone (30.8%), in Bagmati province (30.1%), in Hill caste groups (32.6%) and in the higher wealth quintile (29.1%).

It is observed that the highest share of pregnancy-related causes of death are reported in peri-urban areas (14.4%) and in the Mountain zone (15.0%), in Karnali (19.6%) among the provinces, in Madhesh/Tarai Dalit (16.8%) and Madhesh/Tarai Caste (16.3%) groups, and in the middle wealth quintile (14.0%). It has been found that pregnancy related death is found to be higher among youth aged 20-24 years than adolescents aged 15-19 years when analyzed across all background characteristics. The share of deaths as a result of accidents is found highest in the Mountain zone (13.1%), in Sudurpashchim (13.7%) and Karnali (13.4%) among the provinces, in rural areas (9.3%), in Hill caste groups (11.5%), and in the highest wealth quintile (11.7%).

4.1 Disability

The World Health Organization defines disability as an umbrella term that covers impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions – an impairment is defined as a problem with body function or structure; activity limitation as a difficulty encountered by an individual in carrying out a task or action; and a participation restriction is a problem faced by an individual in engaging in life situations (WHO, 2011). Taking this definition forward, a disability is a complex phenomenon that reflects an interaction between features of a person's body structure and features of the society in which he or she lives.

The National Population and Housing Census 2021 includes questions about disability, which defines 12 types of disability: physical disability; low vision; blind; deaf; hard of hearing; deaf and blind; speech problem; mental or psycho-social; intellectual disability; hemophilia; autism, and; multiple disability.

Types of disability

The data on the percentage distribution of adolescents and youth with disabilities defined by age group, sex, and type of disability reveals that physical disability is the most common type of disability among adolescents and youth, with a higher proportion of male adolescent reporting physical disabilities than females. The results show that the proportion of adolescents and youth with a physical disability increases with age, from 35.9 percent among adolescents aged 10-14 years to 41.6 percent among youth aged 20-24 years. A similar pattern can be observed among males and females. Visual impairment, which includes low vision and blindness, is also found to be a common type of disability among adolescents and youth of both sexes, with females reporting a higher percentage of visual impairment than males. It has been noted that the percentage of persons with low vision is slightly higher among the adolescents aged 15-19 years, and blindness tends to decrease with age, from 9.4 percent in the 10-14 year age group to 5.4 percent in the 20-24 year age group.

Table 4.3: Percent distribution of disabled adolescents and youth by types of disability and sex, NPHC 2021

Types of disability	10-14			15-19			20-24			10-24		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
Total (=100%)	34,579	19,373	15,206	46,469	25,551	20,918	37,768	21,490	16,278	11,8816	66,414	52,402
Physical disability	35.9	37.0	34.5	40.7	42.2	38.9	41.6	43.2	39.5	39.6	41.0	37.8
Low vision	9.3	8.9	9.7	11.5	10.8	12.3	10.0	9.7	10.5	10.4	9.9	11.0
Blind	9.4	8.9	10.1	6.8	6.3	7.5	5.4	4.8	6.2	7.1	6.6	7.8
Deaf	7.0	7.0	7.1	7.3	6.6	8.0	4.2	4.2	4.3	6.2	6.0	6.6
Hard of hearing	5.1	4.8	5.5	4.6	4.5	4.8	4.8	4.6	5.1	4.8	4.6	5.1
Deaf and Blind	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.8	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.4
Speech problem	10.0	10.4	9.4	7.4	7.8	6.8	8.0	8.3	7.6	8.3	8.7	7.8
Mental or Psycho-social	5.3	5.1	5.6	6.1	6.1	6.1	8.6	9.0	8.0	6.7	6.8	6.5
Intellectual disability	3.2	3.2	3.2	2.8	2.9	2.7	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.1	3.1	3.1
Hemophilia	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.6	1.3	0.8	0.7	0.9
Autism	0.9	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.6
Multiple disability	11.8	11.6	12.2	9.9	9.7	10.1	11.4	10.6	12.3	10.9	10.5	11.4

The percentage of deaf persons or those who are hard of hearing remains similar among adolescents and youth males in all age groups, with little difference identified between males and females. The data shows that speech problems are more commonly seen among adolescents aged 10-14 years and appear to decrease with age, from a rate of 10 percent in adolescents aged 10-14 years to 8 percent in youth aged 20-24 years. Mental or psycho-social disabilities are reported to increase with age, with the highest rate being among youth aged 20-24 years (8.6%). There are slight variations in reported intellectual disability among adolescents and youth based on age and sex. Hemophilia and autism show low percentage (below 1%) among adolescents and youth across all age groups. The classification of 'multiple disabilities' is a common disability recorded among adolescents and youth, with a relatively high proportion among adolescents aged 10-14 years and youth aged 20-24 years. Female adolescents and youth report a slightly higher rate of multiple disabilities compared to their male counterparts.

Prevalence of disability

Table 4.4 shows the prevalence of disability for adolescents and youth by sex. The data shows that the population with a disability in Nepal was 2.2 percent, with 1.4 percent among adolescents aged 10-19 years and 1.5 percent among youth aged 20-24 years. Among both sexes, disability prevalence stood at 1.2% for adolescents aged 10–14, 1.6% for those aged 15–19, and 1.4% for youth aged 20–24. As the number of adolescents and youth with a disability risks likely underestimation, the prevalence of disability should be interpreted with caution (Department of Population, 2017). When addressing the data by age category, it is found that the prevalence of disabilities are highest in the 15-19 years age group and slightly lower in the

20-24 age group. The data further reveals that males show a higher prevalence of disabilities compared to females in all age groups – adolescents, youth, and young. Census data cannot reveal the underlying causes of a high prevalence of disability among male adolescents and youth from census data. However, a plausible explanation is that male adolescents and youth are more likely to experience morbidity and trauma, which can lead to disability (Department of Population, 2017).

Table 4.4: Prevalence of disability for adolescents and youth by sex and age group, NPHC 2021

Age group	Both sexes	Male				Female			
	Total	With disability	Prevalence (%)	Total	With disability	Prevalence (%)	Total	With disability	Prevalence (%)
10-14	2,909,865	35,140	1.2	1,495,954	19,663	1.3	1,413,911	15,477	1.1
15-19	2,966,404	47,130	1.6	1,494,523	25,891	1.7	1,471,881	21,239	1.4
20-24	2,783,060	38,365	1.4	1,301,018	21,792	1.7	1,482,042	16,573	1.1
Adolescent (10-19)	5,876,269	82,270	1.4	2,990,477	45,554	1.5	2,885,792	36,716	1.3
Youth (15-24)	5,749,464	85,495	1.5	2,795,541	47,683	1.7	2,953,923	37,812	1.3
Young (10-24)	8,659,329	120,635	1.4	4,291,495	67,346	1.6	4,367,834	53,289	1.2

Disability prevalence among adolescents and youth, categorized by sex and background characteristics, is shown in Table 4.5. The overall prevalence of disability for both sexes was seen greatest in the Mountain zone (1.8% for 10-24 years) than compared to Hill and Tarai. This pattern is also observed among both male and female adolescents and youth, with males having a slightly higher prevalence of disability than females.

When examining the data by provinces, the prevalence of disability is higher in Karnali Province across all age groups. The second highest prevalence of disability is in the provinces of Gandaki, followed by Sudurpashchim. This pattern is consistent among both male and female adolescents and youth. However, in all provinces, male adolescents and youth have a higher prevalence of disability than females.

The findings indicate that disability prevalence varies across urban, peri-urban and rural areas. The data shows that adolescents and youth residing in rural areas report a higher rate of disability than those residing in urban and peri-urban areas.

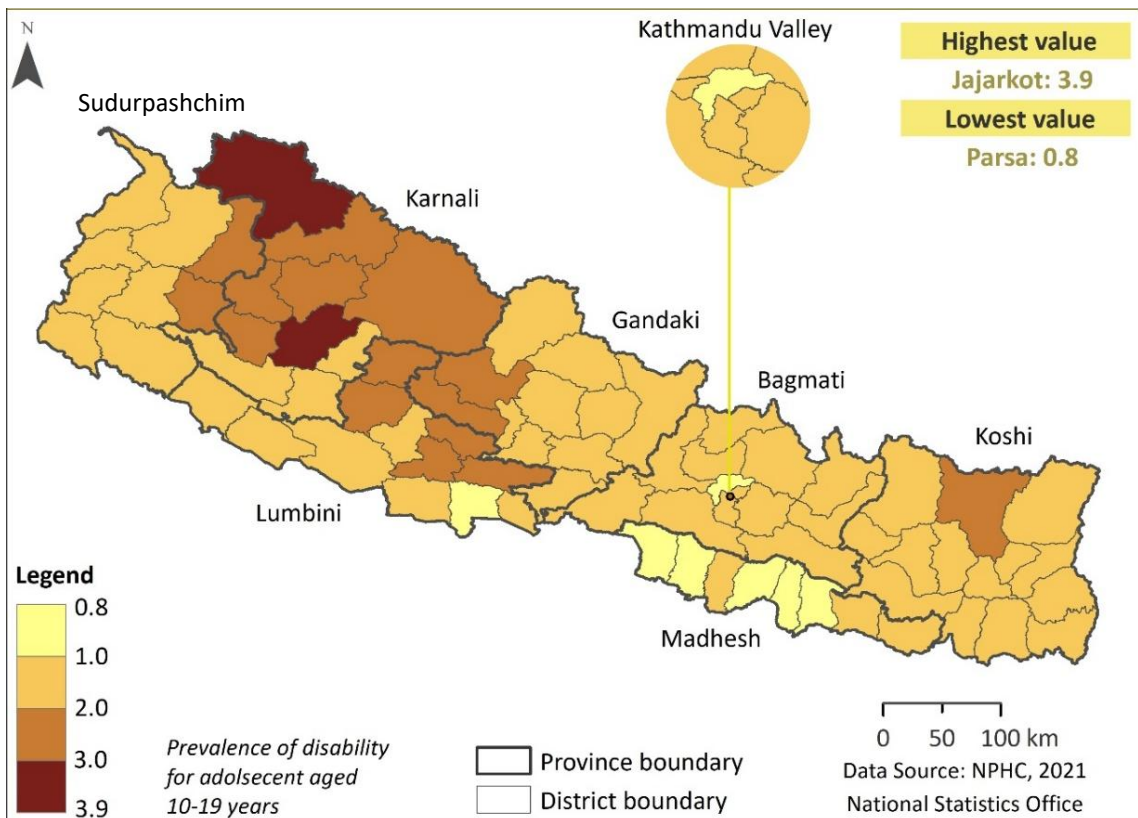
Table 4.5: Prevalence of disability among adolescents and youth by background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	Prevalence of disability											
	Both sexes				Male				Female			
	10-14	15-19	20-24	10-24	10-14	15-19	20-24	10-24	10-14	15-19	20-24	10-24
Ecological zones												
Mountain	1.7	2.1	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.3	2.2	2.1	1.5	1.8	1.3	1.5
Hill	1.4	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.6	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.3	1.7	1.3	1.4
Tarai	1.0	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.4	0.9	1.2	1.0	1.0
Provinces												
Koshi	1.2	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.1	1.5	1.1	1.2
Madhesh	0.8	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.1	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.8
Bagmati	1.0	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.0	1.3	1.1	1.1
Gandaki	1.5	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.7	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.4	1.8	1.5	1.6
Lumbini	1.3	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.2	1.6	1.2	1.3
Karnali	2.1	2.5	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.9	2.6	2.6	1.8	2.1	1.6	1.8
Sudurpashchim	1.4	1.9	1.5	1.6	1.6	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.3	1.7	1.2	1.4
Urban and rural areas												
Urban	1.0	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.0	1.1
Peri-urban	1.0	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.4	0.9	1.2	1.0	1.0
Rural	1.6	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.3	2.3	2.1	1.4	1.8	1.4	1.6
Caste and ethnic groups												
Hill Castes	1.4	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.4
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	0.8	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.1	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.8
Mountain/Hill Janajati	1.2	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.1	1.5	1.2	1.3
Tarai Janajati	1.1	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.0	1.4	1.0	1.1
Hill Dalit	1.8	2.2	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.5	2.3	2.3	1.6	1.9	1.4	1.6
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	0.9	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.5	1.4	1.3	0.8	1.2	0.8	0.9
Religious	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.4	1.4	1.2	0.8	1.1	0.9	0.9
Others	1.0	1.1	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.0
Wealth quintiles												
Lowest	1.5	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7	2.3	2.4	2.1	1.4	1.7	1.4	1.5
Lower	1.3	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.5	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.2	1.6	1.2	1.4
Middle	1.1	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.0	1.4	1.1	1.2
Higher	1.0	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.9	1.2	0.9	1.0
Highest	0.8	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.8	1.1	0.9	0.9

Caste and ethnicity and disability exist as different social categorizations, however they are both interconnected by social, economic and cultural factors which result in varied levels of oppression for individuals existing within these compounding social groups. The data shows that adolescents and youth belonging to the Hill Dalit caste group have a higher prevalence of disability, followed by Hill castes, among males and females across all age groups. On the other hand, adolescents and youth of Madhesh/Tarai caste groups have a lower prevalence of disability for both males and female across all age groups. The differences in prevalence of disability among adolescents and youth may be due to the variations in living conditions, socioeconomic status and access to health care.

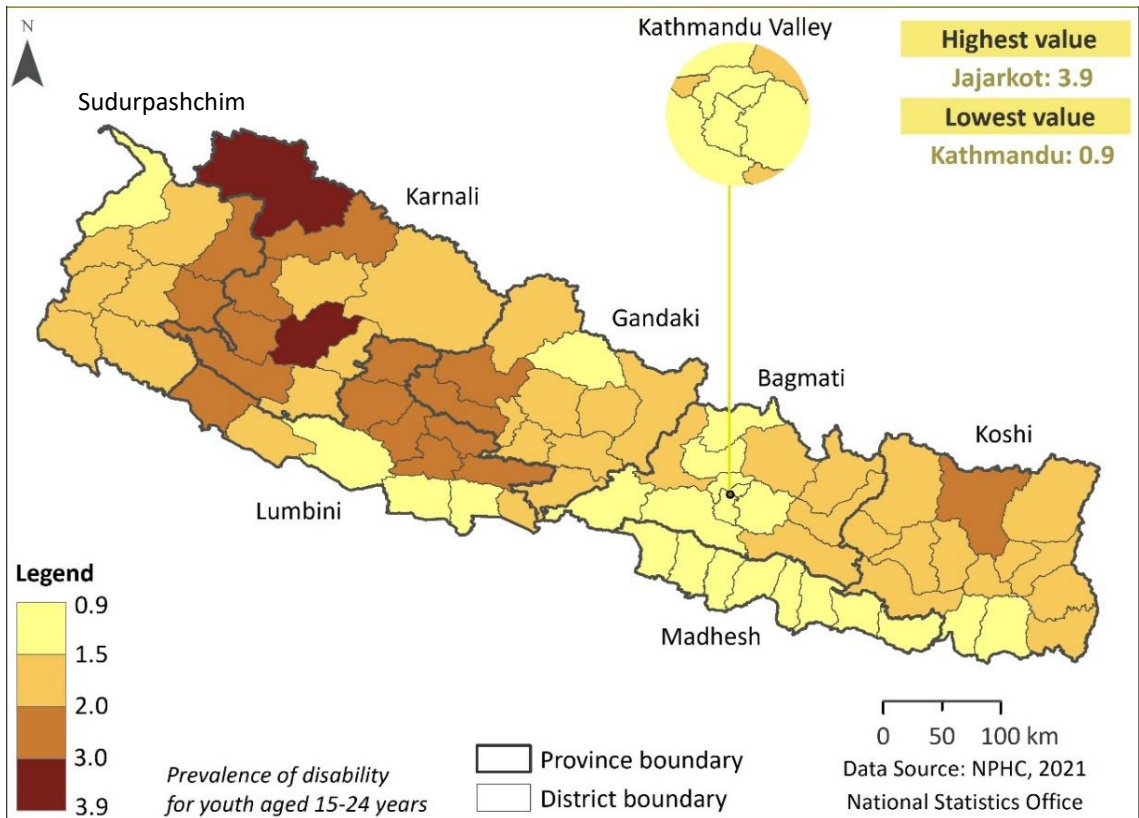
As is seen in Map 4.1, the prevalence of disability among adolescents aged 10-19 years is found to be highest in Jajarkot (3.9%) and Humla (3.0%), while it is significantly lower in Parsa (0.8%), Kathmandu (0.9%), Bara (0.9%), Mahottari (0.9%), Dhanusa (0.9%), and Sarlahi (0.9%). However, the prevalence rate of disability ranges from 1 percent to 2.6 percent in 69 districts.

Map 4.1: Prevalence of disability among adolescents aged 10-19 years by districts, NPHC 2021



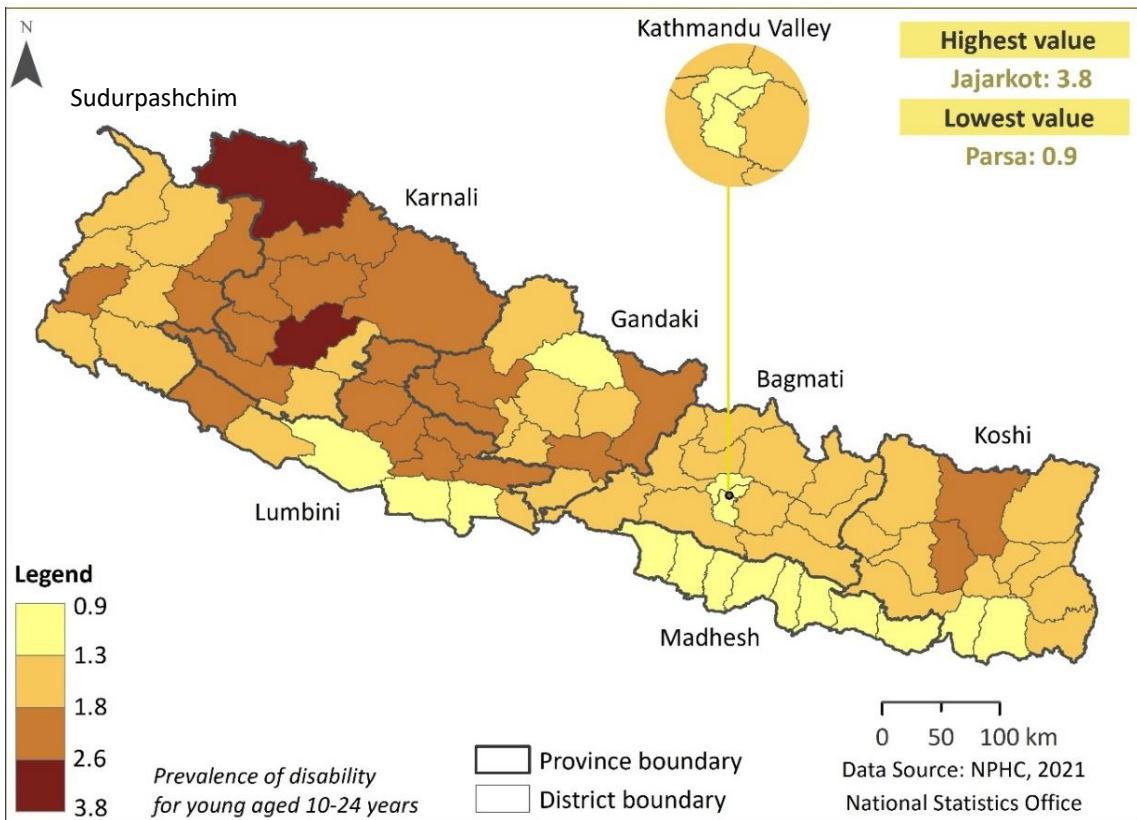
The prevalence of disability among youth aged 15-24 years ranges from 0.9 percent in Kathmandu to 3.9 percent in Jajarkot and 3.2 percent in Humla, with the prevalence of disability

seen in the range of 1.0 percent to 2.9 percent in the remainder of the districts (Map 4.2).
 Map 4.2: Prevalence of disability among youth aged 15-24 years by districts, NPHC 2021



Regarding prevalence of disability among youth aged 10-24 years, it is seen that Jajarkot (3.8%) and Humal (3.0%) show a higher prevalence of disability, whereas Parsa (0.9%), Kathmandu (0.9%) and Bara (0.9%) show the lowest prevalence of disability. the rate is seen to remain between 1.0 percent and 2.6 percent in a majority of the remaining districts (Map 4.3).

Map 4.3: Prevalence of disability among young aged 10-24 years by districts, NPHC 2021



CHAPTER 5

MIGRATION

Migration is the movement of a person’s usual place of residence from one administrative unit, ecological zone, and/or province to another over a given period of time. This section provides a discussion and overview on data related to place of birth, recent migration, causes of migration, and absence from household of adolescents and youth as based on the 2021 census data.

The 2011 NPHC revealed that as many as 1.92 million Nepalis had stayed abroad for more than six months, whereas Nepal’s absentee population – referring to those Nepalis living in foreign countries – accounted for 7.2 percent, resulting in a high rate of out-migration by international standards (Ghimire, et al., 2012). It is estimated that around 44 percent of households have at least one member absent from their home village, with 29 percent of households with their absentee member abroad, indicating an increased likelihood that absentees may be largely represented within the late adolescent or youth populations. Furthermore, the role of individual remittances which are often provided by absentees is highly important for economical activities at both the individual and community level. The flow of remittances to Nepal has grown quite drastically in the last few years, both in absolute numbers as well as in relative contribution to Nepal’s GDP (over 20%) (Arnøy, 2012).

This report, despite faced with data constraints which limit the extent of a rigorous analysis on migration, approaches both internal and international migration through a thorough analysis of lifetime migration by place of birth, and current migration by usual place of residence, and flow of migration with reference to different background characteristics. Similarly, with regard to international migration, data concerning absentees from household, migration destinations, and reasons for migration are studied with reference to background characteristics.

5.1 Internal movement

Lifetime migration: migration by place of birth

The NPHC 2021 collected data through the questions regarding place of birth, prior residence, and duration of stay. In the NPHC 2021, migration is counted if a change of usual residence from one municipality to another is observed. Lifetime migration is indicated if the place of usual residence at the time of enumeration is different from the place of birth. As shown in Table 5.1, out of the total adolescent population, the highest percentage of adolescents migrate from their

place of birth to another district (11.6%), whereas 3.9 percent of adolescents leave their place of birth and migrate to another municipality. The share of adolescents born abroad who have migrated is 1.1 percent. About 83 percent of adolescents are non-migrants, meaning that they reside in their native place, and only 15.5 of adolescents are internal migrants.

Based on the place of birth of adolescents and their usual place of residence by ecological zone, 14.8 percent of adolescents who usually live in the Hill zone report inter-district migration (migration to other districts), while 10.6 percent of adolescents living in the Tarai and only 2 percent of adolescents living in the Mountain zones report inter-district migration. A similar migration pattern is observed among the youth population; based on the place of birth and usual place of residence, the Hill zone shows the highest share of youth migrating from their place of birth to other districts (23.6%), followed by the Tarai (15.7%) and Mountain (5.2%) zones. The Mountain zone shows the highest percentage of adolescents and youth living in the same municipality – 94.1 percent for adolescents and 87 percent for youth. Adolescents who migrated from other municipalities are seen at the highest (4.8%) in the Hill zone, while youth who migrated from other municipalities are seen highest (7.9%) in the Tarai zone. It has been observed that 19.6 percent of adolescents and 31 percent of youth in the Hill and 13.9 percent of adolescents and 23.6 percent of youth in the Tarai zones are internal migrants.

Migration patterns vary across provinces. Bagmati Province shows the highest proportion of adolescents and youth who have migrated from other provinces, at a rate of 25.9 percent for adolescents and 36.9 percent for youth. The share of adolescents and youth who migrated from another municipality within the same district is highest in Gandaki Province (6.9% for adolescents and 9.8% for youth). In Madhesh and Karnali provinces, more than 90 percent of adolescents and more than 80 percent of youth live in their native place of residence.

Inter-district migration of adolescents and youth is seen at the highest rate in urban areas – 26.3 percent for adolescents and 36.9 percent for youth – whereas the same rate for adolescents and youth in peri-urban areas is at 8.7 percent and 13.2 percent respectively, and at a rate of 4.3 percent for adolescents and 8.3 percent for youth in rural areas. The share of adolescents and youth born abroad and living in Nepal is highest in urban areas, followed by semi-urban areas. In the rural areas, around 93 percent of adolescents and 85 percent of youth are non-migrants.

Table 5.1 illustrates that Hill caste, followed by Mountain/Hill Janajati and Hill Dalit groups, hold the highest share of adolescent and youth inter-district migration. Mountain/Hill Janajati groups show the highest share of adolescents who have migrated from another municipality of the same district, while Madhesh/Tarai Dalits hold the highest proportion of youth who have migrated from another municipality (11.1%). Over 90 percent of adolescents in the

Madhesh/Tarai, Tarai Janajati, and Madhesh/Tarai Dalit castes have never migrated from their birth place, as is the case for more than 80 percent of Madhesh/Tarai Janajati youth.

Adolescents and youth from wealthier households show to have greater instances of migration than other wealth groups, with the highest wealth quintile showing the highest share of adolescents and youth who migrated from another district at 24 percent for adolescents and 31.9 percent for youth. On the other hand, adolescents and youth from lower households appear to migrate at a much lower rate, with more than 90 percent of adolescents and more than 80 percent youth staying in their birth place.

The share of adolescents who migrated from their place of birth to another district is similar for males and females, however a higher percentage of female adolescents (4.6%) than male adolescents left their birthplace and migrated to another municipality. The data shows that 82.6 percent of females and 84.1 percent of males still live in their place of birth, whereas 16.3 percent of females and 14.9 percent of males are recorded as internal migrants. The percentage of female youth who migrated from their place of birth to another district (20.4%) and to another municipality (11.4%) is higher than that of male youth. Likewise, the share of female youth who were born abroad and reside in Nepal is higher (2.3%) than that of males. The data further shows that 79 percent of male youth and 65.9 percent of female youth are non-migrants, while 19.8 percent of male youth and 31.8 percent of female youth are internal migrants, indicating that the propensity to migrate within the country is higher among female adolescents and youth populations than compared to male adolescents and youth (Annex A5.1).

Table 5.1: Percentage distribution of adolescents and youth by place of birth and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	Adolescents						Youth					
	Total (=100%)	Same Local level	Other Local level of same district	Other district	Foreign country	Not stated	Total (=100%)	Same Local level	Other Kicak kevek of same district	Other district	Foreign country	Not stated
Nepal	5,876,269	83.4	3.9	11.6	1.1	0.0	5,749,464	72.3	7.7	18.2	1.8	0.0
Male	2,990,477	84.1	3.3	11.6	1.0	0.0	2,795,541	79.0	3.8	16.0	1.3	0.0
Female	2,885,792	82.6	4.6	11.7	1.1	0.0	2,953,923	65.9	11.4	20.4	2.3	0.0
Ecological zones												
Mountain	387,397	94.1	3.7	2.0	0.2	0.0	349,681	87.0	7.4	5.2	0.3	0.0
Hill	2,290,233	79.5	4.8	14.8	0.9	0.0	2,316,517	67.8	7.4	23.6	1.1	0.0
Tarai	3,198,639	84.8	3.3	10.6	1.3	0.0	3,083,266	73.9	7.9	15.7	2.5	0.0
Provinces												
Koshi	936,938	83.0	4.4	11.5	1.1	0.0	933,114	73.8	7.6	16.6	1.9	0.0

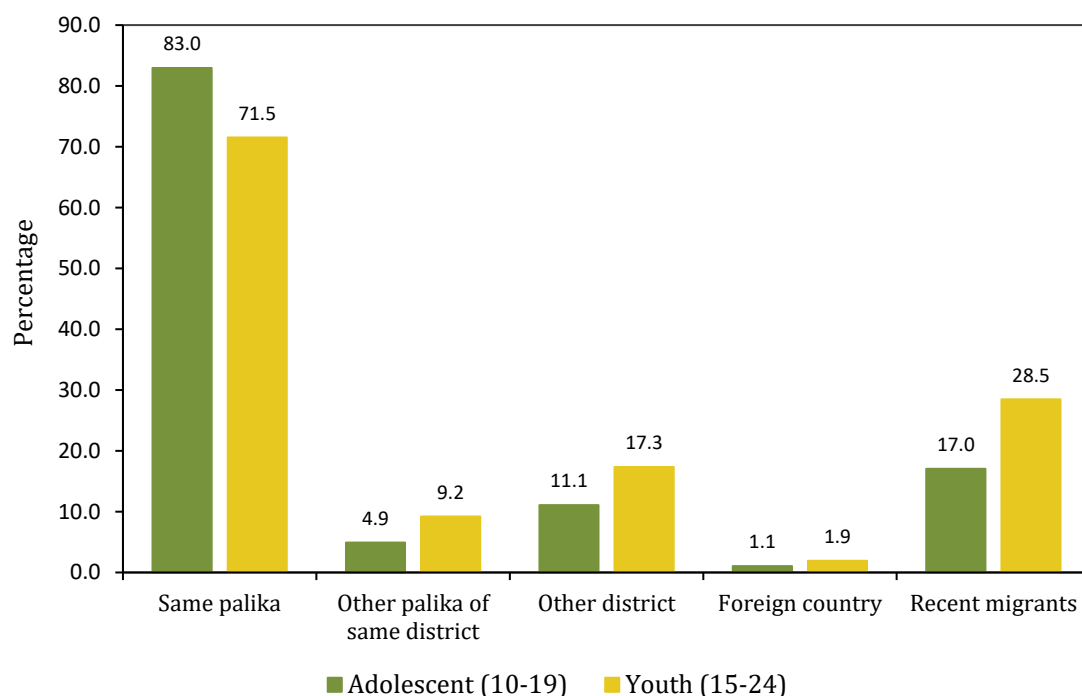
Background characteristics	Adolescents						Youth					
	Total (=100%)	Same Local level	Other Local level of same district	Other district	Foreign country	Not stated	Total (=100%)	Same Local level	Other Kicak kevek of same district	Other district	Foreign country	Not stated
Madhesh	1,312,371	93.6	2.9	2.9	0.5	0.0	1,196,853	81.0	9.7	7.2	2.0	0.0
Bagmati	1,081,509	67.6	5.3	25.9	1.2	0.0	1,194,179	55.2	6.5	36.9	1.4	0.0
Gandaki	454,060	77.3	6.9	14.1	1.7	0.1	461,115	67.5	9.8	20.6	2.0	0.1
Lumbini	1,063,978	84.9	3.0	10.5	1.6	0.0	1,037,546	75.6	6.4	15.3	2.6	0.0
Karnali	405,116	91.4	3.0	5.2	0.4	0.0	368,005	84.3	6.3	8.9	0.4	0.0
Sudurpashchim	622,297	86.2	2.8	9.8	1.2	0.0	558,652	77.4	7.2	14.3	1.1	0.0
Urban and rural areas												
Urban	1,493,280	65.0	7.0	26.3	1.8	0.0	1,611,287	52.2	8.5	36.9	2.5	0.0
Peri-urban	2,351,607	86.9	3.2	8.7	1.1	0.0	2,247,030	75.9	8.5	13.2	2.3	0.0
Rural	2,031,382	92.8	2.4	4.3	0.5	0.0	1,891,147	85.1	5.9	8.3	0.6	0.0
Caste and ethnic groups												
Hill Castes	1,684,714	76.1	4.3	18.5	1.1	0.0	1,660,704	65.0	6.8	27.1	1.1	0.0
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	1,004,132	91.8	3.0	4.6	0.6	0.0	933,280	79.2	9.2	9.3	2.4	0.0
Mountain/Hill Janajati	1,448,704	79.0	5.0	15.3	0.7	0.0	1,477,717	69.8	7.1	22.3	0.8	0.0
Tarai Janajati	483,776	92.3	3.3	4.1	0.3	0.0	532,265	83.0	8.3	8.1	0.5	0.0
Hill Dalits	582,394	83.4	3.9	11.3	1.5	0.0	533,081	72.5	7.8	18.4	1.3	0.0
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	308,047	94.2	2.7	2.6	0.5	0.0	280,761	79.7	11.1	6.9	2.3	0.0
Religious	342,968	93.5	2.2	3.2	1.1	0.0	301,783	82.1	6.9	6.8	4.2	0.0
Others	21,534	30.8	1.6	4.0	63.6	0.0	29,873	18.2	1.4	4.3	76.0	0.0
Wealth quintiles												
Lowest	1,299,737	94.9	1.9	2.7	0.5	0.0	1,095,218	86.7	6.3	5.9	1.1	0.0
Lower	1,268,648	92.7	2.4	4.2	0.7	0.0	1,205,721	83.9	7.0	7.9	1.2	0.0
Middle	1,216,992	87.0	3.4	8.6	1.1	0.0	1,184,397	77.0	7.9	13.2	2.0	0.0
Higher	1,081,942	70.7	5.9	21.5	1.8	0.0	1,140,836	58.5	8.7	30.1	2.6	0.0
Highest	966,146	67.8	6.7	24.0	1.5	0.0	1,046,671	57.9	8.2	31.9	2.0	0.0

Recent migration: Migration by place of last prior residence

Distribution of adolescents and youth in Nepal based on their place of last prior residence before the census enumeration, segmented by ecological zones, provinces, urban/rural areas, caste and ethnic groups, and wealth quintile, are presented in Table 5.2. The data shows that 17 percent of adolescents and 28.5 percent of youth are recent migrants (Figure 4.4). Similarly, 11.1 percent of adolescents and 17.3 percent of youth are inter-district recent migrants. The data further shows that 4.9 percent of adolescents and 9.2 percent of youth have migrated to other palika of same district, indicating intra-district migration.

Recent migration of both adolescents and youth to the Hill zone is seen at a much higher than in Mountain and Tarai zones. Among the provinces, Bagmati shows the highest percentage of recent migration. In Bagmati Province, 23.3 percent of adolescents and 33 percent of youth indicate a place of last prior residence in another district, 8.6 percent of adolescents and 11.1 percent of youth have a place of last prior residence in another municipality of the respective district, and 1.1 percent of adolescents and 1.4 percent of youth have a place of last prior residence abroad. This trend can be attributed to the fact that study and employment opportunities are more widespread in comparison to other provinces.

Figure 5.1: Recent migration of adolescents and youth based on place of last prior residence just prior to the census enumeration, NPHC 2021



Recent migration to urban areas is much higher than that to peri-urban and rural areas among both adolescents and youth. This indicates that internal migration of adolescents and youth is predominantly concentrated in urban areas and may be attributed to economic and educational opportunities in urban areas in addition to other determinants of migration.

Differences in recent migration data between caste and ethnic groups further highlights that a higher proportion of adolescents and youth from Madhesh/Tarai Caste, Tarai Janajati, and Madhesh/Tarai Dalit castes have a usual place of last residence prior to the census date in the same place as they were enumerated.

The data show a positive relationship between wealth quintiles and the propensity for migration. Adolescents and youth from the lowest households are more likely to stay in the same municipality where they were born, while those from wealthier households are more likely to have recently migrated. The results indicate that the socioeconomic status of households is a significant factor in the recent migration of adolescents and youth. In terms of inter-district and international migration, it is observed that youth populations exhibit a higher degree of mobility in comparison to adolescents. Detailed results of distribution of adolescents and youth by place of last prior residence by sex are presented in Annex A5.2

Table 5.2: Percentage distribution of adolescents and youth by place of last prior residence just before the census enumeration and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	Adolescents					Youth				
	Total (=100%)	Same Local level	Other Local level of same district	Other district	Foreign country	Total (=100%)	Same Local level	Other Local level of Same district	Other district	Foreign country
Nepal	5,876,269	83.0	4.9	11.1	1.1	5,749,464	71.5	9.2	17.3	1.9
Male	2,990,477	83.6	4.3	11.0	1.0	2,795,541	78.1	5.2	15.1	1.6
Female	2,885,792	82.2	5.5	11.1	1.1	2,953,923	65.3	13.0	19.5	2.2
Ecological zones										
Mountain	387,397	93.9	3.9	2.0	0.2	349,681	86.5	7.7	5.4	0.4
Hill	2,290,233	78.9	6.5	13.6	0.9	2,316,517	66.8	10.0	21.9	1.3
Tarai	3,198,639	84.5	3.9	10.3	1.3	3,083,266	73.4	8.8	15.3	2.5
Provinces										
Koshi	936,938	82.5	5.2	11.2	1.1	933,114	72.9	8.8	16.3	2.0
Madhesh	1,312,371	93.5	3.1	2.9	0.5	1,196,853	80.7	10.0	7.3	2.0
Bagmati	1,081,509	67.0	8.6	23.3	1.1	1,194,179	54.5	11.1	33.0	1.4
Gandaki	454,060	76.6	7.6	14.2	1.6	461,115	66.5	10.7	20.7	2.1
Lumbini	1,063,978	84.5	3.6	10.3	1.5	1,037,546	74.8	7.3	15.1	2.8
Karnali	405,116	90.9	3.2	5.3	0.6	368,005	83.1	6.7	9.2	1.0
Sudurpashchim	622,297	85.8	3.3	9.6	1.3	558,652	76.4	8.0	14.0	1.5
Urban and rural areas										
Urban	1,493,280	64.3	9.9	24.2	1.6	1,611,287	51.4	12.6	33.7	2.4
Peri-urban	2,351,607	86.6	3.7	8.6	1.1	2,247,030	75.3	9.2	13.0	2.4
Rural	2,031,382	92.4	2.6	4.3	0.6	1,891,147	84.2	6.3	8.6	0.9
Caste and ethnic groups										
Hill Castes	1,684,714	75.5	5.8	17.6	1.0	1,660,704	64.1	9.1	25.6	1.2
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	1,004,132	91.6	3.4	4.4	0.6	933,280	78.8	9.8	9.0	2.4
Mountain/Hill Janajati	1,448,704	78.5	6.5	14.3	0.7	1,477,717	69.0	9.2	20.9	0.9
Tarai Janajati	483,776	92.0	3.7	4.0	0.3	532,265	82.4	8.9	8.0	0.7

Background characteristics	Adolescents					Youth				
	Total (=100%)	Same Local level	Other Local level of same district	Other district	Foreign country	Total (=100%)	Same Local level	Other Local level of Same district	Other district	Foreign country
Hill Dalits	582,394	82.8	4.6	11.0	1.6	533,081	71.4	9.0	17.8	1.8
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	308,047	94.1	2.9	2.6	0.5	280,761	79.4	11.3	6.9	2.4
Religious	342,968	93.4	2.5	3.1	1.0	301,783	81.8	7.4	6.6	4.2
Others	21,534	30.3	4.4	5.0	60.4	29,873	17.7	4.5	5.8	72.1
Wealth quintiles										
Lowest	1,299,737	94.7	2.0	2.8	0.6	1,095,218	86.1	6.6	5.9	1.4
Lower	1,268,648	92.4	2.7	4.2	0.7	1,205,721	83.1	7.4	7.9	1.5
Middle	1,216,992	86.7	4.0	8.3	1.1	1,184,397	76.3	8.8	12.8	2.1
Higher	1,081,942	70.2	7.7	20.4	1.6	1,140,836	57.9	11.4	28.2	2.5
Highest	966,146	67.0	9.3	22.3	1.3	1,046,671	57.0	11.7	29.4	1.9

5.2 Inter -provincial recent migration

By province, a majority of adolescents and youth migrants originated from Gandaki (20.8%), followed by Koshi (19.4%) and Madhesh (18.0%) provinces. Bagmati has the highest percentage of in-migration at 59 percent, followed by Lumbini which accounts for 17 percent of all in-migration. Bagmati appears to be the most common destination for adolescents and youth migrants, a trend which may be attributed due to the presence of better economic opportunities, infrastructure, higher education facilities, environment, and the capital city, among other factors (Table5.3)

Table 5.3: Inter-zonal and inter-provincial recent migration of adolescents and youth (10-24 years), NPHC 2021

Area	Total population	In-migration		Out-migration		Net migration	Net migration rate per 100*
		Number	%	Number	%		
Ecological zones							
Mountain	548,412	16,247	2.3	151,664	21.7	-135417	-24.7
Hill	3,387,015	257,262	36.9	386,039	55.3	-128777	-3.8
Tarai	4,592,399	424,061	60.8	159,867	22.9	+264194	5.8
Total	8,527,826	697,570	100.0	697,570	100.0		
Provinces							
Koshi	1,365,486	31,974	6.0	103,405	19.4	-71431	-5.2
Madhesh	1,854,882	23,173	4.4	95,910	18.0	-72737	-3.9
Bagmati	1,669,276	313,734	59.0	47,113	8.9	+266621	16.0

Area	Total population	In-migration		Out-migration		Net migration	Net migration rate per 100*
		Number	%	Number	%		
Gandaki	665,911	46,027	8.7	110,782	20.8	-64755	-9.7
Lumbini	1,525,432	90,448	17.0	63,853	12.0	+26595	1.7
Karnali	573,987	11,248	2.1	72,793	13.7	-61545	-10.7
Sudurpashchim	872,852	15,431	2.9	38,179	7.2	-22748	-2.6
Total	8,527,826	532,035	100.0	532,035	100.0		

Note: *Net-migration rate as a percentage of total population.

Flow of migration

Table 5.4 shows the percentage distribution of adolescents and youth lifetime migrants in Nepal based on different migration flows by ecological zones, provinces, urban and rural areas, caste and ethnic groups, and wealth quintile characteristics. The data indicates that the Mountain zone has the highest percentage of rural-to-rural migration (R-R), accounting for 94.1 percent of adolescents, whereas urban-to-urban migration (U-U) is more commonly observed among youth in Hill (17.9%) followed by Tarai (15.4%) zones.

An overwhelming rural-to-rural migration pattern is seen among adolescents and youth in all provinces. Additionally, urban-to-urban migration is mostly visible in Bagmati Province, accounting for 19.5 percent of adolescents and 26.4 percent of youth, followed by Gandaki and Koshi provinces. Madhesh and Karnali provinces are primarily dominated by rural-to-rural migration among adolescents and youth.

Urban adolescents and youth account for a higher proportion of urban-to-urban migration, with 23.1 percent and 30.8 percent respectively. Peri-urban areas exhibit balanced patterns, whereas rural areas are dominated by rural-to-urban migration flows, which account for more than 93 percent of adolescents and 85 percent of youth.

Table 5.4: Percentage distribution of adolescents and youth lifetime migrants by migration flow and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	Adolescents					Youth				
	Total (=100%)	Migration flow (%)				Total (=100%)	Migration flow (%)			
		R-R	U-R	R-U	U-U		R-R	U-R	R-U	U-U
Nepal	5,800,379	84.0	1.7	0.0	10.2	5,617,078	73.2	3.9	0.1	15.8
Ecological zones										
Mountain	386,358	94.1	2.0	0.0	2.8	348,105	86.9	5.3	0.1	5.0
Hill	2,259,632	80.0	1.6	0.0	12.1	2,271,167	68.2	3.6	0.1	17.9
Tarai	3,154,389	85.7	1.7	0.0	9.8	2,997,806	75.5	3.9	0.1	15.4
Provinces										
Koshi	926,240	83.4	2.6	0.0	10.7	913,220	74.5	5.1	0.0	14.8
Madhesh	1,305,228	94.0	0.7	0.0	4.1	1,170,938	82.5	3.2	0.0	10.4
Bagmati	1,065,393	68.0	1.0	0.0	19.5	1,170,076	55.7	2.2	0.0	26.4
Gandaki	442,289	78.7	2.5	0.1	14.2	445,285	68.8	4.3	0.3	19.1
Lumbini	1,045,675	86.0	2.6	0.1	9.0	1,005,643	77.2	5.4	0.2	12.8
Karnali	401,877	91.7	1.3	0.1	5.3	362,942	84.2	3.6	0.2	8.3
Sudurpashchim	613,677	87.0	1.7	0.0	9.2	548,974	77.8	4.1	0.1	13.5
Urban and rural areas										
Urban	1,460,287	65.8	0.6	0.0	23.1	1,559,104	53.1	1.0	0.0	30.8
Peri-urban	2,322,586	87.7	1.8	0.0	8.3	2,187,087	77.4	4.3	0.1	13.6
Rural	2,017,506	93.1	2.4	0.1	3.2	1,870,887	85.1	5.8	0.1	5.8
Caste and ethnic groups										
Hill Castes	1,661,773	76.6	2.0	0.0	15.3	1,631,762	65.2	3.9	0.1	21.2
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	997,406	92.3	0.9	0.0	4.8	909,138	80.9	3.7	0.1	10.3
Mountain/Hill Janajati	1,433,868	79.3	2.1	0.0	13.5	1,457,470	69.9	3.9	0.1	18.4
Tarai Janajati	481,908	92.4	0.9	0.0	4.5	527,294	83.2	2.7	0.1	9.0
Hill Dalits	571,557	84.4	2.6	0.1	9.8	521,089	73.1	5.5	0.2	15.2
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	306,310	94.6	1.0	0.0	3.2	273,671	81.4	4.7	0.1	9.8
Religious	339,091	94.4	0.8	0.0	3.3	288,420	85.6	2.9	0.1	7.8
Others	8,466	77.1	1.0	0.1	11.1	8,234	64.2	2.1	0.0	16.7
Wealth quintiles										
Lowest	1,292,017	95.2	1.5	0.0	2.4	1,078,695	87.4	4.6	0.1	5.6
Lower	1,258,362	93.2	1.8	0.0	3.7	1,185,614	84.5	4.9	0.1	7.4
Middle	1,202,000	87.8	1.9	0.0	7.8	1,156,323	78.1	4.5	0.1	12.6
Higher	1,059,638	71.7	1.9	0.0	19.4	1,104,611	59.8	3.3	0.1	26.2
Highest	947,733	68.3	1.0	0.0	20.7	1,018,986	58.5	1.7	0.0	27.0

5.3 International movement

The movement of the population across the international border of Nepal includes absentees abroad and foreign-born populations reported in Nepal. The data from NPHC 2021 which measure the movement of adolescents and youth outside of the country are comprised from a set of questions which asked household members for information on household member/s who were living abroad at the time of census by sex, age, education attainment, duration of absence, reason for absence, and country of destination. At the time of the census, adolescents and youth of some households were reported to be absent and living abroad, entailing overseas residence with family as a dependent or overseas residence for the purposes of study and/or work. The absent adolescent and youth population who were reported to be overseas are an important demographic as these groups will have a significant impact on the demographic structure, distribution, and size of the country.

Absentees from household

Out of a total of 2,190,592 Nepalis residing abroad in the 2021, 17.3 percent are adolescents, 44.5 percent are youth, and 47.5 percent are classified within the young population. Among the total absent male population living abroad, the share of male adolescents accounted for 17.5 percent, followed by youth (44.6%) and young people (47.2%). Similarly, 16.2 percent of the total absent female population living abroad were represented by adolescents, with young women represented at a rate of 44 percent and youth represented at a rate of 47 percent, as presented in Table 5.5. The share of absentees abroad increased with age, ranging from 2.7 percent in the 10-14 year age group to 29.9 percent in the 20-24 year age group, with these rates potentially being linked to studies and employment in foreign countries.

Table 5.5: Number and percentage of adolescents and youth living abroad, NPHC 2021

Age group	Total	Male	Female
Total absentee	2,190,592	1,799,675	390,917
10-14	58,832	46,971	11,861
15-19	319,596	268,221	51,375
20-24	655,716	535,082	120,634
Adolescent (10-19)	378,428	315,192	63,236
Youth (15-24)	975,312	803,303	172,009
Young (10-24)	1,034,144	850,274	183,870
Percentage of total			
10-14	2.7	2.6	3.0
15-19	14.6	14.9	13.1
20-24	29.9	29.7	30.9

Age group	Total	Male	Female
Adolescent (10-19)	17.3	17.5	16.2
Youth (15-24)	44.5	44.6	44.0
Young (10-24)	47.2	47.2	47.0

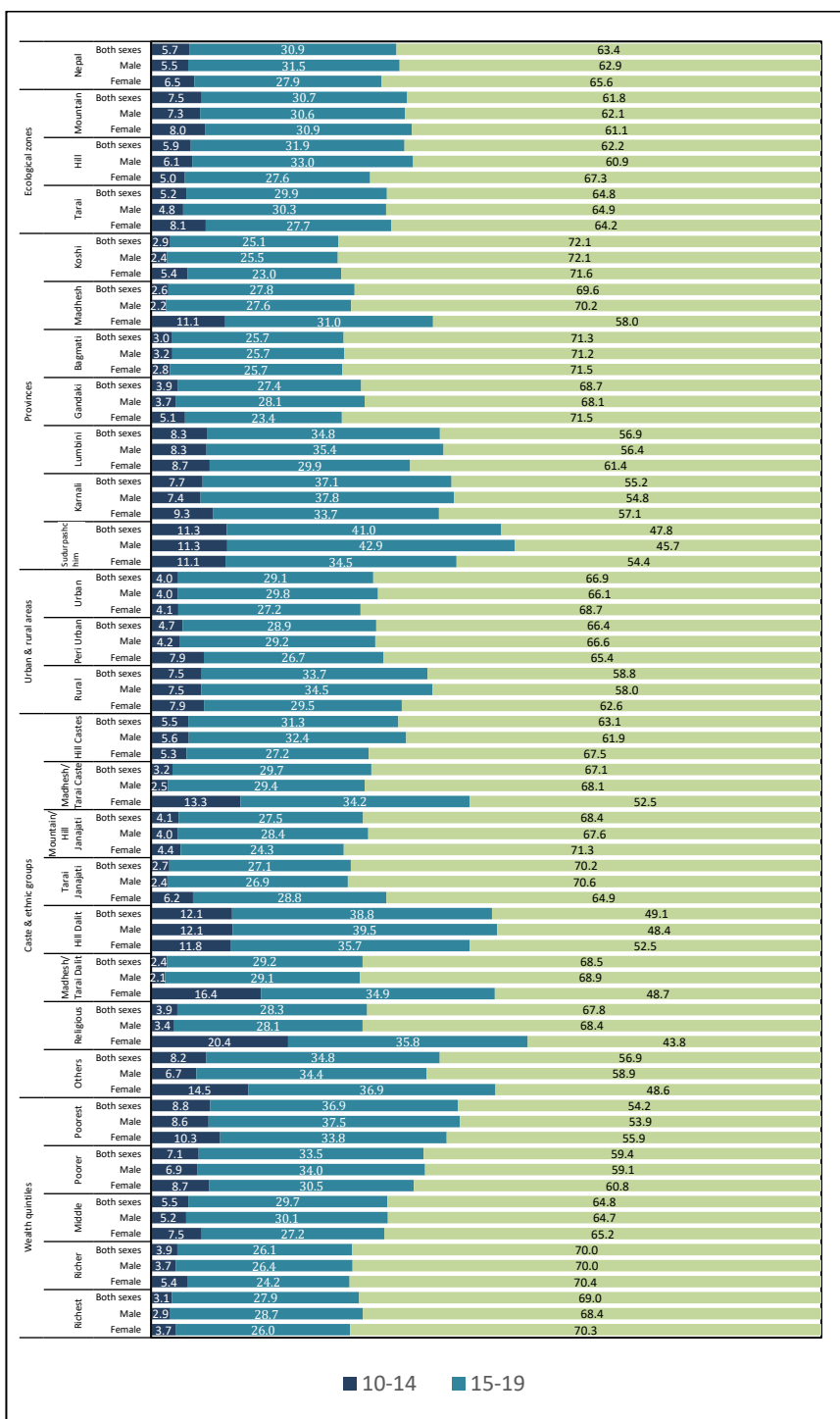
The distribution of the absentee adolescents and youth population in Nepal across different age groups and background characteristics is presented in Figure 5.2. Of a total of 1,034,144 absentee adolescents and youth, 63.4 percent are youth aged 20-24 years, followed by 30.9 percent being adolescents aged 15-19 years, and 5.7 percent being adolescents aged 10-14 years. This indicates that household absentees are more commonly among the youth age group, likely due to study and work commitments. By sex, male adolescents aged 10-14 years show a slightly lower percentage of absentees (5.5%) compared to females (6.5). However, male adolescents in the age group of 15-19 years show a higher percentage of absentees than females. The table also indicates that female youth in the 20-24 years age group have a higher percentage of absentees than males.

When addressing the data by ecological zones, it is observed that the highest percentage of adolescents and youth who were absent and living abroad were in the groups aged 10-14 years from the Mountain zone, adolescents and youth aged 15-19 years from the Hill zone, and youth aged 20-24 years from the Tarai zone. Female adolescents aged 10-19 years have a higher percentage of absentees in the Mountain zone, while the percentage of female youth absentees among the 20-24 years age group is notably higher than that for males in the Hill zone. Male adolescents aged 15-19 years and youth aged 20-24 years in the Tarai zone have a higher percentage of absentees compared to females.

The distribution of absentee adolescents and youth varies greatly by province. Sudurpashchim has a higher percentage of absentees among adolescents aged 10-14 years, suggesting that overseas migration in Sudurpashchim begins at a younger age. The same trend is seen for both males and female adolescents. In contrast, in Koshi (72.1%), Bagmati (71.3%), and Madhesh (69.6%) provinces, both sexes combined have the highest percentage of absentees among youth aged 20-24 years. It is noted that female adolescents in the 10-14 year age group have a higher percentage of absentees than males across all provinces. However, in Bagmati, Gandaki, Lumbini, Karnali, and Sudurpashchim provinces, male adolescents aged 15-19 years have a higher percentage of absentees compared to females, while female youth aged 20-24 years show the highest percentage of absentees compared to males in these provinces.

With regard to rural and urban areas, the highest number of youths who have migrated abroad between 20-24 years of age for both sexes are seen in urban areas at a rate of 66.9 percent, whereas the lowest percentage of adolescents (58.8%) migrated abroad from rural areas, with female youth having a slightly higher percentage of absentees than their male counterparts.

Figure 5.2: Percentage of adolescents and youth population absent from household by age at departure and background characteristics, NPHC 2021



The table also provides insights of adolescents and youth absentees among different caste and ethnic groups. The data indicates that Hill Dalit absentees have migrated abroad at the younger ages between 10-14 years than those from other caste and ethnic groups. This suggests that Hill Dalit may be subjected to social discrimination, low standards of living and economic pressures, which may result in early migration. Conversely, a greater proportion of Tarai Janajati (70.2%) have been absent from households between the ages of 20-24 years for both sexes. Similar patterns also observed among males and females. However, female adolescents and youth belonging to Madhesh/Tarai caste, Hill Dalit, Madhesh/Tarai Dalit, and religious groups have migrated at the younger ages between 10-20 years in comparison to males.

When addressing by wealth quintile, the data reveals that the highest percentage of adolescents and youth from the lowest and lower wealth quintiles have migrated abroad between ages of 10-14, indicating that poverty leads to increased migration at younger ages than for adolescents and youth from wealthier wealth quintiles for both sexes combined. The proportion of adolescents and youth absentees who migrated abroad between the ages of 20-24 increases as household wealth increases for both males and female adolescents and youth.

Destinations of international migration

The 2021 census provides information on adolescents and youth who are absent abroad by country of destination. Table 5.6 presents the data on the distribution of adolescents and youth who migrated abroad by country of destination and by each sex. India, followed by Middle East countries, ASEAN countries, and Pacific Ocean region countries, was the main destination for adolescents and youth who migrated abroad for both sexes combined. India accounted as a destination for 38.5 percent of total absentees. This percentage is particularly high among adolescents aged 10-14 years (83.1%). Middle East countries were the second largest destination for adolescents and youth absentees, accounting for 31.7 percent of total absentees. A large percentage of youth absentees aged 20-24 (40.1%) migrated to Middle East countries. ASEAN countries, other Asian countries, and Pacific Ocean Region countries are seen as notable destinations for youth absentees aged 20-24 years. In contrast, South American/Caribbean and African countries are the least popular destination among adolescents and youth of all age groups.

When disaggregated by sex, clear differences are seen in destination preferences. The most common destination for male adolescents and youth is India (38.2%), followed by Middle East countries (35.8%), ASEAN countries (10.4%), and other Asian countries (4.9%). Particularly, India is the most preferred destination for adolescents aged 10-14 years (85.3%). Similarly, India and Middle East countries are popular destinations among adolescents aged 15-19 years, accounting

for 56.1 percent and 21.9 percent respectively. Additionally, Middle East countries are the dominant destination for youth absentees aged 20-24 years (45.4%).

India remains as the most dominant destination for female adolescent and youth migrants, particularly those aged 15-19 years, accounting for 74.4 percent of total female absentees. Pacific Ocean Region countries (particularly for the 20-24 years age group at a rate of 15.5 percent), followed by Middle East countries (at a 16.2 percent rate for the 20-24 years age group), and other Asian countries (13.4 percent for the 20-24 years age group) are the most popular destination for female youth. Age trends show that an overwhelming majority of absentees aged 10-14 years migrated to India, likely as a result of study and work or familial migration. However, the largest share of adolescents and youth absentees migrate to Middle East countries, particularly males, likely due to seeking job or for labour related migration. A higher proportion of female youth absentees in the Pacific Ocean Region countries suggests other causes, such as family reunification, rather than labor migration.

Table 5.6: Percentage distribution of adolescents and youth absentees by country of destination, NPHC 2021

Country of Destination	Total	10-14	15-19	20-24	10-19	15-24
Both sexes (=100%)	1,034,144	58,832	319,596	655,716	378,428	975,312
India	38.5	83.1	55.6	26.2	59.9	35.8
SAARC except India	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4
ASEAN countries	8.8	1.2	8.0	9.9	7.0	9.3
Middle East countries	31.7	5.0	19.6	40.1	17.3	33.3
Other Asian countries	6.0	2.3	3.4	7.7	3.3	6.3
EU countries	3.0	1.5	1.8	3.7	1.7	3.1
Other European countries	1.9	2.4	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9
North American	3.6	3.1	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.7
South American/Caribbean countries	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
African countries	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Pacific Ocean Region countries	5.5	1.1	5.1	6.0	4.5	5.7
Other country	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Not Stated	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Males (=100%)	850,274	46,971	268,221	535,082	315,192	803,303
India	38.2	85.3	56.1	25.0	60.5	35.4
SAARC except India	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
ASEAN countries	10.4	1.3	9.3	11.7	8.1	10.9
Middle East countries	35.8	5.8	21.9	45.4	19.5	37.6
Other Asian countries	4.9	1.7	2.6	6.3	2.5	5.1
EU countries	2.3	1.1	1.4	2.8	1.3	2.3

Country of Destination	Total	10-14	15-19	20-24	10-19	15-24
Other European countries	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.6	1.4
North American	2.6	2.0	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.7
South American/Caribbean countries	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
African countries	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Pacific Ocean Region countries	3.6	0.8	3.6	3.9	3.2	3.8
Other country	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Not Stated	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Females (=100%)	183,870	11,861	51,375	120,634	63,236	172,009
India	40.2	74.4	52.7	31.5	56.8	37.8
SAARC except India	0.6	0.1	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.6
ASEAN countries	1.7	0.8	1.4	2.0	1.3	1.8
Middle East countries	12.9	1.8	7.5	16.2	6.4	13.6
Other Asian countries	11.3	4.4	7.8	13.4	7.2	11.8
EU countries	6.2	3.0	4.0	7.5	3.8	6.5
Other European countries	4.2	5.7	3.7	4.2	4.1	4.0
North American	8.3	7.1	8.6	8.3	8.3	8.3
South American/Caribbean countries	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
African countries	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Pacific Ocean Region countries	14.0	2.3	13.0	15.5	11.0	14.8
Other country	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2
Not Stated	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2

Reasons for absence

Table 5.7 displays the distribution of adolescents and youth absentees by reasons for absence for each sex. For both sexes, the most important reason for absence is salary/wage or job (65.1%), followed by study/training (14.2%), seeking job (11.1%), and dependency (7.4%). The classification of salary/wage or employment is found to be an important reason for absence among male adolescents and youth, whereas absence on the grounds of seeking a job, followed by study and training are the highest responses for those aged 15-19 years and 20-24 years. Absence due to salary/wage or job is also viewed as the most common reason for absence among female adolescents and youth, followed by study/training for those aged 15-19 years and 20-24 years.

Table 5.7: Percentage distribution of adolescents and youth absentees by reason for absence, NPHC 2021

Reason of absence	Total	10-14	15-19	20-24	10-19	15-24
Both sexes (=100%)	1,034,144	58,832	319,596	655,716	378,428	975,312
Salary/wage, job	65.1	27.7	62.7	69.7	57.2	67.4
Trade/business	0.6	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6
Study/training	14.2	11.1	14.8	14.2	14.2	14.4
Seeking job	11.1	6.3	11.7	11.2	10.9	11.4
Dependent	7.4	51.7	8.7	2.8	15.4	4.7
Others	0.7	2.1	0.7	0.6	1.0	0.7
Not stated	0.8	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.8
Males (=100%)	850,274	46,971	268,221	535,082	315,192	803,303
Salary/wage, job	70.7	32.6	68.0	75.4	62.8	73.0
Trade/business	0.5	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6
Study/training	10.6	9.8	11.0	10.5	10.8	10.6
Seeking job	11.8	7.2	12.4	11.9	11.6	12.0
Dependent	5.2	47.8	6.8	0.6	12.9	2.7
Others	0.5	1.6	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.4
Not stated	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.7
Females (=100%)	183,870	11,861	51,375	120,634	63,236	17,2009
Salary/wage, job	39.3	8.7	34.6	44.3	29.7	41.4
Trade/business	0.8	0.0	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.8
Study/training	31.0	16.2	34.6	31.0	31.1	32.0
Seeking job	8.0	2.4	8.4	8.4	7.2	8.4
Dependent	17.8	67.1	18.4	12.7	27.5	14.4
Others	2.0	4.0	2.1	1.8	2.4	1.9
Not stated	1.1	1.6	1.3	1.0	1.4	1.1

Age is a large influencing factor towards reasons for absence. It is noted that dependency is the single most important factor for absence among males and females aged 10-14 years. More specifically, 47.8 percent of male adolescents aged 10-14 years are absent from their households as a dependent, whereas only 0.6 percent of male youth aged 20-24 years are absent as dependents. The reason for absence due to salary/wage or job factors gradually increases with older age.

CHAPTER 6

LITERACY AND EDUCATION

Literacy level and educational attainment are key indicators of the socio-economic development of a country as they are linked to quality of life, level of awareness and level of skilled people in society. The knowledge and skills of adolescents and youth have the potential to change future social and economic environment of society and better literacy status and educational level have a positive impact on overall well-being of individuals, communities, and the entire social structure of a nation.

In Nepal, information on literacy status and education attainment have been collected in all the censuses conducted since the 1952/54 census. Since the 1991 census, literacy has been defined as the ability to read and write with comprehension in any language and carry out simple mathematical calculations. Educational attainment refers to the highest level of education that a person has completed.

This chapter intends to analyze the data on literacy level and its related trends, noting the variations by gender gap and by other background characteristics. Similarly, the data regarding educational attainment, school attendance, and major field of study will be analyzed with respect to background characteristics.

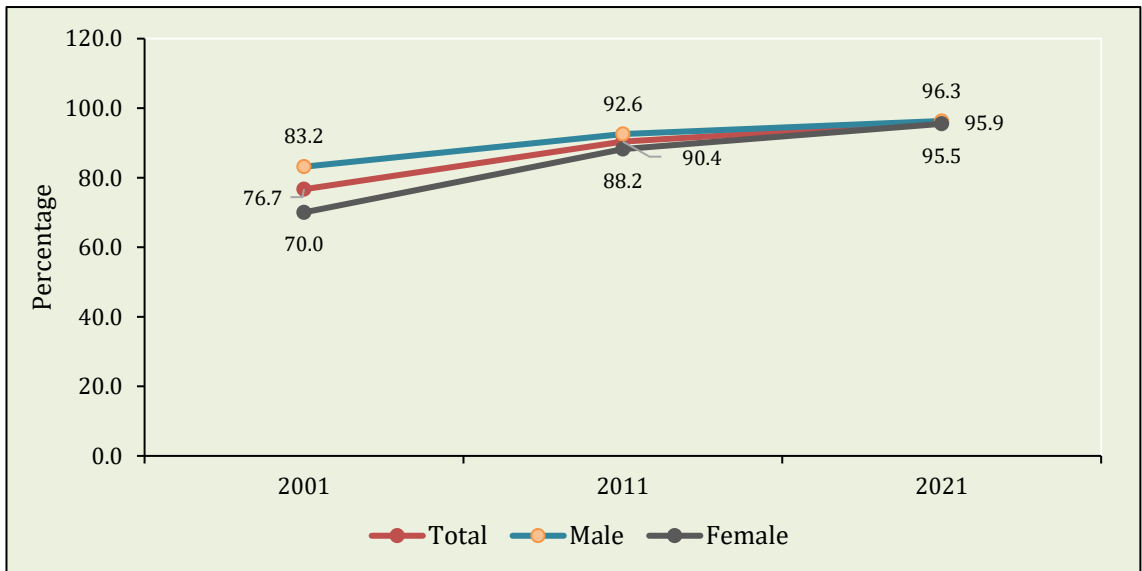
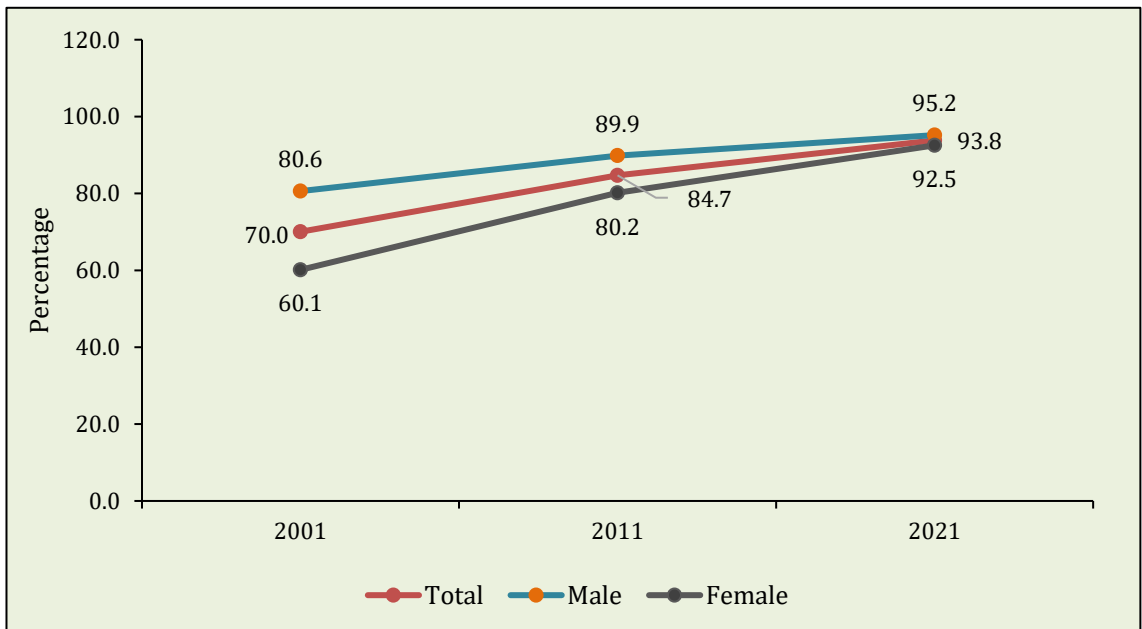
6.1 Level of literacy

The literacy rate in Nepal among adolescents and youth, as well as the intercensal change by sex for the period of 2001-2021 are shown in Table 6.1. Adolescent and youth literacy rates gradually increased from 76.7 percent and 70 percent in 2001 to 95.9 percent and 93.8 percent in 2021 respectively. In particular, the male and female literacy rates among adolescents increased from 83.2 percent and 70 percent in 2001 to 96.3 percent and 95.5 percent in 2021 respectively. The male youth literacy rate increased from 80.6 percent in 2001 to 95.2 percent in 2021, with the corresponding literacy rate for female youth increasing from 60.1 percent in 2001 to 92.5 percent in 2021. It is noted that the literacy rate improved by a percentage rate of 25.1 percent for adolescents (15.8% for males and 36.4% for females) and 33.9 percent for youth (18.1% for males and 53.9% for females) during the period between 2001 and 2021. Over the same period, the literacy rate of female adolescents and youth was seen to increase significantly more than that of male adolescents and youth. Overall, the reduction of the 13.1 percentage point gap in literacy rate between male and female adolescents in 2001 to a negligible 0.8 percentage point

in 2021, as well as the decrease in the literacy gap between male and female youth from 20.5 percentage points in 2001 to 2.7 percentage points in 2021, show extremely positive developments in Nepal’s progress towards full and equal literacy attainment (Figures 6.1 and 6.2).

Table 6.1: Literacy rates among adolescent and youth, and intercensal change by sex, Nepal, 2001-2021

Literate/Illiterate	Adolescents (10-19)			Youth (15-24)		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Number						
Literate						
2001	4,118,565	2,261,943	1,856,622	3,085,895	1,718,992	1,366,903
2011	5,792,106	2,969,091	2,823,015	4,481,559	2,234,745	2,246,814
2021	5,636,550	2,880,442	2,756,108	5,393,575	2,660,634	2,732,941
Illiterate						
2001	1,251,695	457,417	794,278	1,319,152	413,330	905,822
2011	613,013	237,771	375,242	805,970	251,509	554,461
2021	238,654	109,478	129,176	354,810	134,392	220,418
Literacy not stated						
2001	675	274	401	724	247	477
2011	2,285	959	1,326	2,522	918	1,604
2021	1,065	557	508	1,079	515	564
Literacy rate and percentage change, 2011-2021						
Literate	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
2001	76.7	83.2	70.0	70.0	80.6	60.1
2011	90.4	92.6	88.2	84.7	89.9	80.2
2021	95.9	96.3	95.5	93.8	95.2	92.5
Percent increase, 2001-2011	17.9	11.3	26.0	21.0	11.5	33.3
Precent increase, 2011-2021	6.1	4.1	8.2	10.7	5.9	15.4
Percent increase, 2001-2021	25.1	15.8	36.4	33.9	18.1	53.9
Illiterate						
2001	23.3	16.8	30.0	29.9	19.4	39.8
2011	9.6	7.4	11.7	15.2	10.1	19.8
2021	4.1	3.7	4.5	6.2	4.8	7.5
Percent decrease, 2001-2011	58.9	55.9	60.8	49.1	47.8	50.3
Precent decrease, 2011-2021	57.6	50.6	61.8	59.5	52.5	62.3
Percent decrease, 2001-2021	82.6	78.2	85.1	79.4	75.2	81.3

Figure 6.1: Trends in literacy rates among adolescents, 2001-2021 censuses**Figure 6.2: Trends in literacy rates among youth, 2001-2021 censuses**

Variation of literacy rate and gender gap

The trends and patterns of literacy in Nepal are greatly influenced by various socioeconomic factors and variations in the literacy levels of adolescents and youth are observed depending on region and socioeconomic background. Data on literacy rates and gender parity index (GPI)

among adolescents and youth are presented in Table 6.2. The gender parity index is an indicator that measures the relative access to education for males and females and it is defined as the ratio of female adolescents' literacy rate or female youth literacy rate to male adolescents' literacy rate or male youth literacy rate. The index is employed to monitor the progress towards gender equality in literacy. Table 6.2 shows that adolescents and youth residing in the Hill zone had the highest literacy rate compared to that of Mountain and Tarai zones. The literacy rate varied between ecological zones by a rate of 5 percentage points among adolescents and by 8 percentage points among youth.

Among the provinces, literacy rates among adolescents ranged from 87.9 percent in Madhesh (89.6% for males and 86.2% for females) to 99.2 percent in Gandaki (99.1% for males and 99.2% for females), depicting a difference of 11 percentage points. Similarly, literacy rates among youth ranged from 82 percent in Madhesh to 98.6 percent in Gandaki, representing a difference of 12 percentage points.

It is noticed that adolescents and youth living in rural areas show higher literacy rates than urban and peri-urban areas. The adolescent literacy rate in rural areas was 1.4 percentage points higher than those in urban areas and 5 percentage points than in peri-urban areas. On the other hand, the youth literacy rate in rural areas was 1 percentage point higher than in urban areas and 7 percentage points higher than in peri-urban areas.

There are wider variations in the literacy rate for adolescents and youth among caste and ethnic groups. Adolescents and youth from the Hill caste show the highest literacy rates, while those from the Madhesh/Tarai Dalits show the lowest literacy rates. The differences in literacy rates between caste and ethnic groups were 19 percentage points among adolescents and 21 percentage points among youth.

Table 6.2: Literacy rate among adolescents and youth by sex and gender parity index by background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Area	Adolescents				Youth			
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Gender parity index	Both sexes	Male	Female	Gender parity index
Nepal	95.9	96.3	95.5	0.99	93.8	95.2	92.5	0.97
Ecological zones								
Mountain	98.3	98.5	98.2	1.00	96.1	97.2	95.2	0.98
Hill	98.9	98.9	98.9	1.00	98.0	98.3	97.7	0.99
Tarai	93.5	94.2	92.7	0.98	90.4	92.6	88.3	0.95
Provinces								
Koshi	97.9	97.9	97.8	1.00	96.4	97.0	95.9	0.99
Madhesh	87.9	89.6	86.2	0.96	82.0	86.7	77.3	0.89

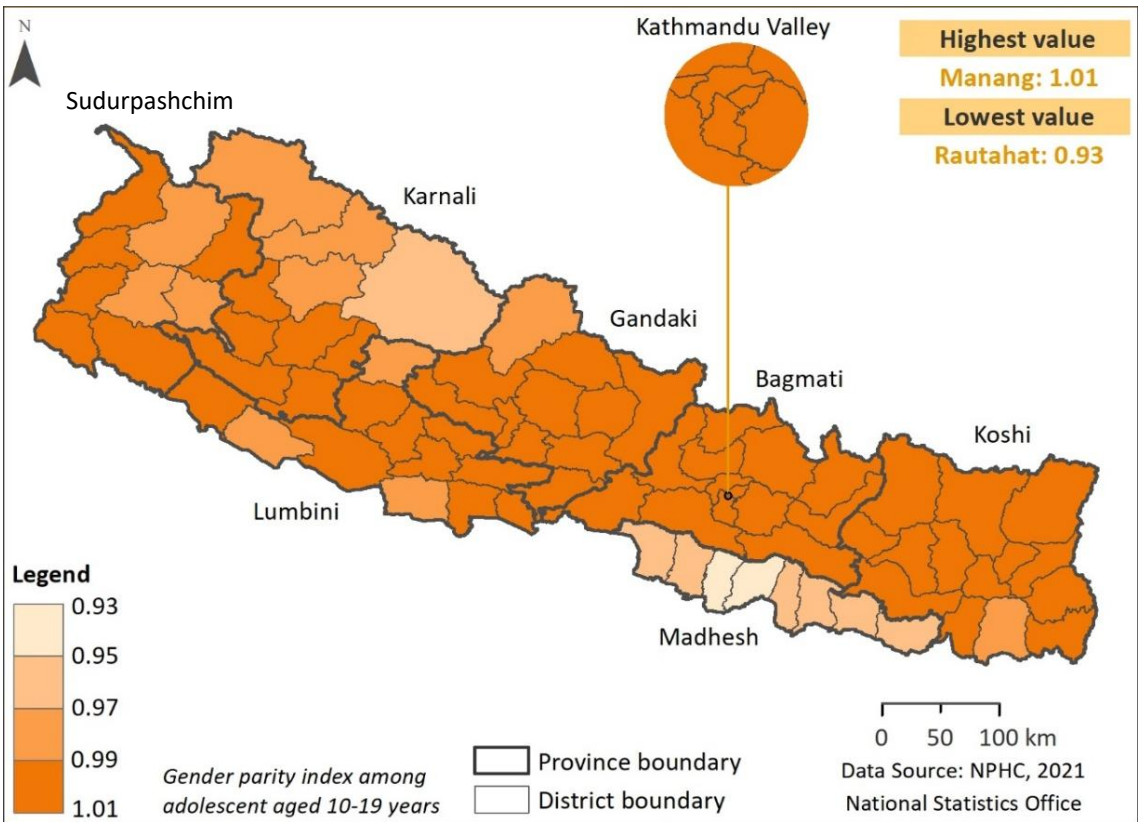
Area	Adolescents				Youth			
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Gender parity index	Both sexes	Male	Female	Gender parity index
Bagmati	98.8	98.7	98.8	1.00	97.8	98.0	97.6	1.00
Gandaki	99.2	99.1	99.2	1.00	98.6	98.7	98.5	1.00
Lumbini	97.1	97.3	96.9	1.00	95.3	96.3	94.4	0.98
Karnali	98.6	98.7	98.5	1.00	97.0	97.7	96.3	0.99
Sudurpashchim	98.8	98.9	98.6	1.00	97.4	98.3	96.7	0.98
Urban and rural areas								
Urban	96.9	97.1	96.6	0.99	95.8	96.5	95.1	0.99
Peri-urban	93.3	94.1	92.4	0.98	89.9	92.3	87.5	0.95
Rural	98.3	98.4	98.2	1.00	96.8	97.4	96.2	0.99
Caste and ethnic groups								
Hill Castes	99.3	99.3	99.2	1.00	98.7	99.0	98.4	0.99
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	93.4	94.3	92.3	0.98	89.0	92.3	85.4	0.93
Mountain/Hill Janajati	98.6	98.6	98.6	1.00	97.7	97.9	97.4	0.99
Tarai Janajati	97.8	97.9	97.8	1.00	96.3	97.1	95.7	0.99
Hill Dalits	98.3	98.4	98.2	1.00	96.5	97.2	95.9	0.99
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	80.2	82.8	77.5	0.94	70.8	77.5	64.2	0.83
Religious	83.1	85.1	80.9	0.95	76.1	81.6	71.0	0.87
Others	90.5	90.2	90.9	1.01	85.3	87.6	81.4	0.93
Wealth quintiles								
Lowest	91.6	92.2	90.9	0.99	86.7	89.1	84.4	0.95
Lower	95.4	95.8	95.0	0.99	92.6	94.3	91.1	0.97
Middle	92.3	96.6	95.8	0.99	93.6	95.3	92.1	0.97
Higher	98.3	98.4	98.1	1.00	97.0	97.7	96.3	0.99
Highest	99.4	99.4	99.4	1.00	99.1	99.2	98.9	1.00

In terms of wealth quintile, it can be observed that adolescents from the lowest household wealth quintile had the lowest literacy rate of 91.6 percent (92.2% for males and 90.9% for females), whereas those from the highest household group had highest literacy rate of 99.4 percent (99.4% for males and 99.4% for females). Literacy rates varied by 8 percentage points for adolescents and 10 percentage points for youth.

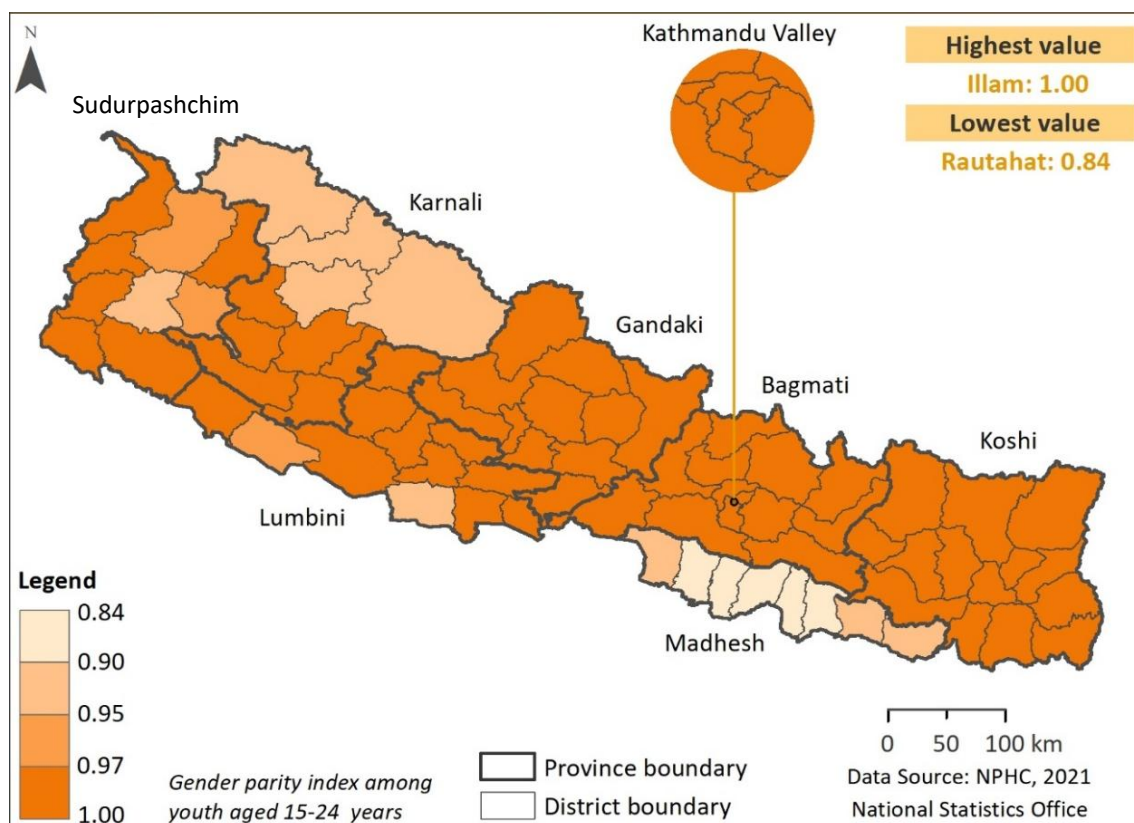
At the national level, the gender parity index for the adolescent literacy rate is 0.99, while the same index figure is 0.97 for the youth literacy rate. It is found that female adolescents from Tarai zone, from urban and peri-urban areas, from Madhesh/Tarai caste, and from the lowest, lower, and middle-wealth quintiles have almost reached gender parity, while female adolescents from Madhesh Province, and belonging to Madhesh/Tarai Dalit and religious groups are more disadvantaged with regard to literacy attainment than male adolescents. On the other hand, the gender parity index for youth who reside in Mountain and Hill zones, from Koshi,

Madhesh, Lumbini, Karnali, and Sudurpashchim provinces, from urban and rural areas, belonging to Hill Castes, Mountain/Hill Janajati, Tarai Janajati, and Hill Dalits castes, and those from lower, middle, and higher wealth quintiles have almost reached gender parity. However, the gender parity index figure is less than 1.0 in Tarai zone, in peri-urban areas, among Madhesh/Tarai Caste, Madhesh/Tarai Dalits, and religious groups, and in the lowest wealth quintile. This suggests that female youth are more disadvantaged with regard to literacy attainment than compared to male youth counterparts.

Map 6.1: Gender parity index in literacy rate among adolescent by districts, NPHC 2021



The gender parity index in literacy rates for adolescents is depicted in Map 6.1. The highest gender parity index was observed in Taplejung (1.01) and the lowest in Kanchanpur (0.93). There are 57 districts which have reached to gender parity in literacy (GPI=1) and 17 districts are close to attaining gender parity. Achham, Kailai, and Kanchapur are the three districts with lower gender parity indexes, indicating that females are more disadvantaged than males with regard to literacy in these districts.

Map 6.2: Gender parity index in literacy rate among youth by districts, NPHC 2021

Map 6.2 depicts the gender parity index in literacy rates among youth aged 15-24 years. The districts with higher gender parity index in literacy rates for youth were Taplejung, followed by Sankhuwasabha, Solukhumbu, and Okhaldhunga. Conversely, Kanchanpur is a district with lowest gender parity index in literacy. Of the 77 districts, 31 districts have reached gender parity. 30 districts are near to achieving gender parity in literature, with values ranging from 0.97 in Humla to 0.99 in Ramechhap. 16 districts appear far from attaining gender parity, with the GPI for these districts ranging from 0.84 in Kanchanpur to 0.96 in Jumla, indicating a greater level of disadvantage of female youth than male youth in literacy levels.

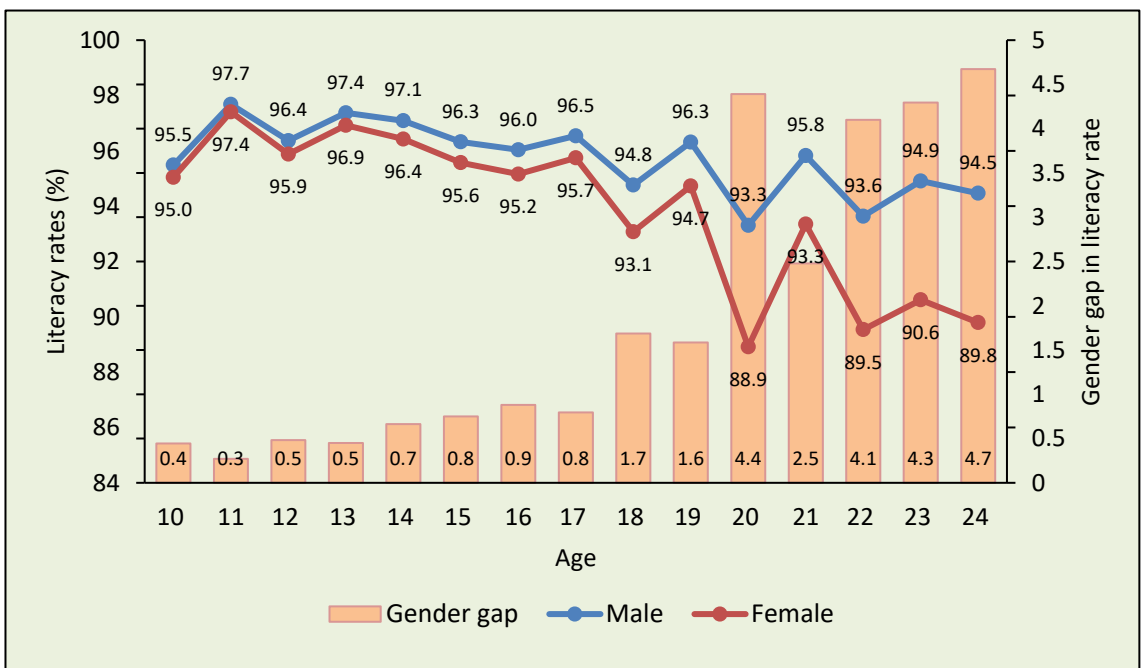
Literacy rate by age and sex

The data on literacy rate by age and by sex is presented in Figure 6.3. It illustrates a discontinuous relationship between age and literacy rate. The literacy rate is lower for both males and female at the age of 10 years, followed by a rise in literacy rate at age 11 years and a subsequent decline at the age of 12 years. The literacy rate is high for both males and females by age of 17 years. After the age of 17 years, the literacy rate tends to decline with advancing age. It is anticipated

that younger generations are more likely to receive education due to more available access to educational facilities and greater awareness regarding early childhood education. It is also noted that the gender gap in literacy is narrowest at the youngest age and widens with advancing age, resulting in the highest gender gap occurring at the age of 24 years.

Nepal has narrowed the gender gap in important socio-economic domains, notably in education, health, and in participation in political decision-making processes. Improvement has also been made in eliminating practices which promote gender inequality and violence. Despite significant progress made in ensuring wage equality for similar work, women’s average wage stands at only 62 percent of that of men’s. Furthermore, the Gender Inequality Index and Gender Empowerment Measurement stand at 0.49 and 0.57 respectively. As of 2024, Nepal ranks 117th on the Global Gender Gap Index, which measures gender gaps between women and men across economic participation, educational attainment, health and political empowerment (World Economic Forum, 2024).

Figure 6.3: Literacy rate by age and sex and gender gap, NPHC 2021



6.2 Educational attainment

The following section of the report describes Nepal’s educational distribution among adolescents and youth by sex. Data on educational attainment among adolescents and youth, presented in Table 6.3, shows that 63.2 percent of adolescents have completed a basic level of

education (Grades 1-8), whereas 35.8 percent of adolescents have completed secondary education. No substantial differences in educational attainment between male and female adolescents is observed.

Table 6.3: Level of Educational attainment by Youth and Adolescent and sex, 2021 Census

Level of education	Adolescents			Youth		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total (=100%)	5,636,550	2880442	2,75,6108	5,393,575	2,660,634	2,732,941
Early childhood education	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Basic education (Grades 1-8)						
Primary (1-5)	29.2	30.4	27.9	7.6	7.8	7.4
Lower secondary (6-8)	34.0	34.2	33.8	20.7	21.9	19.5
Secondary education						
Upper secondary (9-10)	17.2	16.7	17.6	24.8	24.3	25.3
SLC/SEE and equivalent	11.5	11.0	12.0	18.0	18.1	18.0
Intermediate and equivalent	7.1	6.6	7.7	23.5	22.7	24.2
Higher education						
Graduate and equivalent	0.3	0.2	0.3	4.2	3.9	4.5
Post graduate, equivalent and above				0.5	0.4	0.5
Other						
Others/no level	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3
Level not stated	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Never attending school/college	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

The 2021 census results regarding the distribution of youth by educational attainment revealed that 28.3 percent of youth have completed basic education, 66.3 percent have completed secondary education, and 4.7 percent of adolescents have completed higher education. There is no significant difference in educational attainment between male and female youth.

Education attainment by background characteristics

In Nepal, 64.7 percent of male adolescents and 61.7 percent of female adolescents have completed primary level education. The proportion of those who have completed secondary education is highest among female adolescents (37.3%) than among male adolescents (34.3%). A similar pattern is observed for higher education (Table 6.4).

According to ecological zones, the percentages of male and female adolescents who have completed basic education are highest in Tarai zone (67.3% for males and 64.5% for females) and lowest in Hill zone (60.8% for males and 57.6% for females), while the shares of male and female adolescents who have completed secondary education are highest in Hill as compared to Mountain and Tarai zones. Likewise, the highest percentages of male and female adolescent with higher education are found in the Hill zone.

The percentage of male and female adolescents with secondary education is lowest among those residing in Madhesh (28.8% for males and 29.3% for females) and highest among male and female adolescents residing in Bagmati (41.5% for males and 45.1% for females). Bagmati reports the highest percentages of male and female adolescents who have completed higher education. Conversely, the lowest percentages of male and female adolescents with higher education are found in Karnali and Madhesh provinces respectively. Male and female adolescents in urban areas are generally more likely to have completed at least secondary education (42% for males and 45% for females).

Table 6.4: Percentage distribution of adolescents by sex and level of education, and background characteristics, 2021 Census

Background characteristics	Male						Female					
	Early childhood education	Basic education (1-8)	Secondary education (9-12)	Higher education	Others	Never attending	Early childhood education	Basic education (1-8)	Secondary education (9-12)	Higher education	Others	Never attending
Nepal	0.3	64.7	34.3	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.2	61.7	37.3	0.3	0.4	0.1
Ecological zones												
Mountain	0.2	66.5	32.6	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.2	64.0	35.2	0.2	0.3	0.1
Hill	0.1	60.8	38.2	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	57.6	41.4	0.4	0.3	0.1
Tarai	0.4	67.3	31.7	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.3	64.5	34.4	0.2	0.4	0.1
Provinces												
Koshi	0.1	63.2	36.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	58.8	40.5	0.3	0.2	0.1
Madesh	0.5	70.0	28.8	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.4	69.4	29.3	0.2	0.5	0.2
Bagmati	0.1	57.2	41.5	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.1	53.9	45.1	0.6	0.3	0.1
Gandaki	0.1	58.4	40.5	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	54.7	44.1	0.5	0.4	0.1
Lumbini	0.4	68.4	30.6	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.3	64.8	34.1	0.2	0.4	0.1
Karnali	0.2	64.9	34.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	62.3	36.9	0.2	0.4	0.1
Sudurpashchim	0.3	68.0	31.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	64.7	34.5	0.2	0.3	0.1
Urban and rural areas												
Urban	0.2	57.2	41.5	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.2	54.3	44.4	0.6	0.3	0.1
Peri-urban	0.4	68.0	30.9	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.3	65.3	33.6	0.2	0.4	0.1
Rural	0.2	66.6	32.7	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	62.9	36.3	0.2	0.3	0.1
Caste and ethnic groups												
Hill Castes	0.1	57.4	41.8	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	54.3	44.7	0.5	0.3	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	0.5	68.1	30.8	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4	68.2	30.8	0.2	0.2	0.2
Mountain/Hill Janajati	0.2	62.4	36.6	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.1	57.8	41.3	0.4	0.3	0.1
Tarai Janajati	0.3	67.1	32.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	60.5	38.7	0.2	0.3	0.1
Hill Dalits	0.2	71.2	28.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	67.9	31.3	0.1	0.3	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	0.6	78.0	20.9	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.5	79.0	20.0	0.0	0.3	0.2
Religious	0.8	77.4	20.0	0.1	1.3	0.4	0.6	78.8	18.3	0.1	1.7	0.4
Others	0.3	69.9	27.5	0.3	1.5	0.6	0.3	66.3	31.7	0.5	0.7	0.4

Background characteristics	Male						Female					
	Early childhood education	Basic education (1-8)	Secondary education (9-12)	Higher education	Others	Never attending	Early childhood education	Basic education (1-8)	Secondary education (9-12)	Higher education	Others	Never attending
Wealth quintiles												
Lowest	0.3	74.3	24.8	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.3	72.1	27.0	0.1	0.4	0.1
Lower	0.3	68.0	31.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	64.5	34.6	0.2	0.4	0.1
Middle	0.3	66.3	32.7	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	62.6	36.3	0.2	0.4	0.2
Higher	0.3	60.3	38.7	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	56.6	42.4	0.4	0.3	0.1
Highest	0.1	52.4	46.5	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.1	49.4	49.4	0.8	0.3	0.1

By caste and ethnic groups, the highest percentages of male and female adolescents who have completed secondary education are found in the Hill caste (41.8% for males and 44.7% for females), followed by Mountain/Hill Janajati (36.6% for males and 41.3% for females), and the lowest in religious groups (20% for males and 18.3% for females), followed by Madhesh/Tarai Dalits (20.9% for males and 20% for females).

Around 25 percent of male adolescents and 27 percent of female adolescents from the lowest wealth quintile have completed at least secondary education than compared with 47 percent of male adolescents and 50 percent of female adolescents from the highest wealth quintile (Table 6.4). Additionally, it is noted that proportion of male and female adolescents who have completed at least secondary education increases as the wealth quintile increases. The detail results of educational attainment among adolescents are presented in Annex A6.1.

Data on educational attainment among youth, including ecological zones, provinces, urban/rural areas, caste and ethnic groups, and wealth quintiles are presented in Table 6.5 (and detailed in Annex A6.1). The data shows that 66.2 percent of male youth have completed secondary education, followed by 29.8 percent who have completed basic education, and only 4.4 percent who have completed higher education at the national level. Conversely, 76.5 percent of female adolescents have completed secondary education, 26.8 percent have completed basic education, and 4.5 percent have completed higher education.

By ecological zone, the percentage rates of male and female youth with secondary education and higher education levels are lowest in Mountain and highest in Hill zones. Among the provinces, Gandaki shows the highest percentages of male and female youth who have completed secondary education, whereas Madhesh shows the lowest percentage. Male and female youth living in Bagmati Province are more likely to have a higher education than those living in other provinces. Similarly, those residing in urban areas are more likely to have completed secondary or higher education than those living in rural or peri-urban areas.

By caste and ethnic groups, the percentages of male and female youth who have completed secondary education are lowest in the religious group and highest in Hill castes. Furthermore, the percentages of male and female youth with higher education are highest in Hill castes and lowest for Madhesh/Tarai Dalits.

Education attainment is directly related to socio-economic status. An examination of educational attainment by wealth quintile reveals that male and female youth in the highest wealth quintile are more likely to have obtained a secondary or higher education level. According to Table 6.5, almost 80 percent of male youth in the highest wealth quintile reported completing secondary education (9-12) and 10.9 percent completing higher education, compared to 52.0 percent of male youth in the lowest wealth quintile completing secondary education and 1.2 percent completing higher education, showing an almost ninefold difference in the higher education attainment between the two wealth quintiles. For the female youth population, almost 78 percent of female youth in the highest wealth quintile report having completed secondary education and about 13 percent have completed higher education, compared to the rate of over 55 percent and 1.2 percent respectively in the lowest wealth quintile, demonstrating a similar trend.

Table 6.5: Percentage distribution of youth by sex and level of education, and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Area	Male						Female					
	Early childhood education	Basic education (1-8)	Secondary education (9-12)	Higher education	Others	Never attending	Early childhood education	Basic education (1-8)	Secondary education (9-12)	Higher education	Others	Never attending
Nepal	0.1	29.8	65.2	4.4	0.5	0.1	0.1	26.8	67.5	4.9	0.6	0.1
Ecological zones												
Mountain	0.1	30.4	66.2	2.7	0.6	0.1	0.1	28.5	67.8	3.0	0.6	0.1
Hill	0.0	25.5	68.5	5.4	0.5	0.1	0.1	22.6	70.5	6.3	0.5	0.1
Tarai	0.1	33.1	62.4	3.8	0.5	0.1	0.1	30.2	64.9	4.1	0.6	0.1
Provinces												
Koshi	0.0	29.9	66.3	3.2	0.4	0.1	0.0	23.9	71.6	4.0	0.4	0.1
Madhesh	0.0	35.6	59.6	4.0	0.6	0.2	0.1	35.5	60.1	3.2	0.9	0.2
Bagmati	0.0	22.3	69.3	7.7	0.7	0.1	0.0	18.1	72.1	9.1	0.5	0.1
Gandaki	0.1	22.3	72.7	4.4	0.5	0.1	0.1	19.5	73.6	6.2	0.5	0.1
Lumbini	0.1	36.6	59.9	2.9	0.5	0.1	0.1	33.6	61.8	3.7	0.6	0.1
Karnali	0.1	28.1	68.9	2.4	0.5	0.1	0.1	26.7	70.3	2.4	0.5	0.1
Sudurpashchim	0.1	30.1	65.8	3.6	0.4	0.0	0.1	28.7	66.8	3.8	0.5	0.1
Urban and rural areas												
Urban	0.0	19.8	71.5	8.1	0.5	0.1	0.0	16.7	73.1	9.6	0.5	0.1
Peri-urban	0.1	34.0	62.0	3.3	0.6	0.1	0.1	31.0	64.5	3.6	0.7	0.1

Area	Male						Female					
	Early childhood education	Basic education (1-8)	Secondary education (9-12)	Higher education	Others	Never attending	Early childhood education	Basic education (1-8)	Secondary education (9-12)	Higher education	Others	Never attending
Rural	0.1	33.9	63.2	2.2	0.5	0.1	0.1	30.4	66.2	2.7	0.5	0.1
Caste and ethnic groups												
Hill Castes	0.0	16.1	76.4	7.1	0.3	0.0	0.1	14.7	76.8	8.0	0.4	0.0
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	0.1	32.6	62.0	4.8	0.4	0.1	0.1	33.8	61.6	3.8	0.5	0.2
Mountain/Hill Janajati	0.0	29.9	65.9	3.4	0.7	0.1	0.1	24.4	70.1	4.9	0.5	0.1
Tarai Janajati	0.1	35.8	61.2	2.4	0.4	0.1	0.1	27.3	69.1	2.9	0.5	0.1
Hill Dalits	0.1	41.1	56.6	1.7	0.5	0.1	0.1	38.9	58.5	1.8	0.6	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	0.1	52.5	45.4	1.3	0.6	0.2	0.1	55.1	43.0	0.7	0.8	0.3
Religious	0.1	51.4	44.1	2.3	1.7	0.4	0.1	57.2	37.6	1.8	2.8	0.5
Others	0.1	48.4	44.6	4.5	1.7	0.7	0.1	34.7	56.1	7.3	1.4	0.4
Wealth quintiles												
Lowest	0.1	45.9	52.0	1.2	0.6	0.1	0.1	42.8	55.0	1.2	0.8	0.2
Lower	0.1	37.6	59.9	1.8	0.5	0.1	0.1	33.7	63.4	2.1	0.6	0.1
Middle	0.1	33.3	63.2	2.8	0.5	0.2	0.1	29.6	66.4	3.2	0.6	0.2
Higher	0.0	23.6	70.7	5.1	0.4	0.1	0.1	20.5	73.1	5.7	0.5	0.1
Highest	0.0	10.5	78.2	10.9	0.3	0.0	0.0	9.0	78.0	12.6	0.4	0.1

6.3 School attendance status

Information on status of school attendance for adolescents and youth are of key concern for planners and policy makers. The status of school attendance is classified into three categories: currently attending, ever attending, and never attending. Higher populations of attendance indicate higher enrollment per institution. Ever attendance indicates the out-of-school population and therefore the data on never attending and on the out-of-school population may provide an additional opportunity to identify potential influencing factors and hindering processes in the context of overall educational attainment.

Data on school attendance among adolescents and youth shows that 90.8 percent of children (aged 10-14 years) were found to be currently attending school at the time of the census, while 5.7 percent had ever attended school (or only attended in the past and have since stopped attending) and 3.5 percent had never attended school. There is no significant variation in school attendance between males and females. The proportion of school attendance is 76.7 percent for the 15-19 year and 32.6 percent for the 20-24 year age groups. However, little difference was observed for the 20-24 year age group, with the proportion of males currently attending school being higher than that of females. The proportion of those who had ever attended school was highest among those aged 20-24 years, followed by those aged 15-19 years, with no

significant variation between sexes. The gender gap in school attendance were minimal across all age groups. Furthermore, it is noticed that school attendance was higher in the younger ages than in older ages (Figure 6.4).

Figure 6.4: School attendance status of adolescent and youth, NPHC 2021

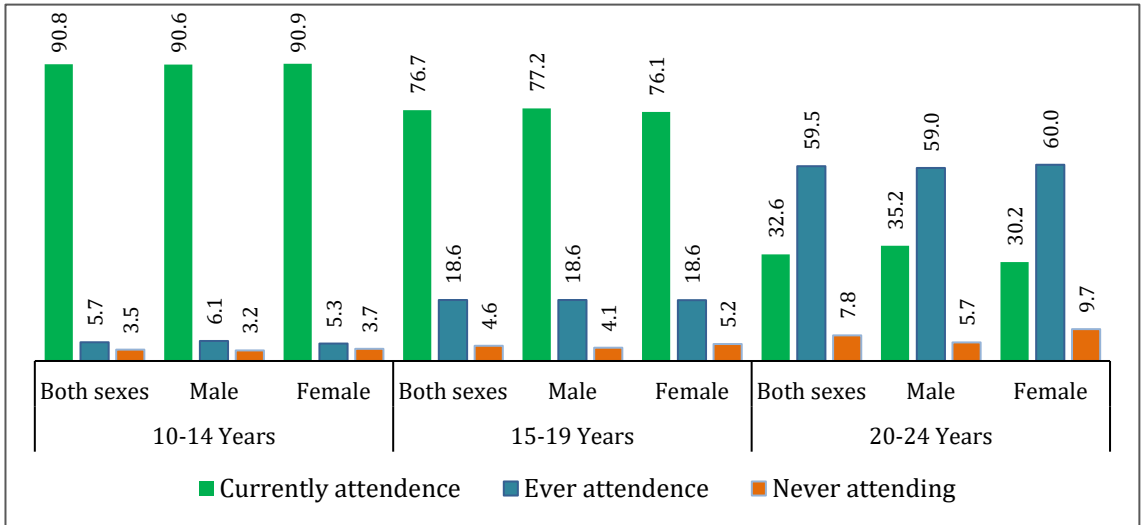
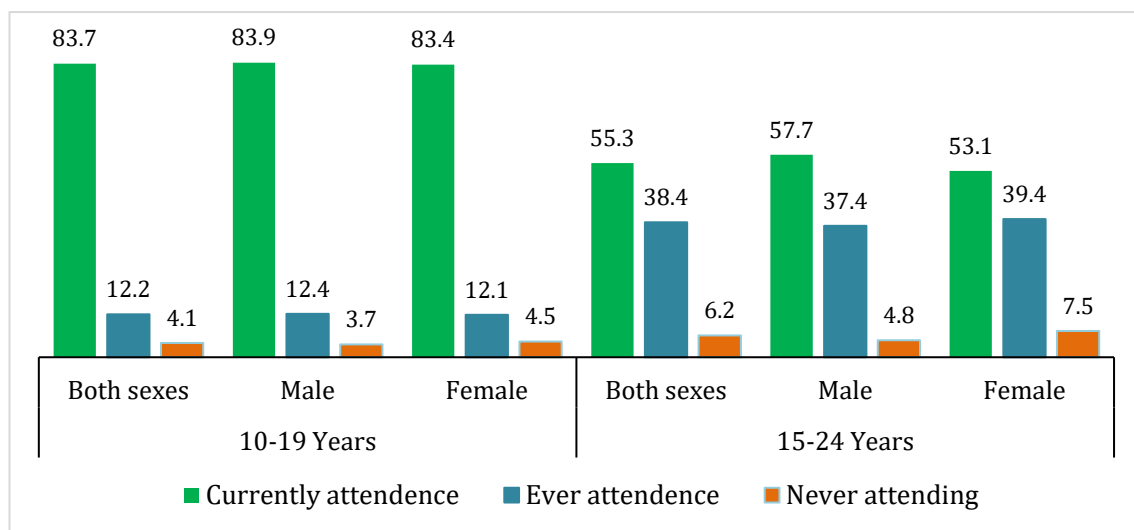


Figure 6.5 depicts the percentage of adolescents and youth by school attendance status. School attendance among adolescents is 83.7 percent (83.9% for males and 83.4% for females). However, the figure is seen to be significantly less among youth, with a comparatively lower rate of 55.3 percent (57.7% for males and 53.1% for females). In addition, the proportion of youth who had ever attended school was three times higher than the proportion of adolescents who had ever attended school. It is observed that 4.1 percent of adolescents have never attended school with little variation perceived between the sexes. Non-attendance is a major of concern for planners when developing a strategic programme for enhancing quality education opportunities.

Figure 6.5: School attendance status of adolescent and youth, NPHC 2021

Current school attendance by background characteristics

Data on current school attendance among adolescents by background characteristics, including ecological zone, province, urban/rural area, caste and ethnic group, and wealth quintile are presented in Table 6.6. By ecological zone, it can be observed that the proportions of male and female adolescents currently attending school were highest in Tarai, at 81.8 percent and 87.9 percent respectively. With regards to provinces, the highest proportion of male and female adolescents currently attending school is found in Gandaki Province (88.6% and 89.2% respectively) and the lowest is found in Madhesh Province (77.2% and 74.0% respectively), with small differences seen across provinces. By urban/rural areas, peri-urban areas have the highest percentage of male and female adolescents currently attending school. In terms of caste and ethnic groups, the proportion of male and female adolescents currently attending school at the time of the census is highest in the Hill caste (92.6% and 92.0% respectively) and lowest in the Madhesh/Tarai Dalit (65.7% and 61.2%) and religious groups (66.5% and 61.1%), with an almost 27 percentage point difference observed for males and over a 31 percentage point difference seen for females.

Notable variations in the proportion of male and female adolescents currently attending school by wealth quintile are observed. The proportion of adolescents currently attending school increases as household wealth increases. Adolescents from the lowest households are less likely to be currently attending school, whereas the likelihood for adolescent from the highest households to currently be attending school is higher.

Table 6.6: Currently school attendance of adolescent by sex and gender gap, and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	Male	Females	Gender gap
Ecological zones			
Mountain	87.7	87.4	0.3
Hill	87.3	87.8	-0.4
Tarai	81.1	79.7	1.4
Provinces			
Koshi	84.1	85.1	-1.0
Madhesh	77.2	74.0	3.2
Bagmati	86.8	88.6	-1.7
Gandaki	88.6	89.2	-0.5
Lumbini	82.7	81.5	1.2
Karnali	88.4	87.2	1.2
Sudurpashchim	88.9	87.7	1.2
Urban and rural areas			
Urban	87.4	87.8	-0.5
Peri-urban	80.7	79.1	1.6
Rural	85.1	85.1	0.0
Caste and ethnic groups			
Hill Castes	92.6	92.0	0.5
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	82.3	80.0	2.3
Mountain/Hill Janajati	84.9	86.1	-1.2
Tarai Janajati	81.1	83.4	-2.3
Hill Dalits	83.1	82.3	0.9
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	65.7	61.2	4.5
Religious	66.5	61.1	5.3
Others	53.5	72.4	-18.9
Wealth quintiles			
Lowest	76.8	76.3	0.5
Lower	81.1	80.6	0.5
Middle	82.8	82.3	0.6
Higher	87.7	87.4	0.2
Highest	93.9	93.8	0.1

Distribution of youth by those currently attending school, according to background characteristics, are presented in Table 6.7. It has been observed that youth living in the Tarai zone show the lowest proportion who currently attend school (55.2% for males and 48.4% for females), with some variation seen across ecological zones and sexes. The proportion of male youth who currently attended school is the highest in Gandaki (63.0%) and lowest in Madhesh/Tarai (53.9%), while the proportion of female youth who currently attended school is

found highest (62.2%) in Bagmati and lowest (42.0%) in Madhesh/Tarai, with a large gender difference visible in Madhesh/Tarai. When addressing urban/rural areas, peri-urban areas show the lowest percentage of youth currently attending school, with a 7.2 percentage point gender gap.

Table 6.7: Currently school attendance of youth by sex and gender gap, and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	Currently attendance		
	Males	Females	Gender gap
Ecological zones			
Mountain	59.0	57.0	2.0
Hill	60.9	58.8	2.1
Tarai	55.2	48.4	6.8
Provinces			
Koshi	54.2	52.0	2.2
Madhesh	53.9	42.0	11.8
Bagmati	62.2	62.2	-0.1
Gandaki	63.0	61.1	1.9
Lumbini	54.2	50.0	4.2
Karnali	60.8	56.0	4.9
Sudurpashchim	62.1	56.5	5.7
Urban and rural areas			
Urban	65.8	63.4	2.4
Peri-urban	54.1	46.9	7.2
Rural	54.7	52.1	2.6
Caste and ethnic groups			
Hill Castes	71.6	66.6	5.1
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	59.1	47.3	11.7
Mountain/Hill Janajati	54.9	55.1	-0.2
Tarai Janajati	48.9	48.4	0.5
Hill Dalits	51.2	47.2	4.0
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	37.3	27.7	9.7
Religious	40.5	29.3	11.2
Others	24.2	34.1	-9.9
Wealth quintiles			
Lowest	46.9	43.3	3.7
Lower	51.1	46.6	4.5
Middle	54.5	49.0	5.5
Higher	62.7	56.4	6.3
Highest	77.1	72.0	5.1

Examining the proportion of youth currently attending school by caste and ethnic groups, it is seen that Madhesh/Tarai Dalits show the lowest percentage of youth currently attending school, while Hill caste show the highest percentage. However, notable differences are seen between caste and ethnic groups, with a difference of 34.3 percentage points among male youth and 38.9 percentage points among female youth. Furthermore, the gender gap in current school attendance is found to be higher in Madhesh/Tarai castes and religious groups.

With regard to wealth quintile, youth living in the highest households are more likely to be currently attended school (77.1% for males and 72.0% for females) than youth in the lowest households. Differences in current school attendance between wealth quintiles accounts for a 30.2 percentage point difference among males and for 28.9 percentage points among females. There is also little variation in current school attendance between sexes.

The school net attendance ratio and gross attendance ratio provides valuable insights into school participation at different levels of education. The net attendance ratio is the percentage of adolescents and youth of the school age group that attend a specific level of education (such as primary, lower secondary, upper secondary, and higher secondary level). The gross attendance ratio is the percentage of adolescents and youth who attend a specific level of education, regardless of age. Data on the school net and gross attendance are presented in Table 6.8. Females show a slightly higher school net attendance ratio than males across all education levels, with the exception of the primary level. A gross attendance ratio of greater than 100 percent in primary and lower secondary school indicates that a substantial number of students are in attendance at these levels. There are variations in the school attendance ratio across ecological zones. The Hill zone shows the highest school net attendance ratio across all levels of education, whereas the Tarai zone consistently shows the lowest net attendance ratio.

Across all ecological zones, the gross attendance ratio for primary school exceeds 200 percent. However, the lower secondary school gross attendance ratio is seen at more than 100 percent in Mountain and Hill zones. The net attendance ratio is lowest in Madhesh Province across all levels of schooling: 76.3 percent in primary school, 38.6 percent in lower secondary school, 13.7 percent in upper secondary school, and 12.1 percent in higher secondary school. Moreover, Bagmati and Gandaki provinces show the highest net attendance rate across all levels of schooling. This indicates that there are considerable provincial disparities across all levels of school attendance. With the exception of Madhesh Province, the gross attendance ratio in primarily school exceeds 200 percent, with the rate for lower secondary school seen at 100 percent. This may be attributed to factors such as economic conditions, socio-cultural attitudes towards schooling, and the availability of educational facilities and infrastructure.

Table 6.8: School net and gross attendance rate by background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	Primary (1-5)		Lower secondary (6-8)		Upper secondary (9-SEE)		Higher secondary (10+2)	
	NAR	GAR	NAR	GAR	NAR	GAR	NAR	GAR
Sex								
Male	84.5	211.4	47.2	101.8	38.8	91.3	16.1	69.2
Female	85.1	206.5	51.3	102.9	42.7	90.6	18.5	73.9
Ecological zones								
Mountain	87.9	229.9	50.5	106.9	40.8	93.9	15.0	59.7
Hill	90.5	217.3	56.5	106.3	47.7	99.9	21.6	88.8
Tarai	81.1	202.1	43.8	98.9	35.7	84.1	14.4	60.4
Provinces								
Koshi	88.8	208.7	53.5	104.6	44.8	96.3	17.2	68.3
Madhesh	76.3	179.5	38.6	94.6	30.7	74.4	12.1	45.6
Bagmati	90.8	207.9	57.4	104.2	51.1	104.2	26.4	111.8
Gandaki	91.4	208.7	60.4	106.1	52.2	108.3	23.0	96.6
Lumbini	84.5	230.3	45.7	102.5	35.3	84.4	13.3	59.4
Karnali	89.1	229.9	53.3	106.3	44.1	97.8	14.9	63.1
Sudurpashchim	86.8	244.5	46.5	106.3	37.3	89.2	14.7	60.8
Urban and rural areas								
Urban	86.5	201.3	53.8	101.5	49.4	105.2	26.0	113.6
Peri-urban	81.0	201.0	43.2	98.3	34.9	82.6	13.5	56.1
Rural	88.8	226.2	52.8	107.4	41.3	90.4	14.7	55.5
Wealth quintiles								
lowest	79.9	209.3	42.2	96.7	29.4	68.2	8.2	30.6
lower	84.2	211.7	48.3	104.9	37.1	85.0	12.2	45.4
Middle	84.3	209.1	47.8	103.5	39.0	89.2	14.8	57.3
Higher	87.5	212.5	51.0	103.9	45.8	104.9	21.3	90.2
highest	91.6	198.0	61.2	104.1	58.5	117.1	32.4	145.9
Total	84.8	208.7	49.3	102.4	40.8	91.0	17.3	71.3

The primary net attendance ratio is seen highest in the rural areas (88.8%) and attendance is lowest in peri-urban areas (81.0%). The lower secondary, upper secondary, and higher secondary net attendance ratios are found to be highest in urban areas, followed by rural areas.

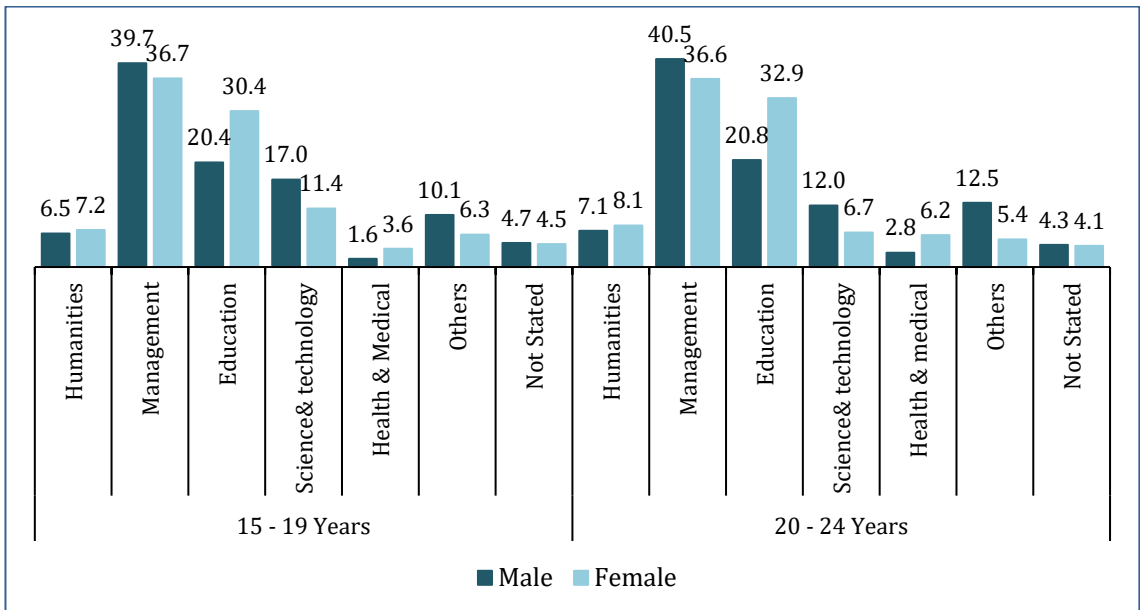
The school net attendance ratio is lowest among adolescents and youth from households in the lowest wealth quintiles and highest among those from households in the highest wealth quintiles. There is a positive relationship between net school attendance and wealth quintiles. The results reveal that wealth quintile has a strong influence on school attendance among

adolescents and youth, indicating that economic status plays a role in determining net school attendance, with adolescents and youth from wealthier households more likely to remain in school and complete higher secondary level of education.

6.4 Major field of study

Information on major fields of the study for adolescents and youth is crucial in order to meet the needs of the country and to understand the future professional composition of the population. In the 2021 census, information on the field of study was collected from those who completed '10+2' or equivalent levels of education, and 11 different options were presented for the subject studied. The subjects covered were as follows: humanities and social sciences; management; education; science; medicine; engineering; agriculture; forestry; animal science; law, and; information technology. Management is seen to be the most popular subject among adolescents and youth, followed by education, science and technology, and humanities (Figure 6.6). Aside from these subjects, interests appear to be in the health and medical fields, among other subjects.

Figure 6.6: Distribution of adolescent and youth who passed the SLC level and above by major field of study, NPHC 2021



Distribution of adolescent major field of study according to ecological zone, province, urban/rural area, caste and ethnic group, and wealth quintile are presented in Table 6.9. Across the ecological zones, it is seen that a higher proportion of female adolescents have studied in the field of education than male adolescents, while a greater number of male adolescents than

female adolescents have studied in the management field. The percentages of male and female adolescents who studied in the education field are seen highest in the Mountain zone, whereas Tarai zone shows the highest share of both male and female adolescents who studied in the management field. Health and medical fields showed the lowest proportion of adolescents across all ecological zones and among both males and females.

The preference for different fields of study is seen to vary significantly by provinces and sexes. The highest percentage of both male and female adolescents studied in the management field in Bagmati Province (45.4% and 43.6%, respectively). In Karnali, the highest percentage of male and female adolescents studied in the education field (50.1% and 57.9%, respectively). In comparison to the science and technology fields, humanities and social sciences as well as the health and medical fields accounted for the lowest share of male and female adolescents in all provinces. Furthermore, there is a general trend in which more female adolescents than male adolescents studied in the education field across all provinces. By urban/rural areas, management and education was seen to be the most popular field of study among male and female adolescents, yet a higher proportion of female adolescents in rural areas studied in the education field.

With regard to caste and ethnic groups, there is a significant variation between caste/ethnic groups among adolescents who have studied in the fields of education and science and technology. A higher percentage of male adolescents from Mountain/Hill Janajati and Madhesh/Tarai Janajati groups have studied in the management fields. On the other hand, a higher proportion of female adolescents from Madhesh/Tarai Janajati and Hill Daltis have studied in the education fields. A higher proportion of female adolescents in most caste and ethnic groups have studied in the education field compared to their male counterparts. A majority of the male and female adolescents from Hill castes and Madhesh/Tarai castes have studied in science and technology fields. Furthermore, in all caste and ethnic groups, health and medical fields accounted for smaller proportions of adolescents, with a slightly higher share of female adolescents.

Household wealth significantly influences the choice of field of study among adolescents and youth. Adolescents from the lowest and lower households are more likely to study in the field of humanities and social sciences, with a higher proportion of female adolescents seen than male adolescents. It has been observed that as household wealth increases, there is a noticeable shift towards the study of management and science and technology, as well as to the health and medical fields.

Table 6.9: Percentage distribution of adolescent by sex and five major field of study, and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	Male					Female				
	Humanities	Management	Education	Science and technology	Health and medical	Humanities	Management	Education	Science and Technol	Health and medical
Ecological zones										
Mountain	8.3	21.3	42.4	7.7	1.6	8.4	19.0	51.8	3.6	2.9
Hill	6.7	39.4	20.9	17.7	1.3	7.5	35.9	29.9	12.8	3.4
Tarai	6.1	42.0	17.3	17.4	1.9	6.7	39.9	28.2	10.7	3.9
Provinces										
Koshi	7.4	40.0	24.5	14.2	1.3	7.6	37.1	35.4	9.3	2.4
Madhesh	5.9	36.0	19.9	17.6	2.7	5.6	36.2	32.6	8.9	4.1
Bagmati	6.4	45.4	9.8	23.4	1.4	7.9	43.6	16.7	18.1	4.2
Gandaki	6.4	44.4	21.6	13.4	0.8	6.0	38.5	31.1	10.9	3.1
Lumbini	6.2	38.0	24.9	14.3	1.4	6.1	33.2	36.0	9.2	3.4
Karnali	5.3	16.3	50.1	7.5	2.0	5.7	13.6	57.9	3.0	3.5
Sudurpashchim	8.1	35.0	26.4	12.0	2.0	10.8	31.0	36.6	4.9	3.7
Urban and rural areas										
Urban	5.3	45.5	8.5	24.8	1.8	6.5	45.2	14.2	19.4	4.8
Peri-urban	6.8	42.0	19.0	15.0	1.7	7.3	38.9	30.7	8.7	3.4
Rural	8.1	27.6	41.3	6.7	1.1	8.1	23.2	51.4	3.5	2.0
Caste and ethnic groups										
Hill Castes	5.7	38.0	18.4	21.0	1.5	6.5	36.5	27.5	14.4	3.9
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	5.5	33.6	17.7	22.6	3.2	5.6	35.4	29.8	12.3	4.9
Mountain/Hill Janajati	7.6	45.4	22.1	11.2	0.8	8.1	38.9	30.8	9.8	3.1
Madhesh/Tarai Janajati	8.0	42.8	20.2	12.5	1.8	9.5	36.1	35.3	5.7	3.2
Hill Dalits	7.7	37.7	32.4	7.4	1.1	7.9	31.0	43.4	4.5	2.4
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	7.0	38.0	27.2	8.9	2.0	6.8	32.5	40.9	4.9	3.2
Religious	8.1	38.5	18.4	16.4	2.4	8.4	36.0	24.8	10.4	2.5
Others	15.3	41.2	6.2	23.0	1.8	10.0	44.2	8.0	13.1	1.2
Wealth quintiles										
Lowest	8.3	22.5	46.6	4.3	1.4	8.1	18.3	56.5	1.6	1.9
Lower	8.5	29.4	39.2	6.5	1.4	8.3	24.4	51.5	2.6	2.0
Middle	8.3	37.3	26.7	10.7	1.6	8.6	33.4	39.3	5.0	2.5
Higher	6.3	44.5	15.4	17.7	1.8	7.3	43.1	25.8	10.2	3.5
Highest	4.6	46.6	6.3	26.8	1.4	5.6	45.5	11.3	22.7	4.9

Distribution of youth by major field of study by ecological zone, province, urban/rural area, caste and ethnic group, and wealth quintile are shown in Table 6.10. The data reveal that a higher percentage of both male and female youth have studied in the field of education in the Mountain zone. In contrast, in the Hill and Tarai zones, the majority of male and female youth have studied management, followed by education and science and technology.

A majority of male and female youth in the provinces, with the exception of Karnali, have studied in the field of management rather than studied in education field. In Bagmati Province, a significantly higher proportion of male and female youth have pursued studies in the field of science and technology.

In urban areas, a higher proportion of male and female youth have studied in the management field (46.5% for males and 45.3% for females), whereas a greater number of male and female youth have studied in the education field in rural areas. It is further noted that a larger proportion of both male and female youth have chosen to pursue studies in the field of science and technology in the urban areas.

In all caste and ethnic groups, the management field accounted for the highest share of male youth chosen field of study. A larger proportion of male youth from Hill castes, Madhesh/Tarai castes, Tarai Janajati, and religious groups recorded their major field of study as science and technology. Additionally, the majority of female youth from Hill Dalit and Tarai Dalit groups are shown to have pursued studies in the field of education. Youth from the wealthiest households have more likely to pursue studies in the field of management and science and technology.

Table 6.10: Percentage distribution of youth by sex and five major field of study, and background characteristics, 2021 Census

Area/wealth quintile/caste and ethnic group	Male					Female				
	Humanities	Management	Education	Science and technology	Health and Medical	Humanities	management	Education	Science and technology	Health and medical
Ecological zones										
Mountain	8.4	21.3	43.7	5.9	2.6	8.1	18.2	53.7	2.6	4.4
Hill	7.4	40.8	20.6	13.6	1.9	8.5	36.7	30.9	8.7	5.5
Tarai	6.2	41.8	18.3	14.0	3.0	7.1	38.7	31.1	7.9	5.6
Provinces										
Koshi	7.3	42.7	22.7	12.4	1.8	7.6	37.5	35.9	7.2	4.6
Madhesh	5.6	34.7	20.9	14.3	4.3	5.6	34.0	36.1	7.3	5.4
Bagmati	7.3	46.8	10.7	17.1	2.1	9.4	44.5	18.3	11.9	6.8
Gandaki	6.7	44.8	21.0	11.1	1.4	6.2	39.2	32.6	7.4	4.9
Lumbini	6.6	38.1	25.4	11.8	2.4	6.6	32.7	38.6	6.8	4.9
Karnali	5.7	15.1	51.6	6.1	3.2	5.6	13.4	59.2	2.4	5.0
Sudurpashchim	8.9	35.2	27.7	8.8	2.8	11.6	29.0	40.3	3.1	4.8
Urban and rural areas										
Urban	6.1	46.5	9.9	18.2	2.7	7.8	45.3	17.2	12.7	7.7
Peri-urban	6.9	41.4	19.8	12.4	2.7	7.7	37.6	33.7	6.5	4.7
Rural	8.4	27.8	41.0	6.0	1.7	8.1	22.5	53.0	2.6	3.1
Caste and ethnic groups										
Hill Castes	6.3	39.5	19.2	15.7	2.4	7.3	36.9	29.9	9.6	6.2
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	5.3	33.5	18.7	17.6	4.9	6.0	34.0	32.2	9.8	6.5
Mountain/Hill Janajati	8.0	46.6	21.5	9.1	1.1	8.6	39.7	31.4	6.8	4.8
Tarai Janajati	8.2	42.0	20.9	10.4	2.6	9.8	33.8	38.4	4.5	4.4
Hill Dalits	8.6	37.3	32.7	6.6	1.6	8.7	29.9	45.0	3.5	3.5
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	6.8	34.6	29.1	8.6	3.3	7.5	29.9	42.8	5.0	3.3
Religious	7.3	37.8	19.2	13.7	3.5	9.1	34.6	27.7	8.5	4.1
Others	14.0	36.7	7.8	19.0	5.4	13.4	36.4	12.1	15.2	8.0
Wealth quintiles										
Lowest	8.6	21.5	46.9	4.3	2.1	8.3	16.6	58.3	1.5	2.6
Lower	8.7	28.7	39.5	6.0	2.1	8.5	22.5	53.7	2.1	2.7
Middle	8.3	37.4	27.1	9.3	2.3	8.9	31.6	42.2	4.0	3.4
Higher	6.7	44.6	16.4	14.2	2.7	8.1	41.1	29.6	7.3	5.0
Highest	5.3	47.9	7.2	19.2	2.4	6.8	46.5	15.0	13.9	8.1

CHAPTER 7

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

The population census in Nepal has collected data on the economic activity of the country. Various questions were included to collect data covering certain aspects of the economic profile of the population. An analysis of the census data on economic activity by adolescents and youth may shed light on the characteristics of the labour force, including challenges regarding economic activity.

National Population and Housing Census 2021 collected information on economic activity for different age groups. This chapter shall analyze the data on labour force participation, occupational involvement, and on the industrial sector of economic activity with particular reference to adolescents and youth, and youth not in employment, education and training and with reference to several background characteristics.

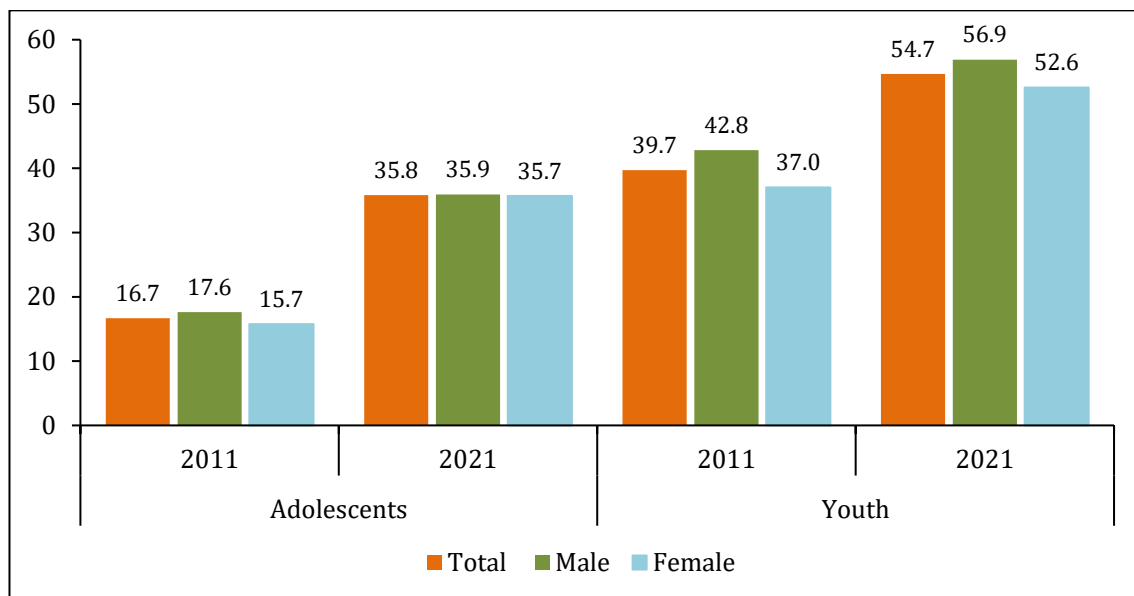
7.1 Labour force participation

Data on the economically active and non-economically active adolescent and youth population are presented in Table 5.1, showing the trend in labour force participation from the ages of 10 to 24 for males and females. There are disparities in the labour force participation rate between age and between sex. The overall labour force participation rate is seen to increase with age. A similar pattern can be seen in both the male and female participation rates. The data shows that 28.3 percent of males and 29.1 percent of females aged 10-14 years were active in the labour force. The labour force participation rate continues to increase with increased age, reaching 72.2 percent for males and 62.9 percent for females in the 20-24 age group. The male and female gender gap in the labour force participation rate is seen highest in the 20-24 years age group, where the male labour force participation rate is 9.3 percentage points higher than the female rate. The gap between the male and female labour force participation rates is also observed in the 15-19 age group, where the male labour force participation rate is 4.3 percentage points higher than that of the female rate.

Table 7.1: Economically active population and labour force participation rate by age group and sex, NPHC 2021

Age Groups	Working age population	Economically Active				Labour force participation rate			
		Total	Employed	Unemployed	Not Usually Active	Total	Employed	Unemployed	Not Usually Active
Both sexes									
10-14	2,909,865	834,490	80,993	34,693	718,804	28.7	2.8	1.2	24.7
15-19	2,966,404	1,270,530	392,068	96,430	782,032	42.8	13.2	3.3	26.4
20-24	2,783,060	1,872,346	1,112,143	174,278	585,925	67.3	40.0	6.3	21.1
Adolescents (10-19)	5,876,269	2,105,020	473,061	131,123	1,500,836	35.8	8.1	2.2	25.5
Youth (15-24)	5,749,464	3,142,876	1,504,211	270,708	1,367,957	54.7	26.2	4.7	23.8
Male									
10-14	1,495,954	423,691	41,812	18,155	363,724	28.3	2.8	1.2	24.3
15-19	1,494,523	650,893	223,531	52,373	374,989	43.6	15.0	3.5	25.1
20-24	1,301,018	939,519	628,114	9,2158	219,247	72.2	48.3	7.1	16.9
Adolescents (10-19)	2,990,477	1,074,584	265,343	70,528	738,713	35.9	8.9	2.4	24.7
Youth (15-24)	2,795,541	1,590,412	851,645	144,531	594,236	56.9	30.5	5.2	21.3
Female									
10-14	1,413,911	410,799	39,181	16,538	355,080	29.1	2.8	1.2	25.1
15-19	1,471,881	619,637	168,537	44,057	407,043	42.1	11.5	3.0	27.7
20-24	1,482,042	932,827	484,029	82,120	366,678	62.9	32.7	5.5	24.7
Adolescents (10-19)	2,885,792	1,030,436	207,718	60,595	762,123	35.7	7.2	2.1	26.4
Youth (15-24)	2,953,923	1,552,464	652,566	126,177	773,721	52.6	22.1	4.3	26.2

Figure 7.1 shows that the labour force participation rate among adolescents and youth has seen a steady increase between the period of 2011 and 2021. The labour force participation rate among adolescents has increased by 19 percentage points, from a figure of 16.7 percent in 2011 to 35.8 percent in 2021. The increase in the labour force participation rate is greater for female than male adolescents. The labour force participation rate among youth has increased by 15 percentage points, from 39.7 percent in 2011 to 54.7 percent in 2021. The increase in the labour force participation rate between 2011 and 2021 is higher for females than for males, with an almost 16 percentage point difference seen for females compared to a 14 percentage point difference seen for male youth.

Figure 7.1: Labour force participation rate among adolescents and youth, NPHC 2011 and 2021

The labour force participation rate by ecological zones, provinces, urban/rural areas, caste and ethnic groups, and wealth quintiles are shown in Table 7.2. Among the ecological zones, the labour force participation rate for adolescent and youth populations was highest in the Mountain zone (43.1% and 64.7% respectively), followed by Hill and Tarai. This pattern is consistent for both males and females. Compared to the adolescent labour force participation rates, the labour force participation rates were found to be lower in each ecological zone. However, the variation in labour force participation rates between ecological zones was less noticeable among adolescent and youth males.

The labour force participation rate was higher in Karnali Province (43.6% and 64.5% respectively) for both adolescent and youth. The labour force participation rate was highest in Koshi Province (43.1%) for adolescent males and highest for adolescent females in Karnali Province (44.3%). This pattern also holds true for both male and female youth. Madhesh Province shows the lowest labour force participation rate for both adolescents and youth. Differences in the participation rate between provinces is noticeable. Adolescent and youth participation rates varied by 14 percentage points and 19 percentage points respectively. It has been observed that rural areas have consistently higher labour force participation rates compared to urban and peri-urban areas for both adolescents and youth. Among adolescents and youth, female participation rates vary more than male participation rates between urban and rural areas.

Caste and ethnic group differences are notable, with Hill Dalits, Tarai Janajati, and Mountain/Hill Janajati groups showing relatively higher labour force participation rates than Hill Castes and

Madhesh/Tarai Castes among both adolescents and youth. Caste and ethnic group variations accounted for a difference of 12 percentage points in adolescents and 17 percentage points in youth. However, variations in adolescent and youth male participation rates between caste and ethnic groups were more pronounced than those for females.

By wealth quintile, the labour force participation rate decreases as the wealth quintile increases among adolescents and youth, as well as for male and female adolescents and youth. Adolescents and youth from the lowest households have higher labour force participation rates, while the highest households have the lowest participation rates. Data also shows that among adolescents and youth, males tend to have higher labour force participation rates than females across almost all background characteristics.

Table 7.2: Labour force participation rate among adolescents and youth by sex and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	Adolescents			Youth		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
Ecological zones						
Mountain	43.1	42.6	43.6	64.7	64.6	64.7
Hill	38.5	38.0	38.9	57.6	58.3	57.0
Tarai	33.0	33.6	32.4	51.3	55.0	47.8
Provinces						
Koshi	42.6	43.1	42.1	61.7	64.7	58.8
Madhesh	29.9	30.9	28.8	45.6	50.5	40.7
Bagmati	31.7	31.9	31.4	51.1	53.0	49.2
Gandaki	31.9	31.8	32.0	53.1	54.1	52.1
Lumbini	36.3	36.3	36.2	56.0	58.6	53.6
Karnali	43.6	42.9	44.3	64.5	64.4	64.6
Sudurpashchim	42.4	41.2	43.6	62.3	61.4	63.1
Urban and rural areas						
Urban	27.0	27.7	26.3	44.4	47.6	41.1
Peri-urban	33.8	34.4	33.1	52.6	56.2	49.1
Rural	44.7	44.2	45.1	65.9	66.2	65.7
Caste and ethnic groups						
Hill Castes	35.1	34.2	36.0	52.6	51.9	53.3
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	29.6	30.5	28.6	45.3	49.8	40.6
Mountain/Hill Janajati	38.6	38.7	38.5	58.5	60.0	57.1
Tarai Janajati	39.1	39.8	38.3	60.6	64.2	57.4
Hill Dalits	41.2	40.9	41.5	62.5	63.9	61.3
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	35.6	37.2	34.0	54.1	61.2	47.2

Background characteristics	Adolescents			Youth		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
Religious	33.5	35.1	31.8	49.7	56.8	43.0
Others	43.0	51.9	28.8	64.4	78.5	42.0
Wealth quintiles						
Lowest	42.5	42.8	42.2	62.8	64.9	60.8
Lower	41.6	41.6	41.6	62.1	64.0	60.3
Middle	36.3	36.7	36.0	56.3	59.1	53.6
Higher	30.7	31.2	30.2	49.6	52.5	47.0
Highest	24.8	25.0	24.6	40.8	41.9	39.7

7.2 Occupation

The percentage distribution of employed adolescents and youth who work for at least one month by sex are presented in Table 7.3 by major occupation with which they are engaged. Data indicates that two of every five Nepali adolescents and youth are involved in agricultural, forestry and fishing-related activities. This occupation employed a roughly equal proportion of male and female adolescent and youth, yet a slightly higher proportion of female youth are engaged in agricultural, forestry and fishery work. Around half of employed male adolescents and one-third of employed male youth were engaged in elementary occupations. However, gender disparities were observed among adolescent and youth, where males were mostly employed in service and sales, craft and related trades, plants and machine operators and assemblers, and manager roles, while females were mostly involved in agriculture, forestry and fishing, and elementary occupations.

Table 7.3: Percentage distribution of employed adolescents and youth by sex and major occupation, NPHC 2021

Major occupation	Adolescents			Youth		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
Total (=100%)	1,932,258	984,704	947,554	2,851,892	1,444,980	1,406,912
Armed forces occupations	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	1.2	0.2
Managers	0.5	0.6	0.4	1.9	2.2	1.6
Professionals	0.4	0.3	0.4	2.0	1.7	2.2
Technicians and associate professionals	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.8	1.8	1.8
Clerical support workers	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.3	1.3	1.4
Service and sales workers	1.8	2.1	1.4	5.0	6.2	3.7
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	44.7	41.7	47.8	46.8	40.6	53.2
Craft and related trades workers	2.2	3.5	0.8	5.5	8.8	2.2

Major occupation	Adolescents			Youth		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	0.8	1.6	0.1	2.7	5.0	0.3
Elementary occupations	48.7	49.2	48.1	32.2	31.1	33.3
Not stated	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1

Table 7.4 indicates the distribution of employed adolescents who work at least one month, by occupation. As indicated in the table, among the ecological zones, a higher proportion of adolescents living in the Mountain zone were involved in agriculture, forestry and fishing, while a higher proportion of adolescents living in the Tarai zone were involved in elementary occupations. In Koshi, Karnali, and Sudurpashchim provinces, over half of all adolescents were engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing, whereas the majority of adolescents in Madhesh, Bagmati, and Gandaki provinces were employed in elementary occupations. A small proportion of adolescents from Madhesh, Bagmati, and Gandaki provinces are seen to be employed as craft and related trade workers.

Urban areas show a higher proportion of adolescents who are engaged in elementary occupations. Furthermore, data indicates that adolescents living in urban areas are more likely to be employed in craft and related traders, and service and sales than in peri-urban or rural areas. Adolescents from rural areas were more likely to engage in agriculture, forestry and fishing industries.

Among the caste and ethnic groups, a higher proportion of adolescents from Hill caste, Hill Dalits, and Mountain/Hill Janajati are seen to be engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing occupations, whereas a higher proportion of adolescents from Madhesh/Tarai Caste, Madhesh/Tarai Dalit, and Religious groups were engaged in elementary occupations. In addition, a small proportion of Madhesh/Tarai caste, Tarai Janajati, Madhesh/Tarai Dalits, and Religious groups were employed as craft and related traders.

Table 7.4: Percentage distribution of employed adolescents by occupation and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	Total (=100%)	Armed forces occupations	Managers	Professionals	Technicians and associate professionals	Clerical support workers	Service and sales workers	Skilled agriculture, forestry and fishery workers	Craft and related trades workers	Plant and machine operators and assemblers	Elementary occupations	Not Stated
Ecological zones												
Mountain	157283	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	1.0	64.5	0.6	0.4	32.4	0.1
Hill	823607	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.6	1.9	53.4	1.6	0.8	40.1	0.2
Tarai	951368	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	1.8	33.9	2.9	1.0	58.7	0.1
Provinces												
Koshi	376494	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	2.0	55.0	1.8	0.9	38.6	0.1
Madhesh	341969	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	1.3	22.9	3.8	1.0	69.8	0.1
Bagmati	315973	0.0	0.7	0.5	0.8	1.0	3.4	34.8	3.3	1.3	54.3	0.1
Gandaki	133237	0.0	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	2.4	37.2	2.1	1.2	54.0	0.7
Lumbini	353350	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.4	45.9	1.8	0.7	48.3	0.3
Karnali	164764	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.8	63.4	0.6	0.4	33.6	0.2
Sudurpashchim	246471	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.9	61.8	0.8	0.3	35.3	0.1
Urban and rural areas												
Urban	359326	0.0	0.9	0.7	0.9	1.1	4.4	15.2	4.4	1.1	71.2	0.2
Peri-urban	715885	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	1.6	35.5	2.7	1.0	57.6	0.1
Rural	857047	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.8	64.8	0.8	0.6	31.7	0.2
Caste and ethnic groups												
Hill Caste	543141	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	1.7	50.3	0.5	0.4	45.1	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	261353	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	1.9	27.1	3.0	0.8	65.6	0.1
Mountain/Hill Janajati	516017	0.0	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	2.0	52.4	1.6	0.9	40.8	0.2
Tarai Janajati	174250	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	1.4	44.1	3.5	1.3	48.2	0.2
Hill Dalits	222374	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.2	55.2	2.2	1.1	38.8	0.2
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	97190	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.7	23.2	3.6	0.9	70.6	0.1
Religious	99729	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	1.7	26.3	6.7	1.0	62.9	0.1
Others	8093	0.0	2.0	0.2	1.1	1.0	9.2	6.6	25.3	2.6	51.4	0.7
Wealth quintiles												
Lowest	512939	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.5	56.3	1.5	0.6	40.3	0.2
Lower	489729	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.8	55.8	1.8	0.8	39.5	0.2
Middle	403508	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.4	1.6	44.4	2.7	1.1	48.4	0.2
Higher	299224	0.0	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8	3.5	29.2	3.6	1.2	59.4	0.2
Highest	216747	0.0	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.1	4.4	15.9	1.6	0.6	73.6	0.2

In terms of wealth quintile, the proportion of adolescents involved in agriculture, forestry and fishing decreases as household wealth increases. Consequently, adolescents from wealthier households were less likely to be engaged in agricultural, forestry and fishing activities. The occupations of adolescents by sex are shown in details in Annex A7.1.

Table 7.5 shows that a majority of employed youth in Mountain (70.9%) and Hill (53.4%) zones work in skilled agriculture, forestry and fishing fields (70.9% and 53.4% respectively). In the Tarai zone, a majority of youth are employed in elementary occupations (40.9%), followed by agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Table 7.5: Percentage distribution of employed youth by occupation and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	Total (=100%)	Armed forces occupations	Managers	Professionals	Technicians and associate professionals	Clerical support workers	Service and sales workers	Skilled agriculture, forestry and fishery workers	Craft and related trades workers	Plant and machine operators and assemblers	Elementary occupations	Not stated
Ecological zones												
Mountain	212,928	0.7	1.4	1.6	1.1	0.6	3.0	70.9	1.9	1.4	17.4	0.1
Hill	1,228,175	1.0	2.2	2.0	2.3	1.8	5.6	53.4	4.3	2.5	24.8	0.1
Tarai	1,410,789	0.4	1.7	1.9	1.5	1.0	4.7	37.5	7.2	3.0	40.9	0.1
Provinces												
Koshi	535,480	0.5	1.7	2.0	1.5	1.0	4.7	53.5	4.9	2.7	27.4	0.0
Madhesh	474,556	0.3	1.2	1.7	1.0	0.7	3.6	28.7	8.7	2.9	51.2	0.1
Bagmati	550,507	1.3	3.1	2.6	3.9	3.2	9.1	33.7	6.9	3.7	32.6	0.0
Gandaki	219,483	0.9	2.6	3.0	2.3	1.7	6.3	44.0	5.2	3.2	30.4	0.4
Lumbini	527,257	0.7	1.6	1.8	1.3	0.9	3.8	50.1	5.1	2.6	31.9	0.1
Karnali	221,170	0.8	1.5	1.2	0.9	0.6	2.8	69.8	1.9	1.4	19.2	0.1
Sudurpashchim	323,439	0.6	1.3	1.2	0.9	0.6	3.0	65.8	3.0	1.3	22.4	0.0
Urban and rural areas												
Urban	621,490	1.4	3.8	3.4	4.6	3.6	11.8	14.2	9.2	3.3	44.6	0.1
Peri-urban	1,056,112	0.6	1.5	1.8	1.2	0.9	3.9	39.7	6.8	3.1	40.4	0.1
Rural	1,174,290	0.4	1.2	1.4	0.8	0.5	2.2	70.6	2.5	2.0	18.3	0.1
Caste and ethnic groups												
Hill Castes	772,957	0.2	2.5	2.9	2.7	2.0	5.1	52.9	1.7	1.9	28.0	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	368,039	0.1	1.7	2.0	1.3	0.9	5.0	32.7	7.3	2.7	46.3	0.1
Mountain/Hill Janajati	780,540	0.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.6	5.2	54.0	4.5	3.0	25.6	0.1
Tarai Janajati	295,551	0.1	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.9	3.1	44.6	9.5	3.9	34.1	0.1
Hill Dalit	304,401	0.1	1.3	1.2	0.9	0.7	3.0	58.3	6.3	2.9	25.0	0.1

Background characteristics	Total (=100%)	Armed forces occupations	Managers	Professionals	Technicians and associate professionals	Clerical support workers	Service and sales workers	Skilled agriculture, forestry and fishery workers	Craft and related trades workers	Plant and machine operators and assemblers	Elementary occupations	Not stated
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	136,277	0.1	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.4	1.6	26.5	8.2	2.5	58.8	0.2
Religious	131,168	0.0	1.5	1.2	0.7	0.5	3.8	29.4	13.4	2.8	46.6	0.1
Others	16,600	0.0	4.0	0.9	1.9	1.4	13.1	7.7	31.5	4.0	35.4	0.2
Wealth quintiles												
Lowest	641,457	0.1	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.3	1.2	63.1	3.7	1.6	28.3	0.1
Lower	695,236	0.1	0.9	1.1	0.6	0.5	1.9	61.4	4.7	2.3	26.3	0.1
Middle	604,985	0.1	1.6	1.7	1.2	0.9	3.8	48.7	6.8	3.3	31.8	0.1
Higher	498,237	0.2	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.4	8.3	29.7	8.6	4.1	37.9	0.1
Highest	365,618	0.2	5.1	5.1	5.8	4.1	11.0	16.8	4.4	2.4	44.9	0.1

Over two-thirds of youth in Karnali and Sudurpashchim provinces were engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing, whereas half of the youth from Madhesh Province were employed in elementary occupations. Bagmati Provinces appears to show a more diverse range of occupations, with a roughly similar proportion of youth employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing and elementary occupations. Craft and related trades or service and sales were among the top three occupations in all provinces.

Urban areas show a more diverse range of occupations, with 44.6 percent of the youth population engaged in elementary occupations, followed by agriculture, forestry and fishing (14.2%), service and sales (11.8%) and craft and related trades (9.2%). Consequently, the majority of the youth in rural areas were engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing, while a high proportion of Madhesh/Tarai Dalit youth (58.8%) were engaged in elementary occupations.

Among the caste and ethnic groups, a high proportion of Hill Dalit (58.3%), Mountain/Hill Janajati (54.0%) and Hill Caste (52.9%) youth population were engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing work.

Wealth quintile shows a significant impact on occupations. The proportion of youth who are engaged in work other than agriculture, forestry and fishing tends to increase as household wealth increases. The occupations of youth by sex are shown details in the Annex A7.2.

7.3 Industrial sector of economic activity

The percentage distribution of employed adolescents and youth by major industry is shown in Table 7.6. Industrial division of economic activity performed by an individual has been classified

in accordance with Nepal Standard Industrial Classification. Among the 1.93 million adolescents engaged in economic activity in the last 12 months preceding the census, with most of them involved in agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors (59.3%). Male adolescents accounted for 56.3 percent, while female adolescents accounted for 62.4 percent. The proportion of adolescents engaged in any industry other than agriculture, forestry and fishing industries accounts for less than 5 percent, with the exception of wholesale and retail trades such as the repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, construction, and other service activities.

The second most prevalent sector of economic activity for adolescents is wholesale and retail trade relating to the repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, with one in every five adolescents employed in this sector. The construction industry is the second most common provider of employment for adolescents, accounting for 9 percent of all employed adolescents. 'Other service activities' stands as the fourth largest sector of employment, accounting for 6.8 percent, and manufacturing appears to contribute to a smaller rate of employment at 1.5 percent of the adolescents labour force.

Of the 2.85 million youth who were employed, 56.4 percent of youth (50.0% of males and 62.9% of females) were involved in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector, followed by 14.1 percent in wholesale and retail trade of repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, 9.6 percent in the construction industry, 5 percent in other service activities, and 3.6 percent in the manufacturing industry. The proportion of youth who engaged in any industry other than agriculture, forestry and fishing industries accounts for less than 15 percent overall, with the exception of wholesale and retail trade of repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, construction, and other service activities.

Data also show that males were mostly employed in sectors other than agriculture, forestry and fishing and females were largely employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing, and other service activities, including activities of household among both adolescent and youth.

Table 7.6: Percentage distribution of adolescent and youth by sex and major Industries, NPHC 2021

Major industry	Adolescents (10-19 years)			Youth (15-24 years)		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
Total (=100%)	1,932,258	984,704	947,554	2,851,892	1,444,980	1,406,912
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	59.3	56.3	62.4	56.4	50.0	62.9
Mining and quarrying	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1
Manufacturing	1.5	2.0	1.0	3.6	4.6	2.4
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.1
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1
Construction	9.0	10.6	7.4	9.6	12.8	6.2
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	19.9	20.3	19.5	14.1	14.1	14.2
Transportation and storage	0.6	1.2	0.1	2.0	3.8	0.2
Accommodation and food services activities	0.7	0.8	0.5	1.5	1.8	1.0
Information and communication	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.2
Financial and insurance activities	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.8	0.7	1.0
Real estate business activities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Professional, scientific and technical activities	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.5	0.2
Administrative and support service activities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2
Public administration and defense	0.1	0.2	0.1	1.7	2.8	0.6
Education	0.2	0.2	0.3	1.4	1.1	1.8
Human health and social work activities	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.0	0.5	1.4
Arts, entertainment and recreation	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.2
Other service activities	6.8	6.7	7.0	5.0	4.4	5.6
Activities of households as employers	0.9	0.7	1.1	1.0	0.7	1.3
Activities of extra-territorial organizations and bodies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Not stated	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

7.4 Status of working

The percentage distribution of employed adolescents and youth by employment status based on sex are presented in Table 7.7. The data reveals that a majority of employed adolescents work in family support (48.2%), followed by own account workers (34.6%) and employees (17.0%). By sex, 46.8 percent of males and 49.6 percent of females work as family support, followed by 33 percent of males and 36.3 percent of females working as own account workers, and 19.9 percent of males and 13.9 percent of females working as employees (Figure 7.2).

Of the employed youth population, a higher proportion worked as own account workers (42.8%), followed by employees (29.3%) and family support (27.4%). With regard to sex composition, 38.2 percent of males and 47.5 percent of females work as own account workers, while 24.8 percent of males and 29.8 percent of females work as family support (Figure 7.3). It is clear from the data that females are mostly working in family support and own account worker roles, while a large proportion of males work as employees among both adolescents and youth.

Table 7.7: Percentage distribution of employed adolescent and youth by sex and employment status, NPHC 2021

Employment status	Adolescents			Youth		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
Total (=100%)	1,932,258	984,704	947,554	2,851,892	1,444,980	1,406,912
Employee	17.0	19.9	13.9	29.3	36.2	22.2
Employer	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.7	0.4
Own account worker	34.6	33.0	36.3	42.8	38.2	47.5
Family support	48.2	46.8	49.6	27.3	24.8	29.8
Not stated	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

Figure 7.2: Percentage distribution of employed adolescent by employment status and sex, NPHC 2021

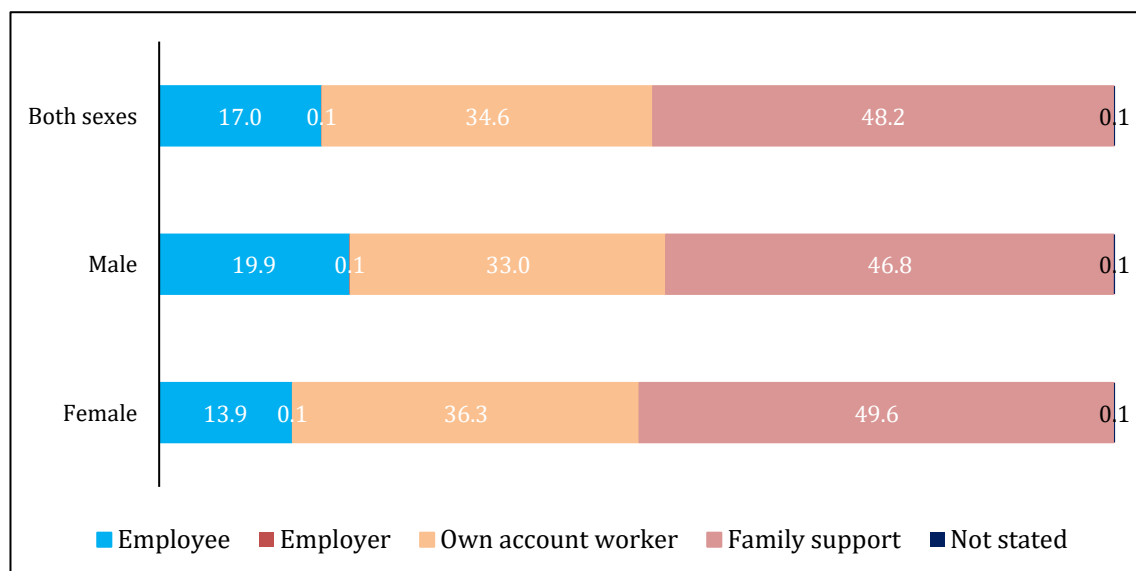
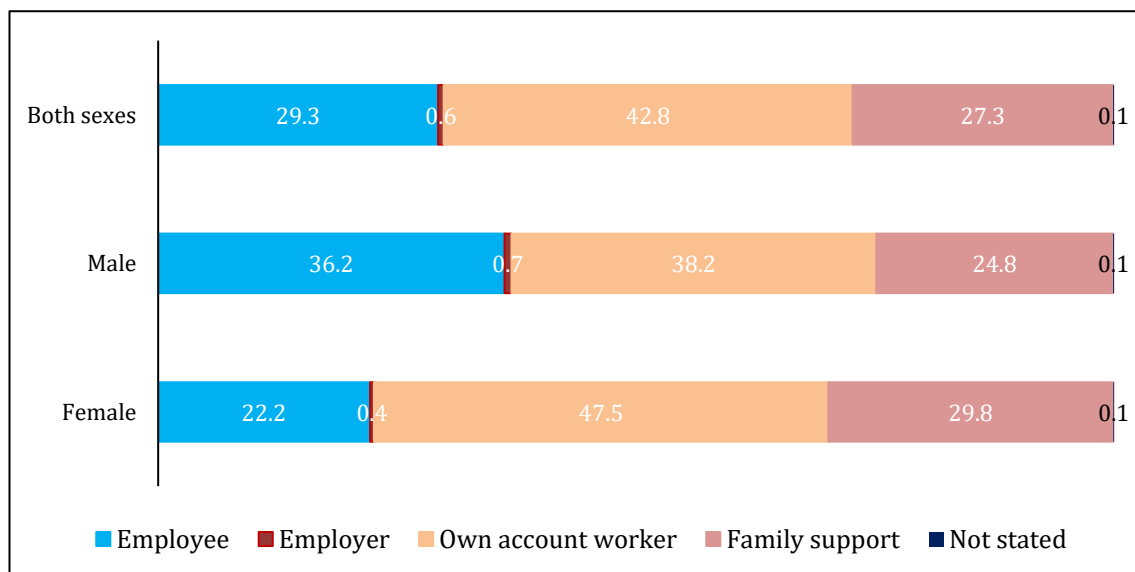


Figure 7.3: Percentage distribution of employed youth by employment status and sex, NPHC 2021



7.5 Institutional sector for economic activity

Institutional sectors are groups of institutional units – such as households and legal entities – which have similar types of economic activity. The types of economic activities are grouped together into five mutually exclusive institutional sectors: financial corporations; non-financial corporations; government units; households, and; non-profit institutions. These five sectors represent the total economy (United Nations, 1993). The NPHC 2021 collected data on institutional sectors of economic activity. Data on distribution of adolescents and youth according to institutional sector are presented in Table 7.8. The data demonstrates that the household sector is the largest institutional sector, with 56.2 percent of adolescents and 59.1 percent of youth employed. Non-financial institutions are the second highest employment institutions for both adolescents and youth, with 43.3 percent of adolescents and 37.2 percent of youth employed. It can be observed that female adolescents and youth are more likely to be employed in the household sector, whereas male adolescents and youth are more likely to be employed in non-financial institutions and the government sector.

Table 7.8: Percentage distribution of adolescent and youth by sex and institutional sector of economic work, NPHC 2021

Institutional sector	Adolescents			Youth		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
Total (=100%)	1,932,258	984,704	947,554	2,851,892	1,444,980	1,406,912
Government	0.2	0.2	0.2	2.4	3.3	1.6
Financial institution	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.8	0.7	1.0
Non-financial institution	43.3	45.1	41.3	37.2	40.2	34.1
Non-profit organization	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.2
Household sector	56.2	54.3	58.2	59.1	55.3	63.0
Not stated	0.1	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.8	0.1

Table 7.9 shows the distribution of teenagers by institutional areas of economic labor and their background characteristics. It can be seen that the household sector is the primary employment institution for adolescents in the Mountain zone (71.1%), followed by the Hill zone (61.6%), yet non-financial institutions are the primary employment institution for adolescents in the Tarai zone (50.5%). Karnali Province (71.2%) shows the highest percentage of adolescents in the household sector of economic activity. Sudurpashchim (69.7%) and Koshi (66.7%) provinces show high engagement in the household sector of economic activity, while Madhesh (60.0%), Bagmati (53.7%) and Gandaki (50.2%) provinces have the highest percentage of adolescents in the non-financial sector of economic activity. A relatively higher percentage of adolescents in Bagmati and Gandaki provinces are involved in the government sector of economic activity than compared to other provinces. Adolescents in rural areas (71.8%) are found to be more active in the household sector of economic activity than those in urban and peri-urban areas.

The majority of the adolescents from Hill Dalit (65.1%) and Mountain/Hill Janajati (61.1%) groups are found to be more active in the household sector, whereas Madhesh/Tarai caste (58.4%) and Madhesh/Tarai Dalit (50.5%) groups are more engaged in non-formal institutions. The results show that a higher percentage of adolescents from Hill caste (0.2%) are involved in the government sector of economic activity.

Table 7.9: Percentage distribution of adolescent by institutional sector of economic work and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	Total (=100%)	Government	Financial institution	Non-financial institution	Non-profit organization	Household sector	Not Stated
Ecological zones							
Mountain	157,283	0.2	0.0	28.6	0.1	71.1	0.1
Hill	823,607	0.2	0.2	37.7	0.2	61.6	0.2
Tarai	951,368	0.2	0.1	50.5	0.1	49.0	0.1
Provinces							
Koshi	376,494	0.2	0.1	32.9	0.1	66.7	0.0
Madhesh	341,969	0.1	0.1	60.0	0.1	39.7	0.0
Bagmati	315,973	0.3	0.4	53.7	0.2	45.5	0.0
Gandaki	133,237	0.3	0.2	50.2	0.2	48.4	0.7
Lumbini	353,350	0.2	0.1	42.3	0.1	57.0	0.3
Karnali	164,764	0.1	0.0	28.4	0.1	71.2	0.2
Sudurpashchim	246,471	0.2	0.0	30.0	0.1	69.7	0.0
Urban and rural areas							
Urban	359,326	0.4	0.4	69.4	0.2	29.5	0.1
Peri-urban	715,885	0.2	0.1	48.7	0.1	50.9	0.1
Rural	857,047	0.1	0.0	27.7	0.1	71.8	0.2
Caste and ethnic groups							
Hill Castes	543,141	0.2	0.2	40.5	0.1	58.9	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	261,353	0.1	0.1	58.4	0.1	41.3	0.1
Mountain/Hill Janajati	516,017	0.1	0.2	38.2	0.1	61.1	0.2
Tarai Janajati	174,250	0.1	0.1	40.3	0.1	59.3	0.1
Hill Dalit	222,374	0.1	0.1	34.4	0.1	65.1	0.2
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	97,190	0.1	0.0	50.5	0.1	49.2	0.1
Religious	99,729	0.1	0.0	56.8	0.1	43.0	0.0
Others	8,093	0.1	0.0	73.3	0.3	25.9	0.3
Wealth quintiles							
Lowest	512,939	0.1	0.0	32.2	0.1	67.5	0.1
Lower	489,729	0.1	0.0	33.6	0.1	66.0	0.1
Middle	403,508	0.2	0.1	43.6	0.1	56.0	0.1
Higher	299,224	0.2	0.3	57.4	0.2	41.8	0.1
Highest	216,747	0.2	0.4	69.7	0.1	29.5	0.2

Data by wealth quintile shows that adolescents from the lowest and lower wealth quintiles are more likely to be involved in the household sector of economic activity, whereas adolescents from wealthier households are more likely to be engaged in other sectors.

Table 7.10 indicates that youth in the Mountain zone (76.6%), in Sudurpashchim Province (74.4%), in Karnali Province (71.1%) and in the rural areas (77.4%) are more involved in the household sector of economic activity. However, youth from the Tarai zone (42.6%), from Bagmati Province (50.3%), Madhesh Province (49.3%) and from the urban areas (64.5%) show a greater involvement in non-financial sector of economic activity. A higher percentage of involvement in the household sector of economic activity is found among youth belonging to Hill Dalit, Mountain/Hill Janajati, and Tarai Janajatis. On the other hand, youth in the Hill caste, followed by Mountain/Hill Janajati and Madesh/Tarai castes are more likely to be involved in government sector of economic activity than those of other caste and ethnic groups. The data also indicates that youth in the wealthier households are less likely to be engaged in household sector and more likely to be engaged in the outside household sector of economic activity.

Table 7.10: Percentage distribution of youth by institutional sector of economic work and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	Total (=100%)	Government	Financial institution	Non-financial institution	Non-profit organization	Household sector	Not Stated
Ecological zones							
Mountain	212,928	3.0	0.4	19.8	0.2	76.6	0.1
Hill	1,228,175	2.9	1.1	34.0	0.5	61.3	0.1
Tarai	1,410,789	2.0	0.6	42.6	0.3	54.5	0.1
Provinces							
Koshi	535,480	2.1	0.7	30.3	0.3	66.7	0.0
Madhesh	474,556	1.4	0.4	49.3	0.2	48.6	0.0
Bagmati	550,507	3.5	1.9	50.3	0.7	43.5	0.0
Gandaki	219,483	3.5	1.3	40.0	0.6	54.0	0.6
Lumbini	527,257	2.3	0.5	34.5	0.3	62.2	0.2
Karnali	221,170	2.6	0.3	19.7	0.2	77.1	0.1
Sudurpashchim	323,439	2.2	0.3	22.8	0.3	74.4	0.0
Urban and rural areas							
Urban	621,490	4.7	2.1	64.5	0.7	27.9	0.1
Peri-urban	1,056,112	1.8	0.6	40.1	0.3	57.1	0.1
Rural	1,174,290	1.8	0.3	20.0	0.3	77.4	0.1
Caste and ethnic groups							
Hill Castes	772,957	2.0	1.4	35.7	0.4	60.4	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	368,039	1.2	0.5	49.4	0.2	48.7	0.0

Background characteristics	Total (=100%)	Government	Financial institution	Non-financial institution	Non-profit organization	Household sector	Not Stated
Mountain/Hill Janajati	780,540	1.3	1.0	34.4	0.4	62.8	0.1
Tarai Janajati	295,551	0.8	0.6	35.4	0.4	62.7	0.1
Hill Dalit	304,401	0.9	0.4	28.7	0.4	69.6	0.2
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	136,277	0.7	0.2	39.6	0.3	59.2	0.1
Religious	131,168	0.4	0.2	49.9	0.3	49.2	0.0
Others	16,600	0.3	0.2	71.8	0.7	26.8	0.2
Wealth quintiles							
Lowest	641,457	0.6	0.1	22.8	0.2	76.2	0.1
Lower	695,236	1.0	0.2	25.7	0.3	72.7	0.1
Middle	604,985	1.3	0.6	36.2	0.3	61.5	0.1
Higher	498,237	1.8	1.5	53.3	0.6	42.7	0.1
Highest	365,618	2.3	2.8	65.6	0.6	28.5	0.1

By sex, the data shows that female adolescent and youth are more likely to be involved in the household sector of economic activities, whereas male adolescents and youth are more likely to be involved outside the household sector of economic activities (Annex A7.3 and Annex A7.4).

7.6 Reason for not working

As depicted in Table 7.9, the primary reason for not performing any economic work is due to student status, with 75.5 percent of adolescents and 57.1 percent of youth reporting this response. Almost one-fifth of adolescents and youth reported 'Other' as their reason for not working. Household work is a significant reason for not working, especially among female youth. It is observed that more male adolescents and youth are not working due to student status than compared to females. Conversely, household reasons for not working are more pronounced among youth. The reasons for not working differ significantly between adolescents and youth, which is a noticeable aspect of the data findings. This suggests that the reasons for not working evolve as individuals transition from adolescence to youth.

Table 7.11: Percentage distribution of adolescent and youth by sex and reasons for not work, NPHC 2021

Reason for not work	Adolescents			Youth		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
Total (=100%)	5,467,273	2,756,925	2,710,348	4,360,457	1,998,379	2,362,078
Student	75.5	76.5	74.5	57.1	63.3	51.8
Household work	4.3	2.9	5.8	14.6	7.4	20.7
Household chore	1.1	0.9	1.4	4.4	3.0	5.6
Disable/sickness	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.5
Penson / income	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Social work/volunteer	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Others	18.5	19.0	17.9	22.7	24.9	20.8
Not stated	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.4

7.7 Youth not in employment, education or training

The Goal 8, Target 8.6 of SDGs aims to substantially reduce the proportion of young people who are not in employment, education or training. Not being in employment, education or training can cause psychological, emotional, financial, and health challenges and it is a significant risk factor for youth well-being (Dickens & Marx, 2020). The prevalence of this population also increases the risk of social exclusion, limiting social mobility and reducing contribution of youth to economic and social spheres. Therefore, significant efforts are needed to accelerate progress towards the reduction of youth NEET rates (International Labour Organization, 2022).

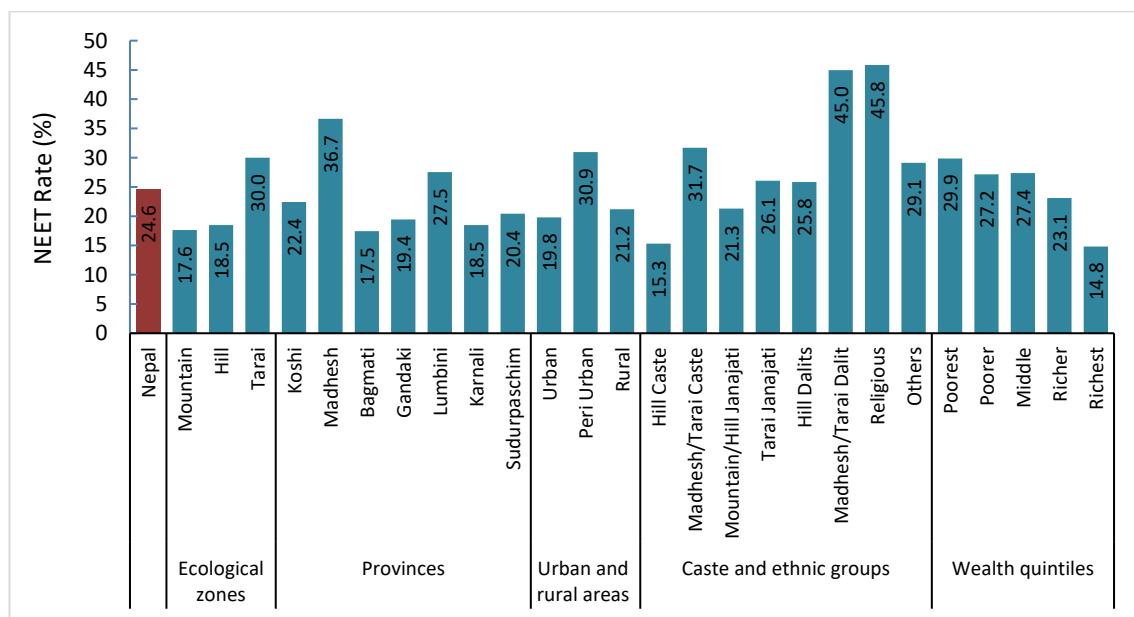
The NEET rate is defined in this study as the number of youth aged 15-24 years who are no longer in the education and who are not working, or have worked for less than six months in the year while looking for work, and have reason for not working other than student status.

Figure 7.4 shows that 24.6 percent of Nepali youth are not in employment, education or training. The youth NEET situation sees considerable variation across ecological zones, provinces, and urban and rural areas. Tarai zone shows the highest youth NEET rate across the ecological zones. At the province level, Madhesh shows the highest NEET rate (36.7%), whereas the lowest is seen in Bagmati (17.5%). Limited job opportunities, labour market constraints, gender-based discrimination, and low school attendance may all contribute to a higher NEET rate in Madhesh Province. On the other hand, better access to education and more job opportunities than other provinces, as well as youth migration for education and work, may be attributed to a lower NEET rate in Bagmati Province.

NEET rates are more prevalent among youth from peri-urban areas (30.9%) than in urban and rural areas. An analysis of the NEET rate by caste and ethnic groups showed that the youth NEET

rate ranged from 15.3 percent among Hill caste to 45 percent among Madhesh/Tarai Dalits, and 45.8 percent among religious groups, the latter being at a rate of three times higher than the Hill caste. This suggests that the socioeconomic, cultural, religious values and beliefs, and lifestyles of each caste and ethnic group has a significant influence on the NEET rate of the population.

Figure 7.4: Youth NEET rate by background characteristics, NPHC 2021



Household wealth status is shown to have a significant impact on the NEET rate and youth from the lowest household wealth quintile are more likely to not be in employed, education or training. The NEET rate is found to be highest among youth from the lowest wealth quintile (29.9%) and lowest for youth in the highest wealth quintile (14.8%). Youth in the lowest wealth quintile are twice as likely to be NEET as those in the highest quintile. An analysis of the census data on economic activity among adolescents and youth provides insight on labour force characteristics such as occupation, employment status, and industrial and institutional sectors of economic activity in which they involved.

CHAPTER 8

CONCLUSIONS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Conclusions

The demography of Nepal's adolescent and youth population has seen significant changes during the past decade. The lower fertility rate and the decline in the adolescent population in Nepal suggest that the youth population will also experience a rate of decline in the future. The sex ratio for the adolescent population is higher than the national level, whereas the sex ratio for the youth population is lower, and the sex ratio among adolescents and youth is shown to vary according to ecological zone, province, urban and rural area, and socio-economic status.

In terms of living arrangements, most adolescents and youth in Nepal reside with both parents, while a notable proportion live in single-parent households—predominantly with their mother. A small proportion of young people live in institutions, with a higher proportion of youth to adolescents seen in the data. The logistic regression performed in this analysis shows clear differences among households remaining at higher and lower wealth quintiles. It further varies based on gender, regional and provincial location, caste and ethnic groups.

There are significant shifts in marital patterns among adolescents and youth. The proportion of never married adolescents and youth has increased while the proportion of the married population has declined. Furthermore, the singulate mean age at marriage has increased for both males and females. Despite this, child marriage remains to be a major issue. Furthermore, given the shift of fertility behaviour, the adolescent and youth fertility rates have experienced a substantial decline over time. When approaching the data by marital status, it is seen that marital status influences the likelihood of experiencing poverty among adolescents and youth. Adolescents and youth who are married or widowed have a lower poverty odds ratio than when compared with unmarried adolescents and youth, whereas divorced and separated adolescents are more likely to experience poverty, and divorced and separated youth are less likely compared with unmarried adolescents and youth.

Regarding mortality, disease is the leading cause of death among adolescent and youth populations, affecting both males and females equally. Crime and suicide are seen as prevalent causes of death among youth age groups and to a greater extent than among the adolescent population. Nevertheless, pregnancy related death remains more common cause of death among female youth.

The prevalence of disability is more pronounced among male adolescents and youth than that of female adolescents and youth. However, the likelihood of experiencing a disability varies with the multiple background characteristics of adolescents and youth.

The literacy rate of male adolescents and youth is higher than that of female adolescents and youth, suggesting noticeable gender disparity in literacy which varies in relation to various background characteristics. This study has noted that there are no significant differences in educational attainment between male and female adolescents and youth. Compared to the youth population, a higher proportion of adolescents are currently in school attendance. Conversely, youth show a higher proportion of ever attendance rates. Adolescents and youth living in an extended family are less likely to experience poverty than those living in nuclear family.

A notable increase in labour force participation among adolescents and youth is seen during the past decade. A majority of both adolescents and youth are involved in elementary occupations and skilled agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors. Data on employment status indicates that family support and own-account work are common among adolescents, while youth are more likely to be engaged as own-account workers or as employees. Likewise, a significant portion of adolescents and youth are engaged in non-financial and household sectors, with minimal participation in the financial sector. Notably, education remains a primary reason for non-participation in the labour force. One in four youth are not in employment, education or training, with variations seen across ecological zone, province, urban and rural residence, caste and ethnic group, and household wealth status characteristics.

Policy implications

Nepal has experienced declining fertility rates in tandem with the onset of a decreasing adolescent population, reducing from 6.4 million in 2011 to 5.9 million in 2021. As such, a decreasing trend in the figure of the adolescent population indicates that the cohort of the population's youth group may not be adequately utilized, therefore losing the wealth of the economic and social potential which can be harnessed through the country's working age population; also referred to as the 'youth bulge'.

As many scholars have indicated, Nepal is currently experiencing its demographic dividend, offering a particular window of opportunities. Therefore, the urgent implementation of a set microeconomic measures to provide an adequate working environment for the country's youth bulge and to sufficiently harness the demographic dividend should be considered.

The next decade will see close to one-fifth of Nepal's adolescent and youth population enter into adulthood. This demographic will influence the national economy and impact the future of the nation. Adequate and effective investment in adolescents and youth is an essential provision

to ensure proper welfare of adolescent and youth populations, as well as toward the long-term economic growth of the country.

Nepal is multiethnic, multilingual, and multicultural nation and Nepal's diversity is an instrumental in which its development measures can be framed. Regarding measures to be taken in the workforce, it is clear that social inclusion measures are not only beneficial for enhancing welfare of excluded groups, yet they are also essential as a means to increase the proportion of workforce across several job sectors. Therefore, embracing Nepal's diverse human resource potential is a means to enhance national efficiency.

In the context of Nepal, it is further observed that adolescents and youths experience dilemmas in pursuing marriage and family formation, or advancing in schooling and education with the further purpose to secure employment.

The role of policy pertaining to education, marriage, health, and employment of adolescents, youth, and the young population are all vital towards shaping the scope of possibilities which development measures can place on adolescents and youth to pursue their full potential, and these should be pursued with sensitivity toward local, regional, and Indigenous contexts.

Despite the legal measures on age at marriage, a significant proportion of adolescents are seen to exist as outliers of the formal legal age at marriage, with consequences shown to adversely impact education, health, formation of family, among other factors. A comprehensive study on adolescents and youth with the purpose to examine early adolescence marriage and its correlation on continuation of education and impact on overall economic activity is therefore required.

Around a quarter of youth are not in education, employment or training, with significant variation seen among ecological zones, provinces, and social and economic groups. As a result, the local, provincial, and national government bodies should prioritize the improvement of accessibility of education and training opportunities in through non-formal and informal delivery modes.

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ANNEXES

Annex A2.1: Population of adolescents and youth, intercensal change and growth rates, 1961-2021

Census year	Adolescents (10-19)					Youth (15-24)					Adolescents and youth (10-24)				
	Total	Male	Female	Intercensal change	Annual growth rate (%)	Total	Male	Female	Intercensal change	Annual growth rate (%)	Total	Male	Female	Intercensal change	Annual growth rate (%)
1961	1,867,970	971,414	896,556			1,596,426	773,424	823,002			2,656,552	1,337,029	1,319,523		
1971	2,344,674	1,250,516	1,094,158	476,704	2.27	2,017,134	1,013,515	1,003,619	420,708	2.34	3,314,349	1,716,538	1,597,811	657,797	2.21
1981	3,035,422	1,615,036	1,420,386	690,748	2.58	2,664,099	1,332,675	1,331,424	646,965	2.78	4,371,120	2,251,965	2,119,155	105,6771	2.77
1991	4,119,813	2,087,838	2,031,975	1,084,391	3.05	3,379,290	1,607,314	1,771,976	715,191	2.38	5,706,576	2,817,117	1,974,967	1,335,456	2.67
2001	5,370,934	2,719,632	2,651,302	1,251,121	2.65	4,405,770	2,132,568	2,273,202	1,026,480	2.65	7,387,702	3,666,374	3,721,328	1,681,126	2.58
2011	6,407,404	3,207,821	3,199,583	1,036,470	1.76	5,290,051	2,487,172	2,802,879	884,281	1.83	8,765,475	4,251,802	4,513,673	1,377,773	1.71
2021	5,876,269	2,990,477	2,885,792	-531,135	-0.83	5,749,464	2,795,541	2,953,923	459,413	0.80	8,659,329	4,291,495	4,367,834	-106,146	-0.12

Annex A2.2: Percentage distribution of adolescents and youth population by age group according to background characteristics, 2021 Census

Background characteristics	Total (=100%)	10-14		15-19		20-24		Adolescents (10-19)		Youth (15-24)	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Nepal	8,659,329	2,909,865	33.6	2,966,404	34.3	2,783,060	32.1	5,876,269	67.9	5,749,464	66.4
Ecological Belt											
Mountain	549,882	200,201	36.4	187,196	34.0	162,485	29.5	387,397	70.5	349,681	63.6
Hill	3,422,515	1,105,998	32.3	1,184,235	34.6	1,132,282	33.1	2,290,233	66.9	2,316,517	67.7
Tarai	4,686,932	1,603,666	34.2	1,594,973	34.0	1,488,293	31.8	3,198,639	68.2	3,083,266	65.8
Province											
Koshi	1,388,172	455,058	32.8	481,880	34.7	451,234	32.5	936,938	67.5	933,114	67.2
Madhesh	1,880,508	683,655	36.4	628,716	33.4	568,137	30.2	1,312,371	69.8	1,196,853	63.6
Bagmati	1,691,718	497,539	29.4	583,970	34.5	610,209	36.1	1,081,509	63.9	1,194,179	70.6
Gandaki	678,930	217,815	32.1	236,245	34.8	224,870	33.1	454,060	66.9	461,115	67.9
Lumbini	1,560,624	523,078	33.5	540,900	34.7	496,646	31.8	1,063,978	68.2	1,037,546	66.5
Karnali	576,377	208,372	36.2	196,744	34.1	171,261	29.7	405,116	70.3	368,005	63.8
Sudurpashchim	883,000	324,348	36.7	297,949	33.7	260,703	29.5	622,297	70.5	558,652	63.3
Urban and rural areas											
Urban	2,312,612	701,325	30.3	791,955	34.2	819,332	35.4	1,493,280	64.6	1,611,287	69.7
Peri-urban	3,433,834	1,186,804	34.6	1,164,803	33.9	1,082,227	31.5	2,351,607	68.5	2,247,030	65.4
Rural	2,912,883	1,021,736	35.1	1,009,646	34.7	881,501	30.3	2,031,382	69.7	1,891,147	64.9
Caste and ethnic group											
Hill Caste	2,487,008	826,304	33.2	858,410	34.5	802,294	34.5	1,684,714	67.7	1,660,704	66.8
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	1,449,452	516,172	35.6	487,960	33.7	445,320	33.7	1,004,132	69.3	933,280	64.4
Hill Janajati	2,170,025	692,308	31.9	756,396	34.9	721,321	34.9	1,448,704	66.8	1,477,717	68.1
Tarai Janajati	759,421	227,156	29.9	256,620	33.8	275,645	33.8	483,776	63.7	532,265	70.1
Hill Dalit	831,057	297,976	35.9	284,418	34.2	248,663	34.2	582,394	70.1	533,081	64.1
Tarai Dalit	440,964	160,203	36.3	147,844	33.5	132,917	33.5	308,047	69.9	280,761	63.7
Religious	482,444	180,661	37.4	162,307	33.6	139,476	33.6	342,968	71.1	301,783	62.6
Others	38,958	9,085	23.3	12,449	32.0	17,424	32.0	21,534	55.3	29,873	76.7
Wealth Quintile											
Lowest	1,786,566	691,348	38.7	608,389	34.1	486,829	27.2	1,299,737	72.8	1,095,218	61.3
Lower	1,835,167	629,446	34.3	639,202	34.8	566,519	30.9	1,268,648	69.1	1,205,721	65.7
Middle	1,786,460	602,063	33.7	614,929	34.4	569,468	31.9	1,216,992	68.1	1,184,397	66.3
Higher	1,656,891	516,055	31.1	565,887	34.2	574,949	34.7	1,081,942	65.3	1,140,836	68.9
Highest	1,499,720	453,049	30.2	513,097	34.2	533,574	35.6	966,146	64.4	1,046,671	69.8
Males	4,291,495	1,495,954	34.9	1,494,523	34.8	1,301,018	30.3	2,990,477	69.7	2,795,541	65.1
Ecological Belt											
Mountain	268,852	100,663	37.4	90,917	33.8	77,272	28.7	191,580	71.3	168,189	62.6
Hill	1,697,482	568,487	33.5	593,888	35.0	535,107	31.5	1,162,375	68.5	1,128,995	66.5
Tarai	2,325,161	826,804	35.6	809,718	34.8	688,639	29.6	1,636,522	70.4	1,498,357	64.4
Province											
Koshi	685,020	231,545	33.8	242,715	35.4	210,760	30.8	474,260	69.2	453,475	66.2

Background characteristics	Total (=100%)	10-14		15-19		20-24		Adolescents (10-19)		Youth (15-24)	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Madhesh	950,163	352,252	37.1	327,285	34.4	270,626	28.5	679,537	71.5	597,911	62.9
Bagmati	864,214	259,593	30.0	301,870	34.9	302,751	35.0	561,463	65.0	604,621	70.0
Gandaki	336,839	112,774	33.5	119,627	35.5	104,438	31.0	232,401	69.0	224,065	66.5
Lumbini	757,469	268,902	35.5	266,043	35.1	222,524	29.4	534,945	70.6	488,567	64.5
Karnali	280,017	105,671	37.7	95,552	34.1	78,794	28.1	201,223	71.9	174,346	62.3
Sudurpashchim	417,773	165,217	39.5	141,431	33.9	111,125	26.6	306,648	73.4	252,556	60.5
Urban and rural areas											
Urban	1,184,801	371,397	31.3	413,146	34.9	400,258	33.8	784,543	66.2	813,404	68.7
Peri-urban	1,701,064	610,225	35.9	590,920	34.7	499,919	29.4	1,201,145	70.6	1,090,839	64.1
Rural	1,405,630	514,332	36.6	490,457	34.9	400,841	28.5	1,004,789	71.5	891,298	63.4
Caste and ethnic group											
Hill Caste	1,228,425	429,763	35.0	429,447	35.0	369,215	30.1	859,210	69.9	798,662	65.0
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	749,947	268,395	35.8	259,877	34.7	221,675	29.6	528,272	70.4	481,552	64.2
Mountain/Hill Janajati	1,065,526	352,797	33.1	375,979	35.3	336,750	31.6	728,776	68.4	712,729	66.9
Tarai Janajati	369,331	115,680	31.3	127,290	34.5	126,361	34.2	242,970	65.8	253,651	68.7
Hill Dalit	394,351	149,928	38.0	135,905	34.5	108,518	27.5	285,833	72.5	244,423	62.0
Tarai Dalit	221,649	81,772	36.9	76,221	34.4	63,656	28.7	157,993	71.3	139,877	63.1
Religious	238,616	92,611	38.8	81,672	34.2	64,333	27.0	174,283	73.0	146,005	61.2
Others	23,650	5,008	21.2	8,132	34.4	10,510	44.4	13,140	55.6	18,642	78.8
Wealth Quintile											
Lowest	876,089	347,744	39.7	300,956	34.4	227,389	26.0	648,700	74.0	528,345	60.3
Lower	893,750	318,756	35.7	316,132	35.4	258,862	29.0	634,888	71.0	574,994	64.3
Middle	875,088	307,079	35.1	307,174	35.1	260,835	29.8	614,253	70.2	568,009	64.9
Higher	818,456	268,646	32.8	287,807	35.2	262,003	32.0	556,453	68.0	549,810	67.2
Highest	758,845	242,201	31.9	266,516	35.1	250,128	33.0	508,717	67.0	516,644	68.1
Female	4,367,834	1,413,911	32.4	1,471,881	33.7	1,482,042	33.9	2,885,792	66.1	2,953,923	67.6
Ecological Belt											
Mountain	281,030	99,538	35.4	96,279	34.3	85,213	30.3	195,817	69.7	181,492	64.6
Hill	1,725,033	537,511	31.2	590,347	34.2	597,175	34.6	1,127,858	65.4	1,187,522	68.8
Tarai	2,361,771	776,862	32.9	785,255	33.2	799,654	33.9	1,562,117	66.1	1,584,909	67.1
Province											
Koshi	703,152	223,513	31.8	239,165	34.0	240,474	34.2	462,678	65.8	479,639	68.2
Madhesh	930,345	331,403	35.6	301,431	32.4	297,511	32.0	632,834	68.0	598,942	64.4
Bagmati	827,504	237,946	28.8	282,100	34.1	307,458	37.2	520,046	62.8	589,558	71.2
Gandaki	342,091	105,041	30.7	116,618	34.1	120,432	35.2	221,659	64.8	237,050	69.3
Lumbini	803,155	254,176	31.6	274,857	34.2	274,122	34.1	529,033	65.9	548,979	68.4
Karnali	296,360	102,701	34.7	101,192	34.1	92,467	31.2	203,893	68.8	193,659	65.3
Sudurpashchim	465,227	159,131	34.2	156,518	33.6	149,578	32.2	315,649	67.8	306,096	65.8
Urban and rural Area											
Urban	1,127,811	329,928	29.3	378,809	33.6	419,074	37.2	708,737	62.8	797,883	70.7
Peri-urban	1,732,770	576,579	33.3	573,883	33.1	582,308	33.6	1,150,462	66.4	1,156,191	66.7
Rural	1,507,253	507,404	33.7	519,189	34.4	480,660	31.9	1,026,593	68.1	999,849	66.3

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Background characteristics	Total (=100%)	10-14		15-19		20-24		Adolescents (10-19)		Youth (15-24)	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Caste and ethnic group											
Hill Caste	1,258,583	396,541	31.5	428,963	34.1	433,079	34.4	825,504	65.6	862,042	68.5
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	699,505	247,777	35.4	228,083	32.6	223,645	32.0	475,860	68.0	451,728	64.6
Mountain/Hill Janajati	1,104,499	339,511	30.7	380,417	34.4	384,571	34.8	719,928	65.2	764,988	69.3
Tarai Janajati	390,090	111,476	28.6	129,330	33.2	149,284	38.3	240,806	61.7	278,614	71.4
Hill Dalit	436,706	148,048	33.9	148,513	34.0	140,145	32.1	296,561	67.9	288,658	66.1
Tarai Dalit	219,315	78,431	35.8	71,623	32.7	69,261	31.6	150,054	68.4	140,884	64.2
Religious	243,828	88,050	36.1	80,635	33.1	75,143	30.8	168,685	69.2	155,778	63.9
Others	15,308	4,077	26.6	4,317	28.2	6,914	45.2	8,394	54.8	11,231	73.4
Wealth Quintile											
Lowest	910,477	343,604	37.7	307,433	33.8	259,440	28.5	651,037	71.5	566,873	62.3
Lower	941,417	310,690	33.0	323,070	34.3	307,657	32.7	633,760	67.3	630,727	67.0
Middle	911,372	294,984	32.4	307,755	33.8	308,633	33.9	602,739	66.1	616,388	67.6
Higher	838,435	247,409	29.5	278,080	33.2	312,946	37.3	525,489	62.7	591,026	70.5
Highest	740,875	210,848	28.5	246,581	33.3	283,446	38.3	457,429	61.7	530,027	71.5

Annex A5.1: Percentage distribution of adolescents and youth by Place of Birth by Sex and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	Adolescents (10-19)						Youth (15-19)					
	Total (=100%)	Same Palika	Other Palika of Same District	Other District	Foreign Country	Not Stated	Total (=100%)	Same Palika	Other Palika of Same District	Other District	Foreign Country	Not Stated
Male												
Total	2,990,477	84.1	3.3	11.6	1.0	0.0	2,795,541	79.0	3.8	16.0	1.3	0.0
Ecological zones												
Mountain	191,580	94.9	3.1	1.7	0.2	0.0	168,189	92.7	3.4	3.5	0.4	0.0
Hill	1,162,375	79.4	4.3	15.2	1.0	0.0	1,128,995	71.4	4.7	22.5	1.4	0.0
Tarai	1,636,522	86.1	2.5	10.2	1.1	0.0	1,498,357	83.1	3.1	12.4	1.3	0.0
Provinces												
Koshi	474,260	84.2	3.8	11.0	1.0	0.0	453,475	80.9	4.4	13.4	1.4	0.0
Madhesh	679,537	95.6	1.8	2.3	0.3	0.0	597,911	94.6	2.0	3.0	0.3	0.0
Bagmati	561,463	66.7	5.0	26.9	1.4	0.0	604,621	56.7	5.0	36.4	1.8	0.0
Gandaki	232,401	77.6	6.4	14.0	1.9	0.1	224,065	72.5	6.6	18.4	2.4	0.1
Lumbini	534,945	85.7	2.4	10.4	1.5	0.0	488,567	82.4	2.9	13.1	1.6	0.0
Karnali	201,223	92.5	2.2	4.9	0.4	0.0	174,346	90.0	2.8	6.8	0.4	0.0
Sudurpashchim	306,648	86.6	2.3	9.9	1.2	0.0	252,556	83.3	3.4	12.1	1.1	0.0
Urban and rural areas												
Urban	784,543	64.5	6.8	26.8	1.9	0.0	813,404	54.4	6.8	36.4	2.4	0.0
Peri-urban	1,201,145	88.4	2.3	8.3	0.9	0.0	1,090,839	86.3	2.9	9.7	1.1	0.0
Rural	1,004,789	94.1	1.6	3.7	0.5	0.0	891,298	92.4	2.0	4.9	0.6	0.0
Caste and ethnic groups												
Hill Castes	859,210	76.0	4.0	18.9	1.0	0.0	798,662	68.6	4.5	25.8	1.0	0.0
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	528,272	92.7	2.2	4.7	0.4	0.0	481,552	89.9	2.4	7.1	0.6	0.0
Mountain/Hill Janajati	728,776	79.8	4.5	14.9	0.7	0.0	712,729	74.9	4.9	19.4	0.7	0.0
Tarai Janajati	242,970	93.1	2.5	4.1	0.2	0.0	253,651	89.5	3.5	6.7	0.2	0.0
Hill Dalits	285,833	84.8	3.0	10.8	1.4	0.0	244,423	79.7	3.8	15.2	1.3	0.0
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	157,993	96.8	1.0	2.0	0.2	0.0	139,877	95.3	1.4	3.0	0.2	0.0
Religious groups	174,283	94.5	1.4	3.5	0.6	0.0	146,005	91.8	1.7	5.5	1.0	0.0
Others	13,140	27.2	1.4	3.9	67.5	0.0	18,642	16.0	1.0	3.8	79.2	0.0
Wealth quintiles												
Lowest	648,700	96.7	0.9	2.0	0.3	0.0	528,345	96.0	1.2	2.4	0.3	0.0
Lower	634,888	94.5	1.4	3.5	0.6	0.0	574,994	93.5	1.7	4.1	0.6	0.0
Middle	614,253	88.3	2.5	8.2	1.0	0.0	568,009	86.0	2.9	9.8	1.2	0.0
Higher	556,453	70.7	5.5	21.9	1.9	0.0	549,810	63.9	5.5	28.2	2.3	0.0
Highest	508,717	67.9	6.6	24.0	1.5	0.0	516,644	61.1	6.8	30.3	1.7	0.0
Female												
Total	2,885,792	82.6	4.6	11.7	1.1	0.0	2,953,923	65.9	11.4	20.4	2.3	0.0
Ecological zones												
Mountain	19,5817	93.3	4.3	2.2	0.2	0.0	181,492	81.8	11.1	6.9	0.2	0.0

Background characteristics	Adolescents (10-19)						Youth (15-19)					
	Total (=100%)	Same Palika	Other Palika of Same District	Other District	Foreign Country	Not Stated	Total (=100%)	Same Palika	Other Palika of Same District	Other District	Foreign Country	Not Stated
Hill	1,127,858	79.5	5.3	14.4	0.8	0.0	1,187,522	64.4	10.0	24.7	0.8	0.0
Tarai	1,562,117	83.5	4.1	10.9	1.5	0.0	1,584,909	65.3	12.4	18.7	3.6	0.0
Provinces												
Koshi	462,678	81.8	5.0	12.0	1.2	0.0	479,639	67.1	10.7	19.7	2.5	0.0
Madhesh	632,834	91.5	4.1	3.6	0.8	0.0	598,942	67.5	17.4	11.4	3.6	0.0
Bagmati	520,046	68.5	5.6	25.0	1.0	0.0	589,558	53.6	7.9	37.5	1.0	0.0
Gandaki	221,659	76.9	7.4	14.1	1.5	0.1	237,050	62.9	12.8	22.7	1.6	0.1
Lumbini	529,033	84.0	3.6	10.6	1.7	0.0	548,979	69.5	9.6	17.3	3.5	0.0
Karnali	203,893	90.3	3.7	5.5	0.4	0.0	193,659	79.1	9.6	10.9	0.3	0.0
Sudurpashchim	315,649	85.9	3.3	9.6	1.2	0.0	306,096	72.4	10.3	16.1	1.0	0.0
Urban and rural areas												
Urban	708,737	65.5	7.2	25.6	1.7	0.0	797,883	49.9	10.1	37.4	2.6	0.0
Peri-urban	1,150,462	85.3	4.2	9.2	1.3	0.0	1,156,191	66.1	13.9	16.5	3.5	0.0
Rural	1,026,593	91.5	3.2	4.8	0.5	0.0	999,849	78.6	9.5	11.4	0.6	0.0
Caste and ethnic groups												
Hill Castes	825,504	76.3	4.5	18.0	1.1	0.0	862,042	61.7	8.8	28.3	1.1	0.0
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	475,860	90.8	4.0	4.4	0.8	0.0	451,728	67.7	16.4	11.6	4.3	0.0
Mountain/Hill Janajati	719,928	78.2	5.5	15.6	0.8	0.0	764,988	65.0	9.1	25.0	0.8	0.0
Tarai Janajati	240,806	91.4	4.1	4.1	0.3	0.0	278,614	77.1	12.6	9.4	0.8	0.0
Hill Dalits	296,561	82.0	4.7	11.8	1.5	0.0	288,658	66.3	11.2	21.0	1.4	0.0
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	150,054	91.4	4.5	3.3	0.9	0.0	140,884	64.2	20.6	10.9	4.3	0.0
Religious groups	168,685	92.5	3.1	2.9	1.5	0.0	155,778	73.0	11.8	8.0	7.1	0.0
Others	8,394	36.4	1.9	4.1	57.5	0.0	11,231	21.8	2.2	5.2	70.7	0.0
Wealth quintiles												
Lowest	651,037	93.2	2.8	3.4	0.6	0.0	566,873	78.0	11.0	9.1	1.8	0.0
Lower	633,760	90.9	3.4	4.9	0.7	0.0	630,727	75.1	11.9	11.3	1.7	0.0
Middle	602,739	85.7	4.2	9.0	1.2	0.0	616,388	68.6	12.4	16.3	2.6	0.0
Higher	525,489	70.7	6.4	21.1	1.7	0.0	591,026	53.5	11.7	31.9	2.8	0.0
Highest	457,429	67.7	6.8	23.9	1.5	0.0	530,027	54.7	9.5	33.5	2.3	0.0

Annex A5.2: Percentage distribution of adolescents and youth by place of last prior residence just before the census enumeration and by sex and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	Adolescents (10-19)					Youth (15-24)				
	Total (=100%)	Same Palika	Other Palika of Same District	Other District	Foreign Country	Total (=100%)	Same Palika	Other Palika of Same District	Other District	Foreign Country
Male										
Total	2,990,477	83.6	4.3	11.0	1.0	2,795,541	78.1	5.2	15.1	1.6
Ecological zones										
Mountain	191,580	94.7	3.2	1.8	0.3	168,189	92.2	3.5	3.7	0.5
Hill	1,162,375	78.8	6.1	14.0	1.1	1,128,995	70.2	7.3	20.7	1.8
Tarai	1,636,522	85.8	3.1	10.0	1.1	1,498,357	82.4	3.9	12.2	1.5
Provinces										
Koshi	474,260	83.7	4.6	10.7	1.0	453,475	79.8	5.4	13.2	1.7
Madhesh	679,537	95.5	1.9	2.3	0.3	597,911	94.2	2.2	3.1	0.5
Bagmati	561,463	66.2	8.5	24.1	1.3	604,621	56.0	9.7	32.4	1.8
Gandaki	232,401	77.0	7.1	14.2	1.8	224,065	71.3	7.5	18.6	2.7
Lumbini	534,945	85.3	3.1	10.2	1.4	488,567	81.4	3.6	12.9	2.0
Karnali	201,223	91.9	2.4	5.0	0.7	174,346	88.2	2.9	7.3	1.6
Sudurpashchim	306,648	86.1	2.8	9.8	1.3	252,556	82.0	4.0	12.1	1.9
Urban and rural areas										
Urban	784,543	63.8	9.7	24.7	1.7	813,404	53.6	11.0	33.1	2.4
Peri-urban	1,201,145	88.1	2.8	8.1	0.9	1,090,839	85.6	3.4	9.7	1.3
Rural	1,004,789	93.7	1.8	3.8	0.7	891,298	91.2	2.3	5.3	1.3
Caste and ethnic groups										
Hill Castes	859,210	75.3	5.6	18.0	1.0	798,662	67.4	6.8	24.4	1.4
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	528,272	92.6	2.5	4.5	0.4	481,552	89.5	3.0	6.8	0.7
Mountain/Hill Janajati	728,776	79.3	6.0	14.0	0.7	712,729	74.0	6.9	18.1	1.0
Tarai Janajati	242,970	92.8	2.9	4.0	0.3	253,651	88.7	4.0	6.7	0.6
Hill Dalits	285,833	84.2	3.8	10.4	1.6	244,423	78.3	4.9	14.6	2.1
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	157,993	96.7	1.1	2.0	0.2	139,877	94.9	1.6	3.0	0.4
Religious groups	174,283	94.3	1.7	3.3	0.6	146,005	91.4	2.1	5.3	1.2
Others	13,140	26.8	4.6	5.1	63.5	18,642	15.6	4.8	5.5	74.1
Wealth quintiles										
Lowest	648,700	96.4	1.0	2.1	0.5	528,345	95.1	1.4	2.6	0.9
Lower	634,888	94.2	1.6	3.5	0.7	574,994	92.5	2.0	4.3	1.2
Middle	614,253	87.9	3.2	7.9	1.0	568,009	85.2	3.7	9.5	1.6
Higher	556,453	70.2	7.3	20.7	1.7	549,810	63.2	8.1	26.3	2.4
Highest	508,717	67.2	9.2	22.3	1.3	516,644	60.2	10.3	27.9	1.7

Background characteristics	Adolescents (10-19)					Youth (15-24)				
	Total (=100%)	Same Palika	Other Palika of Same District	Other District	Foreign Country	Total (=100%)	Same Palika	Other Palika of Same District	Other District	Foreign Country
Female										
Total	2,885,792	82.2	5.5	11.1	1.1	2,953,923	65.3	13.0	19.5	2.2
Ecological zones										
Mountain	195,817	93.0	4.5	2.3	0.2	181,492	81.2	11.5	7.0	0.3
Hill	1,127,858	79.0	6.9	13.3	0.8	1,187,522	63.7	12.5	23.0	0.8
Tarai	1,562,117	83.2	4.7	10.7	1.4	1,584,909	64.8	13.4	18.3	3.5
Provinces										
Koshi	462,678	81.3	5.8	11.7	1.2	479,639	66.3	12.0	19.3	2.4
Madhesh	632,834	91.4	4.3	3.6	0.8	598,942	67.2	17.7	11.4	3.6
Bagmati	520,046	67.9	8.8	22.4	0.8	589,558	53.0	12.5	33.6	0.9
Gandaki	221,659	76.3	8.1	14.2	1.4	237,050	61.9	13.8	22.8	1.5
Lumbini	529,033	83.7	4.2	10.4	1.6	548,979	68.9	10.6	17.0	3.5
Karnali	203,893	90.0	4.0	5.5	0.5	193,659	78.4	10.1	11.0	0.5
Sudurpashchim	315,649	85.6	3.8	9.4	1.2	306,096	71.9	11.3	15.6	1.2
Urban and rural areas										
Urban	708,737	64.8	10.1	23.6	1.5	797,883	49.2	14.2	34.2	2.4
Peri-urban	1,150,462	85.0	4.7	9.0	1.3	1,156,191	65.6	14.7	16.2	3.5
Rural	1,026,593	91.1	3.4	4.9	0.6	999,849	77.9	10.0	11.5	0.7
Caste and ethnic groups										
Hill Castes	825,504	75.7	6.0	17.2	1.0	862,042	60.9	11.3	26.7	1.1
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	475,860	90.6	4.3	4.3	0.8	451,728	67.4	17.0	11.4	4.2
Mountain/Hill Janajati	719,928	77.7	6.9	14.6	0.7	764,988	64.3	11.3	23.5	0.8
Tarai Janajati	240,806	91.2	4.5	4.0	0.3	278,614	76.7	13.3	9.3	0.8
Hill Dalits	296,561	81.5	5.5	11.5	1.6	288,658	65.6	12.4	20.5	1.5
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	150,054	91.3	4.7	3.2	0.9	140,884	63.9	21.0	10.8	4.3
Religious groups	168,685	92.4	3.3	2.9	1.5	155,778	72.8	12.3	7.9	7.1
Others	8,394	35.8	4.0	4.7	55.5	11,231	21.2	3.9	6.2	68.8
Wealth quintiles										
Lowest	651,037	93.0	3.0	3.4	0.6	566,873	77.6	11.4	9.1	1.9
Lower	633,760	90.7	3.7	4.8	0.8	630,727	74.5	12.4	11.3	1.8
Middle	602,739	85.4	4.8	8.7	1.1	616,388	68.1	13.4	15.9	2.6
Higher	525,489	70.3	8.1	20.0	1.6	591,026	52.9	14.4	30.0	2.7
Highest	457,429	66.9	9.5	22.3	1.4	530,027	53.9	13.1	30.9	2.1

Annex A5.3: Matrix of life time migration of adolescents and youth between ecological zones, NPHC 2021

Place of Enumeration	Place of Stay just before Census Enumeration				Total population	In-migrants
	Mountain	Hill	Tarai	Not Stated		
Mountain	532,156	13,250	2,997	9	548,412	16,256
Hill	100,392	3,128,542	156,870	1,211	3,387,015	258,473
Tarai	51,272	372,789	4,167,914	424	4,592,399	424,485
Total	683,820	3,514,581	4,327,781	1,644	8,527,826	699,214
Out-Migrant	151,664	386,039	159,867			

Annex A5.4: Matrix of lifetime migration of adolescents and youth between provinces, NPHC 2021

Place of enumeration (Province)	Place of Stay just before Census Enumeration								Total	In-migrant
	Koshi	Madhesh	Bagmati	Gandaki	Lumbini	Karnali	Sudur-paschim	Not Stated		
Koshi	1,333,310	15,806	11,898	1,494	1,330	601	845	202	1,365,486	32,176
Madhesh	9,489	1,831,659	11,610	1,094	579	208	193	50	1,854,882	23,223
Bagmati	85,021	71,434	1,354,416	76,758	37,108	18,939	24,474	1,126	1,669,276	314,860
Gandaki	4,745	5,572	16,788	619,830	15,627	1,813	1,482	54	665,911	90,598
Lumbini	2,360	2,225	5,086	30,526	1,434,834	42,730	7,521	150	1,525,432	90,598
Karnali	722	259	638	341	5,624	562,725	3,664	14	573,987	11,262
Sudurpashchim	1,068	614	1,093	569	3,585	8,502	857,373	48	872,852	15,479
Total	1,436,715	1,927,569	1,401,529	730,612	1,498,687	635,518	895,552	1,644	8,527,826	
Out-Migrant	103,405	95,910	47,113	110,782	63,853	72,793	38,179			

Annex A5.5: Percentage distribution of adolescent and youth lifetime migrants by migration flow by sex and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	Adolescents							Youth						
	Total (=100%)	Migration flow (%)						Total (=100%)	Migration flow (%)					
		R-R	U-R	NS-R	R-U	U-U	NS-U		R-R	U-R	NS-R	R-U	U-U	NS-U
Male														
Total	2,952,419	84.7	1.3	0.3	0.0	10.1	3.6	2,741,614	79.6	1.5	0.5	0.0	13.0	5.4
Ecological zone														
Mountain	191,005	95.0	1.5	0.3	0.0	2.7	0.5	167,271	92.7	1.9	1.0	0.0	3.2	1.1
Hill	1,144,790	80.1	1.0	0.3	0.0	12.4	6.2	1,101,367	71.9	1.3	0.6	0.0	16.8	9.4
Tarai	1,616,624	86.8	1.4	0.2	0.0	9.4	2.2	1,472,976	83.9	1.6	0.3	0.0	11.2	3.0
Province														
Koshi	469,201	84.6	2.1	0.4	0.0	10.4	2.5	445,656	81.2	2.5	0.7	0.0	12.1	3.4
Madhesh	677,561	95.8	0.3	0.1	0.0	3.2	0.7	594,921	94.7	0.4	0.1	0.0	3.8	1.0
Bagmati	551,779	67.3	0.8	0.2	0.0	20.1	11.6	589,580	57.5	1.0	0.4	0.0	25.6	15.5
Gandaki	225,953	79.2	2.2	0.6	0.1	14.2	3.7	215,416	74.1	2.3	1.0	0.1	17.0	5.4
Lumbini	526,337	86.7	2.1	0.3	0.0	8.9	1.9	477,670	83.3	2.5	0.5	0.1	10.8	2.8
Karnali	199,394	92.7	0.7	0.2	0.0	5.2	1.2	171,144	89.9	0.9	0.5	0.1	6.3	2.4
Sudurpashchim	302,194	87.4	1.2	0.2	0.0	9.5	1.7	247,227	83.7	1.5	0.3	0.0	11.5	2.9
Urban and rural area														
Urban	766,371	65.4	0.5	0.1	0.0	23.4	10.6	787,407	55.3	0.5	0.2	0.0	29.2	14.7
Peri-urban	1,188,618	89.1	1.4	0.2	0.0	7.7	1.6	1,074,663	86.9	1.6	0.3	0.0	8.8	2.3
Rural	997,430	94.4	1.7	0.4	0.0	2.9	0.6	879,544	92.4	2.3	0.9	0.1	3.4	1.0
Caste and ethnic group														
Hill Castes	847,363	76.4	1.7	0.3	0.0	15.7	5.9	783,684	68.7	2.0	0.6	0.0	20.0	8.6
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	525,805	93.0	0.5	0.1	0.0	4.5	1.9	477,533	90.2	0.7	0.3	0.0	5.8	3.0
Mountain/Hill Janajati	721,243	80.2	1.7	0.3	0.0	13.3	4.5	702,375	75.1	1.9	0.6	0.0	16.2	6.2
Tarai Janajati	242,095	93.1	0.6	0.2	0.0	4.3	1.7	251,656	89.4	0.9	0.4	0.0	6.1	3.2
Hill Dalit	280,524	85.8	1.8	0.3	0.0	9.6	2.5	238,395	80.3	2.2	0.5	0.1	12.7	4.2
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	157,632	96.9	0.4	0.1	0.0	2.1	0.5	139,175	95.4	0.6	0.2	0.0	2.8	1.0
Religious groups	173,008	95.0	0.4	0.1	0.0	3.1	1.3	144,036	92.6	0.6	0.2	0.0	4.5	2.1
Others	4,749	74.1	1.2	0.9	0.1	11.9	11.8	4,760	61.1	1.5	1.2	0.0	17.5	18.6
Wealth quintile														
Lowest	645,438	96.9	0.9	0.2	0.0	1.8	0.3	523,380	96.0	1.1	0.3	0.0	2.2	0.4
Lower	629,975	94.9	1.1	0.2	0.0	3.1	0.6	567,442	93.7	1.3	0.4	0.0	3.7	0.8
Middle	607,147	89.0	1.4	0.3	0.0	7.5	1.8	558,040	86.7	1.7	0.4	0.0	8.8	2.4
Higher	544,602	71.8	1.6	0.3	0.0	19.6	6.6	533,485	65.1	1.8	0.4	0.0	23.5	9.1
highest	499,169	68.4	1.0	0.2	0.0	20.6	9.7	504,299	61.6	1.2	0.3	0.0	25.4	11.5
Female														
Total	2,847,960	83.3	2.1	0.4	0.0	10.3	3.7	2,875,464	67.1	6.1	1.3	0.1	18.4	6.8
Ecological zone														
Mountain	195,353	93.3	2.6	0.5	0.0	3.0	0.7	180,834	81.5	8.5	1.6	0.2	6.6	1.7

Background characteristics	Adolescents							Youth						
	Total (=100%)	Migration flow (%)						Total (=100%)	Migration flow (%)					
		R-R	U-R	NS-R	R-U	U-U	NS-U		R-R	U-R	NS-R	R-U	U-U	NS-U
Hill	1,114,842	79.9	2.1	0.5	0.1	11.7	5.7	1,169,800	64.6	5.8	1.4	0.1	18.9	9.0
Tarai	1,537,765	84.5	2.1	0.4	0.0	10.3	2.7	1,524,830	67.3	6.1	1.2	0.1	19.4	5.8
Province														
Koshi	457,039	82.3	3.1	0.7	0.0	11.0	2.9	467,564	68.1	7.6	1.7	0.0	17.4	5.1
Madhesh	627,667	92.1	1.2	0.2	0.0	5.0	1.5	576,017	69.9	6.1	1.3	0.1	17.2	5.5
Bagmati	513,614	68.8	1.3	0.3	0.0	18.8	10.7	580,496	53.8	3.4	0.7	0.0	27.1	14.9
Gandaki	216,336	78.1	2.8	0.8	0.2	14.3	3.9	229,869	63.8	6.1	1.8	0.4	21.2	6.8
Lumbini	519,338	85.3	3.1	0.5	0.1	9.0	2.1	527,973	71.7	8.0	1.4	0.2	14.7	3.9
Karnali	202,483	90.6	1.9	0.5	0.1	5.5	1.4	191,798	79.2	5.9	1.6	0.3	10.1	3.0
Sudurpashchim	311,483	86.7	2.1	0.4	0.0	8.9	1.9	301,747	72.9	6.2	1.5	0.1	15.1	4.2
Urban and rural area														
Urban	693,916	66.2	0.7	0.2	0.0	22.8	10.2	771,697	50.9	1.6	0.4	0.0	32.4	14.8
Peri-urban	1,133,968	86.3	2.2	0.4	0.0	8.9	2.2	1,112,424	68.2	6.8	1.4	0.1	18.1	5.4
Rural	1,020,076	91.7	3.1	0.7	0.1	3.5	0.9	991,343	78.6	9.0	2.0	0.2	7.9	2.3
Caste and ethnic group														
Hill Castes	814,410	76.8	2.4	0.5	0.0	14.9	5.5	848,078	61.9	5.6	1.2	0.1	22.2	8.9
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	471,601	91.4	1.3	0.3	0.0	5.0	1.9	431,605	70.5	7.1	1.5	0.1	15.3	5.4
Mountain/Hill Janajati	712,625	78.5	2.6	0.5	0.0	13.6	4.8	755,095	65.2	5.8	1.2	0.1	20.4	7.4
Tarai Janajati	239,813	91.6	1.2	0.4	0.0	4.7	2.0	275,638	77.5	4.4	1.3	0.1	11.7	5.0
Hill Dalit	291,033	83.0	3.3	0.7	0.1	9.9	2.9	282,694	67.0	8.3	1.8	0.2	17.3	5.4
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	148,678	92.1	1.7	0.3	0.0	4.4	1.4	134,496	66.9	8.9	1.7	0.1	17.0	5.3
Religious group	166,083	93.8	1.1	0.2	0.0	3.5	1.3	144,384	78.5	5.3	1.1	0.1	11.1	3.9
Others	3,717	80.8	0.8	0.5	0.1	10.1	7.7	3,474	68.5	2.9	1.2	0.1	15.7	11.6
Wealth quintile														
Lowest	646,579	93.6	2.2	0.4	0.0	3.0	0.7	555,315	79.2	7.9	1.5	0.2	8.8	2.3
Lower	628,387	91.4	2.5	0.5	0.1	4.3	1.2	618,172	76.0	8.2	1.8	0.2	10.7	3.1
Middle	594,853	86.5	2.4	0.5	0.0	8.2	2.3	598,283	70.1	7.1	1.6	0.1	16.1	4.9
Higher	515,036	71.7	2.1	0.4	0.0	19.3	6.4	571,126	54.7	4.7	1.1	0.1	28.7	10.7
Highest	448,564	68.2	1.1	0.3	0.0	20.7	9.7	514,687	55.5	2.3	0.6	0.1	28.5	13.1

Annex A6.1 Percentage distribution of adolescents by level of education by sex and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	Total (=100%)	Early childhood education	Basic education (1-8)		Secondary education			Higher education		Other		
			Primary (1-5)	Lower secondary (6-8)	Upper secondary (9-10)	SLC/SEE and equivalent	Intermediate and equivalent	Graduate and equivalent	Post Graduate and above	Other/no level	Level not stated	Never attending
Both sexes												
Ecological zones										0.0		
Mountain	380,870	0.2	29.3	35.9	19.2	9.1	5.6	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1
Hill	2,264,877	0.1	25.2	34.0	17.4	13.6	8.8	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1
Tarai	2,990,803	0.4	32.2	33.7	16.8	10.2	6.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Provinces												
Koshi	917,001	0.1	26.7	34.3	17.6	13.3	7.3	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Madesh	1,154,045	0.5	36.0	33.7	17.0	7.3	4.7	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2
Bagmati	1,068,225	0.1	23.6	32.0	15.9	15.7	11.6	0.6	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.1
Gandaki	450,272	0.1	23.0	33.6	17.6	15.0	9.7	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.1
Lumbini	1,032,940	0.4	32.0	34.6	16.3	10.4	5.7	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1
Karnali	399,387	0.2	27.8	35.8	19.8	10.3	5.5	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1
Sudurpashchim	614,680	0.2	30.6	35.7	18.6	9.1	5.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Urban and rural areas										0.0		
Urban	1,446,588	0.2	24.9	30.9	15.9	15.6	11.3	0.6	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1
peri-urban	2,193,076	0.4	32.9	33.8	16.6	10.0	5.7	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1
Rural	1,996,886	0.2	28.3	36.5	18.7	10.1	5.7	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Caste and ethnic groups												
Hill Castes	1,672,539	0.1	23.5	32.4	18.1	14.9	10.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	937,665	0.5	34.4	33.7	17.0	8.3	5.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1
Mountain/Hill Janajati	1,428,934	0.1	25.5	34.7	17.5	13.3	8.1	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1
Tarai Janajati	473,350	0.2	28.3	35.5	19.1	11.0	5.3	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Hill Dalits	572,562	0.2	32.4	37.1	16.4	8.9	4.4	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	247,108	0.5	43.7	34.8	13.5	4.8	2.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2
Religious groups	284,910	0.7	46.3	31.8	12.3	4.4	2.6	0.1	0.0	1.1	0.4	0.4
Others	19,482	0.3	34.7	33.8	14.3	8.7	6.2	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.5	0.5
Wealth quintiles												
Lowest	1,190,231	0.3	36.4	36.9	16.5	6.3	3.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1
Lower	1,210,552	0.3	30.3	36.0	18.3	9.5	5.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Middle	1,170,509	0.3	30.0	34.5	17.6	10.7	6.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2

Background characteristics	Total (=100%)	Early childhood education	Basic education (1-8)		Secondary education			Higher education		Other		
			Primary (1-5)	Lower secondary (6-8)	Upper secondary (9-10)	SLC/SEE and equivalent	Intermediate and equivalent	Graduate and equivalent	Post Graduate and above	Other/no level	Level not stated	Never attending
Higher	1,063,325	0.2	26.5	32.1	17.1	14.4	9.1	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Highest	960,095	0.1	21.2	29.8	16.4	17.9	13.7	0.7	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Males												
Ecological zones										0.0		
Mountain	188,646	0.2	30.3	36.2	18.9	8.6	5.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1
Hill	1,149,528	0.1	26.5	34.3	16.9	13.0	8.3	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1
Tarai	1,542,268	0.4	33.4	33.9	16.4	9.7	5.6	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Provinces												
Koshi	464,452	0.1	28.3	34.9	17.1	12.5	6.5	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Madesh	608,838	0.5	36.5	33.5	16.9	7.2	4.7	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2
Bagmati	554,350	0.1	24.9	32.3	15.4	15.2	10.9	0.5	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.1
Gandaki	230,337	0.1	24.6	33.9	17.2	14.4	8.9	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.1
Lumbini	520,534	0.4	33.5	34.9	15.7	9.8	5.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1
Karnali	198,622	0.2	28.9	36.0	19.3	9.9	5.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1
Sudurpashchim	303,309	0.3	32.0	36.0	18.0	8.5	4.8	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Urban and rural areas										0.0		
Urban	761,853	0.2	26.0	31.2	15.7	15.2	10.6	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1
Peri-urban	1,130,264	0.4	34.0	33.9	16.2	9.5	5.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1
Rural	988,325	0.2	29.8	36.8	18.1	9.4	5.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Caste and ethnic groups												
Hill Castes	853,288	0.1	24.6	32.7	17.7	14.4	9.6	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	498,309	0.5	34.9	33.2	16.9	8.4	5.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1
Mountain/Hill Janajati	718,774	0.2	27.2	35.2	16.9	12.4	7.2	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.1
Tarai Janajati	237,898	0.3	30.6	36.4	17.9	9.8	4.5	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Hill Dalits	281,197	0.2	34.1	37.1	15.7	8.4	4.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	130,752	0.6	43.4	34.6	13.6	5.0	2.4	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1
Religious groups	148,368	0.8	45.6	31.9	12.7	4.6	2.8	0.1	0.0	0.8	0.4	0.4
Others	11,856	0.3	35.6	34.4	13.8	8.3	5.4	0.3	0.0	0.8	0.6	0.6
Wealth quintiles												
Lowest	598,367	0.3	37.5	36.8	16.0	5.9	2.9	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1
Lower	608,535	0.3	31.8	36.3	17.7	8.8	4.5	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Middle	593,362	0.3	31.5	34.8	17.1	10.0	5.6	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2
Higher	547,648	0.3	27.9	32.4	16.7	13.8	8.3	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1

Background characteristics	Total (=100%)	Early childhood education	Basic education (1-8)		Secondary education			Higher education		Other		
			Primary (1-5)	Lower secondary (6-8)	Upper secondary (9-10)	SLC/SEE and equivalent	Intermediate and equivalent	Graduate and equivalent	Post Graduate and above	Other/no level	Level not stated	Never attending
Highest	505,614	0.1	22.2	30.2	16.2	17.5	12.9	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Females												
Ecological zones										0.0		
Mountain	192,224	0.2	28.3	35.7	19.5	9.6	6.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Hill	1,115,349	0.1	23.8	33.8	17.9	14.1	9.4	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Tarai	1,448,535	0.3	31.0	33.6	17.2	10.7	6.5	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1
Provinces												
Koshi	452,549	0.1	25.1	33.7	18.1	14.2	8.1	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Madesh	545,207	0.4	35.4	34.0	17.1	7.4	4.8	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.2
Bagmati	513,875	0.1	22.3	31.6	16.5	16.2	12.4	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Gandaki	219,935	0.1	21.5	33.3	18.0	15.6	10.5	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.1
Lumbini	512,406	0.3	30.4	34.4	16.8	11.0	6.3	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.1
Karnali	200,765	0.2	26.8	35.5	20.2	10.7	5.9	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1
Sudurpashchim	311,371	0.2	29.2	35.4	19.2	9.7	5.6	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Urban and rural areas										0.0		
Urban	684,735	0.2	23.7	30.6	16.2	16.1	12.1	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Peri-urban	1,062,812	0.3	31.6	33.6	17.0	10.5	6.1	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1
Rural	1,008,561	0.2	26.8	36.1	19.3	10.8	6.3	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Caste and ethnic groups												
Hill Castes	819,251	0.1	22.4	32.0	18.5	15.3	10.9	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	439,356	0.4	33.9	34.3	17.2	8.2	5.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2
Mountain/Hill Janajati	710,160	0.1	23.7	34.1	18.1	14.1	9.0	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Tarai Janajati	235,452	0.2	25.9	34.7	20.4	12.2	6.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Hill Dalits	291,365	0.2	30.7	37.2	17.2	9.5	4.7	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	116,356	0.5	43.9	35.1	13.4	4.6	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2
Religious	136,542	0.6	47.1	31.7	11.8	4.2	2.3	0.1	0.0	1.3	0.4	0.4
Others	7,626	0.3	33.5	32.9	14.9	9.4	7.4	0.5	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.4
Wealth quintiles												
Lowest	591,864	0.3	35.2	36.9	17.0	6.7	3.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Lower	602,017	0.2	28.8	35.7	18.9	10.2	5.5	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Middle	577,147	0.3	28.4	34.2	18.1	11.5	6.7	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2
Higher	515,677	0.2	24.9	31.7	17.5	15.0	9.9	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Highest	454,481	0.1	20.1	29.3	16.5	18.3	14.5	0.8	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1

Annex A6.2: Percentage distribution of youth by level of education by sex and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	Total (=100%)	Basic education (1-8)			Secondary education			Higher education		Other		
		Early childhood education	Primary (1-5)	Lower secondary (6-8)	Upper secondary (9-10)	SLC/SEE and equivalent	Intermediate and equivalent	Graduate and equivalent	Post graduate and above	Others/no level	Level not stated	Never attending school
Both sexes												
Ecological zones										0.0		
Mountain	336,127	0.1	7.1	22.3	29.5	16.8	20.7	2.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1
Hill	2,269,569	0.0	6.2	17.8	22.7	19.6	27.2	5.3	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.1
Tarai	2,787,879	0.1	8.8	22.9	25.9	16.9	20.8	3.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1
Provinces										0.0		
Koshi	899,851	0.0	6.8	20.1	25.5	20.8	22.7	3.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1
Madhesh	981,464	0.1	9.9	25.7	28.4	14.2	17.2	3.2	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.2
Bagmati	1,168,013	0.0	5.7	14.5	17.7	20.3	32.7	7.7	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.1
Gandaki	454,641	0.1	5.1	15.7	21.8	21.2	30.1	4.8	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.1
Lumbini	988,648	0.1	10.7	24.3	24.6	16.5	19.8	3.0	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1
Karnali	356,800	0.1	6.2	21.2	31.0	18.0	20.6	2.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1
Sudurpashchim	544,158	0.1	6.4	23.0	31.0	15.9	19.5	3.2	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1
Urba and rural areas										0.0		
Urban	1,543,577	0.0	4.7	13.6	18.4	20.8	33.1	8.1	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.1
Peri-urban	2,019,323	0.1	9.0	23.5	26.3	17.0	20.0	3.1	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1
Rural	1,830,675	0.1	8.5	23.6	28.6	16.9	19.2	2.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1
Caste and ethnic groups												
Hill Castes	1,639,018	0.0	2.8	12.5	23.0	21.1	32.5	6.8	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.0
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	830,246	0.1	8.5	24.6	27.4	15.1	19.3	3.8	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.1
Mountain/Hill Janajatis	1,443,009	0.1	7.3	19.7	23.5	19.9	24.7	3.8	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1
Tarai Janajatis	512,772	0.1	7.0	24.4	29.9	17.6	17.8	2.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1
Hill Dalits	514,527	0.1	11.0	28.9	26.3	15.7	15.6	1.6	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	198,786	0.1	19.2	34.4	25.1	10.3	8.8	0.9	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.2
Religious groups	229,746	0.1	22.9	31.3	21.8	8.9	10.3	1.7	0.3	1.6	0.7	0.4
Others	25,471	0.1	17.3	26.2	20.0	12.5	16.2	4.9	0.6	1.0	0.6	0.6
Wealth quintiles												
Lowest	949,210	0.1	13.9	30.4	29.4	12.4	11.7	1.1	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.1
Lower	1,117,014	0.1	9.7	25.9	29.0	16.2	16.5	1.7	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1
Middle	1,108,961	0.1	8.3	23.2	26.8	17.8	20.2	2.7	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2

Background characteristics	Total (=100%)	Basic education (1-8)			Secondary education			Higher education		Other		
		Early childhood education	Primary (1-5)	Lower secondary (6-8)	Upper secondary (9-10)	SLC/SEE and equivalent	Intermediate and equivalent	Graduate and equivalent	Post graduate and above	Others/no level	Level not stated	Never attending school
Higher	1,106,601	0.1	5.0	17.0	22.9	20.9	28.2	4.9	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1
Highest	1,037,015	0.0	1.8	7.9	16.7	21.7	39.7	10.6	1.2	0.1	0.2	0.0
Males												
Ecological zones										0.0		
Mountain	163,435	0.1	7.5	22.9	29.4	16.8	20.0	2.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1
Hill	1,109,428	0.0	6.7	18.8	22.3	19.9	26.3	4.9	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.1
Tarai	1,387,771	0.1	8.7	24.4	25.4	16.9	20.2	3.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1
Provinces										0.0		
Koshi	439,948	0.0	7.7	22.2	24.9	20.3	21.1	2.9	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1
Madhesh	518,212	0.0	9.2	26.4	27.7	14.1	17.7	3.5	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.2
Bagmati	592,552	0.0	6.4	15.9	17.3	20.5	31.4	7.1	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.1
Gandaki	221,086	0.1	5.7	16.6	21.9	22.0	28.9	3.9	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.1
Lumbini	470,286	0.1	10.7	25.9	24.4	16.7	18.8	2.6	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1
Karnali	170,343	0.1	6.2	21.9	30.4	18.2	20.3	2.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1
Sudurpashchim	248,207	0.1	6.1	23.9	30.7	16.1	19.0	3.0	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.0
Urban and rural areas										0.0		
Urban	784,977	0.0	5.1	14.7	18.3	21.2	32.0	7.4	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.1
Peri-urban	1,007,276	0.1	8.9	25.1	25.7	16.9	19.4	2.9	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1
Rural	868,381	0.1	9.1	24.8	28.2	16.8	18.2	1.9	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1
Caste and ethnic groups										0.0		
Hill Castes	790,580	0.0	2.8	13.3	22.8	21.7	31.9	6.4	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.0
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	444,333	0.1	7.8	24.8	26.4	15.2	20.4	4.2	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.1
Mountain/Hill Janajati	697,964	0.0	8.3	21.6	23.3	19.9	22.7	3.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1
Tarai Janajati	246,253	0.1	8.1	27.8	28.2	16.9	16.1	2.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1
Hill Dalits	237,657	0.1	11.5	29.6	25.5	15.9	15.2	1.5	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	108,359	0.1	17.9	34.5	24.7	10.7	9.9	1.2	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.2
Religious groups	119,162	0.1	19.8	31.6	22.7	9.6	11.9	1.9	0.3	1.0	0.6	0.4
Others	16,326	0.1	19.9	28.5	18.8	11.7	14.1	3.9	0.6	1.0	0.7	0.7
Wealth quintiles										0.0		
Lowest	470,897	0.1	14.5	31.4	28.6	12.1	11.4	1.1	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.1
Lower	542,159	0.1	10.1	27.5	28.4	15.8	15.7	1.6	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1
Middle	541,067	0.1	8.4	24.8	26.4	17.5	19.3	2.5	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2
Higher	537,368	0.0	5.1	18.5	22.5	21.1	27.1	4.6	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1

Background characteristics	Total (=100%)	Basic education (1-8)			Secondary education			Higher education		Other		
		Early childhood education	Primary (1-5)	Lower secondary (6-8)	Upper secondary (9-10)	SLC/SEE and equivalent	Intermediate and equivalent	Graduate and equivalent	Post graduate and above	Others/no level	Level not stated	Never attending school
Highest	512,723	0.0	1.8	8.7	17.0	22.4	38.8	9.9	1.0	0.1	0.2	0.0
Female												
Ecological zones										0.0		
Mountain	172,692	0.1	6.7	21.7	29.5	16.8	21.4	2.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1
Hill	1,160,141	0.1	5.8	16.8	23.2	19.3	28.0	5.7	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.1
Tarai	1,400,108	0.1	8.8	21.4	26.4	17.0	21.4	3.7	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1
Provinces										0.0		
Koshi	459,903	0.0	5.9	18.0	26.2	21.2	24.2	3.6	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1
Madhesh	463,252	0.1	10.6	24.9	29.2	14.3	16.5	2.9	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.2
Bagmati	575,461	0.0	5.0	13.2	18.1	20.1	34.0	8.3	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.1
Gandaki	233,555	0.1	4.6	14.9	21.8	20.5	31.4	5.6	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.1
Lumbini	518,362	0.1	10.7	22.9	24.8	16.3	20.7	3.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1
Karnali	186,457	0.1	6.1	20.5	31.5	17.9	20.9	2.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1
Sudurpashchim	295,951	0.1	6.5	22.1	31.2	15.7	19.9	3.3	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.1
Urban and rural areas										0.0		
Urban	758,600	0.0	4.3	12.4	18.5	20.4	34.2	8.7	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.1
Peri-urban	1,012,047	0.1	9.2	21.9	26.8	17.1	20.6	3.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1
Rural	962,294	0.1	7.9	22.4	28.9	17.1	20.2	2.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1
Caste and ethnic groups										0.0		
Hill Castes	848,438	0.1	2.8	11.9	23.2	20.6	33.1	7.2	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.0
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	385,913	0.1	9.3	24.5	28.5	15.0	18.1	3.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2
Mountain/Hill Janajati	745,045	0.1	6.4	18.0	23.7	19.9	26.5	4.5	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1
Tarai Janajati	266,519	0.1	6.0	21.3	31.5	18.2	19.4	2.7	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1
Hill Dalits	276,870	0.1	10.6	28.3	27.0	15.5	15.9	1.7	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	90,427	0.1	20.8	34.3	25.6	9.9	7.5	0.7	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.3
Religious groups	110,584	0.1	26.2	31.0	20.8	8.2	8.6	1.5	0.2	2.1	0.7	0.5
Others	9,145	0.1	12.6	22.1	22.2	14.0	19.9	6.6	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.4
Wealth quintiles										0.0		
Lowest	478,313	0.1	13.3	29.4	30.2	12.8	12.0	1.1	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.2
Lower	574,855	0.1	9.3	24.4	29.6	16.5	17.3	1.8	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1
Middle	567,894	0.1	8.1	21.5	27.3	18.1	20.9	2.8	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Higher	569,233	0.1	4.9	15.6	23.2	20.7	29.3	5.2	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1
Highest	524,292	0.0	1.9	7.1	16.4	21.0	40.6	11.3	1.3	0.2	0.2	0.1

Annex A7.1: Percentage distribution of employed adolescents by occupation by sex and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristic	Total (=100%)	Armed forces occupations	Managers	Professionals	Technicians and associate professionals	Clerical support workers	Service and sales workers	Skilled agriculture, forestry and fishery workers	Craft and related trades workers	Plant and machine operators and assemblers	Elementary occupations	Not Stated
Males												
Ecological zones												
Mountain	76,680	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.1	62.7	1.0	0.7	33.4	0.1
Hill	412,481	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.6	2.2	50.2	2.5	1.5	41.3	0.2
Tarai	495,543	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.4	2.3	31.4	4.6	1.8	58.1	0.2
Provinces												
Koshi	192,774	0.0	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	2.2	53.1	3.0	1.7	38.3	0.1
Madhesh	183,251	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.3	1.8	22.0	6.0	1.7	67.0	0.1
Bagmati	165,180	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.9	3.8	31.4	4.9	2.2	54.6	0.1
Gandaki	67,846	0.0	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.5	2.7	33.6	3.7	2.2	54.8	0.7
Lumbini	177,783	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.4	1.8	42.6	2.8	1.4	49.4	0.3
Karnali	80,140	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.9	61.2	0.8	0.7	35.0	0.2
Sudurpashchim	117,730	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.2	58.4	1.2	0.5	37.7	0.1
Urban and rural areas												
Urban	194,117	0.0	1.0	0.5	1.0	1.0	5.0	13.4	6.6	1.9	69.3	0.2
Peri-urban	372,132	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.4	1.9	33.1	4.4	1.8	57.1	0.2
Rural	418,455	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.0	62.5	1.2	1.2	32.8	0.2
Caste and ethnic groups												
Hill Castes	268,950	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	1.9	47.7	0.7	0.8	46.8	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	141,497	0.0	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	2.7	26.0	4.7	1.5	63.4	0.1
Mountain/Hill Janajati	259,031	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.5	2.1	50.4	2.3	1.7	41.4	0.2
Tarai Janajati	89,052	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.4	1.6	39.4	5.5	2.4	49.4	0.2
Hill Dalits	107,829	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.3	1.4	51.2	3.6	2.1	40.0	0.3
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	52,127	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	1.0	21.8	5.5	1.6	68.8	0.2
Religious	53,277	0.0	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.3	2.4	25.0	10.8	1.9	58.2	0.2
Others	6,089	0.0	2.2	0.2	1.4	1.1	11.0	4.1	32.8	3.3	43.1	0.8

Background characteristic	Total (=100%)	Armed forces occupations	Managers	Professionals	Technicians and associate professionals	Clerical support workers	Service and sales workers	Skilled agriculture, forestry and fishery workers	Craft and related trades workers	Plant and machine operators and assemblers	Elementary occupations	Not Stated
Wealth quintiles												
Lowest	256,784	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.7	53.7	2.4	1.1	41.2	0.2
Lower	244,339	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	1.0	52.8	3.0	1.5	40.3	0.2
Middle	205,253	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.4	1.9	41.2	4.4	2.1	48.6	0.2
Higher	156,549	0.0	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.8	3.9	26.8	5.5	2.2	58.6	0.2
Highest	114,927	0.0	1.1	0.6	0.9	1.0	4.9	14.9	2.5	1.0	72.8	0.2
Female												
Ecological zones												
Mountain	80,603	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.9	66.2	0.3	0.0	31.4	0.1
Hill	411,126	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.6	1.6	56.6	0.7	0.1	38.9	0.2
Tarai	455,825	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	1.3	36.6	1.0	0.1	59.4	0.1
Provinces												
Koshi	183,720	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	1.7	56.9	0.6	0.1	38.9	0.1
Madhesh	158,718	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.6	23.9	1.3	0.1	73.0	0.1
Bagmati	150,793	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.7	1.0	2.9	38.5	1.5	0.2	53.9	0.0
Gandaki	65,391	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	2.2	41.0	0.5	0.1	53.2	0.7
Lumbini	175,567	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.9	49.2	0.8	0.1	47.3	0.3
Karnali	84,624	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.7	65.4	0.3	0.0	32.3	0.2
Sudurpashchim	128,741	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	65.0	0.5	0.0	33.0	0.1
Urban and rural areas												
Urban	165,209	0.0	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.2	3.6	17.2	1.7	0.2	73.5	0.1
Peri-urban	343,753	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	1.2	38.0	1.0	0.1	58.3	0.1
Rural	438,592	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.7	67.0	0.4	0.0	30.6	0.2
Caste and ethnic groups												
Hill Castes	274,191	0.0	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	1.4	52.9	0.2	0.1	43.4	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	119,856	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	1.0	28.4	0.9	0.1	68.3	0.1
Mountain/Hill Janajati	256,986	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	1.9	54.5	0.9	0.1	40.2	0.2
Tarai Janajati	85,198	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	1.1	49.0	1.3	0.1	46.9	0.1
Hill Dalits	114,545	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.9	58.9	0.9	0.1	37.7	0.2

Background characteristic	Total (=100%)	Armed forces occupations	Managers	Professionals	Technicians and associate professionals	Clerical support workers	Service and sales workers	Skilled agriculture, forestry and fishery workers	Craft and related trades workers	Plant and machine operators and assemblers	Elementary occupations	Not Stated
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	45,063	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	24.8	1.3	0.1	72.6	0.1
Religious	46,452	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.8	27.8	2.0	0.1	68.2	0.1
Others	2,004	0.0	1.5	0.1	0.4	0.6	3.7	14.5	2.2	0.4	76.3	0.2
Wealth quintiles												
Lowest	256,155	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	58.9	0.5	0.1	39.4	0.2
Lower	245,390	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.6	58.9	0.6	0.1	38.7	0.1
Middle	198,255	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.2	47.7	1.1	0.1	48.3	0.1
Higher	142,675	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.9	3.1	31.7	1.5	0.2	60.4	0.2
Highest	101,820	0.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	1.1	3.7	17.1	0.7	0.1	74.6	0.2

Annex A7.2: Percentage distribution of employed youth by occupation by sex and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	Total (=100%)	Armed forces occupations	Managers	Professionals	Technicians and associate professionals	Clerical support workers	Service and sales workers	Skilled agriculture, forestry and fishery workers	Craft and related trades workers	Plant and machine operators and assemblers	Elementary occupations	Not Stated
Males												
Ecological zones												
Mountain	102,009	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.1	0.7	3.8	66.1	3.2	2.7	18.2	0.0
Hill	604,151	1.8	2.4	1.7	2.3	1.7	6.6	47.1	6.6	4.9	24.9	0.1
Tarai	738,820	0.7	2.0	1.8	1.5	1.0	6.1	31.9	11.3	5.5	38.0	0.1
Provinces												
Koshi	273,564	0.8	1.8	1.7	1.4	1.0	5.5	49.1	7.9	5.1	25.7	0.1
Madhesh	264,526	0.4	1.6	1.8	1.1	0.8	5.1	26.1	13.6	5.0	44.4	0.1
Bagmati	289,740	2.0	3.5	2.0	3.8	2.7	10.1	28.2	9.9	6.6	31.1	0.0
Gandaki	108,371	1.7	2.8	2.2	2.1	1.5	7.2	37.3	8.7	6.2	29.9	0.4
Lumbini	261,057	1.2	2.0	1.6	1.3	1.0	5.2	43.0	8.1	5.0	31.6	0.2
Karnali	104,198	1.4	1.6	1.3	1.0	0.6	3.4	64.3	2.9	2.8	20.6	0.1
Sudurpashchim	143,524	1.2	1.7	1.4	1.0	0.7	4.3	57.5	4.7	2.8	24.8	0.1
Urban and rural areas												
Urban	340,510	2.1	4.2	2.7	4.2	3.0	13.5	11.3	13.4	5.6	39.8	0.1
Peri-urban	551,001	1.1	1.8	1.7	1.2	0.9	5.0	34.2	10.8	5.6	37.6	0.1
Rural	553,469	0.7	1.3	1.2	0.8	0.6	2.8	65.1	3.9	4.1	19.4	0.1
Caste and ethnic groups												
Hill Castes	360,928	0.3	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.0	6.1	47.5	2.7	3.9	28.8	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	209,404	0.2	2.3	2.2	1.5	1.1	7.0	30.3	11.0	4.5	39.8	0.1
Mountain/Hill Janajatis	382,279	0.2	2.1	1.3	1.7	1.4	5.4	50.1	6.6	5.7	25.3	0.1
Tarai Janajatis	149,097	0.2	1.4	1.2	1.3	0.9	3.5	34.8	14.9	7.3	34.3	0.1
Hill Dalits	141,351	0.2	1.6	1.0	1.1	0.7	3.7	49.7	10.5	5.9	25.3	0.2
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	77,451	0.1	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.5	2.2	23.5	12.5	4.2	54.6	0.2
Religious	73,342	0.0	2.0	1.4	0.8	0.6	5.4	26.5	21.2	4.9	37.0	0.1
Others	12,705	0.0	4.4	0.8	2.3	1.5	15.0	3.1	39.8	5.1	27.9	0.1
Wealth quintiles												
Lowest	319,269	0.1	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.3	1.6	57.3	6.2	3.2	29.4	0.1
Lower	341,046	0.2	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.5	2.5	54.7	7.8	4.6	26.7	0.1
Middle	305,144	0.2	1.8	1.5	1.3	0.9	4.6	41.8	10.8	6.3	30.5	0.1
Higher	255,518	0.3	3.2	2.5	2.9	2.2	9.3	24.6	13.1	7.4	34.4	0.1

Background characteristics	Total (=100%)	Armed forces occupations	Managers	Professionals	Technicians and associate professionals	Clerical support workers	Service and sales workers	Skilled agriculture, forestry and fishery workers	Craft and related trades workers	Plant and machine operators and assemblers	Elementary occupations	Not Stated
Highest	185,580	0.3	6.1	4.4	5.4	3.8	12.7	14.4	6.7	4.4	41.9	0.1
Female												
Ecological zones												
Mountain	110,919	0.1	1.3	1.8	1.1	0.6	2.3	75.4	0.8	0.1	16.5	0.1
Hill	624,024	0.3	1.9	2.4	2.2	2.0	4.6	59.6	2.0	0.3	24.6	0.1
Tarai	671,969	0.1	1.3	2.1	1.4	1.0	3.2	43.7	2.7	0.3	44.2	0.1
Provinces												
Koshi	261,916	0.1	1.6	2.4	1.6	1.1	4.0	58.2	1.7	0.3	29.1	0.0
Madhesh	210,030	0.1	0.8	1.6	0.8	0.5	1.6	31.9	2.7	0.3	59.8	0.1
Bagmati	260,767	0.5	2.7	3.2	3.9	3.7	7.9	39.7	3.5	0.5	34.3	0.0
Gandaki	111,112	0.2	2.5	3.8	2.5	2.0	5.4	50.5	1.7	0.3	30.9	0.4
Lumbini	266,200	0.1	1.3	2.1	1.3	0.9	2.4	57.2	2.2	0.2	32.1	0.1
Karnali	116,972	0.2	1.4	1.2	0.9	0.5	2.2	74.6	1.1	0.1	17.9	0.1
Sudurpashchim	179,915	0.1	0.9	1.2	0.8	0.5	1.8	72.4	1.7	0.1	20.4	0.0
Urban and rural areas												
Urban	280,980	0.5	3.3	4.1	5.0	4.3	9.8	17.7	4.1	0.6	50.5	0.1
Peri-urban	505,111	0.2	1.3	1.9	1.2	0.9	2.8	45.6	2.5	0.3	43.4	0.1
Rural	620,821	0.1	1.1	1.5	0.8	0.5	1.7	75.5	1.2	0.1	17.4	0.1
Caste and ethnic groups												
Hill Castes	412,029	0.1	2.0	3.0	2.6	2.0	4.2	57.6	0.9	0.2	27.2	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	158,635	0.0	1.0	1.8	1.0	0.6	2.3	35.8	2.3	0.2	55.0	0.0
Mountain/Hill Janajatis	398,261	0.1	2.0	2.6	2.1	1.8	5.0	57.7	2.4	0.3	25.8	0.1
Tarai Janajatis	146,454	0.0	1.1	1.5	1.1	0.8	2.6	54.5	4.1	0.4	33.8	0.1
Hill Dalits	163,050	0.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	0.7	2.3	65.8	2.8	0.2	24.8	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	58,826	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.7	30.4	2.5	0.2	64.4	0.1
Religious	57,826	0.0	0.8	1.0	0.4	0.3	1.8	33.0	3.6	0.2	58.8	0.1
Others	3,895	0.0	2.7	1.3	0.6	1.0	6.8	22.9	4.3	0.5	59.7	0.2
Wealth quintiles												
Lowest	322,188	0.0	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.7	68.9	1.2	0.1	27.2	0.1
Lower	354,190	0.0	0.8	1.2	0.6	0.4	1.4	67.8	1.7	0.2	25.9	0.1
Middle	299,841	0.0	1.3	1.9	1.1	0.9	2.9	55.7	2.6	0.3	33.2	0.1
Higher	242,719	0.1	2.5	3.3	2.9	2.7	7.3	35.0	4.0	0.6	41.6	0.1
Highest	180,038	0.1	4.2	5.8	6.3	4.5	9.3	19.3	2.1	0.4	48.1	0.1

Annex A7.3: Percentage distribution of adolescents by institutional sector of economic work by sex and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	Total (=100%)	Government	Financial institution	Non-financial institution	Non-profit organization	Household sector	Not Stated
Males							
Ecological zones							
Mountain	76,680	0.1	0.0	30.2	0.1	69.5	0.1
Hill	412,481	0.2	0.1	40.2	0.2	59.1	0.2
Tarai	495,543	0.3	0.1	51.5	0.1	47.9	0.1
Provinces							
Koshi	192,774	0.2	0.1	34.3	0.1	65.4	0.0
Madhesh	183,251	0.2	0.1	59.1	0.1	40.5	0.0
Bagmati	165,180	0.3	0.2	56.5	0.2	42.8	0.0
Gandaki	67,846	0.2	0.1	53.2	0.3	45.4	0.8
Lumbini	177,783	0.3	0.0	44.1	0.2	55.1	0.3
Karnali	80,140	0.2	0.0	30.0	0.1	69.5	0.1
Sudurpashchim	117,730	0.3	0.0	32.4	0.1	67.2	0.0
Urban and rural areas							
Urban	194,117	0.5	0.2	70.4	0.2	28.5	0.1
Peri-urban	372,132	0.2	0.1	49.6	0.1	49.9	0.1
Rural	418,455	0.1	0.0	29.4	0.1	70.1	0.2
Caste and ethnic groups							
Hill Castes	268,950	0.2	0.1	42.8	0.1	56.6	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	141,497	0.2	0.1	58.1	0.1	41.5	0.0
Mountain/Hill Janajati	259,031	0.1	0.1	39.8	0.2	59.7	0.2
Tarai Janajati	89,052	0.1	0.1	42.9	0.2	56.7	0.1
Hill Dalit	107,829	0.1	0.0	37.2	0.2	62.3	0.2
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	52,127	0.2	0.0	49.9	0.1	49.7	0.1
Religious	53,277	0.1	0.0	56.6	0.1	43.1	0.0
Others	6,089	0.1	0.0	75.1	0.4	24.0	0.4
Wealth quintiles							
Lowest	256,784	0.1	0.0	33.3	0.1	66.3	0.1
Lower	244,339	0.1	0.0	35.4	0.2	64.2	0.1
Middle	205,253	0.1	0.1	45.5	0.1	54.0	0.1
Higher	156,549	0.2	0.2	59.1	0.2	40.3	0.1
Highest	114,927	0.2	0.3	70.9	0.1	28.4	0.2

Background characteristics	Total (=100%)	Government	Financial institution	Non-financial institution	Non-profit organization	Household sector	Not Stated
Females							
Ecological zones							
Mountain	80,603	0.2	0.0	27.0	0.1	72.6	0.1
Hill	411,126	0.2	0.2	35.1	0.1	64.2	0.2
Tarai	455,825	0.1	0.1	49.4	0.1	50.2	0.1
Provinces							
Koshi	183,720	0.2	0.1	31.5	0.1	68.1	0.0
Madhesh	158,718	0.1	0.0	61.0	0.0	38.8	0.0
Bagmati	150,793	0.3	0.6	50.6	0.1	48.4	0.0
Gandaki	65,391	0.3	0.3	47.2	0.1	51.5	0.6
Lumbini	175,567	0.2	0.1	40.4	0.1	59.0	0.3
Karnali	84,624	0.1	0.0	26.9	0.1	72.7	0.2
Sudurpashchim	128,741	0.1	0.0	27.7	0.1	72.1	0.0
Urban and rural areas							
Urban	165,209	0.3	0.6	68.2	0.1	30.7	0.1
Peri-urban	343,753	0.1	0.1	47.7	0.1	52.0	0.1
Rural	438,592	0.1	0.0	26.2	0.1	73.4	0.2
Caste and ethnic groups							
Hill Castes	274,191	0.2	0.2	38.3	0.1	61.1	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	119,856	0.1	0.1	58.7	0.0	41.1	0.1
Mountain/Hill Janajati	256,986	0.2	0.2	36.7	0.1	62.7	0.2
Tarai Janajati	85,198	0.1	0.1	37.5	0.1	62.1	0.1
Hill Dalit	114,545	0.1	0.1	31.8	0.1	67.7	0.2
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	45,063	0.1	0.0	51.2	0.0	48.6	0.1
Religious	46,452	0.0	0.0	56.9	0.1	42.9	0.0
Others	2,004	0.1	0.0	68.1	0.1	31.5	0.1
Wealth quintiles							
Lowest	256,155	0.1	0.0	31.0	0.1	68.7	0.1
Lower	245,390	0.1	0.1	31.9	0.1	67.8	0.1
Middle	198,255	0.2	0.1	41.5	0.1	58.0	0.1
Higher	142,675	0.2	0.4	55.7	0.1	43.5	0.1
Highest	101,820	0.3	0.5	68.3	0.1	30.7	0.1

Annex A7.4: Percentage distribution of youth by institutional sector of economic work and by sex and background characteristics, NPHC 2021

Background characteristics	Total (=100%)	Government	Financial institution	Non-financial institution	Non-profit organization	Household sector	Not Stated
Males							
Ecological zones							
Mountain	102,009	4.0	0.4	22.6	0.3	72.7	0.1
Hill	604,151	3.9	0.8	38.2	0.6	56.4	0.1
Tarai	738,820	2.8	0.6	44.2	0.4	52.0	0.1
Provinces							
Koshi	273,564	2.6	0.6	32.8	0.3	63.6	0.0
Madhesh	264,526	1.9	0.5	47.4	0.3	49.8	0.0
Bagmati	289,740	4.5	1.3	54.1	0.8	39.3	0.0
Gandaki	108,371	4.4	0.9	44.5	0.8	48.8	0.6
Lumbini	261,057	3.3	0.4	37.7	0.5	58.0	0.2
Karnali	104,198	3.9	0.3	22.0	0.4	73.3	0.1
Sudurpashchim	143,524	3.6	0.3	27.0	0.4	68.6	0.1
Urban and rural areas							
Urban	340,510	6.2	1.4	65.1	0.8	26.3	0.1
Peri-urban	551,001	2.5	0.6	41.7	0.4	54.7	0.1
Rural	553,469	2.3	0.3	23.2	0.4	73.6	0.1
Caste and ethnic groups							
Hill Castes	360,928	2.2	1.2	39.9	0.5	56.1	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	209,404	1.6	0.6	48.4	0.3	49.1	0.1
Mountain/Hill Janajati	382,279	1.0	0.6	37.1	0.6	60.5	0.1
Tarai Janajati	149,097	1.0	0.5	41.0	0.5	56.9	0.1
Hill Dalit	141,351	1.0	0.2	34.2	0.6	63.8	0.2
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	77,451	0.9	0.2	38.1	0.4	60.3	0.1
Religious	73,342	0.5	0.2	49.2	0.4	49.5	0.1
Others	12,705	0.3	0.1	75.9	0.8	22.7	0.2
Wealth quintiles							
Lowest	319,269	0.7	0.1	24.9	0.4	73.8	0.1
Lower	341,046	1.0	0.2	29.0	0.4	69.2	0.1
Middle	305,144	1.4	0.5	40.1	0.5	57.5	0.1
Higher	255,518	1.9	1.1	56.6	0.7	39.6	0.1
Highest	185,580	2.2	2.2	68.3	0.6	26.5	0.1
Females							
Ecological zones							
Mountain	110,919	2.1	0.4	17.1	0.1	80.1	0.1
Hill	624,024	2.0	1.4	30.0	0.4	66.2	0.1
Tarai	671,969	1.1	0.7	40.8	0.2	57.2	0.1
Provinces							

Background characteristics	Total (=100%)	Government	Financial institution	Non-financial institution	Non-profit organization	Household sector	Not Stated
Koshi	261,916	1.5	0.8	27.7	0.2	69.9	0.0
Madhesh	210,030	0.7	0.3	51.8	0.1	47.1	0.0
Bagmati	260,767	2.4	2.6	46.1	0.6	48.2	0.0
Gandaki	111,112	2.6	1.8	35.7	0.3	59.0	0.5
Lumbini	266,200	1.4	0.6	31.4	0.2	66.3	0.1
Karnali	116,972	1.4	0.3	17.6	0.1	80.5	0.1
Sudurpashchim	179,915	1.1	0.3	19.3	0.2	79.1	0.0
Urban and rural areas							
Urban	280,980	2.8	2.9	63.8	0.6	29.7	0.1
Peri-urban	505,111	1.0	0.7	38.4	0.2	59.6	0.1
Rural	620,821	1.4	0.4	17.2	0.1	80.8	0.1
Caste and ethnic groups							
Hill Castes	412,029	1.9	1.6	31.9	0.3	64.2	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	158,635	0.7	0.4	50.6	0.1	48.2	0.0
Mountain/Hill Janajati	398,261	1.5	1.3	31.8	0.3	65.0	0.1
Tarai Janajati	146,454	0.7	0.7	29.8	0.2	68.5	0.1
Hill Dalit	163,050	0.8	0.4	23.9	0.2	74.5	0.1
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	58,826	0.3	0.1	41.6	0.1	57.8	0.0
Religious	57,826	0.3	0.1	50.7	0.1	48.8	0.0
Others	3,895	0.3	0.3	58.6	0.3	40.3	0.2
Wealth quintiles							
Lowest	322,188	0.5	0.1	20.7	0.1	78.5	0.1
Lower	354,190	0.9	0.3	22.5	0.1	76.1	0.1
Middle	299,841	1.3	0.7	32.2	0.2	65.6	0.1
Higher	242,719	1.8	1.9	49.8	0.4	46.0	0.1
Highest	180,038	2.5	3.4	62.9	0.5	30.6	0.1

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