

CHAPTER 5

HOUSING AND HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS AND FAMILY STRUCTURE

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5.1 Introduction

House is one of the basic needs of human life. The type of house and housing condition are influenced by local environment or availability of construction materials locally and the level of development. So there are differences in type of houses in different ecological zones and development regions. On the other hand, the impact of development efforts is reflected in housing condition of people in the area. The term housing means the household or family accommodation in dwelling units, its structure type and facilities such as electricity, drinking water, cooking fuel, toilet, etc. (Karmacharya & Sangraula, 1998). So, it is the main indicator of human well being and level of development.

Similarly, social and cultural analysis is mainly based on household information. Socio-cultural picture of the country is generally reflected in household information like composition, average size, age-sex differences of headship rate and so on. Again, household data is the basis of local and national level planning. Nepal is a multi-ethnic and cultural country. Each ethnic cultural group has its own household characteristics. In this perspective, data on households is very important for the socio-economic development in the country. Household is the basic unit of enumeration in all population censuses, sample surveys, preparation of electoral voter list and so on. The present study concentrates mainly on type of house, ownership, average household size, household composition, sex differences in household headship rates, etc.

The general socio-economic conditions of the households can be assessed indirectly by asking respondents about their household characteristics such as access to safe drinking water, electricity, toilet facility, cooking fuels, possession of consumer durable goods like TV, Radio etc. Realizing the importance, these information were collected in Population Census 2001 for the first time in the history of Population Censuses of Nepal. However, there has been some national level surveys in the past which provide information on these household characteristics.

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5.2 Source of Data

In Nepal, there is a problem of availability of sufficient data on house and housing facilities, and household composition or family structure. Some surveys have collected limited information on those topics. The few sources of such data are Nepal Multiple Indicator Surveillance (NMIS), Nepal Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), Nepal Living Standard Survey (NLSS) 1996, Between Census Household Information, Monitoring and Evaluation System (BCHIMES) and so on. Survey data are not sufficient to analyze spatial distribution. Those are available only at national level and in some cases it is available up to regional and sub-regional level. So, the main source of data on the topic is the periodic population censuses of the country.

The data on household structure and characteristics is not available in past censuses though the country has long population census practices and 1911 census is the first in its history. The data has been published regularly since 1952/54 census and it is very limited in characteristics. In 1991, some more data are made available to users on household composition such as data on head of household by sex, age and marital status. Further, the 2001 population census has published more characteristics of households.

About house type and ownership, data were not collected in previous censuses. Since 1991 census, such information on residential houses had started to be collected and is made available to users. However, those are not sufficient for in-depth study of housing status. There is a shortage of information about housing facilities such as room per person, number of rooms, space occupied by house, flooring materials etc. It also does not give information on the condition of house structure and its age.

About the data of Population Census 2001, it is noted that the fieldwork of it was conducted in very difficult situation of the country. An unexpected event, the royal massacre occurred during that period. Beside this event, the country was facing troubles due to Maoist's activities. They disturbed the census enumeration work in twelve districts and as a result 1.8 percent of the expected national population was not enumerated. Among those twelve districts, Kalikot and Salyan were badly affected.

In Population Census 2001, information on household characteristics such as drinking water, electricity, toilet, cooking fuels, lighting fuels and Radio/TV were collected through sampling basis. Overall, around 20 per cent households were sampled for the study. However, 52 out of 58 municipalities and six rural districts were completely enumerated for the administration of the

sample count questionnaire (Form II). All together, 400934 urban households and 457791 rural households were selected for the sample study. Since sample design is not self-weighting, weight/raising factor has been applied to get estimate at district level as well as urban level.

It is noted that boundaries of all districts are not same in population censuses. There are minor changes from census to census. Adjusted data in accordance with district boundary changes is not available and it is assumed that such changes have very negligible effects in spatial analysis of the topic. Similarly, number of urban centers has been increasing in every successive censuses and the area of existing urban centers has also been expanding. Due to the lack of adjusted data, the analysis work does not entertain such changes.

5.3 Concept and Definition

House & Type: There is no standard definition of residential house, ownership of house and its type in the country. Definition used in surveys that collect information on it is not uniform and it causes problem in comparing data obtained from different sources. But only residential houses were enumerated using same definition of house and its types in both censuses of 1991 and 2001. According to the concept and definition used in both population censuses, house refers to a structure where household is using it as a shelter and which is closed or surrounded by walls or curtains made of any types of materials such as mud, wood planks, bricks, stone, concrete, etc. A house may contain any number of rooms, but it must have a separate way to get inside. It is noted here that a house may have contained more than one household. In population census, houses are divided into four categories on the basis of types of construction materials used in walls and roof of the residential house. These categories are: Pakki (permanent), Ardha Pakki (Semi-permanent), Kachchi (temporary) and others. Pakki house refers to that with both walls and roof made of permanent construction material like cement, bonded brick, concrete, stone, slate, tile, galvanized sheet, etc. Ardha Pakki house belongs to the category where either the wall or the roof is constructed with permanent materials and the other is constructed with temporary materials. In Kachchi house, non-durable materials like wooden flakes, bamboo, straw/thatch, mud, unbaked bricks, etc. are mainly used in both walls and roof. Other category of house includes a very temporary type of residential unit that is made with non-durable materials. This 'Other' type of housing unit is, generally, made with plastic sheet, bamboo, straw/thatch, etc. For example, hut/tent is included in this category of house.

House Ownership: About ownership of house used by household, the data is collected only in last two censuses – 1991 and 2001 and both censuses have used similar definition. According to

the definition used in censuses, it refers to the legal status of ownership of house or part of house or apartment/flats that usually is used by household. It is categorized into five types like: Owned, Rented, Rent-free, Institutional and Others.

Household: Household refers to a single person living alone or a group of persons, who may or may not be related, usually living in a particular housing unit and sharing meal with common resources. In this way, resident domestic servant is also included as a member in the household. So members of a household are not necessarily related by blood or marriage or adopted as in the case of family member. This definition of household has been used in population census of the country since 1952/54.

Household Head: Head of household is the member of household who is managing household activities and takes the decisions as well as responsibility in all household related matters. According to census definition, a household member can not be the head whose age is below 10 years. However, the head can be either sex – male or female.

Source of Drinking Water: It refers to the place from which households draw water for drinking and cooking foods for household members. Water source may differ from place to place and by seasons. However, information was collected on the basis of water source from where most of the time water was collected. Water source may or may not be in their own premise and it may be private or public. The various sources of drinking water as reported in Population Census 2001 are Piped, Well, Tube-well, Spout and River/stream.

Piped Water: If water is collected from piped line made up of either metal or polythene, then the source is considered as piped line. The piped water could be distributed either from Department of Water Supply and Sewerage (DWSS), District Development Committee (DDC), Village Development Committee (VDC) or from some other private organizations like NGOs or INGOs.

Dug-Well: If source of drinking water is either from well or Kuwa whether covered or not, then the source is considered as Dug-well.

Tube-Well: If ground water is drawn by using Tube-well, Borehole, Jet pump etc and used for drinking and cooking foods for household members, then the source is defined as Tube-well.

Spout Water: This refers to the water source from spout, Pandhero or stone tap.

River/Stream: This refers to the water source from river, Kulo, Nahar, Khola etc.

Others: All other water sources excluding the listed above.

Safe/Improved Source of Drinking Water: It is difficult to classify water sources as safe or unsafe without laboratory test. Contamination at sources, water collection points, water collection jars, locations of storage within households etc. are common factors that pollute water. Information on reliability of water supply services and quality of water supplied has yet to be collected. So rather than classifying water source as safe or unsafe it is more practicable to classify water source as improved or unimproved source. In general, water from piped line and Tube-well is considered as improved sources of drinking water. Hence in this report, analysis is based on assuming water from piped line and Tube-well as improved source of drinking water.

Fuel Used for Cooking: Firewood, kerosene, LP Gas, bio-gas, cow dung are the various sources of fuel used for cooking. Some other sources of fuel are leaves, straw and thatches. Among these, firewood, cow dung, leaves, straw, thatches are considered as solid fuel.

Fuel Used for Lighting: It refers to the main source of lighting fuels used by the households. The common sources of lighting fuel are kerosene, electricity and bio-gas. It should be noted that in many areas of the country (especially in rural sites), Nepal Electricity Corporation has not succeeded in providing electricity to majority of the households. However, rural households are getting benefit from electricity provided by Micro-hydro Power and in some extent from Solar System. Hence, these households are also using electricity as source of lighting facility although Nepal Electricity Corporation has not yet reached to the community.

Toilet Facility: If households possess their own toilets that could be within the house or boundary of the house then such households are considered as households having toilet facilities. If the households do not have their own toilet and household members use either public toilets or open places then such households are considered as households having no toilet facilities. Toilet facility is categorized into two groups as modern with flush system and ordinary. If it is possible to clean human excreta by pouring water (either using machine or manually) and is connected to drainage or septic tank, then the toilet is said to be modern with flush system. On the other hand, if it is not possible to clean human excreta by pouring water and is not connected to sewage or septic tank, then the toilet is said to be ordinary.

Media Facilities: If a household is using any type of radio/transistor operated either by electricity or battery then it is considered as having Radio in the households. Similarly, if a household is using any type of TV (Black & White or Color) operated either by electricity or battery, then it is considered as having TV in the households.

5.4 Type of House

By definition of house type in census, house constructed with permanent materials like stone and mud walls with slate roof is categorized as permanent type. Such type of houses is generally found in Mountain and Hill zones. But concrete buildings are also categorized as permanent house type mostly found in urban centers, district headquarters and area where there is easy access to road transportation facilities. So, it is not correct to draw the conclusion that permanent type of houses are similar in all over the country. Permanent house in urban city like in Kathmandu Metropolitan is different from that of remote areas where transportation facilities has yet to be available like in Karnali zone. So, it is also necessary to consider the fact in analyzing and comparing house type data.

Table 5.1 : Percentage of household by types of house for urban/rural residence.

Type of House	Nepal		Urban	Rural
	1991	2001	2001	2001
Pakki	23.5	36.6	68.2	30.6
Ardha-pakki	24.8	29.2	16.1	31.7
Kachchi	49.7	33.5	15.2	36.9
Others	2.0	0.7	0.4	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,328,721	4,174,374	664,507	3,509,867

Source : Central Bureau of Statistics (1993). Population Census 1991 vol. III. Household Characteristics, Table 1.

Central Bureau of Statistics (2002). Population Census 2001, National Report, vol I, Table 3.

The data presented in Table 5.1 shows that the higher percentage of household is living in permanent type of house and it is followed by temporary (Kachchi) type house in 2001. The percentage of household living in permanent and semi-permanent house type is increasing during 1991 – 2001 period. In the case of household living in temporary house, it is declining in the same period. So, it can be concluded that it is a good indication of betterment of Nepalese living condition. In urban areas, many households are using permanent house as their residence and it is about two third of the total urban households. But there is still a large percentage of household living in temporary house type in rural and it is about more than one third of the total rural household (36.9 %) in the last census.

Among three ecological belt of the country, higher percentage of household living in permanent type of house is found in Hill and it is followed by Mountain in both censuses. In Terai, the percentage of it is low in 1991 and has doubled in 2001. The proportion of household using semi-permanent house has decreased in 2001 as compared to that of previous census 1991 except in Terai. Similarly, the proportion of household using Kachchi house type has declined in 2001 as compared to that of 1991. The distribution of such type of house shows that it has also declined in

all districts of the kingdom (*Kayastha*, 2002). The higher percentage of household living in this type of house is found mostly in Terai. So, it can be argued that people constructed more permanent houses and they are shifting from semi-permanent and temporary to permanent. However, less percentage of temporary type houses is found in Mountain area as compared to other two ecological zones in both censuses. As mentioned above, it is due to definitional issue that most of the houses in Mountain area are made with stone-mud wall which are locally available and thus are categorized as semi-permanent or permanent.

Table 5.2 : Percentage distribution of household by type of house for ecological zones.

Type of House	Mountain		Hill		Terai	
	1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001
Pakki	32.4	44.8	34.7	51.1	10.4	20.8
Ardha-pakki	47.3	41.6	33.1	30.8	12.2	25.7
Kachchi	19.2	13.0	31.0	17.6	75.2	52.4
Others	1.1	0.6	1.2	0.5	2.2	1.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	274,135	285,213	1,558,493	1,951,191	1,496,093	1,937,970

Source : Same as in Table 5.1.

Among five development regions, Western and Far-western regions have higher percentage of household living in permanent type of house in 2001 whereas it was higher in Far-western region and followed by Western region in 1991. The percentage of households usually residing in permanent type of house has increased in all development regions during the inter-censal period. However, the higher increment of it is observed in Western region and followed by Central region. One of the reasons behind it might be the fast growing urbanization as well as development of road transport network in these regions. On the other hand, the percentage of household living in semi-permanent type of house has decreased in Mid-western region whereas its reverse situation is seen in Eastern and Central regions. In the case of temporary house type, the percentage of household has decreased in all development regions during the period of 1991-2001.

Table 5.3 : Percentage distribution of household by type of house for development regions.

Type of House	EDR		CDR		WDR		MWDR		FWDR	
	1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001
Pakki	6.3	14.3	26.9	41.8	31.7	52.3	17.0	27.0	49.3	52.5
Ardha-Pakki	25.1	33.0	17.9	26.9	26.8	26.0	40.8	38.4	23.0	23.7
Kachchi	65.4	51.7	53.6	30.6	39.4	21.1	41.0	34.0	26.9	23.2
Others	3.2	1.0	1.6	0.7	2.1	0.6	1.2	0.6	0.8	0.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	821762	1000358	1115428	1465753	69016	863045	415846	479817	285525	365401

Source : Same as in Table 5.1.

5.5 House Ownership

Information on ownership of house used by household is an essential part of good physical settlement planning. According to 1991 population census, many households have their owned house for residence in the country and only a few percentage of households used to live in rented house. The percentage distribution of households by ownership of house where they are usually living has followed similar pattern in 2001. But, it is noted here that percentage of household having owned house has declined in 2001 compared to 1991 whereas there is some increment in percentage of household living in rented house during the inter-census period. Generally, people migrate to urban areas from rural areas for better opportunities and they have to live in rented house at such urban centers. During the period, the size of urban population has increased up to 14.2 percent of the total population. Due to this reason, there is increasing percentage of household living in rented house in urban areas. On the other hand, most of households in rural areas have been living in their owned house and very small percentage of household is in rented house. In 2001, about one third of total household are living in rented house in case of urban population. Similarly, household living in institutional house is also high in urban areas compared to the rural. It can be argued that there are more student hostels and other social institutional houses in urban areas. In case of households living in rent-free houses, the percentage is found lower in 2001 compared to the previous census.

Table 5.4 : Percentage of household by ownership of house occupied for urban/rural.

Type of Ownership	Nepal		Urban	Rural
	1991	2001	2001	2001
Owned	92.6	88.3	60.9	93.4
Rented	4.7	8.9	34.8	4.0
Rent-free	1.6	0.2	0.5	0.2
Institutional	0.5	2.4	3.7	2.2
Others	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2
Not Stated	0.5	-	-	-
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
%				
Number	3328721	4174374	664,507	3,509,867

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics (1993). *Population Census 1991* vol. III. Household Characteristics, Table 2.

Central Bureau of Statistics (2002). *Population Census 2001, National Report*, vol I, Table 4.

Ecologically, most of households have their owned houses in all eco-zones in both population censuses of 1991 and 2001. The percentage of household having owned house seems to have declined slightly in all zones. Comparatively, Hill zone has a little more percentage decline in household having owned houses compared to other zones. On the contrary, there is an increment in percentage of household living in rented house in all three ecological belts. This inter-census

period increment might be supported by increasing percentage of household living in rented house especially in district headquarters and other rural areas with urban characteristics like Lamhi in Dang, Jorpati VDC in Kathmandu districts, and so on. Among three ecological zones, the increment in rented household is observed more in Hill and it might be due to increased proportion of urban population in the zone. It is noted here that Kathmandu and Pokhara valleys are located in this zone and population in those valleys are more concentrated in urban areas. Though the percentage is low in the case of rent-free households, it also increased in all ecological zones during the inter-census period. In the case of household living in institutional house, there is a slight decline in all zones.

Table 5.5 : Percentage distribution of household by ownership of house occupied for ecological zones.

Type of Ownership	Mountain		Hill		Terai	
	1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001
Owned	95.2	92.7	92.0	85.5	92.8	90.3
Rented	2.2	4.0	5.6	11.8	4.1	6.7
Rent-free	1.7	2.6	1.4	2.2	1.9	2.6
Institutional	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.2
Others	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Not Stated	0.4	-	0.5	-	0.5	-
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	274,135	285,213	1,558,493	1,951,191	1,496,093	1,937,970

Source : Same as in Table 5.4

In all five development regions, the percentage of households living in owned house is observed high in both population censuses. However it is declining in all these regions during the period 1991-2001. But the decline is insignificant in Far-western Development Region during the period. In other words, the percentage of it is almost similar in both censuses in the region. Comparatively Central region has little more declined in percentage of it. In this region, the percentage of household living in rented house has increased more compare to other regions during the period. About percentage of household living in rent-free house is also found little increment in all four development regions except Far-western Development Region. In five development regions, the percentage of household living in institutional house is decline in 2001 compare to 1991. It is noted here that there has no remarkable changes in the percentage distribution of households by type of ownership of house between 1991 and 2001 population censuses in the case of Far-western Development Region.

Table 5.6: Percentage distribution of household by ownership of house occupied for ecological zones, 2001.

Type of Ownership	EDR		CDR		WDR		MWDR		FWDR	
	1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001
Owned	91.7	88.4	91.5	84.3	93.2	89.1	95.1	92.9	94.8	94.5
Rented	4.9	7.6	6.4	13.3	4.3	8.1	2.1	4.4	2.1	2.9
Rent-free	2.0	3.0	1.0	2.1	1.8	2.4	1.9	2.3	2.3	2.3
Institutional	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2
Others	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Not Stated	0.5	-	0.6	-	0.4	-	0.5	-	0.5	-
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	821762	1000358	1115428	1465753	69016	863045	415846	479817	285525	365401

Source : Same as in Table 5.4.

Among households living in their own house, the percentage distribution is not so different between different types of houses. About one third of household who are living in owned house are in permanent type of house. In rural areas, the distribution of household living in own house by type is found nearer to the national average whereas it is higher than that of national level in urban areas. But the distribution scenario is different in the case of household living in rented house. Most of households who are living in rented are permanent type house and it constitutes more than two third of the total household living in rent. However, rented houses are mostly permanent type both in rural and urban areas. This permanent category is followed by semi-permanent type in case of household living in rent. About one fifth of total rural household living in rental house are in Kachchi/others whereas the percentage of it is very low in urban areas. The higher percentage of household residing in rent-free/institutional/ other category are found in permanent type house in urban areas and it is not so observed in the case of rural households.

Table 5.7: Percentage of household by ownership and type of house for urban/rural, 2001.

House Ownership	Type of House	National	Urban	Rural
Own	Pakki	33.3	61.9	29.8
	Ardha-pakki	30.3	17.7	31.8
	Kachchi/others	36.4	20.5	38.3
	Total	88.3	60.9	93.4
Rented	Pakki	71.0	81.1	54.3
	Ardha-pakki	17.5	12.3	26.1
	Kachchi/others	11.5	6.6	19.6
	Total	8.9	34.8	4.0
Rent-free/Institutional/ Other	Pakki	30.9	54.0	23.4
	Ardha-pakki	31.2	25.1	33.3
	Kachchi/others	37.8	20.9	43.4
	Total	2.8	4.4	2.5

Source : Central Bureau of Statistics (2002). Population Census Results in Gender Perspective (Population Census 2001) Vol. I. Table 1.1.

In Terai, higher percentage of household having owned house is temporary type and it is followed by semi-permanent type. On the other hand, there is more percentage of household having owned permanent type house in both Mountain and Hill zones and it is also followed by semi-permanent house type. According to ownership status of house, higher percentage household in rented house is observed in Hill zone. It is only about one fifth of the total household living in rent in semi-permanent and temporary house and the rest is in permanent house type in Hill zone. Similarly, the type of house used by household in rent is mostly permanent in Terai and Mountain zones. It is observed that the percentage of household living in rent is, comparatively, low in all Kachchi/other type of house in all ecological zones. In the case of rent-free, institutional and other type of ownership, comparatively more percentage of household is found in temporary and other type of houses in Terai zone. But it is found higher in Hill zone in permanent type of house and followed by semi-permanent house. In Mountain zone, such type households by ownership are more in semi-permanent followed by permanent type of house.

Table 5.8: Percentage of household by ownership and type of house for ecological zones, 2001.

House Ownership	Type of House	Mountain	Hill	Terai
Own	Pakki	45.2	47.4	18.1
	Ardha-pakki	41.8	33.1	25.9
	Kachchi/others	13.0	19.5	56.0
	Total	92.7	85.5	90.3
Rented	Pakki	48.0	80.2	56.6
	Ardha-pakki	35.3	13.4	23.4
	Kachchi/others	16.7	6.5	20.0
	Total	4.0	11.8	6.7
Rent-free/Institutional/ Other	Pakki	29.3	41.0	22.3
	Ardha-pakki	41.7	33.6	27.5
	Kachchi/others	29.0	25.4	50.3
	Total	3.3	2.6	3.0

Source : Same as in Table 5.7.

In Eastern Development Region, more percentage of households who are living in their own houses are in temporary type of houses (Kachchi/others) and followed by semi-permanent type of house. In this region, little percentage of households is in permanent type of house of their own. On the other hand, higher percentage of household living in their own is in permanent house type in Far-western and Western regions. But it is high in semi-permanent house type in Mid-western region. In the case of rented house, higher percentage of household is living in permanent type of house and it is followed by semi-permanent type of house in all five development regions. In Central region, the highest percentage of household living in rent is found in permanent type house, which is also the highest among all these regions. But there is higher percentage of

households in temporary type of house who are living in rent-free, institutional or others in Eastern and Mid-western Development Regions. It is concentrated more in permanent type of house in the case of other three development regions.

Table 5.9 : Percentage of household by ownership and type of house for development regions, 2001.

House Ownership	Type of House	EDR	CDR	WDR	MWDR	FWDR
Own	Pakki	11.6	35.5	50.8	25.4	52.8
	Ardha-pakki	33.0	29.3	26.7	39.2	23.5
	Kachchi/others	55.4	35.2	22.6	35.4	23.7
	Total	88.9	84.3	89.1	92.9	94.5
Rented	Pakki	43.5	82.1	73.3	63.9	60.6
	Ardha-pakki	33.8	11.0	16.7	21.1	19.9
	Kachchi/others	22.7	6.9	10.0	15.0	19.6
	Total	7.6	13.3	8.1	4.4	2.9
Rent-free/Institutional/ Other	Pakki	19.3	38.3	40.4	22.9	33.9
	Ardha-pakki	29.7	29.9	31.3	37.2	33.5
	Kachchi/others	51.0	31.8	28.3	39.9	32.6
	Total	3.6	2.4	2.8	2.7	2.6

Source : Same as in Table 5.7.

5.6 Distribution of House

Shelter is one of the basic human needs. Though the information on quality of house is not available in the country, the census provides some data about residential house. According to the 2001 population census, there is on average 1.16 households in a house in the country. As expected, the average household per house is observed higher in urban area than the national average. However, there is also found more than one household living in a single house even in rural area. It can be argued that it might be supported by the inclusion of sub-urban areas and district headquarters where more than single household might live in single house. Again, some of these households might be living in rent. Ecologically, Hill zone has higher average household per house followed by Terai and Mountain. Similarly, Central Development Region has higher average household per house and it might due to having more urban areas. It contains most populated Kathmandu Valleys and industrial as well as commercial area such as Birgunj, Hetauda, Bharatpur, etc. In the case of average household per house, this region is followed by Far-western Development Region where it is observed higher than that of national average.

Table 5.10 : Distribution of house, household and average household per house for urban-rural, ecological zones and development regions, 2001.

Area	House	Household	Average household per house
Nepal	3,598,212	4,174,374	1.16
Urban	436,533	664,507	1.52
Rural	3,161,679	3,509,867	1.11
Ecological Zone			
Mountain Zone	253,006	285,213	1.13
Hill Zone	1,667,410	1,951,191	1.17
Terai Zone	1,677,796	1,937,970	1.16
Development Region			
Eastern Development Region	898,616	1,000,358	1.11
Central Development Region	1,175,867	1,465,753	1.25
Western Development Region	776,788	863,045	1.11
Mid-western Development Region	439,906	479,817	1.09
Far-western Development Region	307,035	365,401	1.19

Source : Central Bureau of Statistics (2003). Special tabulation National Population Census 2001.

Central Bureau of Statistics (2002). Population Census 2001 National Report, Vol. I Tab. 2.

The data presented in Table 5.11 shows that about three fourths of the total urban household live in single house whereas the percentage of household living in single house is more in rural areas than that of urban. In rural areas, only less than one percent of houses have four and more households. But it is found about 6 percent in urban. Similarly, more percentage of houses in urban areas has 2-3 households in comparison to rural areas. But there is no any significant difference between three ecological zones in the case of house having single household. The data shows clearly that Mountain zone has comparatively very few percentage of four and more households in a single house. By development region, the percentage of house having four and more households is found in Central Development Region and it is due to higher proportion of urban population in the region. House having 2-3 households is found more in Far-western Development Region and it is followed by Central Development Region. There is almost similar percentage of such house in other three development regions. Having single household in house is observed more in Mid-western Development Region and followed by Eastern Development Region.

Table 5.11: Percentage distribution of house by number of household residing in the house for rural-urban, ecological zones and development regions, 2001.

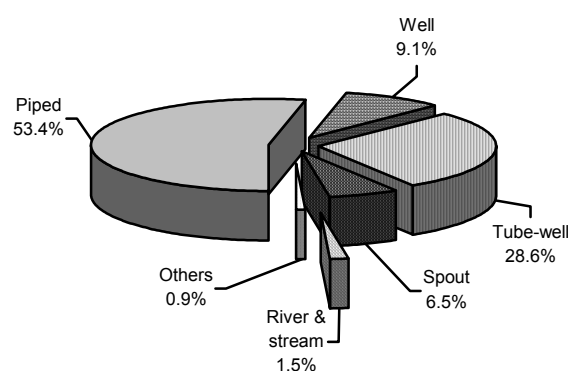
Area	Percentage of House Having Number of Household			
	1	2 - 3	4+	Total
Nepal	90.17	8.48	1.35	3,598,212
Urban	75.14	18.68	6.18	436,533
Rural	92.25	7.07	0.68	3,161,679
Ecological Zone				
Mountain Zone	90.54	8.82	0.64	253,006
Hill Zone	90.28	8.17	1.55	1,667,410
Terai Zone	90.02	8.73	1.25	1,677,796
Development Region				
Eastern Development Region	92.74	6.36	0.91	898,616
Central Development Region	86.65	10.86	2.49	1,175,867
Western Development Region	92.39	6.85	0.76	776,788
Mid-western Development Region	93.36	6.13	0.51	439,906
Far-western Development Region	85.99	13.04	0.97	307,035

Source : Central Bureau of Statistics (2003). Special tabulation National Population Census 2001.

5.7 Source of Drinking Water

Overall, 53.4 per cent household in Nepal is served by piped water. The second common source of drinking water is Tube-well/Borehole (28.6 percent) followed by well (9.1 percent) and spout water (6.5 percent). Still, 1.5 per cent households draw water from river/stream and 0.9 per cent draw water from some other sources. Combining together (piped water and that from Tube-well) the percent of households with access to improved source of drinking water comes to be 82 per cent.

Fig. 5.1: Percentage distribution of the households by source of drinking water, Population Census 2001



Distribution of drinking water by source is not homogenous across the regions. Sixty-six per cent households draw water from piped line in urban areas whereas the corresponding figure for rural areas is 51 per cent resulting in a 15-percentage point difference in piped water as water source used by place of residence. The other sources of drinking water follows similar pattern in urban

and rural areas, however their strength is different. For example, the second common source of drinking water is Tube-well in both urban and rural areas. However, 23.3 per cent households in urban areas and 29.6 per cent households in rural areas use Tube-well as drinking water source. In terms of households with access to improved source of drinking water, households in urban areas have better access (89.4 per cent) than households in rural areas (80.7 per cent).

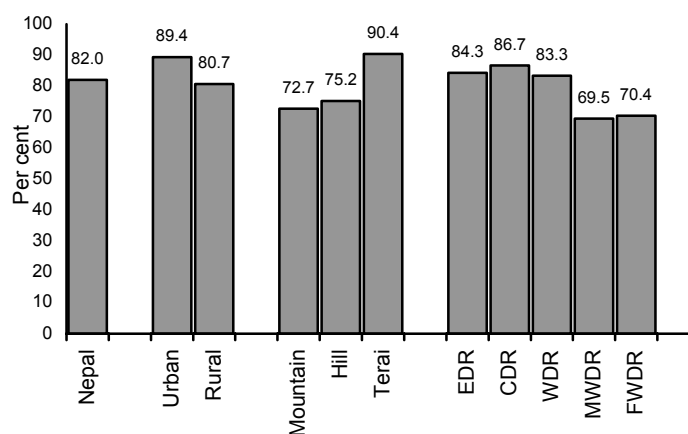
Table 5.12 : Distribution of households by various sources of drinking water by regions, Nepal 2001.

Area	Percentage distribution of source of drinking water							Total Households
	Piped	Well	Tube -well	Spout Water	Rivers/ Stream	Others	Total Per cent	
Nepal	53.4	9.1	28.6	6.5	1.5	0.9	100.0	4,174,457
<i>Place of Residence</i>								
Urban	66.1	5.9	23.3	3.3	0.5	0.9	100.0	664,507
Rural	51.1	9.7	29.6	7.0	1.7	0.9	100.0	3,509,950
<i>Ecological Belt</i>								
Mountain	72.7	6.3	0.0	17.2	3.5	0.4	100.0	285,217
Hill	72.7	12.1	2.5	10.2	2.0	0.5	100.0	1,950,345
Terai	31.1	6.6	59.3	1.1	0.6	1.4	100.0	1,938,895
<i>Development Region</i>								
EDR	35.6	9.3	48.7	4.7	1.0	0.7	100.0	1,001,121
CDR	58.3	8.6	28.4	3.3	0.6	0.7	100.0	1,465,753
WDR	69.3	9.0	14.0	5.5	1.1	1.1	100.0	863,045
MWDR	52.0	11.5	17.5	14.3	4.0	0.7	100.0	479,009
FWDR	47.0	7.9	23.4	16.0	3.6	2.1	100.0	365,529

Source : Population Census 2001.

Piped water is the major source of drinking water in Mountain and Hill regions (72.7 per cent in each region), whereas Tube-well is the major source of drinking water in Terai region (59.3 per cent). In terms of households with access to improved source of drinking water, households in Terai region has better access to improved source of

Fig. 5.2 : Access to improved source of drinking water by regions, population census 2001



drinking water (90.4 per cent) than households in other regions (72.7 per cent in Mountain and 75.2 per cent in Hill region).

The distribution of the water source by development region shows that Tube-well is the major source of drinking water in Eastern Development Region (48.7 per cent), whereas for other development regions piped water is the major source of drinking water. In terms of households served by piped water, Western Development Region stands in top position with 69.3 per cent households getting water from piped line. Data also shows that access to improved source of drinking water is above national average in Eastern, Central and Western development regions whereas in Mid-western and Far-western development regions, access to improved source of drinking water is below national average.

Table 5.13 : Distribution households by access to improved source of drinking water in different years

Year	Source	Percentage distribution of households with access to improved source of drinking water			Sample Households		
		Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
1991	NFHS	89.9	42.8	45.9	1621	23124	24745
1996	NDHS	84.9	61.4	63.4	716	7366	8082
2000	BCHIMES	92.3	78.1	79.9	1346	8923	10269
2001	NDHS	86.0	71.1	72.8	900	7702	8602
2001	Census	89.4	80.7	82.0	*400934	*457791	*858725

Note: * refers to the actual number of households surveyed in Population Census 2001 for the administration of the sample count (Form II). However, weight/raising factor has been assigned to get estimated numbers of characteristics under study. All together, there are 664507 urban households and 3509950 rural households (4174457 total households) enumerated in Population Census 2001.

Table 5.13 presents data on access to improved source of drinking water by place of residence in different years. Surprisingly, the data values obtained from different sources are not consistent. The 1996 NDHS data compared to 1991 NFHS shows that there was expected pattern of increment in access to safe drinking water in national level and rural areas, however in urban areas there is unexpected drop in access to safe drinking water by 5 percentage points. Similarly, estimate obtained in NDHS 2001 is around seven percentage points less than estimates obtained from BCHIMES 2000. However, the estimates obtained from BCHIMES 2000 and that from Population Census 2001 seems to be more consistent compared to others. Furthermore, it should be noted that the number of urban centers and its size is also changing over different time points. For example, in 1991 there were 33 urban centers which rose to 58 in 2001. Also, in many urban

centers, it is discouraging to note that it has not been fully carried out the basic requirement of urbanization like access to improved source of drinking water, roads, electricity etc.

Comparison of 1991, 1996 and Census 2001 data shows that nationally there has been increase in access to improved source of drinking water by around 18 percentage points in every 5 years. This is true for rural areas also. The urban rural gap in access to improved source of drinking water is also narrowing over the years.

5.8 Fuel Used for Cooking

Wood is the major source of cooking fuel in Nepal. Nearly two in three households depend on firewood for cooking purpose. The second common source of cooking fuel is kerosene, which serves 13.7 per cent households followed by cow dung 10.1 per cent. Only 7.7 per cent households used LP Gas (LPG), which is generally affordable by higher/middle income group in Nepal. Smoke release from burning solid fuels such as firewood, charcoal, dung etc. during the time of cooking food is one of the common causes of respiratory illnesses among women and children in Nepal. Overall, 77 per cent of households in Nepal depend on solid fuels.

Table 5.14 : Distribution of households by various sources of fuel use for cooking by regions, Nepal, 2001.

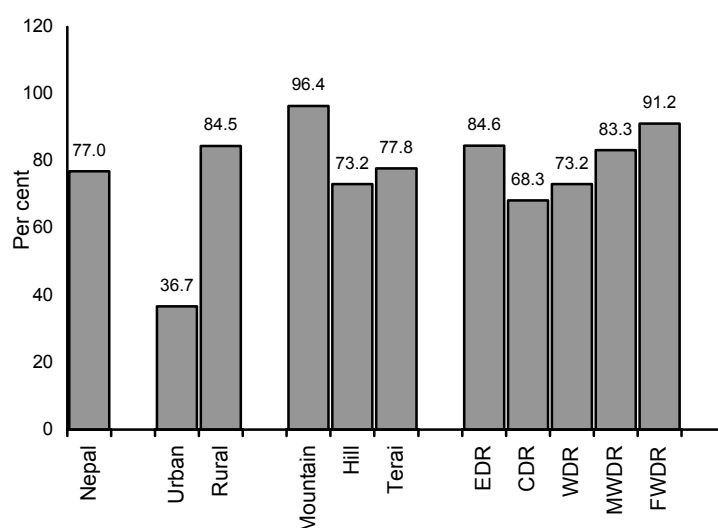
Area	Main source of fuel used for cooking						Total Per cent	Total Households
	Wood	Kerosene	LPG	Bio-gas	Cow Dung	Others		
Nepal	66.2	13.7	7.7	1.7	10.1	0.7	100.0	4174458
<i>Place of Residence</i>								
Urban	33.2	34.1	27.3	1.8	2.5	1.0	100.0	664400
Rural	72.4	9.8	4.0	1.7	11.5	0.6	100.0	3510058
<i>Ecological Belt</i>								
Mountain	95.5	3.2	0.4	0.1	0.7	0.2	100.0	285229
Hill	72.3	16.0	8.9	1.9	0.1	0.8	100.0	1950822
Terai	55.6	12.8	7.7	1.7	21.5	0.7	100.0	1938407
<i>Development Region</i>								
EDR	66.3	9.9	4.3	1.2	17.7	0.6	100.0	1000362
CDR	55.6	19.3	11.2	1.2	11.4	1.3	100.0	1465813
WDR	65.3	13.1	10.3	3.4	7.6	0.3	100.0	863049
MWDR	81.0	11.3	4.3	1.1	2.1	0.2	100.0	479817
FWDR	90.8	5.5	1.9	1.5	0.1	0.3	100.0	365417

Source : Population Census 2001.

Firewood is the major source of cooking fuel in rural areas and kerosene in urban areas. Use of LPG is mainly concentrated in urban areas (27.3 per cent) compared to rural areas (4 per cent). In rural areas 84.5 per cent households depend on solid fuels for cooking whereas, the corresponding figure for urban areas is 36.7 per cent.

Distribution of the data by ecological belt shows that overwhelming majority of the households in Mountain region (96.4 per cent) depends on solid fuel for cooking. In all regions, firewood is the major source of cooking fuel. The second common source of cooking fuel in Hill region is kerosene, which served 16 per cent households whereas; in Terai region it is dung, which served 21.5 per cent households.

Fig. 5.3: Proportion of households using solid fuels for cooking by regions, Population Census 2001



Overall, 73.2 per cent households in Hill region and 77.8 per cent households in Terai region used solid fuel for cooking.

Data by development regions show that kerosene/LPG is mainly used in Central and Western Development Regions compared to other Development Regions. Across the regions, there is 22.9 percentage points variation in use of solid fuels for cooking (91.2 per cent in Far-western Development Region and 68.3 per cent in Central Development Region).

Table 5.15: Distribution of households using solid fuel for cooking in the year 2000 and 2001.

Year	Source	Percentage distribution of households using solid fuel for cooking			Sample Households		
		Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
2000	BCHIMES	38.7	94.8	87.6	1346	8923	10269
2001	Census	36.7	84.5	77.0	400934	457791	858725

Over the years, around 10 percentage point reduction in use of solid fuel for cooking is found in both rural areas and national level. However, in urban areas there has been some decrease in the use of solid fuels by two percentage points. The small reduction in urban areas could be explained by the fact that already around 61 per cent households had used kerosene or gas for cooking purpose in the year 2000.

5.9 Fuel Used for Lighting

Kerosene is the major source of lighting fuel in Nepal. Around 58 per cent households depend on kerosene for lighting purpose. The second common source of lighting fuel is electricity, which serves 39.8 per cent households. Small proportion of the households (2.5 per cent) depend on other sources of lighting fuels such as bio-gas, wood, candle light etc.

Distribution of the sources of fuel used for lighting purpose is not homogenous across the regions. In urban areas, significantly large proportion of the households (83.4 per cent) are using electricity as main source of lighting fuels whereas the corresponding figure for rural areas is 31.5 per cent, resulting around 52 percentage points difference in electricity as main source of lighting fuel.

Table 5.16 : Distribution of households by various sources of fuel use for lighting by regions, Nepal 2001

Area	Main source of fuel used for lighting				Total Per cent	Total Households
	Electricity	Kerosene	Bio Gas	Others		
Nepal	39.8	57.7	0.2	2.3	100.0	4,174,457
<i>Place of Residence</i>						
Urban	83.4	16.2	0.2	0.2	100.0	664,507
Rural	31.5	65.6	0.2	2.7	100.0	3,509,950
<i>Ecological Belt</i>						
Mountain	21.4	66.3	0.0	12.3	100.0	285,213
Hill	43.2	53.9	0.2	2.8	100.0	1,951,191
Terai	39.1	60.4	0.2	0.3	100.0	1,938,053
<i>Development Region</i>						
EDR	30.5	68.6	0.2	0.7	100.0	1,000,441
CDR	53.2	46.3	0.2	0.3	100.0	1,465,753
WDR	42.8	56.2	0.2	0.7	100.0	863,045
MWDR	25.4	63.6	0.2	10.8	100.0	479,817
FWDR	23.1	69.6	0.2	7.1	100.0	365,401

Source : Population Census 2001.

Distribution of the data by ecological regions shows that in all three ecological belts, kerosene is the major source of fuel used for lighting facility followed by electricity. Households in Hill region have better access to electricity for lighting purpose (43.2 per cent) than households in

Terai and Mountain regions (39.1 and 21.4 per cent respectively). In Mountain region, 12.3 per cent households used some other sources of fuels such as wood, candle light etc for lighting purpose since they do not have access to or can afford either electricity or kerosene as fuel for lighting purpose.

In Central Development Region, major source of lighting fuel is electricity (53.2 per cent), whereas in all other development regions, kerosene is the major source of lighting fuel. There is around 30 percentage points difference in use of electricity as lighting fuel across the regions. Among these, households in Far-western and Mid-western Regions have the lowest coverage rate. As in Mountain Region, some significant proportion of the households in Mid-western Development Region (10.8 per cent) used some other sources of fuels such as wood, candle light etc for lighting purpose.

Table 5.17 presents distribution of the households by electricity as main source of lighting fuels in different years. However, the data are not strictly comparable since the definition used in census and other surveys are not similar. In census 2001, households were asked about the main source of fuel used for lighting purpose. Accordingly, those households who are getting electricity from any source (Nepal Electricity Corporation or Micro-hydro Power or Solar System) could be reported as having electricity for lighting purpose. In contrast to this, in all surveys, households were asked the question whether they had electricity facility in the households. So it could be expected that in surveys, those households that benefited from Solar System or Micro-hydro Power might not be included. Also, since such characteristics are mainly concentrated in rural areas, it is expected to include largely the contribution of Micro-hydro Power and Solar System for lighting purpose in many rural areas. However, for urban areas its effect is low.

Table 5.17 : Distribution of households by electricity as main source of lighting fuels in different years

Year	Source	Percentage distribution of households using electricity as main source of lighting fuels			Sample Households		
		Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
1991	NFHS	77.8	8.3	12.9	1621	23124	24745
1996	NDHS	78.4	12.1	17.9	716	7366	8082
2000	BCHIMES	79.8	16.5	24.6	1346	8923	10269
2001	NDHS	85.7	17.4	24.6	900	7702	8602
2001	Census	83.4	31.5	39.8	400934	457791	858725

Since, contribution of Micro-hydro Power and Solar System is minimum in urban areas, this could be one possible reason showing smooth increment in electricity for lighting purpose in urban areas over the years. However, for rural areas and national level, there is 15 percentage points increment in use of electricity for lighting facility in Census 2001 compared to BCHIMES 2000 or NDHS 2001.

5.10 Access to Toilet Facility

The census data shows that overall 46.8 per cent households in Nepal have toilet facility. Among these, around one-half of the households have modern flush system toilet and another half households have simple ordinary toilet. There is a wide difference in households having toilet facility by place of residence. Households in urban areas are nearly two times more likely to have toilet facility than households in rural areas (78.1 per cent vs 40.8 per cent). Similarly, in rural areas there are only 17.3 per cent households with modern flush system toilet whereas the corresponding figure for urban households is 53 per cent.

Table 5.18 : Distribution of households by toilet facility by regions, Nepal, 2001.

Area	Households having toilet facility (%)			Type of toilet facility		Total Households
	Yes	No	Total	Modern with Flush	Ordinary	
Nepal	46.8	53.2	100.0	23.0	23.8	4,174,457
<i>Place of Residence</i>						
Urban	78.1	21.9	100.0	53.0	25.0	664,507
Rural	40.8	59.2	100.0	17.3	23.5	3,509,950
<i>Ecological Belt</i>						
Mountain	40.8	59.2	100.0	7.9	32.9	285,214
Hill	56.5	43.5	100.0	27.2	29.2	1,951,192
Terai	37.9	62.1	100.0	21.0	16.9	1,938,051
<i>Development Region</i>						
EDR	46.1	53.9	100.0	15.7	30.4	1,000,441
CDR	51.7	48.3	100.0	30.4	21.2	1,465,753
WDR	55.1	44.9	100.0	27.0	28.1	863,045
MWDR	31.9	68.1	100.0	16.2	15.7	479,817
FWDR	28.6	71.4	100.0	12.6	16.0	365,401

Source : Population Census 2001.

Comparison of the data by ecological belt shows that highest proportion of the households having toilet facility is found in Hill region (56.5 per cent) followed by Mountain and Terai region (40.8 per cent and 37.9 per cent respectively). However, distributions of the households by toilet type do not show similar pattern. In Mountain region, only 7.9 per cent households have modern flush

system toilet although 40.8 per cent households have toilet facility. Access to modern flush system toilet is better in Hill region followed by Terai region.

There exists wide variation in households having toilet facility by development regions. Access to toilet facility among development regions varies by 26.5 percentage points. More than 50 per cent households in Central and Western Development Regions have toilet facility, whereas in other Development Regions, access to toilet facility is below national average of 46.8 per cent. Data also shows that highest proportion of the households with modern flush system toilet is found in Central Development Region (30.4 per cent) and lowest proportion in Far-western Development Region (12.6 per cent).

Table 5.19 presents data on access to toilet facility by place of residence in different years. The data shows expected pattern of increment in access to toilet facility in urban areas. Similar pattern is also observed in rural areas and national level up to the year 2000. However, in rural areas and national level as reported in NDHS 2001, there is two percentage points decrease in households having toilet facility compared to BCHIMES 2000. Similarly, increase in access to toilet facility by 14 percentage points in rural areas and national level as reported in Census 2001 compared to BCHIMES 2000 makes comparison of the data over the years a problem. The cause specific analysis for this has yet to be done.

Table 5.19: Distribution of households by access to toilet facility in different years.

Year	Source	Percentage distribution of households with access to toilet facility			Sample Households		
		Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
1991	NFHS	69.8	16.5	20.0	1,621	23,124	24,745
1996	NDHS	73.7	17.7	22.7	716	7,366	8,082
2000	BCHIMES	74.7	27.1	33.2	1,346	8,923	10,269
2001	NDHS	79.9	24.7	30.5	900	7,702	8,602
2001	Census	78.1	40.8	46.8	400,934	457,791	858,725

5.11 Radio and Television Facility in the Households

The census data shows that more than half (53.1 per cent) of the households in Nepal have radio facility, whereas TV facility is limited to only 22.5 per cent of the households. Overall, 41.3 per cent of the households have no access to either one or the other means of information media i.e. the radio or the TV. Distribution of these facilities is not homogeneous across the region. Urban-rural differential in households having TV facility is more remarkable than radio. There is 38.3

percentage points difference in households having TV facility by place of residence, whereas the differences for radio facility accounted to 13.8 percentage points.

Table 5.20 : Distribution of households by households having Radio, TV facility by regions, Nepal, 2001.

Area	Percentage of households having			Total Households
	Radio	TV	Neither Radio nor TV	
Nepal	53.1	22.5	41.3	4,174,371
<i>Place of Residence</i>				
Urban	64.7	54.9	24.0	664,507
Rural	50.9	16.4	44.5	3,509,864
<i>Ecological Belt</i>				
Mountain	53.9	4.5	45.6	285,208
Hill	63.4	22.6	33.3	1,951,194
Terai	42.6	25.1	48.6	1,937,969
<i>Development Region</i>				
EDR	48.8	19.3	45.4	1,000,356
CDR	53.6	32.9	38.7	1,465,754
WDR	57.5	19.3	37.3	863,048
MWDR	55.5	11.8	42.0	479,812
FWDR	49.5	11.6	48.4	365,401

Source : Population Census 2001.

Note : Columns are not mutually exclusive in above classification, for example: households having radio facility may or may not have TV. Hence, row total percent exceeds 100.

The data across the ecological belt does not show similar pattern of distribution of radio and TV facility. More households in Hill region owned radio, whereas TV is more prevalent in Terai region. In Mountain region, only 4.5 per cent households owned TV. It is interesting to note that although prevalence of TV is highest in Terai region, but in the same region, prevalence of radio is lowest. Overall, the data shows that highest proportion of the households in Terai region (48.6 per cent) has no access to even one information media: Radio or TV. This is followed by Mountain region (45.6 per cent).

There exists wide variation in households having TV facility by development regions. Access to TV facility among development regions varies by 21.3 percentage points. Variation in radio facility is however low compared to TV facility. Data shows that households in Western Development Region have better access to radio facility (57.5 per cent), whereas TV is more common in Central Development Region (32.9 per cent). Data also shows that households in Mid-

western and Far-western Development Regions have the lowest access to TV facility (nearly 12 per cent).

Table 5.21 presents data on access to radio/TV facility by place of residence in different years. Data shows rapid increment in access to radio facility in rural areas and in national level over the years. This seems to be quite reasonable because of Khasa (Chinese) market in Nepal, which produces low cost radio tremendously. However, in urban areas, the data does not show the consistent pattern.

Table 5.21: Percentage distribution of households by households having Radio, TV facility in different years.

Year	Source	Place of Residence					
		Urban		Rural		Total	
		Radio	TV	Radio	TV	Radio	TV
1991	NFHS	67.2	38.9	29.2	1.2	31.7	3.7
1996	NDHS	59.7	42.6	34.2	3.1	36.5	6.6
2000	BCHIMES	71.0	55.4	46.6	7.8	49.7	13.9
2001	Census	64.7	54.9	50.9	16.4	53.1	22.5

There is steady increase in access to TV facility up to the year 2000. However, in rural areas and national level as reported in Census 2001, there is fast increase in access to TV facility by 8.6 percentage points over the years compared to BCHIMES 2000 which is hard to explain. The cause specific analysis for this has yet to be done.

5.12 Average Household Size

Nepalese society is composed of multi-ethnic groups. So, there are many cultural and social practices in the country. As a result, household composition is also influenced and some ethnics groups want to live in joint family. For example, Tharu people want to live in joint family or large family structure (*Kansakar, 1995*). Similarly, Newar ethnic group has, usually, lived in joint household, which contained some nuclear families. On the other hand, some ethnic groups do usually not have practice of large family. In process of development and increasing trend of urbanization in the country, some traditional practices or norms have been gradually changing. In this context, household composition has also been affected. Previously Nepalese population preferred to live in large households and their economic activities were mainly dependent on agriculture and in subsistence agriculture. It requires more labor to increase production in agriculture and people thought their live prosperous with higher production in agriculture. So, people preferred to live in a large household in the case of primitive agrarian economy. But

people engaged in other economic activities rather than agriculture preferred to reside in comparatively smaller households. Similarly, the occupational structure in urban areas is different from that of rural areas and the proportion of population engaged in agriculture is less in urban areas. So, The Urban Population Survey 1996 conducted by Central Bureau of Statistics showed that nuclear family is becoming more popular instead of joint family in urban areas of the country (Dangol, 1997). In the country, the occupational structure is also changing and the proportion of population engaged in agriculture is declining. On the other hand, the percentage of urban population is increasing in the country. Again, the household size is also influenced by the level of fertility and mortality. Different survey data shows that the level of both fertility and mortality are declining. So the average household size is gradually moving towards having smaller size. Data obtained from population censuses of Nepal show also declining trends of average household size.

Table 5.22 : Average household size and its annual growth, 1952/54-2001.

Census Year	Household	Population	Average Household Size	Annual Growth of Household	Annual Growth of Population
1952/54	1,524,511	8,256,625	5.4	-	-
1961	1,783,975	9,412,996	5.3	1.57	1.31
1971	2,084,062	11,524,250	5.5	1.55	2.02
1981	2,585,154	15,022,839	5.8	2.15	2.65
1991	3,328,721	18,491,097	5.6	2.53	2.08
2001*	4,253,220	23,151,423	5.4	2.45	2.25

Source : Dr. Kansakar, Vidya Bir Singh (1995). Household Analysis: Size, Composition and Headship Rates, Population Monograph of Nepal, Central Bureau of Statistics, Kathmandu.

Central Bureau of Statistics (2002). Population Census 2001, National Report.

* Includes both enumerated as well as estimated number

The data presented in Table 5.22 shows that average household size of the country has been gradually decreasing during the last three population censuses. The population census of 1952/54 showed 5.4 average household size and it was decreased in 1961 census. The annual population growth rate was observed lower than the annual growth of average household size during the period. But the average household size increased in 1971. Its growth rate became lower than the population growth rate. Similar situation was also observed during 1981-1991 period. The declining trend in average household size has started since 1981. Since 1991 annual growth of average household size is observed higher than the annual population growth rate. Similarly

BCHIMES Surveys conducted in 2000 by Central Bureau of Statistics shows 5.5 average household size which is nearer to the last census result. Demographic and Health Survey 2001 also shows similar average household size (5.3) to the census result of 2001.

5.13 Households by Size

Table 5.23 shows that there is higher percentage of households composed of five persons in population censuses except in 1961. In 1961, it was found that household consisted of four persons. The percentage of single person household is nearly same in censuses except in 1961 in which it was little higher than in other censuses. Similarly, household consisting of nine persons and above is observed more in 1981 census and it starts to decline in subsequent censuses. So, it can be assumed that there is increasing preferences of comparatively smaller household size in the country. This is also supported by data from Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2001(DHS). According the survey, five persons household constituted higher percentage (18.5 %) and single person household is 4 percent in the country (DHS). These data are almost similar as the 2001 census result.

Table 5.23 : Percentage distribution of household by size, 1961-2001.

<i>Household Size</i>	Percentage of Household				
	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001
Nepal (percent)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
<i>Number</i>	<i>1,783,975</i>	<i>2,084,062</i>	<i>2,585,154</i>	<i>3,328,721</i>	<i>4,174,374</i>
1 Person	4.68	3.94	3.86	4.04	4.01
2 Persons	9.93	8.46	7.15	7.69	7.52
3 Persons	14.07	12.35	10.57	10.88	10.85
4 Persons	16.54	15.63	14.23	15.19	16.64
5 Persons	15.82	16.02	15.83	17.07	18.18
6 Persons	12.82	13.73	14.51	15.07	15.12
7 Persons	9.00	10.19	11.18	11.48	11.36
8 Persons	5.91	6.83	7.66	6.77	5.87
9 Persons & More	11.24	12.85	15.00	11.82	10.46

Source : Same as in Table 5.22.

The percentage of single person household in urban area is increasing in each successive population census. On the other hand, households having large number of members is decreasing at faster trend in urban areas such as percentage of seven persons household, eight persons households and household having nine persons and more have declined in 2001 compared to 1991. In 2001, household having four persons is observed to have the highest percentage whereas

households having five persons were found with higher percentage in 1981 and 1991. In the case of rural, the percentage of single household slightly declined in 2001 compared to that of 1991, whereas it increased in 1991 compared to 1981. The percentage of households having five persons is found higher in 1981, 1991 and 2001 in the case of rural areas.

Table 5.24 : Percentage distribution of household by size for urban-rural, 1981-2001.

Household Size		Percentage of Household in Urban			Percentage of Household in Rural		
		1981	1991	2001	1981	1991	2001
Total	(Percent)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	<i>Number</i>	<i>153,528</i>	<i>313,342</i>	<i>664,507</i>	<i>2,431,626</i>	<i>3,015,379</i>	<i>3,509,867</i>
1 Person		5.54	6.02	6.46	3.75	3.83	3.55
2 Persons		7.22	9.05	10.02	7.15	7.55	7.05
3 Persons		9.28	11.65	13.83	10.66	10.80	10.29
4 Persons		12.48	16.07	20.00	14.34	15.10	16.00
5 Persons		14.53	17.08	17.88	15.91	17.07	18.23
6 Persons		13.53	13.49	12.27	14.57	15.23	15.65
7 Persons		10.77	9.58	8.09	11.21	11.68	11.98
8 Persons		7.57	5.43	3.87	7.67	6.91	6.24
9 Persons & More		19.06	11.64	7.59	14.75	11.84	11.01

Source : Same as in Table 5.22.

In Mountain zone, the percentage of single person household has increased in 2001 compared to that of 1991 whereas it decreased during 1981 -1991. The percentage of large households started to decline during 1981-2001 though the pace of the decline is not so high. Especially, the percentage of household having eight persons and more was declined in the period. In the Mountain, higher percentage of household has contained five persons in all four censuses, i.e., 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001.

Table 5.25 : Percentage distribution of household by size for ecological zones, 1971-2001.

Household Size	Percentage of Household			
	1971	1981	1991	2001
Mountain(Percent)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
<i>Number</i>	<i>204,938</i>	<i>236,294</i>	<i>274,135</i>	<i>285,213</i>
1 Person	3.08	5.31	4.56	5.14
2 Persons	7.55	6.86	8.08	7.80
3 Persons	12.38	11.14	11.92	10.58
4 Persons	16.09	15.01	15.90	15.65
5 Persons	16.61	16.32	17.29	17.81
6 Persons	14.25	14.40	15.09	15.78
7 Persons	10.47	10.90	11.40	12.36
8 Persons	7.10	7.23	6.49	6.18
9 Persons & More	12.47	12.83	9.27	8.70
Hill (Percent)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
<i>Number</i>	<i>1,088,080</i>	<i>1,240,434</i>	<i>1,558,493</i>	<i>1,951,191</i>
1 Person	3.68	3.70	4.48	4.80
2 Persons	7.81	6.80	7.75	8.23
3 Persons	11.90	10.35	11.16	11.92
4 Persons	15.31	14.17	15.46	17.56
5 Persons	16.18	16.08	17.00	17.98
6 Persons	14.21	14.91	15.15	14.64
7 Persons	10.81	11.60	11.64	11.07
8 Persons	7.22	8.00	6.91	5.52
9 Persons & More	12.86	14.39	10.46	8.29
Terai (Percent)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
<i>Number</i>	<i>791,044</i>	<i>1,108,426</i>	<i>1,496,093</i>	<i>1,937,970</i>
1 Person	4.53	3.73	3.47	3.06
2 Persons	9.59	7.61	7.55	6.77
3 Persons	12.96	10.71	10.40	9.81
4 Persons	15.95	14.13	14.78	15.86
5 Persons	15.63	15.45	17.11	18.43
6 Persons	12.92	14.08	14.99	15.50
7 Persons	9.28	10.78	11.33	11.50
8 Persons	6.22	7.38	6.68	6.16
9 Persons & More	12.92	16.15	13.70	12.92

Source : Same as in Table 5.22.

As in Mountain zone, Hill zone also has declining percentage of large households in each successive census. Similarly, more households have five persons in all censuses during the period. However, the data shows that the single person household is slightly increasing during the period.

The scenario of household composition by size is slightly different in Terai from other two ecological zones. There is not significant decline in the percentage distribution of households having large number of members in Terai zone. Similarly, the percent of single member household is recorded as declining though the pace of it is not so high. There is decline in not only single person household but also in two and three person households in all successive censuses and it is not observed in other two ecological zones. In this zone, the higher percent of household lies in category of five person household in the period 1981-2001 and it was four person household in 1971 census. But there is no uniformity in the percentage distribution of households by size in five development regions. Far-western Development Region has still higher percent of household with large number of members whereas in other regions these have seen to decline in 2001.

5.14 Head of Household

Head of household has high respect in Nepalese society. Generally, the eldest male member of household is regarded as head. Being male dominated society, most of household has usually reported the male member of household regardless of age as the head though questionnaire instruction manual of census has explained the term with practical examples. Similarly, enumerator's training program was conducted with special focus on the issue that the head of household refers to the person who is the main responsible person to manage and look after all household activities. Again, the head might be either male or female. However, the census data on topic reflects that there is higher percentage of male household head than female in both 1991 and 2001. There is tiny difference in the age distribution of household head during these two population censuses. In younger age groups, the percentage of it has increased slightly in 2001 compared to 1991 whereas it decreases in age group 20-29 years. Again it has increased little in older age group 70 and above years. Such type of changes in the age distribution of household head is observed slightly more in the case of sex distribution. It is noted here that there is increment in the percentage of female household head of aged below 40 years in 2001 as compared to the previous census. It might be due to the special emphasis given in the definitional explanation of household head during the enumerator's training and gender based census media campaign in 2001 census. On the other hand, the percentage of male household head in the age groups below 30 years has decreased in 2001 compare to that of 1991.

Table 5.26 : Percentage distribution of household head by age groups and sex, 1991-2001.

Age Group	1991			2001		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Nepal	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
10-14 Yrs.	1.08	1.08	1.07	0.04	0.04	0.06
15-19 Yrs.				1.11	1.04	1.52
20-29 Yrs.	15.07	15.41	12.83	14.34	13.83	17.27
30-39 Yrs.	25.63	26.31	21.14	25.63	25.78	24.73
40-49 Yrs.	23.82	23.97	22.79	23.79	24.43	20.17
50-59 Yrs.	17.98	17.75	19.48	17.77	18.15	15.60
60-69 Yrs.	11.45	10.85	15.40	11.40	11.07	13.23
70+ Yrs.	4.98	4.64	7.28	5.91	5.65	7.41

Source : Central Bureau of Statistics (1993). National Population Census 1991, General Characteristics Tables.

Central Bureau of Statistics (2002). *Population Census 2001 National Report*, vol I Table 14.

5.14.1 Household Having Head Alone

In the broad age distribution of male household head living alone, it is observed that there is more concentration of head in the age group 15-59 years. Such percentage is found more in urban area than in rural area. So it can be argued that those persons living alone might be contributed more by the share of students and job holder staying in urban area. Ecologically, more percentage of male household head alone is observed in Hill zone. It is found highest in Far-western Development Region followed by Central Development Region. However the age distribution of female household head alone is different from that of male headed age distribution. Generally, female do not live alone without certain circumstances in the context of Nepalese culture and they get married at earlier ages compared to male. The data on Table 5.27 shows clearly that single household woman is found in negligible percentage in age less than 15 years. Similarly, the percentage distribution shows higher concentration of female household head alone at older ages, i.e., age of 60 years and above which is more than double of male percentage of the same age group. But it is not in the case of age group 15-59 years. In such age group, the percentage of female household head alone is substantially low compared to that of male. In the case of rural-urban difference in female household head alone in different age groups, more female percentage in age group 15-59 years is found in urban compare to rural of the same age group. The reverse situation is observed in older age group, that is, 60 and above years. Similarly, the higher percentage of female household head at older age is observed in Mountain zone and it is followed by Hill and Terai and those are almost more than double of the male percentage of the same age

group in all three ecological zones. However, it is considerable difference between male and female percentage in Hill zone. More or less similar type of picture is observed in Far -western Development Region and Central Development Region. However, little higher percentage of household head alone at lower age, that is, less than 15 years is observed in Far-western Development Region and Mid-western Development Region in the case of male. More percentage of female of such age group is found in Mid-western Development region and it is followed by Eastern Development Region.

Table 5.27: Percentage distribution of household having head alone by broad age-groups and sex for urban-rural, ecological zones and development regions, 2001.

<i>Area</i>	Total Household by Sex		Age-group and Sex for Household Having Head Alone					
			< 15 years		15-59 Years		60 + Years	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Nepal	87,940	81,673	0.25	0.10	78.83	48.78	20.92	51.12
Urban	30,045	12,897	0.20	0.06	92.40	61.23	7.40	38.71
Rural	57,895	68,776	0.27	0.11	71.79	46.45	27.94	53.44
Mountain Zone	7,060	7,779	0.27	0.12	73.16	44.22	26.57	55.66
Hill Zone	46,604	48,112	0.23	0.11	80.23	48.86	19.54	51.03
Terai Zone	34,276	25,782	0.27	0.07	78.09	50.02	21.64	49.91
Eastern Dev. Region	19,441	18,355	0.21	0.13	76.63	49.81	23.16	50.06
Central Dev. Region	35,386	24,622	0.21	0.09	81.24	47.56	18.54	52.36
Western Dev. Region	18,523	24,940	0.28	0.07	73.96	47.74	25.77	52.19
Mid-western Dev. Region	8,822	6,798	0.32	0.18	81.06	53.16	18.62	46.66
Far-western Dev. Region	5,768	6,958	0.38	0.11	83.70	49.89	15.92	50.00

Source : Central Bureau of Statistics (2003). Special tabulation National Population Census 2001.

5.14.2 Headship Rate by Sex

The term headship rate refers to the number of household head of x sex in the x age group per 100 population of the same age and sex. Following the definition of headship rate, it is found that it has declined in 2001 compared to 1991 for male whereas female headship rate has began to increase a little in 2001. Female headship rate has increased more in urban than in rural areas during the inter-census period 1991-2001. However, there is large gap between male and female

headship rates. Male headship rate is very high compared to female in all cases, i.e., rural-urban, ecological zones and development regions. Ecologically, Hill zone has more female headship rate in both censuses. It might be caused by male selectivity of out-migration from Hill (*Kansakar*, 1995). Again more urbanized areas like Kathmandu and Pokhara Valleys lie in the zone and social development occurs more in urban areas. Women of these areas are comparatively advanced. But, Terai has lower female headship rate compared to other ecological zones where male domination in household headship is strongly prevalent in social culture of the eco-zone. On the other hand, female headship rate has declined in Western Development Regions during the inter-census period whereas it is found increased in Central Development Region and is followed by Eastern Development Region.

Table 5.28: Headship rate by sex for urban-rural, ecological zones and development regions, 1991-2001.

<i>Area</i>	1991		2001	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Nepal	45.03	6.69	42.65	7.36
Urban	41.08	6.67	41.94	9.17
Rural	45.48	6.68	42.79	7.05
Mountain Zone	47.18	7.15	44.97	7.28
Hill Zone	45.37	8.43	43.28	9.62
Terai Zone	44.36	4.78	41.80	5.17
Eastern Development Region	46.00	6.32	44.23	6.82
Central Development Region	44.77	5.43	42.50	8.44
Western Development Region	44.41	9.74	41.52	6.94
Mid-western Development Region	45.24	5.48	42.92	6.84
Far-western Development Region	44.35	6.77	41.27	6.39

Source : Central Bureau of Statistics (1993). Population Census 1991 Geographical Region Tables & Urban Tables .

Central Bureau of Statistics (2002). Population Census National Report, Tables 10 & 14.

Central Bureau of Statistics (2002). Population Census Results in Gender Perspective (Population Census 2001) vol. I Table 2.3.

Age-specific headship rate is the number of household head per 100 persons in a given sex and age group. The data presented on Table 5.29 shows that female headship rate is lower in all age groups. This type of situation is observed in both censuses as well as in urban and rural areas. The highest male headship rate is observed in age group 50-59 years and it is followed by age group 40-49 years. In urban area, the second highest male headship rate is found in older age group 60-69 years. About female headship rate, it is observed highest in older age group compared to male. Age-group of 60-69 years has the highest female headship rate in national level as well as in rural

areas in both censuses. However, it is found highest in the age group 70 and above years in urban areas. It is also noted that urban female headship rate is higher than that of rural in all age groups in 2001 whereas the distribution pattern of female headship rate was slightly different in 1991. The increasing trend of female headship rate at older ages is due to marriage dissolution and increasing proportion of widowhood in those ages. So, women are forced to live with the responsibility of household head (*Kansakar, 1995*).

Table 5.29 : Age-specific household headship rate by sex for urban-rural, 1991-2001.

Age Groups	Nepal				Urban				Rural			
	1991		2001		1991		2001		1991		2001	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
10-14 Yrs.	1.5	0.2	0.10	0.02	2.2	0.4	0.11	0.04	1.4	0.2	0.09	0.02
15-19 Yrs.			3.11	0.78			4.89	1.73			2.77	0.62
20-29 Yrs.	32.9	3.6	27.80	5.43	30.7	3.3	30.43	7.09	32.6	3.6	27.19	5.10
30-39 Yrs.	71.2	8.3	66.52	10.79	65.5	7.5	63.88	12.46	71.9	7.7	67.08	10.48
40-49 Yrs.	88.3	12.6	85.97	12.51	82.9	12.7	81.27	15.35	88.9	13.6	86.84	12.05
50-59 Yrs.	92.0	16.9	90.68	14.75	88.1	19.2	87.41	18.97	92.4	16.6	91.20	14.12
60-69 Yrs.	87.8	19.6	85.86	18.27	86.7	24.7	84.63	23.70	87.9	19.2	86.03	17.50
70+ Yrs.	72.2	17.4	70.10	16.28	76.7	23.8	71.35	48.44	72.4	16.8	69.93	15.48

Source: Same as in Table 5.28.

Ecologically, male age specific headship rate has followed national level distribution pattern in all three zones. The highest male headship rate is in 50-59 years age group in all three zones whereas it lies in 60-69 years age group in the case of female. It is noted here that female headship rate is lower in Terai zone than in other two zones in all age groups. In Terai, male headship rate for age groups below 40 years is low compared to Mountain and Hill.

Table 5.30: Age-specific household headship rate by sex for ecological zones, 1991-2001.

Age Groups	Mountain				Hill				Terai			
	1991		2001		1991		2001		1991		2001	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
10-14 Yrs.	1.8	0.2	0.1	0.0	1.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	1.5	0.2	0.1	0.0
15-19 Yrs.			3.6	0.7			3.3	1.0			2.9	0.5
20-29 Yrs.	34.9	3.3	30.8	4.3	33.6	4.9	30.2	7.5	30.7	2.2	25.5	3.6
30-39 Yrs.	73.4	8.3	70.3	9.4	72.7	11.5	67.9	14.8	69.6	5.4	65.0	7.4
40-49 Yrs.	88.9	13.7	87.7	12.5	89.0	15.5	85.9	16.2	87.7	9.5	85.8	9.1
50-59 Yrs.	92.3	17.4	91.3	14.7	93.0	19.7	91.4	18.4	90.9	13.2	90.0	10.9
60-69 Yrs.	86.2	19.7	86.6	20.2	90.2	23.5	88.5	22.8	85.4	15.2	83.2	13.0
70+ Yrs.	67.5	19.2	70.4	20.5	73.2	20.5	73.0	20.0	71.9	13.2	66.9	11.3

Source: Same as in Table 5.28.

Western Development Region has higher female headship rate than other development regions in all age groups in both censuses. It might be due to more male out-migration from the region especially in foreign army and other services. Again, the female headship rate is increasing during inter-census period 1991-2001. As in National level, the highest male headship rate lies in age group 50-59 years and female headship rate is in 60-69 years in all development regions. Male headship rate is lower in 1991 census than in 2001 especially in younger age groups in all development regions whereas it is not the same in the case of female headship rates. It is clearly observed that the female household headship rate is higher in 2001 census than that of 1991.

Table 5.31: Age-specific household headship rate by sex for development regions, 1991-2001.

Dev. Region	Year	Sex	Age Group in Years							
			10-14	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70+
EDR	1991	Male	1.3		34.5	75.7	90.5	93.0	88.1	71.2
	1991	Female	0.2		2.7	7.1	12.9	18.2	20.8	18.0
	2001	Male	0.1	2.7	28.3	70.2	88.2	92.0	87.0	69.3
	2001	Female	0.0	0.7	4.3	9.2	11.8	15.4	18.7	16.3
CDR	1991	Male	1.5		30.9	69.2	87.4	91.8	88.1	74.9
	1991	Female	0.2		2.2	5.4	10.0	14.9	18.2	17.9
	2001	Male	0.1	3.2	27.0	63.9	84.6	90.7	86.2	71.0
	2001	Female	0.0	0.7	3.9	7.3	9.3	12.0	15.9	15.4
WDR	1991	Male	1		27.9	67	87.2	92.6	90.7	75.1
	1991	Female	0.3		6.8	14.2	16.7	20.5	23.7	19.1
	2001	Male	0.1	2.4	23.9	63.0	84.6	91.4	88.6	73.6
	2001	Female	0.0	1.0	9.5	19.1	18.5	19.6	23.3	19.8
MWDR	1991	Male	2		35.9	73.4	88.8	91.0	84.4	66.4
	1991	Female	0.2		3.3	7.6	11.3	14.2	16.0	12.6
	2001	Male	0.1	3.7	32.4	71.0	87.7	89.6	82.1	65.8
	2001	Female	0.0	0.9	5.8	10.7	12.4	13.9	17.5	14.0
FWDR	1991	Male	2.2		35.1	71.6	87.7	90.3	81.5	60.3
	1991	Female	0.2		4.3	10.2	13.7	15.1	15.0	12.0
	2001	Male	0.2	5.8	30.8	69.2	86.2	87.0	78.6	61.2
	2001	Female	0.0	0.7	5.0	10.5	12.3	12.2	14.5	11.1

Source : Same as in Table 5.28.

5.14.3 Headship Rate by Marital Status

Marital status is an important component in household composition. In Nepalese culture, young single person will, generally, be a household head only under certain circumstances such as senior able ever married male is absent in the household. Being male dominated culture, males are reported as household head though there are other female such as mother who is mainly responsible for household activities is administering the household. Other circumstances of being

reported the person having single marital status as household head are person who is living away from household for study and service purposes, orphans, and so on. According to the report of last census, there is low headship rate among single who has not married. There is higher headship rate among single marital status men than single females. In 2001, currently married is further categorized into three categories like married living with single spouse, married living with more than one spouse and remarried. In the case of male, the highest headship rate is found in the category of remarried person and it is followed by married person living with more than one spouse and married living with single spouse. It means that most of male persons who marry again (remarriage) are head of their respective households. Similarly, there is sizeable number of household heads who do not report their marital status. Such type of report is observed less in case of female. Female headship rate is found to be the highest in the category of married living with more than one spouse and it is followed by widow and divorce/separated. It is noted here that polyandry (woman having more than one husband) is comparatively very less practiced and it is found only in some ethnic groups that lived in northern high Himalayas. Most of the polyandry cases are found within reproductive age and they might themselves look after their household activities. On the other hand, there is comparatively very lower female headship rate than male in the category of married living with single spouse. It might be the cause of cultural practices to report head for male member of household. Similarly, female headship rate is lower than that of male in remarried marital status.

Table 5.32 : Headship rate by marital status and sex, 2001.

Marital Status	Nepal	
	Male	Female
Single	3.7	1.0
Married and living with one spouse	66.6	8.5
Married and living with more than one spouse	83.4	62.5
Remarried	86.1	14.4
Widow/widowed	66.5	34.2
Divorced/separated	39.5	29.0
Marital status not stated	26.0	6.1

Source : Central Bureau of Statistics (2002). Population Census Results in Gender Perspective (Population Census 2001) Vol. I, Table 2.5.

Central Bureau of Statistics (2002). *Population Census 2001 National Report* Vol II, Table 17.

5.15 Household with Domestic Workers

Nepalese society is not so common to have domestic workers in household. Households having domestic worker is about less than one percent of total households. According to the census 2001, there are only 57, 295 persons reported as domestic workers in the country and among them 62.8 percent and 37.2 percent are male and female respectively. Again, more than half of them are

children below 16 years of age. Among child domestic workers, about 52 percent is female (CBS, Gender perspective, vol. I, 2002). Table 5.33 shows that there is no significant difference between sex of household head for having domestic worker in household. In other words, there is very little higher percentage of female headed household that has domestic workers. Similarly, there are some differences in the percentage distribution of household having domestic worker between urban and rural areas. As expected, there is higher percentage of household having domestic worker in urban areas than the rural areas. In the case of ecological distribution, Hill zone has comparatively more percentage of household having domestic workers whereas Mountain zone has less percentage of it. Among five development regions, Central region has higher percentage of households having domestic worker and it is followed by Eastern region. As mentioned above, Central region consist of more urban population and also most populous area. Similarly, Eastern region also consists of industrial Sub-metropolitan – Biratnagar. So, household having domestic worker is observed more in these regions. On the other hand, the lowest percentage of such household is found in Far-western region where it is very negligible.

Table 5.33: Percentage distribution of household having domestic worker, 2001.

Area/Region	Percentage of household by sex of household head					
	Having Domestic Worker			Without Domestic Worker		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Nepal	0.96	0.95	1.01	99.04	99.05	98.99
Urban	0.54	0.53	0.59	99.46	99.47	99.41
Rural	0.42	0.42	0.41	99.58	99.58	99.59
Mountain Zone	0.05	0.04	0.05	99.95	99.96	99.95
Hill Zone	0.53	0.51	0.59	99.47	99.49	99.41
Terai Zone	0.39	0.39	0.37	99.61	99.61	99.63
Eastern Development Region	0.23	0.22	0.25	99.77	99.78	99.75
Central Development Region	0.47	0.47	0.49	99.53	99.53	99.51
Western Development Region	0.13	0.12	0.16	99.87	99.88	99.84
Mid-western Development Region	0.10	0.10	0.09	99.90	99.90	99.91
Far-western Development Region	0.04	0.04	0.03	99.96	99.96	99.97

Source : Central Bureau of Statistics (2002). Population Census Results in Gender Perspective (Population Census 2001) Vol. I, Table 2.6.

5.16 Findings and Conclusion

- The percentage of household residing in permanent and semi-permanent type of house has increased during the period 1991-2001. During the same period, the percentage of household living in temporary type of house and other category have decreased. This is a good sign of well-being of people and economic development.

- Most of households are living in their own house in the country. However, the percentage of household living in rented house has increased in 2001 compared to the previous census. In urban areas, such type of household is found about one third of the total in the area whereas more than 90 percent of households are staying in their own house in rural areas.
- Rental houses are generally permanent type and it is mostly found in urban areas. Similarly, household living in owned permanent house is also high in urban and it is reverse in rural areas. In rural areas, more than one third of the total household is living in their own Kachchi/ others type of house.
- In Nepal, most households are living in single house and very few percent of houses have more than single household. The average household per house is observed high in urban area and in rural area it is lower than the national average.
- Around four in five households in Nepal have access to improved source of drinking water. Rural areas, Mountain and Hill Ecological Belts, and Mid-western and Far-western Development Regions are the places where access to improved source of drinking water is below national average value of 82 per cent. However, over the years, access to improved source of drinking water in rural areas and national level is increasing and urban rural gap is narrowing.
- The overwhelming majority of the households in Nepal depend on solid fuels for cooking. This is true for all regions except urban areas where use of LPG and Kerosene is mainly concentrated. Over the years, overall, there is around 10-percentage point decrease in use of solid fuel for cooking. This is true for rural areas also.
- Kerosene is the major source of lighting fuel in Nepal. Electricity is largely available in urban areas. More than four in five households in urban areas are being benefited from electricity as source of lighting fuels against less than two in five households in rural areas. The rural areas, Mountain and Terai Ecological Belts, and Eastern, Mid-western and Far-western Development Regions are the places where access to electricity is below the national average value of around 40 per cent.
- Toilet facility is available only in 47 per cent of the households in Nepal. Urban-rural variation in availability of toilet facility is quite large. Households in urban areas are nearly two times more likely to have toilet facility than households in rural areas. The rural areas, Mountain and Terai Ecological Belts, and Eastern, Mid-western and Far-western Development Regions are the places where access to toilet facility is below national average value of 47 per cent.

- More than half of the households in Nepal has radio facility, whereas TV facility is limited to less than one fourth of the households. Urban-rural differential in households having TV facility is more remarkable than radio. The rural areas, Mountain and Terai Ecological Belts, and Eastern, Mid-western and Far-western Development Regions are the places where access to at least one of the information media i.e. the radio or the TV, is below the national average value of 58.7 per cent.
- Nepalese people have shown the increasing expression of their preference for smaller household size. So the average household is gradually declining in every successive population censuses. It is smaller in urban than in rural areas.
- There is higher percentage of male household head compared to female in both population censuses and age distribution pattern of male household head is not different between 1991 and 2001 censuses. However, there is some increment in the percentage of female household head aged below 40 years in 2001 census and the reverse picture is seen in age above 40 years.
- By marital status, higher headship rate for male is found in case of remarriage and it is in the category of polyandry which is found especially in Mountain zone though the case is very low in number. There is more male headship rate in the category of married and living with single spouse compared to that of female.
- There is very low percentage of household that have domestic workers in the country. Again, there is no significant difference between sexes of household head for having domestic workers. Urban household has more domestic worker than rural household.

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