

CHAPTER IX

SOCIAL COMPOSITION OF POPULATION

- Prof. Bal Kumar KC

1. Introduction

Nepal is a country of multi-lingual, multi-religious and multi-ethnic society. The censuses of 1952/54, 1961, 1971 and 1981 have provided information on various languages and religions of the people. None of these censuses collected information on the ethnicity of the people. For the first time, the 1991 census collected information on ethnicity that can be related with mother tongue as the dominant language of each caste or ethnic group. This information can be used to describe religious, linguistic, and ethnic composition of population by rural and urban categories.

A mother tongue is defined as one spoken by a person in his childhood. The mother tongue of a person is also determined by the predominant language spoken by his mother. The 1952/54 census, collected information on 36 languages but only 24 languages were tabulated. The 1961 census, collected information on 52 languages but presented tabulation of only 36 languages. The 1971 and 1981 censuses collected information on only 17 and 18 languages by lumping the speakers of other languages in other or other/unstated category. This discrepancy in tabulating data on religion and language was due to distortion in identifying a language from a dialect. Secondly, the 1952/54 and 1961 census had open-ended question on mother tongue, whereas the two latter censuses had preceded question on only major languages. Thirdly, several kinds of response biases could have cropped up in identifying the correct mother-tongue because of attrition from one language to another, particularly Nepali, because of it being an official language and largely used throughout the School system in Nepal. Language data are not strictly comparable in various censuses. Moreover, the 1991 census included population speaking different languages, practicing different religions and claiming to belong to a particular caste/ethnicity. However, the proportions of population by religion, language and caste or ethnicity may be compared with the earlier censuses. The 1991 census does not provide data on caste/ethnic groups by geographical regions but by region of origin, hence the spatial comparison by geographical region is not possible. Comparison can only be made across various religions, languages, and ethnicity.

2. Language

2.1 Distribution of Population by Mother Tongue

The 1952/54 census listed 19 languages as mother tongue. Except other and not stated languages, Santhal as a mother tongue was left out in the 1952/54 census but was included in all the successive censuses. Sunuwar as a mother tongue, for the first time, was left out in the 1991 census; Hindi and Urdu were included in the 1952/54 and 1961 censuses, left out in the 1971 and 1981 and reintroduced in the 1991 census (Table 1).

Table 1: Distribution of Population of Nepal by Mother Tongue, 1952/54-1991.

| Mother Tongue | 1952/54 | % | 1961 | % | 1971 | % | 1981 | % | Population | |
|-------------------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|------------|--------|
| | | | | | | | | | 1991 | % |
| A. Indo-Aryan | 6351899 | 77.13 | 7449604 | 79.14 | 9062435 | 78.42 | 12417886 | 82.66 | 14701283 | 79.50 |
| 1 Nepali | 4013567 | 48.74 | 4796528 | 50.96 | 6060758 | 52.45 | 8767361 | 58.36 | 9302880 | 50.31 |
| 2 Maithili | 1024780 | 12.44 | 1130402 | 12.01 | 1327242 | 11.49 | 1668309 | 11.11 | 2191900 | 11.85 |
| 3 Bhojpuri | 477281 | 5.80 | 577357 | 6.13 | 806480 | 6.98 | 1142805 | 7.61 | 1379717 | 7.46 |
| 4 Tharu | 359594 | 4.37 | 406907 | 4.32 | 495881 | 4.29 | 545685 | 3.63 | 993388 | 5.37 |
| 5 Abadhi | 328408 | 3.99 | 477090 | 5.07 | 316950 | 2.74 | 234343 | 1.56 | 374635 | 2.03 |
| 6 Rajbansi | 35543 | 0.43 | 55803 | 0.59 | 55124 | 0.48 | 59383 | 0.40 | 85558 | 0.46 |
| 7 Hindi | 80181 | 0.97 | 2867 | 0.03 | - | - | - | - | 170997 | 0.92 |
| 8 Urdu | 32545 | 0.40 | 2650 | 0.03 | - | - | - | - | 202208 | 1.09 |
| B. Tibeto-Burman | 1795337 | 21.8 | 1813083 | 19.26 | 1982635 | 17.16 | 1811944 | 12.06 | 3098698 | 16.76 |
| 9 Tamang | 494745 | 6.01 | 528812 | 5.62 | 555056 | 4.80 | 522416 | 3.48 | 904456 | 4.89 |
| 10 Newari | 383184 | 4.65 | 377721 | 4.01 | 454979 | 3.94 | 448746 | 2.99 | 690007 | 3.73 |
| 11 Magar | 273780 | 3.32 | 254675 | 2.71 | 288383 | 2.50 | 212681 | 1.42 | 430264 | 2.33 |
| 12 Rai,Kirat | 236049 | 2.87 | 239745 | 2.55 | 232264 | 2.01 | 221353 | 1.47 | 439312 | 2.38 |
| 13 Gurung | 162192 | 1.97 | 157778 | 1.68 | 171609 | 1.49 | 174464 | 1.16 | 227918 | 1.23 |
| 14 Limbu | 145511 | 1.77 | 138705 | 1.47 | 170787 | 1.48 | 129234 | 0.86 | 254088 | 1.37 |
| 15 Bhote,Sherpa | 70132 | 0.85 | 84229 | 0.89 | 79218 | 0.69 | 73589 | 0.49 | 121819 | 0.66 |
| 16 Sunuwar | 17299 | 0.21 | 13362 | 0.14 | 20380 | 0.18 | 10650 | 0.07 | - | - |
| 17 Danuwar | 9138 | 0.11 | 11624 | 0.12 | 9959 | 0.09 | 13522 | 0.09 | 23721 | 0.13 |
| 18 Thakali | 3307 | 0.04 | 6432 | 0.07 | - | - | 5289 | 0.04 | 7113 | 0.04 |
| C. Munda | 16751 | 0.20 | 29485 | 0.31 | 23853 | 0.21 | 28207 | 0.19 | 33332 | 0.18 |
| 19 Satar | 16751 | 0.20 | 18840 | 0.20 | 20660 | 0.18 | 22403 | 0.15 | 25302 | 0.14 |
| 20 Santhal | - | - | 10645 | 0.11 | 3193 | 0.03 | 5804 | 0.04 | 8030 | 0.04 |
| D. Other | 70340 | 0.85 | 114392 | 1.22 | 487060 | 4.21 | 764802 | 5.09 | 648627 | 3.51 |
| E. Not stated | 752 | 0.01 | 6432 | 0.07 | - | - | - | - | 9157 | 0.05 |
| Total | 8523079 | 100.00 | 9412996 | 100.00 | 11555983 | 100.00 | 15022839 | 100.00 | 18491097 | 100.00 |

Source: DOS, 1958, Vol. I, Part II, Table 9

CBS, 1968, Vol. II, Table 8

CBS, 1975, Vol. II, Part II, Table 14

CBS, 1977, Table 2,8

CBS, 1984, Vol. I, Part III, Table 12

CBS, 1987, Table 4.1 CBS, 1993a, Table 1.7.

CBS, 1993A, Table 1.7

Nepal had a total population of 8,235,079 in the 1952/54 census, out of which 48.74 per cent reported Nepali language as their mother tongue. Nepali speakers increased to 50.96 per cent in 1961, 52.45 per cent in 1971 and to 58.36 per cent in 1981. The proportion of Nepali speakers, however, decreased to 50.31 per cent in the 1991 census. Nepali speakers in absolute term increased from 4 million in 1952/54 to 4.8 million in 1961, 6 million in 1971 to 8.8 million in 1981. Compared to the 1981 census, in 1991, the number of Nepali speakers increased by only 535,519 people.

Besides Nepali, the other prominent languages in the 1952/54 census, in order of magnitude, were Maithili (12.44%), Bhojpuri (5.80%), Newari (4.65%), Tharu (4.37%), Abadhi (3.99%), Magar (3.32%), Rai (2.87%), Gurung (1.97%), and Limbu (1.77%). The order of magnitude of these languages changes slightly in the successive censuses. These are, however, the predominant languages.

In the 1961 census, the proportions of Nepali, Bhojpuri and Abadhi speakers increased compared to those of the previous censuses. The proportion of the population claiming Tamang, Tharu, Magar, Rai, Gurung, and Limbu as mother tongue decreased in spite of some increase in the absolute number. Among the other languages which were sometimes lumped in 'other' category, Hindi and Urdu speaking people decreased from 80,181 and 32,545 in 1952/54 to 2,867 and 2,650 in 1961 respectively. Santhal as a mother tongue was introduced in 1961 with a population of 10,645. Thakali speakers almost doubled and over 20,000 Rajbansis were added between 1952/54 and 1961. In fact, Newari speakers actually decreased by 5,463 persons between 1952/54 and 1961. There seems to be some confusion among the people who reported Abadhi, Bhojpuri and Maithili as their mother tongue.

In the 1971 census, Nepali speakers increased by over 1.3 million from the 1961 volume reaching a total proportion of 52.45 per cent. The proportion of all other hill languages decreased except for Sunuwar. Among the Terai languages, Santhal decreased from 10,645 to 3,192 between 1961 and 1971. Hindi, Urdu, and Thakali as mother tongue were not reported in the 1971 census. Abadhi speakers decreased by 11,458 persons from the 1952/54 census and by 60,940 from the 1961 census, while Maithili speakers increased by almost 200,000 persons and that Bhojpuri increased by 22,000 persons between 1952/54 and 1971.

The 1981 census recorded the highest increase in the Nepali speakers with a total proportion of 58.36 per cent and an absolute increase of over 2.7 million between 1971 and 1981. Bhojpuri speakers also increased consistently throughout the previous censuses. The proportion of all other languages

decreased gradually. Abadhi speakers decreased by almost 82,000 while Bhojpuri speakers increased by over 236,000 between 1971 and 1981. During the same period Sunuwar speakers decreased by half from 20,380 to 10,650 persons. Santhal increased from 3,193 to 5,804 and Thakali was reintroduced in the 1971 census with a total population of 5,289.

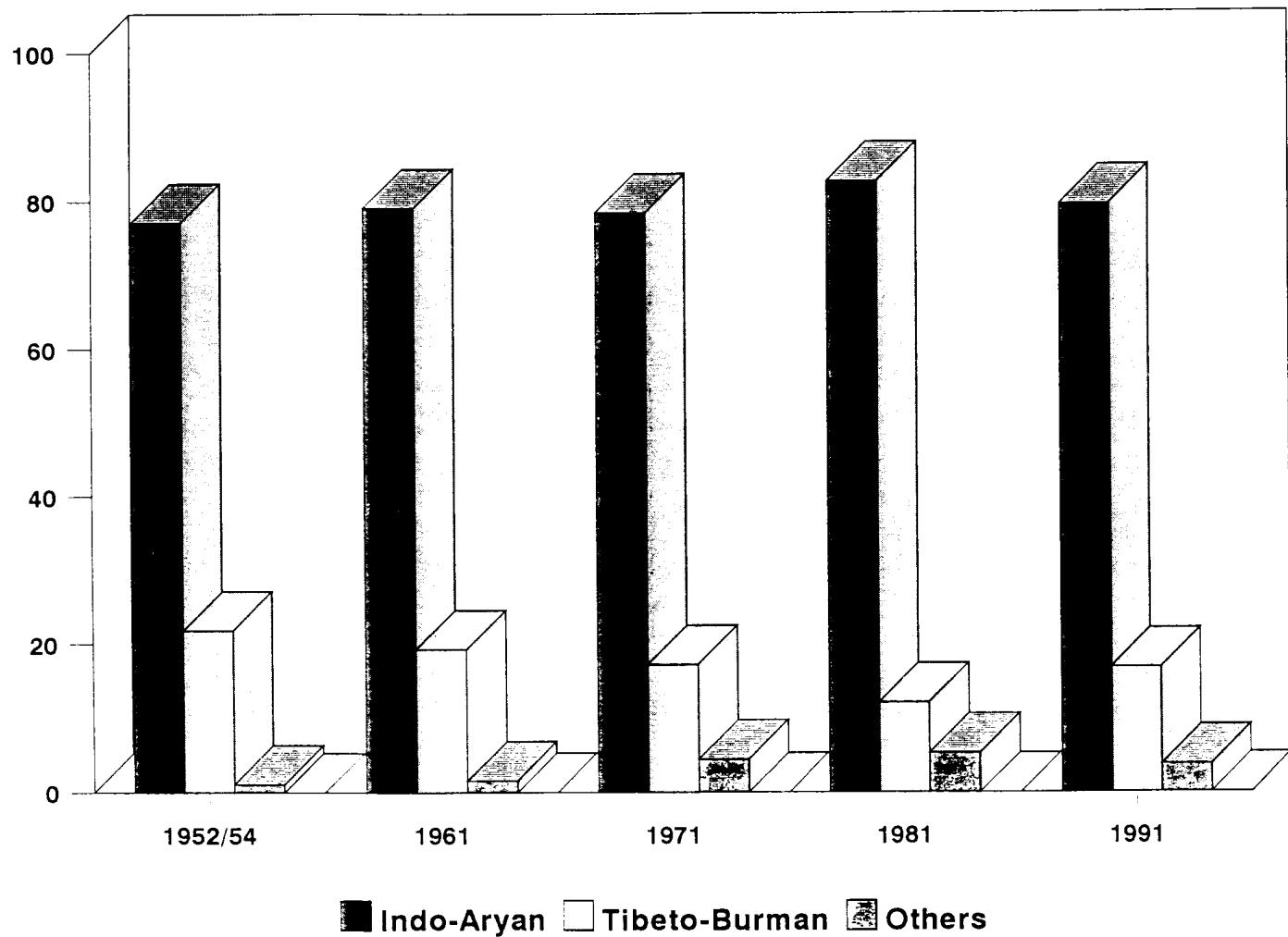
The decrease in other hill language speakers may be attributed to more hill natives who may have claimed Nepali as their mother tongue. Except Abadhi, the increase in the Terai language speakers in the 1981 census may be due to either misreporting or large volume of immigrants from across the border.

The 1991 census indicates that the proportion of Nepali speakers for the first time decreased to 50.31 from 58.36 per cent in 1981. The proportionate decrease in Nepali speakers by over 8 percentage points and progressive increase in the proportion of other language speakers point to the possibility that the hill natives who claimed Nepali as their mother tongue in the 1981 census might have claimed their own native language as mother tongue in the 1991 census.

Mother tongue in Nepal can also be broadly categorized into Indo-Aryan languages like Nepali, Maithili, Bhojpuri, Tharu, Abadhi, Rajbansi, Hindi and Urdu; and Tibeto-Burman languages like Tamang, Newari, Magar, Rai/Kirati, Gurung, Limbu, Bhote/Sherpa, Sunuwar, Danuwar and Thakali. The other group is tentatively categorized as Munda which includes Satar and Santhal. According to this criteria, Indo-Aryan language speakers constituted 77.13, 79.14, 78.42, 82.66, and 79.50 per cent in the last 5 censuses. The Indo-Aryan language (82.66%) and particularly, Nepali speakers (58.36%) increased in proportion in 1981. On the contrary, the proportion of Tibeto-Burman speaking population decreased almost uniformly from 21.80 per cent in 1952/54 to 19.26 per cent in 1961 and 17.16 per cent in 1971. It then drastically decreased to 12.06 per cent in 1981 (Figure 1). It, however, increased to 16.76 per cent in 1991. The five percentage point decrease in the proportion of the Tibeto-Burman speakers between 1971 and 1981 may have been compensated by a simultaneous increase in the proportion of Indo-Aryan speakers, specially Nepali in 1981. This situation is just reversed in the 1991 census; that is, decrease in the proportion of Nepali speakers is compensated by simultaneous increase in the proportion of other languages.

**Figure 1: Distribution of Major Languages
(in Percent)**

305



Source: Table 1.

2.2 Language Composition of Population by Rural/Urban

Language composition of population by rural and urban areas in 1981 and 1991 cannot be strictly compared because of different size of urban population in 23 urban centers in 1981 and 33 urban centers in 1991. However, some broad comparisons are possible across the broad language categories.

In rural areas, the Indo-Aryan Language speakers constituted 83.78 per cent in 1981 compared to 80.52 per cent in 1991, whereas, the Tibeto-Burman speakers constituted 11.16 and 15.64 per cent respectively (Table 2).

Table 2: Distribution of Rural Urban Population by Mother Tongue, 1981-1991

| Mother Tongue | Population | | | | | | | | Growth Rate | |
|-------------------------|------------|--------|----------|--------|--------|-------|---------|--------|-------------|-----------|
| | | | | | | | | | Rural | Urban |
| | 1981 | % | 1991 | % | 1981 | % | 1991 | % | 1981-1991 | 1981-1991 |
| A. Indo-Aryan | 11784116 | 83.78 | 13523629 | 80.52 | 633770 | 66.24 | 1177654 | 69.45 | 1.39 | 6.39 |
| 1 Nepali | 8271874 | 58.81 | 8486934 | 50.53 | 495487 | 51.79 | 815946 | 48.12 | 0.26 | 5.11 |
| 2 Maithili | 1596618 | 11.35 | 2044249 | 12.17 | 71691 | 7.49 | 147651 | 8.71 | 2.50 | 7.49 |
| 3 Bhojpuri | 1105228 | 7.86 | 1310090 | 7.80 | 37577 | 3.93 | 69627 | 4.11 | 1.71 | 6.36 |
| 4 Tharu | 525207 | 3.73 | 960252 | 5.72 | 20478 | 2.14 | 33136 | 1.95 | 6.22 | 4.93 |
| 5 Abadhi | 227529 | 1.62 | 347507 | 2.07 | 6814 | 0.71 | 27128 | 1.60 | 4.33 | 14.82 |
| 6 Rajbansi | 57660 | 0.41 | 82513 | 0.49 | 1723 | 0.18 | 3045 | 0.18 | 3.65 | 5.86 |
| 7 Hindi | | | 124200 | 0.74 | - | - | 46797 | 2.76 | - | - |
| 8 Urdu | | | 167884 | 1.00 | - | - | 34324 | 2.02 | - | |
| B. Tibeto-Burman | 1569831 | 11.16 | 2627025 | 15.64 | 242113 | 25.31 | 471673 | 27.82 | 5.28 | 6.90 |
| 9 Tamang | 508084 | 3.61 | 864835 | 5.15 | 14332 | 1.50 | 39621 | 2.34 | 5.46 | 10.70 |
| 10 Newari | 254037 | 1.81 | 343411 | 2.04 | 194709 | 20.35 | 346596 | 20.44 | 3.06 | 5.94 |
| 11 Magar | 201557 | 1.43 | 403319 | 2.40 | 11124 | 1.16 | 26945 | 1.59 | 7.18 | 9.25 |
| 12 Rai,Kirat | 217948 | 1.55 | 425513 | 2.53 | 3405 | 0.36 | 13799 | 0.81 | 6.92 | 15.02 |
| 13 Gurung | 162409 | 1.15 | 201443 | 1.20 | 12055 | 1.26 | 26475 | 1.56 | 2.18 | 8.18 |
| 14 Limbu | 125776 | 0.89 | 244294 | 1.45 | 3458 | 0.36 | 9794 | 0.58 | 6.86 | 10.97 |
| 15 Bhote,Sherpa | 71301 | 0.51 | 115019 | 0.68 | 2288 | 0.24 | 6800 | 0.40 | 4.90 | 11.51 |
| 16 Sunuwar | 10558 | 0.08 | | | 166 | 0.02 | - | - | - | - |
| 17 Danuwar | 13356 | 0.09 | 23381 | 0.14 | 92 | 0.01 | 340 | 0.02 | 5.76 | 13.96 |
| 18 Thakali | 4805 | 0.03 | 5810 | 0.03 | 484 | 0.05 | 1303 | 0.08 | 1.92 | 10.41 |
| C. Munda | 27703 | 0.20 | 32632 | 0.19 | 504 | 0.05 | 700 | 0.04 | 1.65 | 3.34 |
| 19 Satar | 22007 | 0.16 | 24763 | 0.15 | 396 | 0.04 | 539 | 0.03 | 1.19 | 3.13 |
| 20 Santhal | 5696 | 0.04 | 7869 | 0.05 | 108 | 0.01 | 161 | 0.01 | 3.28 | 4.07 |
| D. Other | 684468 | 4.87 | 612092 | 3.64 | 80334 | 8.40 | 45692 | 2.69 | -1.11 | -5.49 |
| Total | 14066118 | 100.00 | 16795378 | 100.00 | 956721 | 100 | 1695719 | 100.00 | 1.79 | 5.89 |

Source: CBS,1984, Vo1.III, Table 9

CBS,1994, Vo1.II, Table 20.

There has been 2.51 per cent increase in the proportion of Tibeto-Burman speakers in urban areas between 1981 and 1991 but the Indo-Aryan speakers increased from 66.24 per cent in 1981 to 69.45 per cent in 1991 mainly because of self identification of Hindi and Urdu speakers in urban areas.

Among the Tibeto-Burman group in urban areas in 1981, Newari speakers constituted 80.42 per cent followed by Tamang (5.92%), Rai/Kirati (4.59%), Limbu (1.43%), and Magar (1.41%). This proportion in 1991 was 73.48 for Newari speakers, 8.40 for Tamang, 5.71 for Rai/Kirati, and 5.6 for Gurung. Newari speakers alone constituted 20.44 per cent of the urban population of Nepal in 1991. The proportion of different language speakers in rural areas does not differ significantly from that of the total proportion of both rural and urban areas combined.

Table 3: Rural-Urban Composition of Population by mother tongue, 1981-1991.

| Mother Tongue | 1981 | | 1991 | |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Rural | Urban | Rural | Urban |
| A. Indo-Aryan | 94.9 | 5.10 | 91.99 | 8.01 |
| 1 Nepali | 94.35 | 5.65 | 91.23 | 8.77 |
| 2 Maithili | 95.7 | 4.30 | 93.26 | 6.74 |
| 3 Bhojpuri | 96.71 | 3.29 | 94.95 | 5.05 |
| 4 Tharu | 96.25 | 3.75 | 96.66 | 3.34 |
| 5 Abadhi | 97.09 | 2.91 | 92.76 | 7.24 |
| 6 Rajbansi | 97.1 | 2.90 | 96.44 | 3.56 |
| 7 Hindi | | | 72.63 | 27.37 |
| 8 Urdu | | | 83.03 | 16.97 |
| B. Tibeto-Burman | 86.64 | 13.36 | 84.78 | 15.22 |
| 9 Tamang | 97.26 | 2.74 | 95.62 | 4.38 |
| 10 Newari | 56.61 | 43.39 | 49.77 | 50.23 |
| 11 Magar | 94.77 | 5.23 | 93.74 | 6.26 |
| 12 Rai,Kirat | 98.46 | 1.54 | 96.86 | 3.14 |
| 13 Gurung | 93.09 | 6.91 | 88.38 | 11.62 |
| 14 Limbu | 97.32 | 2.68 | 96.15 | 3.85 |
| 15 Bhote,Sherpa | 96.89 | 3.11 | 94.42 | 5.58 |
| 16 Sunuwar | 99.14 | 1.56 | | |
| 17 Danuwar | 98.77 | 0.68 | 98.57 | 1.43 |
| 18 Thakali | 90.85 | 9.15 | 81.68 | 18.32 |
| C. Munda | 98.21 | 1.79 | 97.90 | 2.10 |
| 19 Satar | 98.23 | 1.77 | 97.87 | 2.13 |
| 20 Santhal | 98.14 | 1.86 | 98.00 | 2.00 |
| D. Other | 89.50 | 10.50 | 93.05 | 6.95 |
| Total | 93.63 | 6.37 | 90.83 | 9.17 |

Source: CBS, 1984, Vol.III, Table 9
CBS, 1994, Vol. II, Table 20.

It should be noted that in rural area the Indo-Aryan population was seven and one half times more than the Tibeto-Burman population in 1981. In 1991 this ratio decreased to 5.1 times. In 1981, Maithili alone was spoken by more people than all the speakers of Tibeto-Burman languages in rural areas. However, there has been a shift of different language speakers from rural to urban areas between 1981 and 1991 (Table 3).

Among the Indo-Aryan group, 94.90 per cent lived in rural areas in 1981 as against 91.99 per cent in 1991. The urban ward shift was from 5.10 per cent in 1981 to 8.01 per cent in 1991. Except Hindi and Urdu all other languages were predominantly spoken (over 90%) in rural areas (Figure 2). Among the people who claimed Hindi and Urdu as their mother tongue in 1991, 17 per cent Urdu speakers and over 27 per cent Hindi speakers lived in urban areas.

Among the Tibeto-Burman group also, 86.64 per cent lived in rural areas in 1981. The rural-urban distribution of different language speakers changes somewhat in 1991. For example, out of the total Tibeto-Burman in 1981, 13.36 per cent lived in urban areas, and this proportion increased to 15.22 per cent in 1991. In 1991, Newari language speakers constituted 50.23 per cent in urban areas followed by Thakali (18.32%) and Gurung (11.62%). Rural to urban shift among the Tibeto-Burman is more prominent than the Indo-Aryan group between 1981 and 1991. Part of this shift could be due to rural-urban migration and the rest attributable to the increase in the number of urban centers from 23 in 1981 to 33 in 1991.

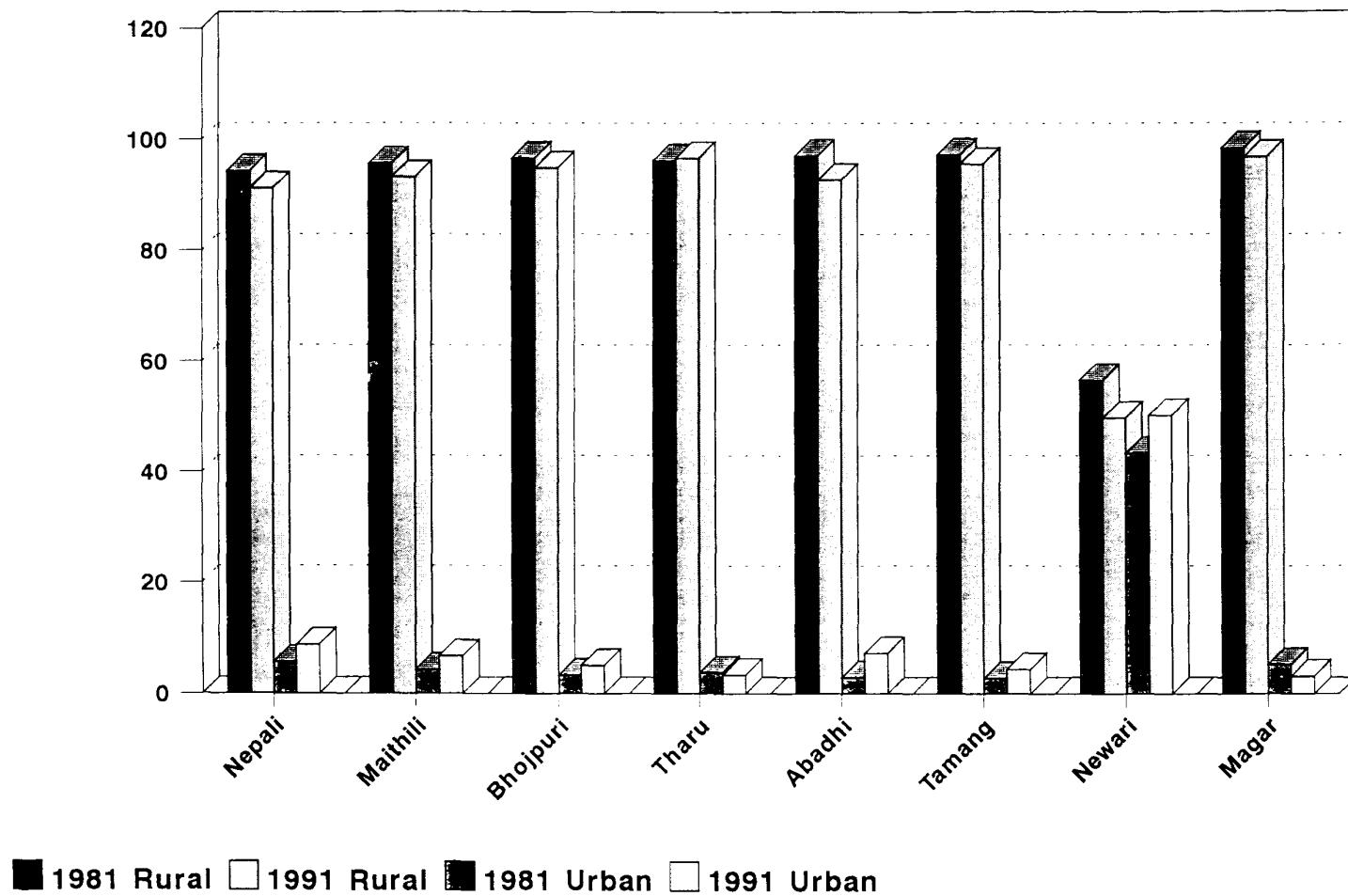
3. Religion

3.1 Distribution of Population by Religious Group

Nepal is officially a Hindu country with the constitutional provision of no discrimination against other religions. The Hindu population in the country has been consistently over 86 per cent throughout the 5 censuses included in this study (Table 4). In the 1952/54 census, the Hindu population constituted 88.87 per cent, slightly decreased to 87.69 per cent in 1961, increased to 89.39 per cent in 1971, and 89.50 per cent in 1981 and decreased to 86.51 per cent in 1991 (Figure 3). Depending upon the total population base, the absolute number has been increasing steadily with an addition of under 1 million between 1952/54 and 1961, 2.1 million between 1961 and 1971, 3.1 million between 1971 and 1981, and 2.6 million between 1981 and 1991.

Figure 2: Distribution of Major Mother Tongue by Rural/Urban Population

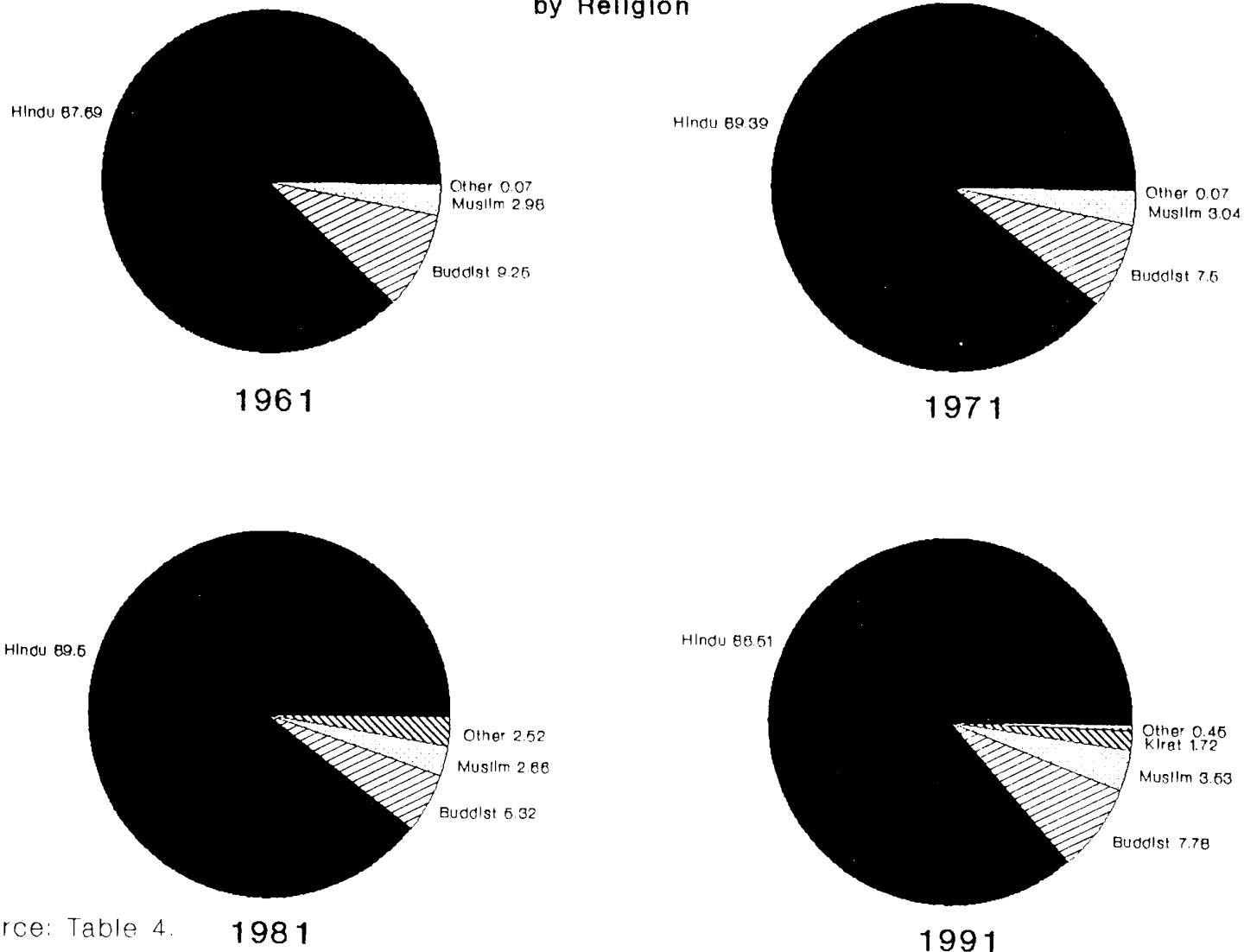
309



■ 1981 Rural □ 1991 Rural ■ 1981 Urban □ 1991 Urban

Source: Table 3.

Figure 3: Distribution of Population of Nepal by Religion



The second largest religion is Buddhism. Because of no sharp distinction between the believers of Hinduism and Buddhism, the Buddhist population has fluctuated over the years because of attrition to Hinduism or to Buddhism. The population of Buddhists as recorded in the various censuses never exceeded 900,000 except in 1991. The 1991 census recorded 1,439,142 Buddhist population, constituting 7.78 per cent of the total population. The Buddhist population remained at 8.59, 9.25, 7.50 and 5.32 per cent in the 1952/54, 1961, 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively.

Table 4: Distribution of Population of Nepal by Religion, 1952/54-1991.

| Religion | 1952/54 | % | 1961 | % | 1971 | % | 1981 | % | 1991 | % |
|-----------|---------|--------|---------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| Hindu | 7318392 | 88.87 | 8254403 | 87.69 | 10330009 | 89.39 | 13445787 | 89.50 | 15996953 | 86.51 |
| Buddhist | 707104 | 8.59 | 870991 | 9.25 | 866411 | 7.50 | 799081 | 5.32 | 1439142 | 7.78 |
| Islam | 208899 | 2.54 | 280597 | 2.98 | 351186 | 3.04 | 399197 | 2.66 | 653218 | 3.53 |
| Kirat | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 318389 | 1.72 |
| Jain | - | - | 831 | 0.01 | 5836 | 0.05 | 9438 | 0.06 | 7561 | 0.04 |
| Christian | - | - | 458 | - | 2541 | 0.02 | 3891 | 0.03 | 31280 | 0.17 |
| Other | 684 | 0.01 | - | - | - | - | 365445 | 2.43 | 26416 | 0.14 |
| Unstated | - | - | 5716 | 0.06 | - | - | - | - | 18138 | 0.10 |
| Total | 8235079 | 100.00 | 9412996 | 100.00 | 11555983 | 100.00 | 15022839 | 100.00 | 18491097 | 100.00 |

Source: DOS, 1958, Part. II, Table 5

CBS, 1968, Vol. II, Table 7

CBS, 1975, Vol. II, Table 13 CBS, 1977, p. 42

CBS, 1984, Vol. I, Part III, Table 13

CBS, 1993, Vol. I, Part VI, Table 20.

Islam is the third prominent religion ranging in population from 208,899 in 1952/54 to 653,218 in 1991. In 1991, it constituted 3.53 per cent of the total population. Since the three religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam together constitute about 98 per cent of the total population, other religions are relatively less important in terms of magnitude, practice, and impact.

3.2 Religious Composition of the Population by Rural/Urban

Religious compositions of rural and urban populations can be compared only from the 1971 census onward. In rural area, the proportion of Hindus has always been greater than their proportion in urban area. However, the Hindu proportion in rural area had fallen from 89.70 per cent in 1971, and 89.64

per cent in 1981 to 86.88 per cent in 1991. The corresponding proportions in urban area were 81.96 per cent in 1971, 87.41 per cent in 1981 and 82.87 per cent in 1991.

The proportion of Buddhists out of the total population in 1971 residing in urban area was 13.94 per cent (Table 5). This proportion decreased to 6.51 per cent in 1981 and then increased to 10.79 per cent in 1991. In rural area, the proportion Buddhist changed from 7.23 per cent in 1971 to 5.24 per cent in 1981 and 7.48 per cent in 1991. This fluctuation again confirms their attrition to Hinduism at one census and emergence of their own identity in other censuses.

Table 5: Distribution of Rural and Urban Population, of Nepal by Religion, 1971-1991

| | Hindu | Buddhist | Islam | Kirat | Jain | Christian | Other | Not stated | Total |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|------------|----------|
| Total(1971) | 10330009 | 866411 | 351186 | | 5836 | 2541 | | | 11555983 |
| | 89.39 | 7.50 | 3.04 | | 0.05 | 0.02 | | | 100.00 |
| Rural | 9951408 | 802020 | 333643 | | 5289 | 1685 | | | 11094045 |
| | 89.70 | 7.23 | 3.01 | | 0.05 | 0.02 | | | 100.00 |
| Urban(16) | 378601 | 64391 | 17543 | | 547 | 856 | | | 461938 |
| | 81.96 | 13.94 | 3.80 | | 0.12 | 0.19 | - | | 81.96 |
| Total (1981) | 13445787 | 799081 | 399197 | | 9438 | 3891 | 365445 | | 15022839 |
| | 89.50 | 5.32 | 2.66 | | 0.06 | 0.03 | 2.43 | | 100.00 |
| Rural | 12609528 | 736767 | 362483 | | 7845 | 3291 | 346204 | - | 14066118 |
| | 89.64 | 5.24 | 2.58 | | 0.06 | 0.02 | 2.46 | | 100.00 |
| Urban (23) | 836259 | 62314 | 36714 | | 1593 | 600 | 19241 | | 956721 |
| | 87.41 | 6.51 | 3.84 | | 0.17 | 0.06 | 2.01 | | 100.00 |
| Total(1991) | 15996953 | 1439142 | 653218 | 318389 | 7561 | 31280 | 26416 | 18138 | 18491097 |
| | 86.51 | 7.78 | 3.53 | 1.72 | 0.04 | 0.17 | 0.14 | 0.10 | 100.00 |
| Rural | 14591794 | 1256183 | 579577 | 299128 | 4445 | 25499 | 22320 | 16432 | 16795378 |
| | 86.88 | 7.48 | 3.45 | 1.78 | 0.03 | 0.15 | 0.13 | 0.10 | 100.00 |
| Urban(33) | 1405159 | 182959 | 73641 | 19261 | 3116 | 5781 | 4096 | 1706 | 1695719 |
| | 82.87 | 10.79 | 4.34 | | 0.18 | 0.34 | 0.24 | 0.10 | 100.00 |
| Growth Rate 1971-1981 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 2.67 | -0.81 | 1.29 | | 4.92 | 4.35 | - | | 2.66 |
| Rural | 2.40 | -0.85 | 0.83 | | 4.02 | 6.92 | - | | 2.40 |
| Urban | 8.25 | -0.33 | 7.66 | | 11.28 | -3.49 | | | 7.55 |
| Total(1981-91) | 1.75 | 6.06 | 5.05 | | -2.19 | 23.17 | -23.10 | | 2.10 |
| Rural | 1.47 | 5.48 | 4.81 | | -5.52 | 22.72 | -23.98 | | 1.79 |
| Urban | 5.33 | 11.37 | 7.21 | - | 6.94 | 25.43 | -14.33 | | 5.89 |

Source: CBS, Population Census 1991, (Special Tabulation).

In spite of almost doubling their population since the 1971 census, the Islam population has increased only slightly from 3.04 per cent in 1971 to 3.53 per cent of the total population in 1991. The data on

each religious group by urban/rural dichotomy reveals that as the urbanization increases, there is a tendency of rural to urban migration. The three dominant religious groups overwhelmingly lived in rural area in 1971 with Buddhist population slightly tilted more towards urban residence. In 1981, Hindus were proportionately more urban bound than the Buddhist compared to 1971, but Islam population residing in urban areas increased from 5 per cent in 1971, 9.2 per cent in 1981 and 11.3 per cent in 1991 (Table 6, Figure 4). Despite a large size of Hindu population in both rural and urban areas, the proportion of Buddhist and Islam population in urban areas did increase from 7.8 per cent and 9.2 per cent in 1981 to 12.71 and 11.27 per cent respectively in 1991. The other smaller religious groups like Jain (41.21%) and Christian (18.48%) are more urban bound compared to other religious groups, although their magnitude to the total population is a minuscule.

Table 6: Rural-Urban Composition of by Population, Religion 1971-1991

| Religion | 1971 | | 1981 | | 1991 | |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Rural | Urban | Rural | Urban | Rural | Urban |
| Hindu | 96.33 | 3.67 | 93.78 | 6.22 | 91.22 | 8.78 |
| Buddhist | 92.57 | 7.43 | 92.20 | 7.80 | 87.29 | 12.71 |
| Muslim | 95.00 | 5.00 | 90.80 | 9.20 | 88.73 | 11.27 |
| Kirat | - | - | - | - | 93.95 | 6.05 |
| Jain | 90.63 | 9.37 | 83.12 | 16.88 | 58.79 | 41.21 |
| Christian | 66.31 | 33.69 | 84.58 | 15.42 | 81.52 | 18.48 |
| Other | - | - | 94.73 | 5.27 | 84.49 | 15.51 |
| Not stated | - | - | - | - | 90.59 | 9.41 |
| | 96.00 | 4.00 | 93.63 | 6.37 | 90.83 | 9.17 |

Source: Table 5.

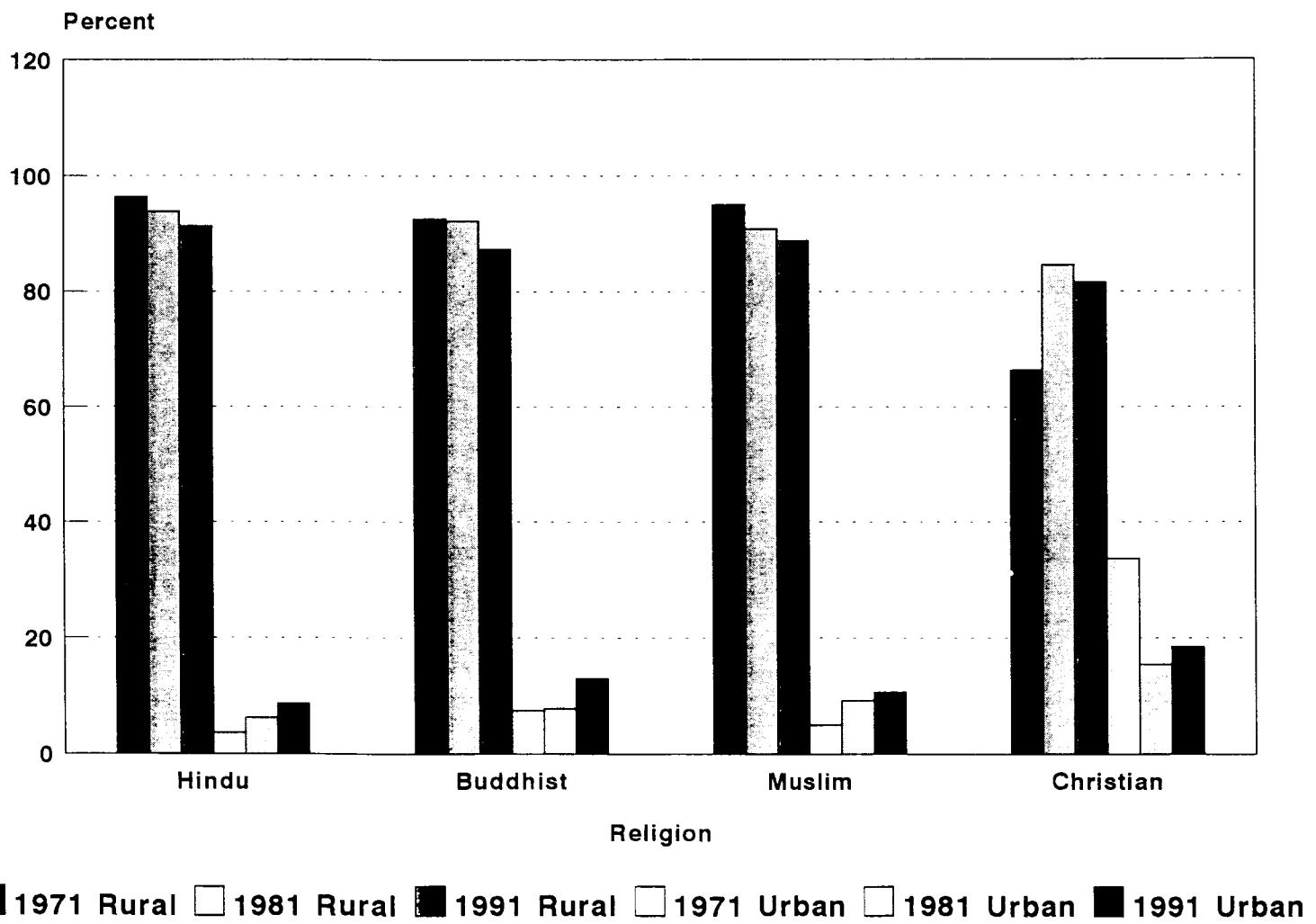
4. Caste/Ethnicity

4.1 Distribution of Population by Caste

The 1991 census identified 29 castes in the Terai, 29 in the hills and only 2 in the mountain as their origins. Out the total number of 60 castes identified, Chhetri constituted 16.05 per cent followed by Hill Brahman (12.92%), Magar (7.24%), Tharu (6.46%), Newar (5.63%), Tamang (5.51%), Kami (5.21%), Yadav-Ahir (4.14%), Musalman (3.53%) Rai-Kirati (2.84%), Gurung (2.43%) and Damai (1.99%) (Table 7, Appendix 1). Other castes constituting over one per cent each, are Thakuri (1.62%), Limbu (1.61%), Sarki (1.49%), Teli (1.36%), Kushwaha (1.10%), and Chamar (1.10%).

Figure 4: Distribution of Rural/Urban Population by Religion

314



Source: Table 6.

The overall distribution of population by the origin of caste according to geographical regions indicate that the hill caste constitutes 68.36 per cent followed by the Terai caste (30.93%) and the mountain caste (0.67%). It should be noted that the data were tabulated by the place of origin of each caste rather than in terms of where they are. Therefore, their proportions can not be utilized for examining the current spatial dispersion of different caste groups.

4.2 Caste Composition of Population by Rural/Urban

In rural areas, over two third of the total caste/ethnic groups originated from the hills. All the castes originating from the Terai constituted 31.51 per cent (Table 8, Appendix 2) in rural areas. The hill caste occupies the highest position (34.34%) in the rural areas of Nepal followed by the hill native (20.87%), Terai castes (12.83%), and hill occupational (11.20%).

In the urban area, the hill caste predominates with 54.82 per cent of the total share followed by hill native (12.78%), Terai occupational (7.70%), Terai caste (6.19%) and hill occupational (5.51%). Major hill caste and hill natives are more urban bound in terms of their distribution within the urban areas than the Terai caste (Table 9, Appendix 3).

Overall, the Terai caste/ethnic group is more rural (92.55%) than the hill caste (90.06%) (Table 10). Within the Terai, about 30.3 per cent of the trader caste are in urban areas, followed by Rajput (13.74%), Religious caste (11.26%), and Brahman (13.81%). Among the hill caste, almost 39.40 per cent of Newar live or originate in urban area followed by Gurung (12.36%) and Brahman (11.84%). Over 8 per cent of Sherpas also live in the urban areas. Almost 70 per cent of the foreigners live in the urban areas.

Table 7 : Caste / Ethnic Caste/Ethnic of Population of Nepal by Mother Tongue, 1991.

| | Total | Nepali | Maiti- hily | Bhoj- puri | Abadhi | Tharu | Rajba- nshi | Hindi | Urdu | Newari | Gurung | Tamang | Magar | Limbu | Rai | Kirati | Sherpa | Satar | Other |
|-------------------|--------|--------|----------------|---------------|--------|--------|----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Nepal | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| A. Terai | 30.93 | 3.52 | 95.66 | 94.70 | 94.13 | 98.61 | 90.72 | | 99.05 | 0.77 | 1.24 | 0.61 | 1.20 | 1.48 | 1.97 | 1.89 | 94.51 | 23.81 | |
| 1. Terai Caste | 12.22 | 1.40 | 29.78 | 25.32 | 18.07 | 93.98 | 79.20 | 16.40 | 0.46 | 0.11 | 0.62 | 0.15 | 0.46 | 0.54 | 0.49 | 0.61 | 4.04 | 2.76 | |
| Tharu | 6.46 | 0.78 | 1.83 | 9.47 | 1.60 | 93.04 | 0.61 | 2.19 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.24 | 0.11 | 0.17 | 0.45 | 0.23 | 0.08 | 3.44 | 1.48 | |
| Yadav,Ahir | 4.14 | 0.35 | 21.73 | 12.86 | 13.23 | 0.54 | 1.12 | 9.16 | 0.22 | 0.03 | 0.08 | 0.03 | 0.24 | 0.02 | 0.16 | 0.44 | 0.18 | 0.55 | |
| Bratunan | 0.88 | 0.18 | 4.54 | 1.88 | 2.96 | 0.12 | 0.24 | 2.74 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.28 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.06 | 0.05 | 0.08 | 0.28 | |
| Rajbanshi | 0.44 | 0.04 | 0.35 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.06 | 76.92 | 0.45 | 0.09 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.32 | 0.36 | | |
| Rajput | 0.30 | 0.04 | 1.33 | 1.09 | 0.25 | 0.22 | 0.31 | 1.86 | 0.07 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.10 | |
| 2. Trader | 1.00 | 0.30 | 2.83 | 2.87 | 3.44 | 0.13 | 0.25 | 10.91 | 0.18 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.25 | 0.26 | 0.05 | 0.13 | 0.10 | 0.17 | 2.40 | |
| Baniya | 0.55 | 0.13 | 1.53 | 2.05 | 2.93 | 0.08 | 0.09 | 6.07 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.23 | 0.24 | 0.02 | 0.07 | 0.05 | 0.08 | 0.21 | |
| Kayastha | 0.29 | 0.11 | 1.25 | 0.74 | 0.39 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 1.26 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.16 | |
| Marwadi | 0.16 | 0.06 | 0.05 | 0.08 | 0.12 | 0.01 | 0.11 | 3.58 | 0.13 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.06 | 2.04 | |
| 3. Occupational | 10.60 | 0.97 | 48.14 | 42.76 | 24.79 | 3.31 | 4.11 | 28.16 | 2.08 | 0.49 | 0.39 | 0.11 | 0.18 | 0.68 | 0.81 | 0.76 | 1.04 | 4.27 | |
| 4. Religious | 3.58 | 0.32 | 6.30 | 11.47 | 23.96 | 0.26 | 3.54 | 19.69 | 95.52 | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0.02 | 0.23 | 0.04 | 0.22 | 0.22 | 1.66 | 1.56 | |
| 5. Other | 3.53 | 0.53 | 8.61 | 12.28 | 23.87 | 0.92 | 3.62 | 15.06 | 0.80 | 0.10 | 0.15 | 0.08 | 0.06 | 0.17 | 0.32 | 0.20 | 87.61 | 12.82 | |
| B. Hill | 68.36 | 96.26 | 4.28 | 5.27 | 5.84 | 1.39 | 9.23 | 9.60 | 0.91 | 99.21 | 98.69 | 98.92 | 98.76 | 98.44 | 97.88 | 18.81 | 5.04 | 75.15 | |
| 1. Hill Caste | 36.22 | 60.53 | 1.13 | 1.52 | 2.42 | 0.51 | 5.75 | 5.56 | 0.18 | 98.27 | 1.64 | 0.41 | 0.99 | 1.13 | 9.17 | 2.05 | 2.71 | 36.66 | |
| Chhetri | 16.05 | 29.60 | 0.30 | 0.44 | 0.55 | 0.21 | 4.78 | 1.81 | 0.04 | 0.54 | 0.51 | 0.14 | 0.39 | 0.37 | 3.77 | 1.05 | 0.94 | 23.46 | |
| Brahman | 12.92 | 24.31 | 0.61 | 0.93 | 1.65 | 0.21 | 0.37 | 2.85 | 0.09 | 0.41 | 0.36 | 0.11 | 0.36 | 0.45 | 4.27 | 0.60 | 1.30 | 8.64 | |
| Newar | 5.63 | 3.80 | 0.18 | 0.08 | 0.12 | 0.05 | 0.57 | 0.30 | 0.02 | 97.27 | 0.73 | 0.15 | 0.20 | 0.25 | 0.73 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.28 | |
| Thakuri | 1.62 | 2.83 | 0.04 | 0.07 | 0.10 | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.60 | 0.03 | 0.05 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0.07 | 0.40 | 0.25 | 0.31 | 4.28 | |
| 2. Hill Native | 20.12 | 15.28 | 1.05 | 0.33 | 0.66 | 0.44 | 0.23 | 0.57 | 0.37 | 0.63 | 96.00 | 98.16 | 97.13 | 96.75 | 85.05 | 15.56 | 1.79 | 13.77 | |
| Magar | 7.24 | 9.44 | 0.07 | 0.08 | 0.08 | 0.11 | 0.03 | 0.16 | 0.27 | 0.16 | 0.43 | 0.69 | 96.20 | 0.08 | 2.25 | 1.06 | 0.09 | 3.19 | |
| Tamang | 5.51 | 1.36 | 0.11 | 0.06 | 0.04 | 0.13 | 0.02 | 0.05 | 0.01 | 0.15 | 0.58 | 96.39 | 0.50 | 0.09 | 0.29 | 5.21 | 0.25 | 0.39 | |
| Rai | 2.84 | 1.49 | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.27 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.10 | 0.06 | 0.04 | 0.16 | 0.04 | 0.10 | 1.56 | 79.96 | 0.18 | 0.38 | 3.88 | |
| Gurung | 2.43 | 2.16 | 0.06 | 0.04 | 0.05 | 0.08 | 0.02 | 0.08 | 0.01 | 0.20 | 94.78 | 0.87 | 0.20 | 0.11 | 0.62 | 8.89 | 0.85 | 0.69 | |
| Limbu | 1.61 | 0.48 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.18 | 0.01 | 0.09 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.06 | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0.04 | 94.89 | 1.59 | 0.14 | 0.12 | 0.21 | |
| Danuwar | 0.27 | 0.11 | 0.71 | 0.08 | 0.01 | 0.10 | 0.01 | 0.10 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.12 | 0.07 | 0.00 | 0.27 | 0.06 | 0.09 | 2.86 | |
| Sunuwar | 0.22 | 0.23 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 2.56 | |
| 3. Other Native | 0.34 | 0.27 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.04 | 0.08 | 0.01 | 0.19 | 0.08 | 0.04 | 0.09 | 0.11 | 0.13 | 0.05 | 4.89 | |
| 4. Occupational | 10.68 | 18.55 | 2.02 | 3.32 | 2.62 | 0.38 | 3.24 | 2.86 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.60 | 0.13 | 0.52 | 0.26 | 3.29 | 0.62 | 0.32 | 16.49 | |
| 5. Others | 1.00 | 1.63 | 0.05 | 0.07 | 0.12 | 0.05 | 0.01 | 0.58 | 0.03 | 0.05 | 0.27 | 0.15 | 0.08 | 0.21 | 0.26 | 0.45 | 0.17 | 3.33 | |
| C. Mountain | 0.67 | 0.19 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.06 | 0.46 | 0.02 | 0.07 | 0.13 | 79.28 | 0.39 | 0.57 | |
| 1. Mountain Caste | 0.66 | 0.18 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0.44 | 0.02 | 0.05 | 0.13 | 79.21 | 0.38 | 0.54 | |
| Sherpa | 0.60 | 0.15 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.04 | 0.28 | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.12 | 72.49 | 0.38 | 0.49 | |
| Bhote | 0.07 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 9.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.17 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 6.72 | 0.01 | 0.04 | |
| 2. Others | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.07 | 0.00 | 0.04 | |
| E. Not Stated | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.10 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0.12 | |
| D. Foreigners | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.35 | |

Source: Appendix 1.

Table 8:Caste/Ethnic Composition of Rural Population by Mother Tongue, 1991

| | Total | Nepali | Mai-thili | Bhoj-puri | Aba-dhi | Tharu | Rajba-nshi | Hindi | Urdu | Newari | Gurung | Tamang | Magar | Limbu | Rai/Kirat | She/rpa | Satar | other |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-----------|-----------|---------|--------|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|--------|--------|
| Total | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| A. Terai | 31.51 | 3.14 | 95.99 | 94.97 | 94.62 | 98.65 | 90.73 | 91.62 | 99.14 | 0.82 | 1.19 | 0.56 | 1.12 | 1.33 | 1.77 | 1.70 | 94.96 | 21.16 |
| 1. Terai Caste | 12.83 | 1.34 | 30.18 | 26.00 | 18.78 | 93.93 | 79.00 | 18.44 | 0.45 | 0.17 | 0.62 | 0.14 | 0.45 | 0.51 | 0.46 | 0.59 | 4.06 | 2.71 |
| Tharu | 6.87 | 0.80 | 1.85 | 9.88 | 1.65 | 93.02 | 0.61 | 2.51 | 0.04 | 0.08 | 0.25 | 0.11 | 0.17 | 0.42 | 0.24 | 0.07 | 3.50 | 1.55 |
| Yadhab,Ahir | 4.38 | 0.34 | 22.48 | 13.24 | 13.96 | 0.52 | 1.15 | 11.10 | 0.23 | 0.05 | 0.08 | 0.03 | 0.24 | 0.02 | 0.15 | 0.44 | 0.16 | 0.53 |
| Brahman T. | 0.84 | 0.14 | 4.29 | 1.81 | 2.92 | 0.11 | 0.25 | 2.63 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.27 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.04 | 0.05 | 0.07 | 0.21 |
| Rajbanshi | 0.46 | 0.04 | 0.31 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.04 | 76.68 | 0.43 | 0.09 | 0.03 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.31 | 0.36 |
| Rajput | 0.29 | 0.03 | 1.25 | 1.04 | 0.24 | 0.23 | 0.31 | 1.76 | 0.06 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.06 |
| 2. Trader | 0.77 | 0.21 | 2.33 | 2.68 | 2.70 | 0.13 | 0.23 | 6.90 | 0.12 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.24 | 0.26 | 0.03 | 0.09 | 0.07 | 0.08 | 0.78 |
| Bania | 0.48 | 0.09 | 1.37 | 1.93 | 2.28 | 0.08 | 0.08 | 4.42 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.23 | 0.24 | 0.02 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.17 |
| Kayastha | 0.24 | 0.10 | 0.93 | 0.69 | 0.34 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 1.09 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.12 |
| Marwadi | 0.05 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.06 | 0.08 | 0.00 | 0.10 | 1.40 | 0.08 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.49 |
| 3. Occupation | 10.89 | 0.89 | 48.43 | 42.89 | 25.38 | 3.40 | 4.15 | 30.22 | 1.88 | 0.40 | 0.36 | 0.10 | 0.17 | 0.63 | 0.76 | 0.73 | 0.91 | 4.21 |
| 4. Religion | 3.50 | 0.25 | 6.53 | 11.17 | 23.90 | 0.26 | 3.63 | 20.79 | 95.93 | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.18 | 0.03 | 0.17 | 0.15 | 1.60 | 1.32 |
| 5. Other | 3.53 | 0.45 | 8.51 | 12.23 | 23.86 | 0.94 | 3.72 | 15.26 | 0.76 | 0.16 | 0.14 | 0.07 | 0.06 | 0.13 | 0.28 | 0.17 | 88.32 | 12.14 |
| B. Hill | 67.78 | 96.66 | 3.95 | 5.00 | 5.36 | 1.34 | 9.22 | 8.25 | 0.82 | 99.17 | 98.75 | 99.03 | 98.84 | 98.61 | 98.09 | 18.84 | 4.68 | 78.13 |
| 1. Hill Caste | 34.34 | 59.79 | 0.88 | 1.40 | 2.12 | 0.46 | 5.66 | 4.20 | 0.13 | 98.04 | 1.30 | 0.33 | 0.91 | 1.10 | 8.73 | 1.89 | 2.53 | 38.15 |
| Chhetri | 16.39 | 30.04 | 0.26 | 0.42 | 0.50 | 0.19 | 4.92 | 1.46 | 0.03 | 0.57 | 0.42 | 0.13 | 0.36 | 0.35 | 3.66 | 1.03 | 0.88 | 24.70 |
| Brahman H. | 12.54 | 23.51 | 0.44 | 0.87 | 1.48 | 0.19 | 0.36 | 1.99 | 0.07 | 0.34 | 0.31 | 0.09 | 0.34 | 0.45 | 4.06 | 0.50 | 1.20 | 8.78 |
| Newar | 3.76 | 3.36 | 0.15 | 0.04 | 0.07 | 0.03 | 0.34 | 0.21 | 0.01 | 97.09 | 0.54 | 0.10 | 0.16 | 0.24 | 0.62 | 0.11 | 0.14 | 0.22 |
| Thakuri | 1.66 | 2.87 | 0.03 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.54 | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0.06 | 0.39 | 0.25 | 0.31 | 4.46 |
| 2. Hill Native | 20.87 | 15.52 | 1.07 | 0.32 | 0.61 | 0.44 | 0.21 | 0.56 | 0.37 | 0.80 | 96.36 | 98.35 | 97.31 | 96.94 | 85.66 | 15.72 | 1.66 | 14.15 |
| Magar | 7.65 | 9.87 | 0.07 | 0.08 | 0.07 | 0.11 | 0.03 | 0.17 | 0.31 | 0.25 | 0.39 | 0.66 | 96.45 | 0.08 | 2.29 | 1.10 | 0.08 | 3.37 |
| Tamang | 5.74 | 1.29 | 0.11 | 0.06 | 0.03 | 0.13 | 0.02 | 0.05 | 0.01 | 0.20 | 0.56 | 96.71 | 0.46 | 0.08 | 0.27 | 5.03 | 0.23 | 0.35 |
| Rai | 2.93 | 1.47 | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.25 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.07 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.15 | 0.04 | 0.09 | 1.51 | 80.67 | 0.17 | 0.38 | 4.12 |
| Gurung | 2.34 | 2.06 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.05 | 0.07 | 0.03 | 0.07 | 0.01 | 0.21 | 95.22 | 0.78 | 0.18 | 0.08 | 0.60 | 9.24 | 0.78 | 0.39 |
| Limbu | 1.69 | 0.48 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.18 | 0.01 | 0.09 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.08 | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0.04 | 95.18 | 1.50 | 0.10 | 0.10 | 0.21 |
| Danuwar | 0.30 | 0.12 | 0.76 | 0.09 | 0.00 | 0.10 | 0.01 | 0.14 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.12 | 0.07 | 0.00 | 0.29 | 0.07 | 0.10 | 3.06 |
| Sunuwar | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 2.65 |
| 3. Other Native | 0.35 | 0.26 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.09 | 0.02 | 0.17 | 0.08 | 0.03 | 0.09 | 0.11 | 0.12 | 0.04 | 5.09 |
| 4. Occupational | 11.20 | 19.42 | 1.93 | 3.18 | 2.53 | 0.39 | 3.34 | 2.89 | 0.22 | 0.27 | 0.64 | 0.12 | 0.52 | 0.26 | 3.33 | 0.64 | 0.28 | 17.27 |
| 5. Others | 1.03 | 1.67 | 0.05 | 0.07 | 0.08 | 0.06 | 0.01 | 0.57 | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0.28 | 0.14 | 0.07 | 0.21 | 0.26 | 0.46 | 0.16 | 3.46 |
| C. Mountain | 0.68 | 0.17 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0.40 | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0.13 | 79.45 | 0.30 | 0.51 |
| 1. Mountain Caste | 0.67 | 0.16 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.04 | 0.39 | 0.01 | 0.04 | 0.13 | 79.37 | 0.30 | 0.48 |
| Sherpa | 0.60 | 0.14 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.22 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.12 | 72.36 | 0.29 | 0.44 |
| Bhote | 0.07 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.17 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 7.02 | 0.01 | 0.04 |
| 2. Others | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.08 | 0.00 | 0.03 |
| D. Not Stated | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.08 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0.09 |
| E. Foreigners | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.11 |

Source: Appendix 2.

Table 9: Caste/Ethnic Composition of Urban Population by Mother Tongue, 1991

| | Total | Nepali | Maithili | Bhojpuri | Abadhi | Tharu | Rajbansi | Hindi | Urdu | Newari | Gurung | Tamang | Magar | Limbu | Rai/Kira | Sherpa | Satar | Other |
|-------------------|--------|--------|----------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| A. Terai | 25.13 | 7.46 | 91.13 | 89.58 | 87.83 | 97.23 | 90.38 | 86.50 | 98.58 | 0.73 | 1.62 | 1.51 | 3.51 | 5.21 | 5.05 | 5.12 | 73.84 | 60.13 |
| 1. Terai Caste | 6.19 | 1.95 | 24.23 | 12.52 | 8.89 | 95.61 | 84.60 | 11.00 | 0.48 | 0.04 | 0.63 | 0.22 | 0.59 | 1.29 | 0.86 | 1.06 | 2.78 | 3.45 |
| Tharu | 2.41 | 0.60 | 1.55 | 1.71 | 1.00 | 93.67 | 0.53 | 1.35 | 0.05 | 0.01 | 0.17 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 1.13 | 0.14 | 0.24 | 0.56 | 0.44 |
| Yadhab,Ahir | 1.70 | 0.50 | 11.32 | 5.68 | 3.89 | 1.04 | 0.33 | 4.02 | 0.19 | 0.01 | 0.09 | 0.05 | 0.30 | 0.04 | 0.32 | 0.49 | 0.93 | 0.84 |
| Brahman T. | 1.33 | 0.64 | 7.95 | 3.19 | 3.52 | 0.47 | 0.20 | 3.02 | 0.09 | 0.00 | 0.31 | 0.02 | 0.05 | 0.04 | 0.29 | 0.16 | 0.19 | 1.18 |
| Rajbanshi | 0.30 | 0.06 | 0.97 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.40 | 83.45 | 0.50 | 0.08 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.04 | 0.05 | 0.00 | 0.93 | 0.41 |
| Rajput | 0.45 | 0.15 | 2.44 | 1.91 | 0.46 | 0.02 | 0.10 | 2.11 | 0.07 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 0.01 | 0.08 | 0.03 | 0.06 | 0.18 | 0.19 | 0.58 |
| 2. Trader | 3.30 | 1.30 | 9.77 | 6.41 | 12.99 | 0.31 | 0.76 | 21.55 | 0.48 | 0.07 | 0.15 | 0.43 | 0.48 | 0.69 | 0.66 | 0.75 | 4.27 | 24.62 |
| Bania | 1.29 | 0.55 | 3.72 | 4.36 | 11.19 | 0.17 | 0.16 | 10.47 | 0.08 | 0.04 | 0.06 | 0.29 | 0.38 | 0.14 | 0.36 | 0.24 | 2.41 | 0.68 |
| Kayastha | 0.77 | 0.25 | 5.67 | 1.54 | 1.09 | 0.08 | 0.07 | 1.71 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.08 | 0.04 | 0.05 | 0.42 | 0.11 | 0.26 | 0.74 | 0.76 |
| Marwadi | 1.24 | 0.50 | 0.39 | 0.51 | 0.71 | 0.07 | 0.53 | 9.37 | 0.38 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.10 | 0.04 | 0.13 | 0.19 | 0.25 | 1.11 | 23.18 |
| 3. Occupation | 7.70 | 1.86 | 44.10 | 40.39 | 17.29 | 0.75 | 2.92 | 22.69 | 3.07 | 0.58 | 0.56 | 0.34 | 0.57 | 1.87 | 1.59 | 1.28 | 6.86 | 5.11 |
| 4. Religion | 4.40 | 1.03 | 3.06 | 17.10 | 24.66 | 0.10 | 1.05 | 16.76 | 93.51 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.19 | 1.66 | 0.32 | 1.03 | 1.34 | 4.64 | 4.86 |
| 5. Other | 3.54 | 1.32 | 9.97 | 13.16 | 24.00 | 0.45 | 1.05 | 14.51 | 1.04 | 0.03 | 0.24 | 0.33 | 0.22 | 1.04 | 0.91 | 0.69 | 55.29 | 22.09 |
| B. Hill | 74.10 | 92.08 | 80.75 | 10.33 | 11.94 | 2.72 | 9.46 | 13.18 | 1.33 | 99.25 | 98.19 | 96.68 | 96.22 | 94.22 | 94.71 | 18.32 | 21.71 | 34.41 |
| 1. Hill Caste | 54.82 | 68.25 | 4.48 | 3.75 | 6.24 | 2.01 | 8.24 | 9.15 | 0.43 | 98.50 | 4.19 | 2.06 | 3.48 | 1.93 | 15.96 | 4.76 | 10.95 | 16.20 |
| Chhetri | 12.70 | 25.06 | 0.85 | 0.79 | 1.22 | 0.67 | 1.02 | 2.73 | 0.10 | 0.51 | 1.21 | 0.50 | 1.04 | 0.66 | 5.42 | 1.34 | 3.71 | 6.62 |
| Brahman H. | 16.68 | 32.56 | 2.89 | 2.08 | 3.89 | 0.79 | 0.56 | 5.12 | 0.19 | 0.48 | 0.77 | 0.42 | 1.14 | 0.58 | 7.50 | 2.19 | 5.94 | 6.74 |
| Newar | 24.19 | 8.32 | 0.58 | 0.71 | 0.70 | 0.45 | 6.67 | 0.54 | 0.06 | 97.44 | 2.15 | 1.06 | 1.25 | 0.47 | 2.43 | 1.01 | 1.30 | 1.04 |
| Thakuri | 1.25 | 2.32 | 0.16 | 0.18 | 0.43 | 0.10 | 0.00 | 0.76 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.08 | 0.04 | 0.21 | 0.60 | 0.22 | 0.00 | 1.80 |
| 2. Hill Native | 12.78 | 12.74 | 0.72 | 0.51 | 1.26 | 0.56 | 0.66 | 0.60 | 0.35 | 0.46 | 93.24 | 93.88 | 91.68 | 91.80 | 75.62 | 12.75 | 7.61 | 8.54 |
| Magar | 3.26 | 5.01 | 0.07 | 0.10 | 0.12 | 0.15 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.06 | 0.08 | 0.70 | 1.30 | 88.69 | 0.10 | 1.67 | 0.40 | 0.74 | 0.63 |
| Tamang | 3.21 | 2.03 | 0.17 | 0.14 | 0.10 | 0.15 | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.10 | 0.75 | 89.43 | 1.47 | 0.44 | 0.61 | 8.21 | 1.48 | 1.04 |
| Rai | 2.01 | 1.72 | 0.10 | 0.06 | 0.58 | 0.01 | 0.16 | 0.18 | 0.22 | 0.04 | 0.27 | 0.18 | 0.29 | 2.57 | 69.17 | 0.29 | 0.74 | 0.58 |
| Gurung | 3.27 | 3.21 | 0.16 | 0.11 | 0.07 | 0.24 | 0.00 | 0.12 | 0.04 | 0.19 | 91.43 | 2.77 | 0.91 | 0.92 | 0.91 | 3.01 | 3.71 | 4.68 |
| Limbu | 0.83 | 0.53 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.14 | 0.01 | 0.23 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.04 | 0.06 | 0.09 | 0.19 | 87.77 | 2.95 | 0.81 | 0.93 | 0.16 |
| Danuwar | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.07 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.08 | 0.07 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.00 | 0.09 |
| Sunuwar | 0.17 | 0.21 | 0.11 | 0.08 | 0.24 | 0.00 | 0.10 | 0.10 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.07 | 0.00 | 0.31 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.38 |
| 3. Other Native | 0.28 | 0.40 | 0.03 | 0.08 | 0.08 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.06 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.32 | 0.09 | 0.14 | 0.09 | 0.17 | 0.37 | 0.19 | 2.18 |
| 4. Occupational | 5.51 | 9.48 | 3.36 | 5.88 | 3.72 | 0.12 | 0.49 | 2.77 | 0.41 | 0.23 | 0.26 | 0.23 | 0.59 | 0.26 | 2.67 | 0.22 | 2.23 | 5.82 |
| 5. Others | 0.71 | 1.21 | 0.15 | 0.11 | 0.64 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.60 | 0.12 | 0.04 | 0.18 | 0.41 | 0.34 | 0.14 | 0.28 | 0.22 | 0.74 | 1.67 |
| C. Mountain | 0.59 | 0.38 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.07 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.11 | 1.75 | 0.16 | 0.50 | 0.20 | 76.44 | 4.27 | 1.45 |
| 1. Mountain Caste | 0.58 | 0.36 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.07 | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.11 | 1.74 | 0.15 | 0.30 | 0.20 | 76.44 | 4.08 | 1.25 |
| Sherpa | 0.55 | 0.32 | 0.05 | 0.04 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.07 | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.11 | 1.64 | 0.15 | 0.29 | 0.19 | 74.78 | 4.08 | 1.16 |
| Bhote | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.10 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 1.66 | 0.00 | 0.09 |
| 2. Others | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.20 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.19 | 0.20 |
| D. Not Stated | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0.05 | 0.02 | 0.18 | 0.04 | 0.00 | 0.13 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.08 | 0.07 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.49 |
| E. Foreigners | 0.12 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.00 | 0.10 | 0.14 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.10 | 0.19 | 3.52 |

Source: Appendix 3.

Table 10: Distribution of Caste/Ethnic Population by Rural/Urban 1991.

| Caste/Ethnic | Total | Rural | Urban | Per cent Distribution | | |
|-------------------|----------|----------|---------|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| | | | | Total | Rural | Urban |
| Total | 18491097 | 16795378 | 1695719 | 100.00 | 90.83 | 9.17 |
| A. Terai | 5718770 | 5292681 | 426089 | 100.00 | 92.55 | 7.45 |
| 1. Terai Caste | 2260136 | 2155230 | 104906 | 100.00 | 95.36 | 4.64 |
| Tharu | 1194224 | 1153358 | 40866 | 100.00 | 96.58 | 3.42 |
| Yadav,Ahir | 765137 | 736375 | 28762 | 100.00 | 96.24 | 3.76 |
| Brahman | 162886 | 140393 | 22493 | 100.00 | 86.19 | 13.81 |
| Rajbanshi | 82177 | 77045 | 5132 | 100.00 | 93.75 | 6.25 |
| Rajput | 55712 | 48059 | 7653 | 100.00 | 86.26 | 13.74 |
| 2. Trader | 184586 | 128665 | 55921 | 100.00 | 69.70 | 30.30 |
| 3. Occupational | 1959497 | 1828883 | 130614 | 100.00 | 93.33 | 6.67 |
| 4. Religious | 662347 | 587753 | 74594 | 100.00 | 88.74 | 11.26 |
| 5. Other | 652204 | 592150 | 60054 | 100.00 | 90.79 | 9.21 |
| B. Hill | 12639956 | 11383412 | 1256544 | 100.00 | 90.06 | 9.94 |
| 1. Hill Caste | 6697100 | 5767527 | 929573 | 100.00 | 86.12 | 13.88 |
| Chhetri | 2968082 | 2752687 | 215395 | 100.00 | 92.74 | 7.26 |
| Brahman | 2388455 | 2105586 | 282869 | 100.00 | 88.16 | 11.84 |
| Newar | 1041090 | 630917 | 410173 | 100.00 | 60.60 | 39.40 |
| Thakuri | 299473 | 278337 | 21136 | 100.00 | 92.94 | 7.06 |
| 2. Hill Native | 3721183 | 3504433 | 216750 | 100.00 | 94.18 | 5.82 |
| Magar | 1339308 | 1284037 | 55271 | 100.00 | 95.87 | 4.13 |
| Tamang | 1018252 | 963805 | 54447 | 100.00 | 94.65 | 5.35 |
| Rai | 525551 | 491486 | 34065 | 100.00 | 93.52 | 6.48 |
| Gurung | 449189 | 393681 | 55508 | 100.00 | 87.64 | 12.36 |
| Limbu | 297186 | 283033 | 14153 | 100.00 | 95.24 | 4.76 |
| Danuwar | 50754 | 50322 | 432 | 100.00 | 99.15 | 0.85 |
| Sunuwar | 40943 | 38069 | 2874 | 100.00 | 92.98 | 7.02 |
| 3. Other Native | 62980 | 58250 | 4730 | 100.00 | 92.49 | 7.51 |
| 4. Occupational | 1974477 | 1881005 | 93472 | 100.00 | 95.27 | 4.73 |
| 5. Others | 184216 | 172197 | 12019 | 100.00 | 93.48 | 6.52 |
| C. Mountain | 124562 | 114511 | 10051 | 100.00 | 91.93 | 8.07 |
| 1. Mountain Caste | 122821 | 113061 | 9760 | 100.00 | 92.05 | 7.95 |
| Sherpa | 110358 | 101110 | 9248 | 100.00 | 91.62 | 8.38 |
| Bhote | 12463 | 11951 | 512 | 100.00 | 95.89 | 4.11 |
| 2. Others | 1741 | 1450 | 291 | 100.00 | 83.29 | 16.71 |
| D. Not Stated | 4858 | 3869 | 989 | 100.00 | 79.64 | 20.36 |
| E. Foreigners | 2951 | 905 | 2046 | 100.00 | 30.67 | 69.33 |

Source: CBS, Population Census 1991, (Special Tabulation).

5. Language and Caste

5.1 Classification of Population by Caste and Language

Classification of population by caste and language is only tentative. An attempt has been made to classify the caste according to its region of origin. As such, the caste and ethnic group from the Terai is grouped into major Terai caste which includes Yadav/Ahir, Terai Brahman, Tharu, Rajbansi and Rajput. This group constitutes 12.22 per cent of the total caste ethnic population (Table 7) and 39.52 per cent of the Terai caste ethnic population (Table 11).

Table 11. Classification of Terai Caste/Ethnicity 1991.

| Total Terai Major Castes | | Trader | | Occupational | | Religious | | Others | |
|--------------------------|---------|----------|--------|--------------|---------|-----------|------|--------|--------------|
| 5718770 | 2260136 | 100.00 | 184586 | 100.00 | 1959497 | 100.00 | | | 652204 100. |
| 100.00 | | 39.52 | | 3.23 | | 34.26 | | | 11.58 |
| Tharu | 52.84 | Baniya | 55.19 | Teli | 12.80 | Dhusadh | 4.76 | Islam | 98.60 Dhimal |
| Yadav,Ahir | 33.85 | Kayastha | 29.01 | Kushwaha | 10.50 | Dhobi | 3.91 | Shikh | 1.40 Bengali |
| Brahman | 7.21 | Marwadi | 15.80 | Chamar | 10.41 | Kumhar | 3.67 | | Others 96.21 |
| Rajbanshi | 3.64 | | | Kurmi | 8.51 | Kanu | 3.60 | | |
| Rajput | 2.46 | | | Sudhi,Kalwar | 8.27 | Khatway | 3.40 | | |
| | | | | Musahar | 7.25 | Haluwai | 2.27 | | |
| | | | | Dhanuk | 6.99 | Rajbhar | 1.71 | | |
| | | | | Mallah | 5.63 | Gangain | 1.15 | | |
| | | | | Kewat | 5.18 | | | | |

Source: Calculated from Appendix 1.

There are 17 occupational castes identified to have been originated from the Terai, which constitute 34.26 per cent of Terai caste but only 10.60 per cent of total population. The religious group, although constitutes 11.58 per cent of Terai caste, is only 3.58 per cent of the total population. The trader caste is only 1 per cent of the total population but is 3.23 per cent of the Terai caste. Among the major Terai caste, Tharu constitutes 52.84 per cent followed by Yadav/Ahir (33.85%), and Terai Brahman (7.21 %). Trader caste is dominated by Bania (55.19%) followed by Kayastha (29.01%), and Marwadi (15.80%).

Among the occupational castes, Teli (12.80%), Kushwaha (10.50%), Chamar (10.41%), Sudhi/Kalwar (8.27%), Kurmi (8.51%), Musahar (7.25%), Dhanuk (6.99%), Mallah (5.63%), and Kewat (5.18%) together constitute 75.54 per cent. The other occupational caste are less than five per cent each. Among the religious caste, Islam is an overwhelming 98.60 per cent.

The caste and ethnic group whose origin is the hill is also categorized as major hill caste, hill native, other native, occupational and other (Table 12). Only two castes, Bhote and Sherpa have been reported as being originated from the mountain which constitute only 0.66 per cent of the total population.

The total hill caste constitutes 68.36 per cent of the total population of Nepal. The major hill caste, the hill native, and the hill occupational caste constitute 36.22, 20.12, and 10.68 per cent of the total population of Nepal (Table 12).

Table 12: Classification of Hill and Mountain Caste/Ethnicity, 1991

| Total Hill | Major Castes | Hill Native | Other Native | Occupation | | | Others | |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|----------|
| 12639956 | 6697100 | 100.00 | 3721183 | 100.00 | 62980 | 100.00 | 1974477 | 100.00 |
| 100.00 | | 52.98 | | 29.44 | | 0.50 | | 15.62 |
| Chhetri | 44.32 | Magar | 35.99 | Chepang | 58.20 | Kami | 48.81 | Darai |
| Brahman | 35.66 | Tamang | 27.36 | Thakali | 21.80 | Damai | 18.64 | Wadi |
| Newar | 15.55 | Rai | 14.12 | Jirel | 7.76 | Sarki | 13.99 | Bote |
| Thakuri | 4.47 | Gurung | 12.07 | Lepcha | 7.66 | Sanyasi | 9.20 | Gaine |
| | | Limbu | 7.99 | Raute | 4.57 | Rural | 3.88 | Raji |
| | | Danuwar | 1.36 | | | Majhi | 2.79 | Churoute |
| | | Sunuwar | 1.10 | | | Thami | 0.97 | |
| | | | | | | | | Others |
| | | | | | | | | 1741 |
| | | | | | | | | 1.40 |

Source: Calculated from Appendix 3.

Of the total hill caste of 12,639,958 persons, major castes like Brahman, Chhetri, Thakuri and Newar together constitute 52.98 per cent followed by the hill native (29.44%) and the occupational (15.62%). Of the major hill caste, Brahman, Chhetri and Thakuri constitute about 85 per cent and the rest is the Newar caste. Among the hill native, Magar caste out-numbers other caste with 35.99 per cent. It is followed by Tamang (27.36%), Rai (14.12%), and Gurung (12.07%). The hill natives are small in number (62,980) out of which Chepang alone constitutes 58.20 per cent.

Among the occupational caste that originated in the hill, Kami constitutes 48.81 per cent followed by Damai (18.64%), Sarki (13.99%), and Sanyasi (9.20%). The three castes, Kami, Damai and Sarki among others considered traditionally untouchable by the other hill castes together constitute 81.44 per cent of the hill occupational caste.

5.2 Interrelationship Between Language and Caste

In the 1991 census, language is considered as one's mother tongue. Earlier, language was classified according to major group of Indo-Aryan and Tibeto-Burman in terms of dialect. Since the caste/ethnic group is classified according to the place of origin, language may also be classified similarly. As such Nepali as a national language stands separately. The Terai language includes Bhojpuri, Abadhi, Tharu, Rajbansi, Hindi and Urdu in addition to other minor languages. Similarly, one would consider Newari, Gurung, Tamang, Rai/Kirati and Thakali as the mother tongue of the hill caste. Sherpa language originated from the Mountain. Danuwar is spoken in the Inner Terai. A simple generalization is that a large majority of the caste/ethnic group originating in the hill speak their own native languages as their mother tongue. A large majority also speak Nepali as a mother tongue and also as a second language. The same generalization is applicable to the Terai caste/ethnic group. A relationship can clearly be established between various caste and language groups.

The Terai caste as a whole constitutes only 3.52 per cent of all who speak Nepali language as their mother tongue. Out of this, Nepali as a mother tongue is distributed as 39.67 per cent for the major Terai caste and particularly Tharu, and 27.60 per cent for occupational caste, particularly, Kurmi, Tell and Chamar (Table 13). The Terai language as mother tongue is distributed as 40.64 per cent for major Term caste and 35.35 per cent for occupational caste. The hill language as mother tongue is distributed as 21.77 per cent for the Terai occupational caste and 18.69 per cent for the major Terai caste.

Of those who speak Nepali as a mother tongue, 96.26 per cent belong to the caste/ethnic population that originated in the hill. Nepali as the mother tongue is distributed as 62.88 per cent for the major hill caste, 19.27 per cent for the occupational caste and 15.87 per cent for the hill native.

Among the Terai originated caste 90.36 per cent speak Terai language, 5.73 per cent speak Nepali language and only one per cent speak hill language (Table 14).

Table 13 : Percentage distribution of Language by caste, 1991

| | Language | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| | Total | Nepali | Terai | Hill | Other |
| Nepal | 18491097 | | | 3093166 | 696645 |
| A. Terai | 5718770 | 327687 | 5167764 | 57428 | 165891 |
| 1. Terai Caste | 39.52 | 39.67 | 40.64 | 18.69 | 11.59 |
| 2. Trader | 3.23 | 8.58 | 2.61 | 8.15 | 10.09 |
| 3. Occupational | 34.26 | 27.60 | 35.35 | 21.77 | 17.92 |
| 4. Religious | 11.58 | 9.10 | 11.97 | 5.65 | 6.57 |
| 5. Other | 11.40 | 15.06 | 9.43 | 45.74 | 53.83 |
| B. Hill | 12639956 | 8954812 | 228171 | 2933433 | 523540 |
| 1. Hill Caste | 52.98 | 62.88 | 32.66 | 25.09 | 48.78 |
| 2. Hill Native | 29.44 | 15.87 | 15.92 | 73.90 | 18.33 |
| 3. Other Native | 0.50 | 0.28 | 0.58 | 0.08 | 6.51 |
| 4. Occupational | 15.62 | 19.27 | 49.01 | 0.76 | 21.95 |
| 5. Others | 1.46 | 1.70 | 1.84 | 0.17 | 4.44 |
| C. Mountain | 124562 | 17624 | 1067 | 101873 | 3998 |
| 1. Mountain Caste | 98.60 | 93.95 | 90.16 | 99.69 | 93.60 |
| 2. Others | 1.40 | 6.05 | 9.84 | 0.31 | 6.40 |
| D. Other | 7809 | 2757 | 1404 | 432 | 3216 |
| 1. Not Stated | 62.21 | 90.35 | 86.25 | 81.71 | 24.97 |
| Foreigners | 37.79 | 9.65 | 13.75 | 18.29 | 75.03 |

Source: Calculated from Appendix

Table 14: Percentage distribution of caste by language, 1991

| | Language in % | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Total | Nepali | Terai | Hill | Other |
| Nepal | 100.00 | 50.31 | 29.19 | 16.73 | 3.77 |
| A.Terai | 100.00 | 5.73 | 90.36 | 1.00 | 2.90 |
| 1. Terai Caste | 100.00 | 5.75 | 92.92 | 0.47 | 0.85 |
| 2. Trader | 100.00 | 15.23 | 73.16 | 2.53 | 9.07 |
| 3. Occupational | 100.00 | 4.62 | 93.23 | 0.64 | 1.52 |
| 4. Religious | 100.00 | 4.50 | 93.36 | 0.49 | 1.65 |
| 5. Other | 100.00 | 7.57 | 74.71 | 4.03 | 13.69 |
| B. | Hill | 100.00 | 70.85 | 1.81 | 23.21 |
| 1. Hill Caste | 100.00 | 84.08 | 1.11 | 10.99 | 3.81 |
| 2. Hill Native | 100.00 | 38.19 | 0.98 | 58.25 | 2.58 |
| 3. Other Native | 100.00 | 40.10 | 2.09 | 3.69 | 54.12 |
| 4. Occupational | 100.00 | 87.38 | 5.66 | 1.14 | 5.82 |
| 5. Others | 100.00 | 82.46 | 2.28 | 2.66 | 12.61 |
| C. | Mountain | 100.00 | 14.15 | 0.86 | 81.78 |
| 1. Mountain Caste | 100.00 | 13.48 | 0.78 | 82.69 | 3.05 |
| 2. Others | 100.00 | 61.29 | 6.03 | 17.98 | 14.70 |
| D.Other | 100.00 | 35.31 | 17.98 | 5.53 | 41.18 |
| 1. Not Stated | 100.00 | 51.28 | 24.93 | 7.27 | 16.53 |
| Foreigners | 100.00 | 9.01 | 6.54 | 2.68 | 81.77 |

Source : Table 15.

The interrelationship between caste and language is obvious. The hill castes are related to the hill language and the Terai caste to the Terai language. Some individual patterns of relationship also exist between individual caste and language. The Terai language is the mother tongue of 90.36 per cent of the total Terai caste, whereas Nepali language is the mother tongue of 5.73 per cent (Table 14, Figure 5). Over 15 per cent of the Trader, however, indicated Nepali as their mother tongue.

Among the hill caste, 70.85 per cent speak Nepali. Among Brahman and Chhetri, over 92 per cent speak Nepali as their mother tongue. Over 65 per cent of Newar speak Newari, while 33.93 per cent also have Nepali as the mother tongue. Among the hill native, over 82 per cent of Limbu and Tamang claimed their own language as the mother tongue (Table 15). Majority of Magar and Sunuwar (65.59% and 52.0%) claimed Nepali as their mother language. Over one fourth of Rai reported Nepali as their mother tongue. Over 87 per cent of the hill occupational caste have Nepali as the mother tongue. Among the Sherpa and Bhotes, about 75 per cent speak their own language and about 15 per cent speak Nepali. An overwhelming majority of the Hill caste are bi-lingual, speak their own language as well as Nepali.

**Figure 6: Distribution of Caste/Ethnic Population
by Major Mother Tongue**

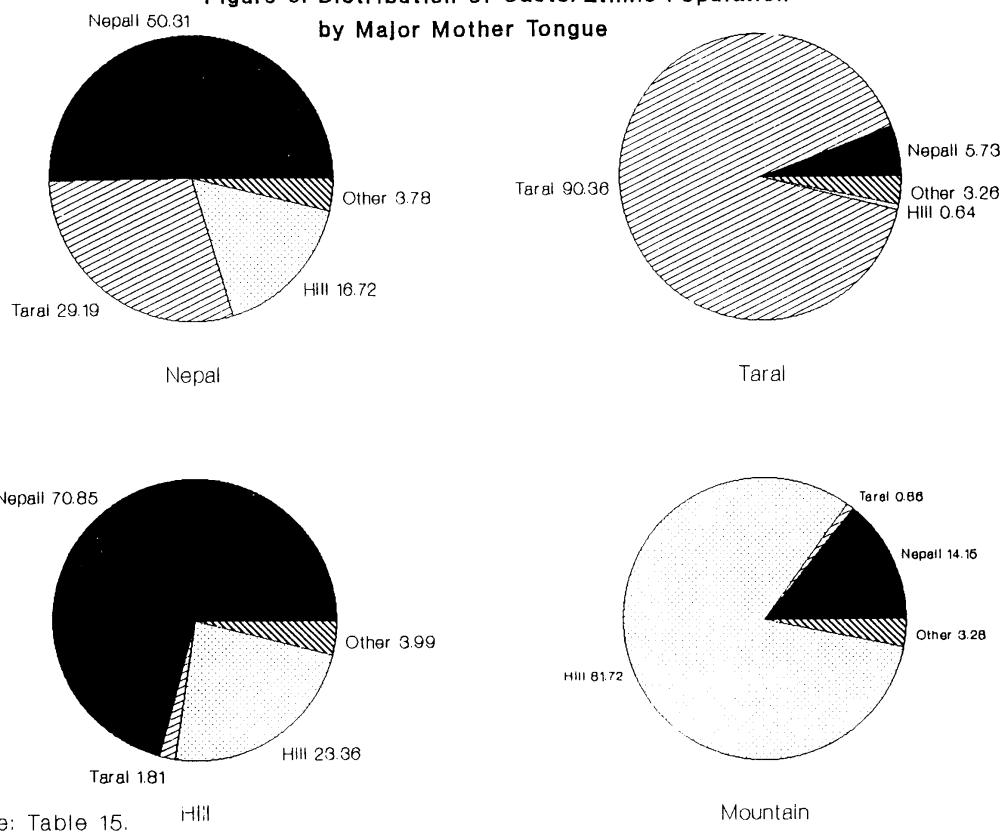


Table 15: Distribution of Caste/Ethnic Population of Nepal by Mother Tongue, 1991.

| | Language | | | | | Language in % | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Total | Nepali | Terai | Hill | Other | Total | Nepali | Terai | Hill | Other |
| Nepal | 18491097 | 9302880 | 5398406 | 3093166 | 696645 | 100.00 | 50.31 | 29.19 | 16.73 | 3.77 |
| Terai | 5718770 | 327687 | 5167764 | 57428 | 165891 | 100.00 | 5.73 | 90.36 | 1.00 | 2.90 |
| 1. Terai Caste | 2260136 | 129980 | 2100199 | 10734 | 19223 | 100.00 | 5.75 | 92.92 | 0.47 | 0.85 |
| Tharu | 1194224 | 72803 | 1105407 | 5724 | 10290 | 100.00 | 6.10 | 92.56 | 0.48 | 0.86 |
| Yadav,Ahir | 765137 | 32585 | 725704 | 3028 | 3820 | 100.00 | 4.26 | 94.85 | 0.40 | 0.50 |
| Brahman | 162886 | 17026 | 142765 | 1170 | 1925 | 100.00 | 10.45 | 87.65 | 0.72 | 1.18 |
| Rajbanshi | 82177 | 3763 | 75383 | 525 | 2506 | 100.00 | 4.58 | 91.73 | 0.64 | 3.05 |
| Rajput | 55712 | 3803 | 50940 | 287 | 682 | 100.00 | 6.83 | 91.43 | 0.52 | 1.22 |
| 2. Trader | 184586 | 28118 | 135051 | 4678 | 16739 | 100.00 | 15.23 | 73.16 | 2.53 | 9.07 |
| 3. Occupation | 1959497 | 90435 | 1826834 | 12502 | 29726 | 100.00 | 4.62 | 93.23 | 0.64 | 1.52 |
| 4. Religion | 662347 | 29814 | 618391 | 3245 | 10897 | 100.00 | 4.50 | 93.36 | 0.49 | 1.65 |
| 5. Other | 652204 | 49340 | 487289 | 26269 | 89306 | 100.00 | 7.57 | 74.71 | 4.03 | 13.69 |
| B. Hill | 12639956 | 8954812 | 228171 | 2933433 | 523540 | 100.00 | 70.85 | 1.81 | 23.21 | 4.14 |
| 1. Hill Caste | 6697100 | 5631081 | 74522 | 736120 | 255377 | 100.00 | 84.08 | 1.11 | 10.99 | 3.81 |
| Chhetri | 2968082 | 2753749 | 24029 | 26851 | 163453 | 100.00 | 92.78 | 0.81 | 0.90 | 5.51 |
| Brahman | 2388455 | 2261258 | 39856 | 27144 | 60197 | 100.00 | 94.67 | 1.67 | 1.14 | 2.52 |
| Newar | 1041090 | 353207 | 6922 | 679029 | 1932 | 100.00 | 33.93 | 0.66 | 65.22 | 0.19 |
| Thakali | 299473 | 262867 | 3715 | 3096 | 29795 | 100.00 | 87.78 | 1.24 | 1.03 | 9.95 |
| 2. Hill Native | 3721183 | 1421245 | 36321 | 2167675 | 95942 | 100.00 | 38.19 | 0.98 | 58.25 | 2.58 |
| Magar | 1339308 | 878472 | 4954 | 433680 | 22202 | 100.00 | 65.59 | 0.37 | 32.38 | 1.66 |
| Tamang | 1018252 | 126386 | 4886 | 884240 | 2740 | 100.00 | 12.41 | 0.48 | 86.84 | 0.27 |
| Rai | 525551 | 138685 | 2870 | 356982 | 27014 | 100.00 | 26.39 | 0.55 | 67.93 | 5.14 |
| Gurung | 449189 | 201204 | 2987 | 240214 | 4784 | 100.00 | 44.79 | 0.66 | 53.48 | 1.07 |
| Limbu | 297186 | 44998 | 1439 | 249300 | 1449 | 100.00 | 15.14 | 0.48 | 83.89 | 0.49 |
| Danuwar | 50754 | 10208 | 17926 | 2708 | 19912 | 100.00 | 20.11 | 35.32 | 5.34 | 39.23 |
| Sunuwar | 40943 | 21292 | 1259 | 551 | 17841 | 100.00 | 52.00 | 3.08 | 1.35 | 43.58 |
| 3. Other Native | 62980 | 25254 | 1314 | 2325 | 34087 | 100.00 | 40.10 | 2.09 | 3.69 | 54.12 |
| 4. Occupational | 1974477 | 1725332 | 111821 | 22422 | 114902 | 100.00 | 87.38 | 5.66 | 1.14 | 5.82 |
| 5. Others | 184216 | 151900 | 4193 | 4891 | 23232 | 100.00 | 82.46 | 2.28 | 2.66 | 12.61 |
| C. Mountain | 124562 | 17624 | 1067 | 101873 | 3998 | 100.00 | 14.15 | 0.86 | 81.78 | 3.21 |
| 1. Mountain Caste | 122821 | 16557 | 962 | 101560 | 3742 | 100.00 | 13.48 | 0.78 | 82.69 | 3.05 |
| Shespa | 110358 | 14279 | 841 | 91802 | 3436 | 100.00 | 12.94 | 0.76 | 83.19 | 3.11 |
| Bhote | 12463 | 2278 | 121 | 9758 | 306 | 100.00 | 18.28 | 0.97 | 78.30 | 2.46 |
| 2. Others | 1741 | 1067 | 105 | 313 | 256 | 100.00 | 61.29 | 6.03 | 17.98 | 14.70 |
| E. Not Stated | 4858 | 2491 | 1211 | 353 | 803 | 100.00 | 51.28 | 24.93 | 7.27 | 16.53 |
| D. Foreigners | 2951 | 266 | 193 | 79 | 2413 | 100.00 | 9.01 | 6.54 | 2.68 | 81.77 |

Source: CBS, Population Census 1991, (Special Tabulation).

A distinct dichotomy between urban and rural areas exists in terms of different languages spoken by different castes. There are more Nepali speakers (50.53%) in rural Nepal than in urban Nepal (48.12%). The Terai language is spoken proportionately more (29.99%) in rural Terai than in urban Terai (21.33%). But the hill language speakers proportionately exceed in urban area (27.75%) than in rural area (15.61%) because of rural to urban migration (Table 16).

Table 16: Distribution of Rural and Urban Population of Caste/Ethnic Groups by Major Tongue, 1991.

| | Rural | | | | | Urban | | | | |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Total | Nepali | Terai | Hill | Other | Total | Nepali | Terai | Hill | other |
| Total | 100.00 | 50.53 | 29.99 | 15.61 | 3.87 | 100.00 | 48.12 | 21.33 | 27.75 | 2.80 |
| A. Terai | 100.00 | 5.04 | 91.40 | 0.96 | 2.59 | 100.00 | 14.28 | 77.46 | 1.56 | 6.70 |
| 1. Terai Caste | 100.00 | 5.29 | 93.43 | 0.46 | 0.82 | 100.00 | 15.14 | 82.43 | 0.87 | 1.56 |
| Tharu | 100.00 | 5.89 | 92.77 | 0.47 | 0.87 | 100.00 | 11.90 | 86.76 | 0.83 | 0.51 |
| Yadhab,Ahir | 100.00 | 3.87 | 95.29 | 0.38 | 0.46 | 100.00 | 14.25 | 83.51 | 0.84 | 1.39 |
| Brahman Terai | 100.00 | 8.42 | 89.92 | 0.69 | 0.97 | 100.00 | 23.12 | 73.45 | 0.92 | 2.50 |
| Rajbanshi | 100.00 | 4.24 | 92.14 | 0.62 | 3.00 | 100.00 | 9.61 | 85.68 | 0.94 | 3.78 |
| Rajput | 100.00 | 5.36 | 93.34 | 0.45 | 0.84 | 100.00 | 16.03 | 79.45 | 0.91 | 3.61 |
| 2. Trader | 100.00 | 13.60 | 79.48 | 3.00 | 3.92 | 100.00 | 18.98 | 58.64 | 1.47 | 20.91 |
| 3. Occupation | 100.00 | 4.12 | 93.88 | 0.51 | 1.49 | 100.00 | 11.60 | 84.17 | 2.38 | 1.86 |
| 4. Religion | 100.00 | 3.65 | 94.47 | 0.42 | 1.46 | 100.00 | 11.23 | 84.62 | 1.06 | 3.10 |
| 5. Other | 100.00 | 6.51 | 75.92 | 4.26 | 13.31 | 100.00 | 18.00 | 62.81 | 1.72 | 17.47 |
| B. Hill | 100.00 | 72.06 | 1.73 | 21.75 | 4.46 | 100.00 | 59.80 | 2.48 | 36.42 | 1.30 |
| 1. Hill Caste | 100.00 | 87.98 | 1.01 | 6.72 | 4.29 | 100.00 | 59.91 | 1.75 | 37.51 | 0.83 |
| Chhetri | 100.00 | 92.61 | 0.74 | 0.83 | 5.82 | 100.00 | 94.93 | 1.72 | 1.89 | 1.46 |
| Brahman H. | 100.00 | 94.77 | 1.44 | 1.08 | 2.71 | 100.00 | 93.93 | 3.36 | 1.58 | 1.13 |
| Newar | 100.00 | 45.23 | 0.75 | 53.79 | 0.23 | 100.00 | 16.54 | 0.53 | 82.81 | 0.12 |
| Thakuri | 100.00 | 87.65 | 1.02 | 0.93 | 10.40 | 100.00 | 89.42 | 4.18 | 2.34 | 4.05 |
| 2. Hill Native | 100.00 | 37.59 | 0.97 | 58.82 | 2.62 | 100.00 | 47.94 | 1.10 | 49.09 | 1.87 |
| Magar | 100.00 | 65.23 | 0.36 | 32.71 | 1.71 | 100.00 | 74.01 | 0.63 | 24.82 | 0.54 |
| Tamang | 100.00 | 11.40 | 0.46 | 87.91 | 0.23 | 100.00 | 30.39 | 0.83 | 67.88 | 0.90 |
| Rai | 100.00 | 25.36 | 0.48 | 68.72 | 5.44 | 100.00 | 41.21 | 1.51 | 56.48 | 0.80 |
| Gurung | 100.00 | 44.47 | 0.63 | 54.25 | 0.65 | 100.00 | 47.11 | 0.88 | 48.00 | 4.00 |
| Limbu | 100.00 | 14.38 | 0.46 | 84.67 | 0.49 | 100.00 | 30.38 | 0.87 | 68.22 | 0.53 |
| Danuwar | 100.00 | 19.83 | 35.40 | 5.29 | 39.49 | 100.00 | 53.24 | 26.39 | 10.88 | 9.49 |
| Sunuwar | 100.00 | 51.34 | 2.42 | 1.10 | 45.15 | 100.00 | 60.79 | 11.80 | 4.66 | 22.76 |
| 3. Other Native | 100.00 | 37.77 | 1.96 | 3.53 | 56.74 | 100.00 | 68.82 | 3.62 | 5.69 | 21.88 |
| 4. Occupational | 100.00 | 87.61 | 5.33 | 1.10 | 5.96 | 100.00 | 82.76 | 12.36 | 1.93 | 2.96 |
| 5. Others | 100.00 | 82.46 | 1.97 | 2.54 | 13.03 | 100.00 | 82.48 | 6.64 | 4.29 | 6.59 |
| C. Mountain | 100.00 | 12.70 | 0.79 | 83.62 | 2.89 | 100.00 | 30.70 | 1.58 | 60.88 | 6.84 |
| 1. Mountain Caste | 100.00 | 12.05 | 0.72 | 84.45 | 2.78 | 100.00 | 30.04 | 1.54 | 62.34 | 6.09 |
| Sherpa | 100.00 | 11.51 | 0.70 | 84.94 | 2.85 | 100.00 | 28.55 | 1.45 | 64.05 | 5.96 |
| Bhote | 100.00 | 16.62 | 0.88 | 80.30 | 2.20 | 100.00 | 57.03 | 3.13 | 31.45 | 8.40 |
| 2. Others | 100.00 | 62.97 | 6.62 | 19.17 | 11.24 | 100.00 | 52.92 | 3.09 | 12.03 | 31.96 |
| D.Other | 100.00 | 43.84 | 22:14 | 6.54 | 27.48 | 100.00 | 21.88 | 11.43 | 3.95 | 62.73 |
| 1. Not Stated | 100.00 | 52.44 | 25.43 | 7.34 | 14.78 | 100.00 | 46.71 | 22.95 | 6.98 | 23.36 |
| 2. Foreigner | 100.00 | 7.07 | 8.07 | 3.09 | 81.77 | 100.00 | 9.87 | 5.87 | 2.49 | 81.77 |

Source : Appendix 1.

Different castes in the Terai as a whole speak more Nepali in urban (14.28%) than in rural Nepal (5.04%) because of increasing interaction with Nepali speakers in urban areas. The Terai caste speak their own

language as the mother tongue in rural Nepal more than in urban Nepal. There is a larger gap in the proportion of Nepali and Terai language speakers in rural Nepal than in urban Nepal.

Over 82 per cent of Newar speak Newari in urban areas compared to about 54 per cent in rural areas (Appendix 4 and 5). The hill natives and other natives tend to speak Nepali in larger proportion in urban Nepal than in rural Nepal. This is also applicable to Sherpa and Bhote.

6. Conclusions

1. Nepal is a country of multi-lingual, multi-religious and multi-ethnic society. The preceding censuses of Nepal included information on different languages as mother tongue spoken by the people living in Nepal. Those censuses also incorporated data on the religious composition. The 1991 census, for the first time, collected information on caste/ethnicity of people based on their geographic origin.
2. Data on languages in various censuses are not consistent. It is difficult to classify people over time based on their mother tongue. As the population of Nepal is growing rapidly, people speaking different languages also increased. Proportionately, Nepali language speakers constituted 48.74, 50.96, 52.45, and 58.36 per cent in the last four censuses. Their proportion suddenly decreased to 50.31 per cent in 1991. It may be because of the people who had claimed Nepali as their mother tongue in 1981, claimed their own native language as the mother tongue in 1991.
3. Analysis of the prominent language groups like Indo-Aryan and Tibeto-Burman reveals that Indo-Aryan language speakers are progressively increasing over time both in absolute and relative terms. The Indo-Aryan group always constituted over 77 per cent of the total population. In 1991, it constituted 79.50 per cent as against 82.66 per cent in 1981. The record- high proportion (82.66%) of the Indo-Aryan speakers in 1981 has coincided with the record-low proportion (12.06%) of the Tibeto-Burman speakers in 1981. Three percentage point decrease of Indo-Aryan speakers in 1991 is mainly associated with decrease in Nepali speakers and more than four percentage point increase in Tibeto-Burman speakers.

4. In 1991, the proportion of different language speakers in rural areas did not differ significantly from that of Nepal as a whole. There has been a shift of different language speakers from rural to urban areas between 1981 and 1991. The rural to urban shift among the Tibeto-Burman speakers is more pronounced than the Indo-Aryan speakers except for Nepali speakers, though variation among individual language speakers exists.
5. Some people who claimed to be Hindus in 1981 shifted to Buddhism in 1991, a pattern similar to the shift from Nepali language to other languages. Hindu population decreased from 89.50 per cent in 1981 to 86.51 per cent 1991, whereas Buddhist population increased from 5.32 per cent in 1981 to 7.78 per cent in 1991. The population of Buddhists and Islam almost doubled between 1981 and 1991. Some of these shifts may be attributed to attrition of the latter two religious groups into Hinduism in 1981 and reverting back to the original group in 1991.
6. There is some urban ward shift of all religious groups from rural areas. Non-Hindus, however, are more urban bound than the Hindus in terms of proportion within each group. In 1991, Hindus constituted only 82.87 per cent in urban areas compared to 86.51 per cent in the total population. At the same time, Buddhists constituted over 10.79 per cent in urban areas compared to 7.50 per cent in the total population.
7. The overall distribution of population by caste and ethnicity according to the region of origin indicates that an overwhelming majority (68.36%) belong to the caste that originated from the hills. The caste originating from the Terai constitutes only 30.93 per cent.
8. The hill caste is 9.94 per cent urban as against the Terai caste which is 7.48 per cent urban.
9. The Terai-originated caste constitutes 3.52 per cent of the total population who claim Nepali as the mother tongue. Among the Terai caste, 5.73 per cent speak Nepali as the mother tongue and 90.36 per cent speak the Terai language. Among the hill caste, 70.85 per cent speak Nepali and 23.21 per cent other hill languages including Newari.

10. Brahman, Rajput, Traders, and occupational caste of the Terai origin are more urban bound than other castes. In the hill, Newar, Brahman, and Gurung are more urban bound, than other hill caste.
11. The 1991 census of population reported 46.62, 45.56, and 7.82 per cent population residing in the Terai, Hills, and Mountains respectively. The 1991 census reported the total population of the Hill-originated caste as 68.36 per cent, the Terai-originated caste as 31.93 per cent and the Mountain-caste as only 0.67 per cent. These two sets of percentages are not comparable but do indicate that almost 46 per cent of the total population of Nepal by origin of caste and ethnicity live at places different from their origin.
12. The caste/ethnic groups that originated in the Terai constituted only 31.93 per cent against 46.62 per cent of the total population of Nepal. The Hill-originated caste constituted 68.36 per cent but has only 45.56 per cent of the total population. Similarly, the Mountain-originated caste is only 0.67 per cent of the total caste but has 7.82 per cent of the total population.
13. Most people who originated in the Terai do not live in the hills or mountains. The population of the Terai at present constitutes heavily of people of the hill caste. Almost 23 per cent of the Hilloriginated caste lives in places other than the Hill. Almost 15 per cent of the population of the Terai in 1991 is constituted of caste/ethnic groups that originated in places other than the Terai. Similarly, over 7 per cent of the mountain population is constituted of people whose caste/ethnicity originated somewhere else. How many people who originated from the hill and mountain are living in the Terai or elsewhere is yet to be analysed.

Appendix 1: Distribution of Caste/Ethnic Population of Nepal by Mother Tongue, 1991.

| | Total | Nepali | Mait-hily | Bhoj-puri | Abadhi | Tharu | Rajba-nshi | Hindi | Urdu | Newari | Gurung | Tamang | Magar | Limbu | Rai Kirati | Sherpa | Satar | Danu war | Other |
|-------------------|----------|---------|-----------|-----------|--------|--------|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------|--------|-------|----------|--------|
| Total | 18491097 | 9302880 | 2191900 | 1379717 | 374638 | 993388 | 85558 | 170997 | 202208 | 690007 | 227918 | 904456 | 430264 | 254088 | 439312 | 121819 | 25302 | 23721 | 672924 |
| A. Terai | 5718770 | 327687 | 2096859 | 1306562 | 352630 | 979541 | 77620 | 154268 | 200284 | 5324 | 2827 | 5483 | 5153 | 3766 | 8655 | 2306 | 23914 | 3197 | 162694 |
| 1. Terai Caste | 2260136 | 129980 | 652828 | 349336 | 67679 | 933622 | 67761 | 28045 | 928 | 726 | 1408 | 1343 | 1971 | 1379 | 2138 | 748 | 1021 | 2096 | 17127 |
| Tharu | 1194224 | 72803 | 40099 | 130658 | 6012 | 924275 | 519 | 3752 | 92 | 320 | 556 | 992 | 744 | 1136 | 1011 | 95 | 870 | 1868 | 8422 |
| Yadav,Ahir | 765137 | 32585 | 476283 | 177393 | 49574 | 5379 | 959 | 15665 | 451 | 199 | 179 | 241 | 1053 | 55 | 716 | 540 | 45 | 25 | 3795 |
| Brahman | 162886 | 17026 | 99535 | 25966 | 11091 | 1209 | 209 | 4680 | 75 | 40 | 634 | 76 | 60 | 26 | 252 | 63 | 19 | 6 | 1919 |
| Rajbanshi | 82177 | 3763 | 7701 | 309 | 51 | 563 | 65812 | 769 | 178 | 141 | 12 | 11 | 17 | 133 | 102 | 28 | 81 | 142 | 2364 |
| Rajput | 55712 | 3803 | 29210 | 15010 | 951 | 2196 | 262 | 3179 | 132 | 26 | 27 | 23 | 97 | 29 | 57 | 22 | 6 | 55 | 627 |
| 2. Trader | 184586 | 28118 | 62035 | 39544 | 12894 | 1335 | 215 | 18654 | 374 | 333 | 103 | 2237 | 1134 | 136 | 565 | 127 | 43 | 208 | 16531 |
| Baniya | 101868 | 12486 | 33549 | 28258 | 10965 | 806 | 75 | 10382 | 68 | 195 | 48 | 2100 | 1052 | 54 | 323 | 56 | 20 | 43 | 1388 |
| Kayastha | 53545 | 10167 | 27341 | 10159 | 1471 | 463 | 45 | 2150 | 48 | 85 | 51 | 91 | 56 | 66 | 174 | 52 | 9 | 29 | 1088 |
| Marwadi | 29173 | 5465 | 1145 | 1127 | 458 | 66 | 95 | 6122 | 258 | 53 | 4 | 46 | 26 | 16 | 68 | 19 | 14 | 136 | 14055 |
| 3. Occupational | 1959497 | 90435 | 1055195 | 590005 | 92878 | 32883 | 3514 | 48156 | 4203 | 3381 | 884 | 1002 | 776 | 1725 | 3551 | 921 | 262 | 329 | 29397 |
| Teli | 250732 | 9919 | 135188 | 78967 | 9444 | 6485 | 486 | 5934 | 551 | 45 | 59 | 98 | 198 | 158 | 424 | 96 | 22 | 10 | 2648 |
| Kushwhaha | 205797 | 6270 | 128477 | 55746 | 5808 | 2541 | 120 | 4670 | 599 | 30 | 29 | 70 | 60 | 41 | 172 | 145 | 13 | 14 | 992 |
| Chamar | 203919 | 8708 | 86857 | 79699 | 18013 | 3647 | 170 | 4755 | 33 | 59 | 24 | 69 | 53 | 23 | 277 | 49 | 15 | 6 | 1462 |
| Kurmi | 166718 | 9097 | 31806 | 86303 | 29876 | 205 | 5 | 6490 | 17 | 29 | 33 | 81 | 31 | 48 | 944 | 20 | 8 | 4 | 1721 |
| Sudhi, Kalwar | 162046 | 6736 | 92084 | 48405 | 4225 | 1180 | 383 | 5808 | 29 | 59 | 53 | 384 | 43 | 614 | 125 | 242 | 34 | 5 | 1637 |
| Musahar | 141980 | 4145 | 100280 | 18783 | 101 | 10204 | 72 | 1721 | 45 | 17 | 27 | 27 | 23 | 236 | 61 | 53 | 19 | 230 | 5936 |
| Dhanuk | 136944 | 3727 | 110442 | 17500 | 35 | 777 | 2 | 2614 | 138 | 26 | 14 | 17 | 31 | 4 | 81 | 54 | 4 | 1 | 1477 |
| Mallah | 110413 | 3109 | 64764 | 34970 | 2505 | 517 | 110 | 3013 | 120 | 115 | 29 | 22 | 13 | 14 | 80 | 48 | 71 | 1 | 912 |
| Kewat | 101482 | 5786 | 61461 | 21543 | 7140 | 225 | 50 | 1856 | 11 | 39 | 21 | 21 | 14 | 11 | 364 | 25 | 2 | | 2913 |
| Dhusadh | 93242 | 2146 | 54151 | 33073 | 27 | 1509 | 9 | 1504 | 63 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 117 | 10 | 47 | 30 | 3 | | 529 |
| Dhobi | 76594 | 5923 | 28292 | 26680 | 8043 | 371 | | 2856 | 1571 | 2117 | 81 | 42 | 60 | 11 | 130 | 23 | 5 | | 389 |
| Kumhar | 72008 | 15018 | 21136 | 23952 | 5816 | 605 | 54 | 1394 | 577 | 509 | 321 | 73 | 45 | 518 | 695 | 47 | 33 | 26 | 1189 |
| Kanuwar | 70634 | 2517 | 11318 | 54144 | 127 | 159 | 2 | 1821 | 36 | 17 | 12 | 42 | 29 | 10 | 85 | 18 | 4 | | 293 |
| Khatwa | 66612 | 1450 | 59836 | 898 | 15 | 3095 | 2 | 626 | 3 | 262 | 10 | 12 | 9 | | 15 | 21 | 2 | | 356 |
| Haluwai | 44417 | 2586 | 33496 | 2548 | 888 | 779 | 579 | 2371 | 386 | 38 | 21 | 14 | 39 | 21 | 18 | 34 | 7 | 18 | 574 |
| Rajbhar | 33433 | 2271 | 22010 | 6635 | 790 | 504 | 28 | 547 | 5 | 8 | 112 | 16 | 8 | 1 | 27 | 10 | 3 | 9 | 449 |
| Gangain | 22526 | 1027 | 13597 | 159 | 25 | 80 | 1442 | 176 | 19 | 2 | 31 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 17 | 5 | 5920 |
| 4. Religious | 662347 | 29814 | 138024 | 158234 | 89749 | 2535 | 3029 | 33668 | 193152 | 204 | 84 | 189 | 996 | 104 | 980 | 268 | 420 | 484 | 10413 |
| Islam | 653055 | 28733 | 133452 | 157121 | 89396 | 2404 | 3010 | 33154 | 193083 | 178 | 80 | 173 | 991 | 98 | 951 | 265 | 404 | 482 | 9080 |
| Shikh | 9292 | 1081 | 4572 | 1113 | 353 | 131 | 19 | 514 | 69 | 26 | 4 | 16 | 5 | 6 | 29 | 3 | 16 | 2 | 1333 |
| 5. Other | 24690 | 2159 | 606 | 266 | 83 | 278 | 320 | 187 | 2 | 70 | 6 | 39 | 11 | 15 | 55 | 40 | 40 | 9 | 20504 |
| Dhimal | 16781 | 1522 | 176 | 72 | 26 | 149 | 204 | 9 | 2 | 59 | 2 | 10 | 10 | 12 | 46 | 2 | 16 | 8 | 14456 |
| Bengali | 7909 | 637 | 430 | 194 | 57 | 129 | 116 | 178 | | 11 | 4 | 29 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 38 | 24 | 1 | 6048 |
| 6. Others (Terai) | 627514 | 47181 | 188171 | 169177 | 89347 | 8888 | 2781 | 25558 | 1625 | 610 | 342 | 673 | 265 | 407 | 1366 | 202 | 22128 | 71 | 68722 |
| B. Hill | 12639956 | 8954812 | 93711 | 72651 | 21876 | 13774 | 7898 | 16419 | 1842 | 684554 | 224931 | 894731 | 424915 | 250116 | 429998 | 22912 | 1276 | 20505 | 503035 |
| 1. Hill Caste | 6697100 | 5631081 | 24686 | 20909 | 9072 | 5074 | 4923 | 9500 | 358 | 678075 | 3731 | 3693 | 4271 | 2880 | 40285 | 2500 | 685 | 159 | 255218 |
| Chhetri | 2968082 | 2753749 | 6602 | 6048 | 2064 | 2051 | 4092 | 3091 | 81 | 3722 | 1173 | 1304 | 1657 | 929 | 16554 | 1275 | 237 | 85 | 163368 |

Appendix 1: Distribution of Caste/Ethnic Population of Nepal by Mother Tongue, 1991.

| | Total | Nepali | Mait-hily | Bhoj-puri | Abadhi | Tharu | Rajba-nshi | Hindi | Urdu | Newari | Gurung | Tamang | Magar | Limbu | Rai Kirati | Sherpa | Satar | Danu war | Other |
|----------------------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|--------|-------|------------|-------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------|--------|-------|----------|--------|
| Brahman(Hill) | 2388455 | 2261258 | 13366 | 12796 | 6200 | 2133 | 318 | 4867 | 176 | 2834 | 818 | 966 | 1559 | 1155 | 18756 | 727 | 329 | 53 | 60144 |
| Newar | 1041090 | 353207 | 3913 | 1039 | 446 | 485 | 487 | 519 | 33 | 671147 | 1657 | 1316 | 851 | 626 | 3201 | 190 | 41 | 14 | 1918 |
| Thakuri | 299473 | 262867 | 805 | 1026 | 362 | 405 | 26 | 1023 | 68 | 372 | 83 | 107 | 204 | 170 | 1774 | 308 | 78 | 7 | 29788 |
| 2. Hill Native | 3721183 | 1421245 | 22971 | 4591 | 2468 | 4367 | 193 | 983 | 748 | 4335 | 218804 | 887784 | 417905 | 245821 | 373623 | 18950 | 453 | 20249 | 75693 |
| Magar | 1339308 | 878472 | 1574 | 1161 | 292 | 1085 | 27 | 272 | 543 | 1132 | 977 | 6229 | 413911 | 215 | 9905 | 1288 | 23 | 51 | 22151 |
| Tamang | 1018252 | 126386 | 2459 | 849 | 141 | 1318 | 19 | 78 | 22 | 1048 | 1332 | 871794 | 2135 | 240 | 1285 | 6342 | 64 | 224 | 2516 |
| Rai | 525551 | 138685 | 982 | 472 | 1026 | 70 | 27 | 173 | 120 | 265 | 365 | 382 | 419 | 3952 | 351282 | 220 | 97 | 604 | 26410 |
| Gurung | 449189 | 201204 | 1316 | 529 | 206 | 753 | 21 | 138 | 24 | 1382 | 216027 | 7876 | 865 | 283 | 2732 | 10835 | 214 | 7 | 4777 |
| Limbu | 297186 | 44998 | 388 | 135 | 674 | 86 | 78 | 62 | 16 | 397 | 71 | 369 | 174 | 241105 | 6978 | 175 | 31 | 10 | 1439 |
| Dhanuwar | 50754 | 10208 | 15550 | 1142 | 19 | 1008 | 9 | 178 | 20 | 12 | 18 | 1064 | 304 | 5 | 1203 | 78 | 24 | 19327 | 585 |
| Sunuwar | 40943 | 21292 | 702 | 303 | 110 | 47 | 12 | 82 | 3 | 99 | 14 | 70 | 97 | 21 | 238 | 12 | 26 | 17815 | |
| 3. Other Native | 62980 | 25254 | 564 | 411 | 90 | 22 | 2 | 67 | 158 | 103 | 431 | 748 | 164 | 221 | 485 | 161 | 12 | 31 | 34056 |
| Chepang | 36656 | 10615 | 209 | 60 | 26 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 7 | 23 | 12 | 677 | 53 | 41 | 234 | 25 | | | 24662 |
| Thakali | 13731 | 8757 | 84 | 142 | 14 | 10 | 1 | 30 | 9 | 71 | 409 | 28 | 19 | 179 | 140 | 68 | 11 | 4 | 3755 |
| Jirel | 4889 | 431 | 62 | 75 | 32 | 2 | | 14 | 140 | 1 | 3 | 23 | 22 | | 3 | 12 | 1 | 27 | 4041 |
| Lepcha | 4826 | 2962 | 140 | 78 | 8 | 7 | | 8 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 17 | 66 | 1 | 56 | 54 | | | 1420 |
| Raute | 2878 | 2489 | 69 | 56 | 10 | 2 | | 5 | | 5 | 3 | 3 | 4 | | 52 | 2 | | | 178 |
| 4. Occupational | 1974477 | 1725332 | 44335 | 45746 | 9808 | 3767 | 2770 | 4882 | 513 | 1711 | 1359 | 1151 | 2248 | 656 | 14463 | 752 | 82 | 61 | 114841 |
| Kami | 963655 | 836909 | 29368 | 27457 | 5802 | 1209 | 44 | 2876 | 58 | 186 | 718 | 440 | 1139 | 204 | 6633 | 633 | 41 | 11 | 49927 |
| Dartai | 367989 | 346802 | 803 | 1199 | 1253 | 296 | 18 | 375 | 147 | 329 | 132 | 149 | 455 | 252 | 2447 | 32 | 3 | 6 | 13291 |
| Sarki | 276224 | 258522 | 2980 | 1995 | 766 | 138 | 4 | 193 | 22 | 61 | 314 | 29 | 233 | 29 | 2387 | 23 | 5 | 3 | 8520 |
| Sanyasi | 181726 | 155756 | 4987 | 9332 | 1511 | 793 | 1104 | 750 | 48 | 769 | 62 | 100 | 68 | 63 | 1691 | 16 | 17 | 20 | 4639 |
| Kumal | 76635 | 65246 | 2797 | 3439 | 237 | 482 | 2 | 397 | 10 | 35 | 98 | 129 | 96 | 56 | 797 | 13 | 4 | 1 | 2796 |
| Majhi | 55050 | 35948 | 2916 | 1737 | 99 | 488 | 1575 | 181 | 13 | 70 | 14 | 90 | 139 | 11 | 216 | 4 | 6 | 14 | 11529 |
| Thami | 19103 | 4819 | 112 | 44 | 7 | 74 | | 4 | 1 | 176 | 1 | 30 | 14 | 1 | 57 | 19 | 2 | 2 | 13740 |
| Darai | 10759 | 4262 | 98 | 66 | 1 | 132 | | 23 | 16 | 74 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 45 | 1 | | | 6022 |
| Wadi | 7082 | 6513 | 18 | 136 | 53 | 9 | 1 | 10 | 2 | | 3 | 1 | 13 | | 49 | | | | 274 |
| Bote | 6718 | 3216 | 72 | 126 | 24 | 92 | | 13 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 149 | 27 | 1 | 22 | 8 | 3 | | 2954 |
| Gaine | 4484 | 4248 | 20 | 11 | 3 | 1 | 22 | 2 | 2 | 1 | | 25 | 14 | 31 | 54 | | 1 | 49 | |
| Raji | 3274 | 2077 | 89 | 95 | 27 | 11 | | 10 | | 3 | 3 | 1 | 4 | | 36 | 3 | | | 915 |
| Churaute | 1778 | 1014 | 75 | 109 | 25 | 42 | | 48 | 188 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 42 | 1 | 29 | | 1 | 3 | 185 |
| 5. Others (Hill) | 184216 | 151900 | 1155 | 994 | 438 | 544 | 10 | 987 | 65 | 330 | 606 | 1355 | 327 | 538 | 1142 | 549 | 44 | 5 | 23227 |
| C. Mountain | 124562 | 17624 | 707 | 177 | 35 | 17 | 13 | 59 | 59 | 67 | 130 | 4151 | 83 | 174 | 588 | 96582 | 98 | 12 | 3986 |
| 1. Mountain Caste | 122821 | 16557 | 671 | 140 | 27 | 16 | 11 | 51 | 46 | 60 | 105 | 4023 | 81 | 119 | 584 | 96491 | 97 | 12 | 3730 |
| Sherpa | 110358 | 14279 | 597 | 111 | 24 | 11 | 11 | 44 | 43 | 54 | 87 | 2526 | 79 | 105 | 547 | 88309 | 95 | 9 | 3427 |
| Bhote | 12463 | 2278 | 74 | 29 | 3 | 5 | | 7 | 3 | 6 | 18 | 1497 | 2 | 14 | 37 | 8182 | 2 | 3 | 303 |
| 2. Others (Mountain) | 1741 | 1067 | 36 | 37 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 13 | 7 | 25 | 128 | 2 | 55 | 4 | 91 | 1 | | 256 |
| E. Not Stated | 4858 | 2491 | 568 | 302 | 85 | 53 | 21 | 164 | 18 | 39 | 12 | 82 | 104 | 30 | 66 | 7 | 13 | 6 | 797 |
| D. Foreigners | 2951 | 266 | 55 | 25 | 12 | 3 | 6 | 87 | 5 | 23 | 18 | 9 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 2412 |

Source: CBS, Population Census 1991, (Special Tabulation)

Appendix 2: Distribution of Caste/Ethnic of Rural Population by Mother Tongue, 1991.

| | Total | Nepali | Mait-hily | Bhoj-puri | Abadhi | Tharu | Rajba-nshi | Hindi | Urdu | Newari | Gurung | Tamang | Magar | Limbu | Rai Kirati | Sherpa | Satar | Other |
|----------------------|----------|---------|-----------|-----------|--------|--------|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------|--------|-------|--------|
| Total | 16795378 | 8486934 | 2044249 | 1310090 | 347510 | 960252 | 82513 | 124200 | 167884 | 343411 | 201443 | 864835 | 416465 | 244293 | 412367 | 115019 | 24763 | 649150 |
| A. Terai | 5292681 | 266850 | 1962307 | 1244189 | 328804 | 947323 | 74868 | 113788 | 166448 | 2801 | 2397 | 4883 | 4668 | 3256 | 7293 | 1958 | 23516 | 137332 |
| 1. Terai Caste | 2155230 | 114096 | 617053 | 340616 | 65268 | 901942 | 65185 | 22898 | 763 | 599 | 1240 | 1254 | 1890 | 1253 | 1906 | 676 | 1006 | 17585 |
| Tharu | 1153358 | 67940 | 37810 | 129466 | 5741 | 893235 | 503 | 3122 | 75 | 269 | 510 | 936 | 724 | 1025 | 973 | 79 | 867 | 10083 |
| Yadav,Ahir | 736375 | 28485 | 459574 | 173438 | 48519 | 5034 | 949 | 13783 | 387 | 168 | 156 | 221 | 1011 | 51 | 631 | 507 | 40 | 3421 |
| Brahman | 140393 | 11825 | 87795 | 23747 | 10137 | 1052 | 203 | 3266 | 43 | 23 | 553 | 68 | 53 | 22 | 173 | 52 | 18 | 1363 |
| Rajbanshi | 77045 | 3270 | 6265 | 288 | 46 | 432 | 63271 | 535 | 149 | 120 | 8 | 11 | 16 | 129 | 89 | 28 | 76 | 2312 |
| Rajput | 48059 | 2576 | 25609 | 13677 | 825 | 2189 | 259 | 2192 | 109 | 19 | 13 | 18 | 86 | 26 | 40 | 10 | 5 | 406 |
| 2. Trader | 128665 | 17502 | 47609 | 35081 | 9371 | 1231 | 192 | 8569 | 208 | 107 | 63 | 2067 | 1068 | 68 | 388 | 76 | 20 | 5045 |
| Baniya | 80054 | 7991 | 28060 | 25223 | 7930 | 751 | 70 | 5484 | 42 | 69 | 32 | 1984 | 999 | 40 | 226 | 40 | 7 | 1106 |
| Kayastha | 40405 | 8147 | 18975 | 9084 | 1175 | 437 | 43 | 1348 | 40 | 33 | 30 | 77 | 49 | 25 | 145 | 34 | 5 | 758 |
| Marwadi | 8206 | 1364 | 574 | 774 | 266 | 43 | 79 | 1737 | 126 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 20 | 3 | 17 | 2 | 8 | 3181 |
| 3. Occupational | 1828883 | 75284 | 990084 | 561883 | 88187 | 32633 | 3425 | 37539 | 3150 | 1378 | 735 | 866 | 697 | 1542 | 3122 | 834 | 225 | 27299 |
| 4. Religious | 587753 | 21436 | 133503 | 146329 | 83059 | 2501 | 2997 | 25827 | 161057 | 154 | 75 | 113 | 767 | 73 | 702 | 177 | 395 | 8588 |
| 5. Other | 592150 | 38532 | 174058 | 160280 | 82919 | 9016 | 3069 | 18955 | 1270 | 563 | 284 | 583 | 246 | 320 | 1175 | 195 | 21870 | 78815 |
| <i>B. Hill</i> | 11383412 | 8203453 | 80794 | 65458 | 18637 | 12872 | 7610 | 10251 | 1384 | 340570 | 198934 | 856426 | 411637 | 240887 | 404479 | 21666 | 1159 | 507195 |
| 1. Hill Caste | 5767527 | 5074163 | 18068 | 18300 | 7378 | 4407 | 4672 | 5217 | 211 | 336664 | 2622 | 2875 | 3791 | 2691 | 35985 | 2176 | 626 | 247681 |
| Chhetri | 2752687 | 2549276 | 5344 | 5500 | 1733 | 1829 | 4061 | 1812 | 45 | 1948 | 853 | 1106 | 1513 | 864 | 15094 | 1184 | 217 | 160308 |
| Brahman | 2105586 | 1995567 | 9096 | 11350 | 5145 | 1872 | 301 | 2471 | 111 | 1155 | 615 | 798 | 1402 | 1098 | 16735 | 578 | 297 | 56995 |
| Newar | 630917 | 285353 | 3052 | 547 | 256 | 335 | 284 | 266 | 12 | 333429 | 1089 | 896 | 678 | 580 | 2545 | 121 | 34 | 1440 |
| Thakuri | 278337 | 243967 | 576 | 903 | 244 | 371 | 26 | 668 | 43 | 132 | 65 | 75 | 198 | 149 | 1611 | 293 | 78 | 28938 |
| 2. Hill Native | 3504433 | 1317325 | 21902 | 4233 | 2126 | 4182 | 173 | 700 | 629 | 2750 | 194119 | 850586 | 405254 | 236829 | 353246 | 18083 | 412 | 91884 |
| Magar | 1284037 | 837566 | 1468 | 1089 | 260 | 1035 | 23 | 211 | 521 | 848 | 791 | 5712 | 401672 | 205 | 9454 | 1261 | 19 | 21902 |
| Tamang | 963805 | 109838 | 2208 | 750 | 113 | 1269 | 18 | 58 | 19 | 702 | 1133 | 836359 | 1932 | 197 | 1121 | 5784 | 56 | 2248 |
| Rai | 491486 | 124648 | 834 | 430 | 870 | 66 | 22 | 91 | 43 | 119 | 294 | 312 | 379 | 3700 | 332645 | 200 | 93 | 26740 |
| Gurung | 393681 | 175052 | 1073 | 453 | 188 | 673 | 21 | 82 | 9 | 726 | 191820 | 6778 | 740 | 193 | 2487 | 10630 | 194 | 2562 |
| Limbu | 283033 | 40698 | 339 | 124 | 635 | 84 | 71 | 49 | 14 | 272 | 54 | 335 | 148 | 232508 | 6182 | 120 | 26 | 1374 |
| Danuwar | 50322 | 9978 | 15447 | 1140 | 16 | 1008 | 9 | 172 | 20 | 9 | 17 | 1032 | 295 | 5 | 1203 | 76 | 24 | 19871 |
| Sunuwar | 38069 | 19545 | 533 | 247 | 44 | 47 | 9 | 37 | 3 | 74 | 10 | 58 | 88 | 21 | 154 | 12 | 0 | 17187 |
| 3. Other Native | 58250 | 21999 | 518 | 355 | 68 | 17 | 1 | 38 | 146 | 55 | 345 | 713 | 145 | 212 | 439 | 136 | 11 | 33052 |
| 4. Occupational | 1881005 | 1647979 | 39376 | 41651 | 8800 | 3727 | 2755 | 3588 | 373 | 923 | 1289 | 1058 | 2167 | 631 | 13743 | 737 | 70 | 112138 |
| 5. Others | 172197 | 141987 | 930 | 919 | 265 | 539 | 9 | 708 | 25 | 178 | 559 | 1194 | 280 | 524 | 1066 | 534 | 40 | 22440 |
| <i>C. Mountain</i> | 114511 | 14538 | 631 | 142 | 28 | 14 | 11 | 35 | 47 | 19 | 100 | 3456 | 61 | 125 | 534 | 91384 | 75 | 3311 |
| 1. Mountain Caste | 113061 | 13625 | 597 | 106 | 21 | 13 | 9 | 30 | 36 | 19 | 75 | 3334 | 60 | 90 | 530 | 91293 | 75 | 3148 |
| Sherpa | 101110 | 11639 | 527 | 85 | 19 | 9 | 9 | 25 | 33 | 15 | 58 | 1878 | 58 | 77 | 496 | 83224 | 73 | 2885 |
| Bhote | 11951 | 1986 | 70 | 21 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 17 | 1456 | 2 | 13 | 34 | 8069 | 2 | 263 |
| 2. Others | 1450 | 913 | 34 | 36 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 11 | 0 | 25 | 122 | 1 | 35 | 4 | 91 | 0 | 163 |
| <i>E. Not Stated</i> | 3869 | 2029 | 489 | 288 | 36 | 41 | 21 | 104 | 5 | 17 | 6 | 66 | 93 | 23 | 60 | 6 | 13 | 572 |
| <i>D. Foreigners</i> | 905 | 64 | 28 | 13 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 22 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 740 |

Source: Same as Appendix 1.

Appendix 3: Distribution of Caste/Ethnic Urban Population by Mother Tongue, 1991

| | Total | Nepali | Mait-hily | Bhoj-puri | Abadhi | Tharu | Rajba-nshi | Hindi | Urdu | Newari | Gurung | Tamang | Magar | Limbu | Rai Kirati | Sherpa | Satar | Other |
|-------------------|---------|--------|-----------|-----------|--------|-------|------------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|------------|--------|-------|-------|
| Total | 1695719 | 815946 | 147651 | 69627 | 27128 | 33136 | 3045 | 46797 | 34324 | 346596 | 26475 | 39621 | 13799 | 9795 | 26945 | 6800 | 539 | 47495 |
| A. Terai | 426089 | 60837 | 134552 | 62373 | 23826 | 32218 | 2752 | 40480 | 33836 | 2523 | 430 | 600 | 485 | 510 | 1362 | 348 | 398 | 28559 |
| 1. Terai Caste | 104906 | 15884 | 35775 | 8720 | 2411 | 31680 | 2576 | 5147 | 165 | 127 | 168 | 89 | 81 | 126 | 232 | 72 | 15 | 1638 |
| Tharu | 40866 | 4863 | 2289 | 1192 | 271 | 31040 | 16 | 630 | 17 | 51 | 46 | 56 | 20 | 111 | 38 | 16 | 3 | 207 |
| Yadav,Ahir | 28762 | 4100 | 16709 | 3955 | 1055 | 345 | 10 | 1882 | 64 | 31 | 23 | 20 | 42 | 4 | 85 | 33 | 5 | 399 |
| Brahman | 22493 | 5201 | 11740 | 2219 | 954 | 157 | 6 | 1414 | 32 | 17 | 81 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 79 | 11 | 1 | 562 |
| Rajbanshi | 5132 | 493 | 1436 | 21 | 5 | 131 | 2541 | 234 | 29 | 21 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 13 | 0 | 5 | 194 |
| Rajput | 7653 | 1227 | 3601 | 1333 | 126 | 7 | 3 | 987 | 23 | 7 | 14 | 5 | 11 | 3 | 17 | 12 | 1 | 276 |
| 2. Trader | 55921 | 10616 | 14426 | 4463 | 3523 | 104 | 23 | 10085 | 166 | 226 | 40 | 170 | 66 | 68 | 177 | 51 | 23 | 11694 |
| Baniya | 21814 | 4495 | 5489 | 3035 | 3035 | 55 | 5 | 4898 | 26 | 126 | 16 | 116 | 53 | 14 | 97 | 16 | 13 | 325 |
| Kayastha | 13140 | 2020 | 8366 | 1075 | 296 | 26 | 2 | 802 | 8 | 52 | 21 | 14 | 7 | 41 | 29 | 18 | 4 | 359 |
| Marwadi | 20967 | 4101 | 571 | 353 | 192 | 23 | 16 | 4385 | 132 | 48 | 3 | 40 | 6 | 13 | 51 | 17 | 6 | 11010 |
| 3. Occupational | 130614 | 15151 | 65111 | 28122 | 4691 | 250 | 89 | 10617 | 1053 | 2003 | 149 | 136 | 79 | 183 | 429 | 87 | 37 | 2427 |
| 4. Religious | 74594 | 8378 | 4521 | 11905 | 6690 | 34 | 32 | 7841 | 32095 | 50 | 9 | 76 | 229 | 31 | 278 | 91 | 25 | 2309 |
| 5. Other | 60054 | 10808 | 14719 | 9163 | 6511 | 150 | 32 | 6790 | 357 | 117 | 64 | 129 | 30 | 102 | 246 | 47 | 298 | 10491 |
| <i>B. Hill</i> | 1256544 | 751359 | 12917 | 7193 | 3239 | 902 | 288 | 6168 | 458 | 343984 | 25997 | 38305 | 13278 | 9229 | 25519 | 1246 | 117 | 16345 |
| 1. Hill Caste | 929573 | 556918 | 6618 | 2609 | 1694 | 667 | 251 | 4283 | 147 | 341411 | 1109 | 818 | 480 | 189 | 4300 | 324 | 59 | 7696 |
| Chhetri | 215395 | 204473 | 1258 | 548 | 331 | 222 | 31 | 1279 | 36 | 1774 | 320 | 198 | 144 | 65 | 1460 | 91 | 20 | 3145 |
| Brahman | 282869 | 265691 | 4270 | 1446 | 1055 | 261 | 17 | 2396 | 65 | 1679 | 203 | 168 | 157 | 57 | 2021 | 149 | 32 | 3202 |
| Newar | 410173 | 67854 | 861 | 492 | 190 | 150 | 203 | 253 | 21 | 337718 | 568 | 420 | 173 | 46 | 656 | 69 | 7 | 492 |
| Thakuri | 21136 | 18900 | 229 | 123 | 118 | 34 | 0 | 355 | 25 | 240 | 18 | 32 | 6 | 21 | 163 | 15 | 0 | 857 |
| 2. Hill Native | 216750 | 103920 | 1069 | 358 | 342 | 185 | 20 | 283 | 119 | 1585 | 24685 | 37198 | 12651 | 8992 | 20377 | 867 | 41 | 4058 |
| Magar | 55271 | 40906 | 106 | 72 | 32 | 50 | 4 | 61 | 22 | 284 | 186 | 517 | 12239 | 10 | 451 | 27 | 4 | 300 |
| Tamang | 54447 | 16548 | 251 | 99 | 28 | 49 | 1 | 20 | 3 | 346 | 199 | 35435 | 203 | 43 | 164 | 558 | 8 | 492 |
| Rai | 34065 | 14037 | 148 | 42 | 156 | 4 | 5 | 82 | 77 | 146 | 71 | 70 | 40 | 252 | 18637 | 20 | 4 | 274 |
| Gurung | 55508 | 26152 | 243 | 76 | 18 | 80 | 0 | 56 | 15 | 656 | 24207 | 1098 | 125 | 90 | 245 | 205 | 20 | 2222 |
| Limbu | 14153 | 4300 | 49 | 11 | 39 | 2 | 7 | 13 | 2 | 125 | 17 | 34 | 26 | 8597 | 796 | 55 | 5 | 75 |
| Danuwar | 432 | 230 | 103 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 32 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 41 |
| Sunuwar | 2874 | 1747 | 169 | 56 | 66 | 0 | 3 | 45 | 0 | 25 | 4 | 12 | 9 | 0 | 84 | 0 | 0 | 654 |
| 3. Other Native | 4730 | 3255 | 46 | 56 | 22 | 5 | 1 | 29 | 12 | 48 | 86 | 35 | 19 | 9 | 46 | 25 | 1 | 1035 |
| 4. Occupational | 93472 | 77353 | 4959 | 4095 | 1008 | 40 | 15 | 1294 | 140 | 788 | 70 | 93 | 81 | 25 | 720 | 15 | 12 | 2764 |
| 5. Others | 12019 | 9913 | 225 | 75 | 173 | 5 | 1 | 279 | 40 | 152 | 47 | 161 | 47 | 14 | 76 | 15 | 4 | 792 |
| C. Mountain | 10051 | 3086 | 76 | 35 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 24 | 12 | 48 | 30 | 695 | 22 | 49 | 54 | 5198 | 23 | 687 |
| 1. Mountain Caste | 9760 | 2932 | 74 | 34 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 21 | 10 | 41 | 30 | 689 | 21 | 29 | 54 | 5198 | 22 | 594 |
| Sherpa | 9248 | 2640 | 70 | 26 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 19 | 10 | 39 | 29 | 648 | 21 | 28 | 51 | 5085 | 22 | 551 |
| Bhote | 512 | 292 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 41 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 113 | 0 | 43 |
| 2. Others | 291 | 154 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 93 |
| E. Not Stated | 989 | 462 | 79 | 14 | 49 | 12 | 0 | 60 | 13 | 22 | 6 | 16 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 231 |
| D. Foreigners | 2046 | 202 | 27 | 12 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 65 | 5 | 19 | 12 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 1673 |

Source: Same as Appendix 1.

Appendix 4: Percentage Distribution of Caste/Ethnic of Urban Population by Mother Tongue, 1991.

| | Total | Nepali | Mait-hily | Bhoj-puri | Abadhi | Tharu | Rajba-nshi | Hindi | Urdu | Newari | Gurung | Tamang | Magar | Limbu | Rai Kirati | Sherpa | Satar | Other |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-----------|-----------|--------|-------|------------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|------------|--------|-------|-------|
| Total | 100.00 | 48.12 | 8.71 | 4.11 | 1.60 | 1.95 | 0.18 | 2.76 | 2.02 | 20.44 | 1.56 | 2.34 | 0.81 | 0.58 | 1.59 | 0.40 | 0.03 | 2.80 |
| A. Terai | 100.00 | 14.28 | 31.58 | 14.64 | 5.59 | 7.56 | 0.65 | 9.50 | 7.94 | 0.59 | 0.10 | 0.14 | 0.11 | 0.12 | 0.32 | 0.08 | 0.09 | 6.70 |
| 1. Terai Caste | 100.00 | 15.14 | 34.10 | 8.31 | 2.30 | 30.20 | 2.46 | 4.91 | 0.16 | 0.12 | 0.16 | 0.08 | 0.08 | 0.12 | 0.22 | 0.07 | 0.01 | 1.56 |
| Tharu | 100.00 | 11.90 | 5.60 | 2.92 | 0.66 | 75.96 | 0.04 | 1.54 | 0.04 | 0.12 | 0.11 | 0.14 | 0.05 | 0.27 | 0.09 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.51 |
| Yadav,Ahir | 100.00 | 14.25 | 58.09 | 13.75 | 3.67 | 1.20 | 0.03 | 6.54 | 0.22 | 0.11 | 0.08 | 0.07 | 0.15 | 0.01 | 0.30 | 0.11 | 0.02 | 1.39 |
| Brahman | 100.00 | 23.12 | 52.19 | 9.87 | 4.24 | 0.70 | 0.03 | 6.29 | 0.14 | 0.08 | 0.36 | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.35 | 0.05 | 0.00 | 2.50 |
| Rajbanshi | 100.00 | 9.61 | 27.98 | 0.41 | 0.10 | 2.55 | 49.51 | 4.56 | 0.57 | 0.41 | 0.08 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.08 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.10 | 3.78 |
| Rajput | 100.00 | 16.03 | 47.05 | 17.42 | 1.65 | 0.09 | 0.04 | 12.90 | 0.30 | 0.09 | 0.18 | 0.07 | 0.14 | 0.04 | 0.22 | 0.16 | 0.01 | 3.61 |
| 2. Trader | 100.00 | 18.98 | 25.80 | 7.98 | 6.30 | 0.19 | 0.04 | 18.03 | 0.30 | 0.40 | 0.07 | 0.30 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.32 | 0.09 | 0.04 | 20.91 |
| Baniya | 100.00 | 20.61 | 25.16 | 13.91 | 13.91 | 0.25 | 0.02 | 22.45 | 0.12 | 0.58 | 0.07 | 0.53 | 0.24 | 0.06 | 0.44 | 0.07 | 0.06 | 1.49 |
| Kayastha | 100.00 | 15.37 | 63.67 | 8.18 | 2.25 | 0.20 | 0.02 | 6.10 | 0.06 | 0.40 | 0.16 | 0.11 | 0.05 | 0.31 | 0.22 | 0.14 | 0.03 | 2.73 |
| Marwadi | 100.00 | 19.56 | 2.72 | 1.68 | 0.92 | 0.11 | 0.08 | 20.91 | 0.63 | 0.23 | 0.01 | 0.19 | 0.03 | 0.06 | 0.24 | 0.08 | 0.03 | 52.51 |
| 3. Occupational | 100.00 | 11.60 | 49.85 | 21.53 | 3.59 | 0.19 | 0.07 | 8.13 | 0.81 | 1.53 | 0.11 | 0.10 | 0.06 | 0.14 | 0.33 | 0.07 | 0.03 | 1.86 |
| 4. Religious | 100.00 | 11.23 | 6.06 | 15.96 | 8.97 | 0.05 | 0.04 | 10.51 | 43.03 | 0.07 | 0.01 | 0.10 | 0.31 | 0.04 | 0.37 | 0.12 | 0.03 | 3.10 |
| 5. Other | 100.00 | 18.00 | 24.51 | 15.26 | 10.84 | 0.25 | 0.05 | 11.31 | 0.59 | 0.19 | 0.11 | 0.21 | 0.05 | 0.17 | 0.41 | 0.08 | 0.50 | 17.47 |
| B. Hill | 100.00 | 59.80 | 1.03 | 0.57 | 0.26 | 0.07 | 0.02 | 0.49 | 0.04 | 27.38 | 2.07 | 3.05 | 1.06 | 0.73 | 2.03 | 0.10 | 0.01 | 1.30 |
| 1. Hill Caste | 100.00 | 59.91 | 0.71 | 0.28 | 0.18 | 0.07 | 0.03 | 0.46 | 0.02 | 36.73 | 0.12 | 0.09 | 0.05 | 0.02 | 0.46 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.83 |
| Chhetri | 100.00 | 94.93 | 0.58 | 0.25 | 0.15 | 0.10 | 0.01 | 0.59 | 0.02 | 0.82 | 0.15 | 0.09 | 0.07 | 0.03 | 0.68 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 1.46 |
| Brahman | 100.00 | 93.93 | 1.51 | 0.51 | 0.37 | 0.09 | 0.01 | 0.85 | 0.02 | 0.59 | 0.07 | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0.02 | 0.71 | 0.05 | 0.01 | 1.13 |
| Newar | 100.00 | 16.54 | 0.21 | 0.12 | 0.05 | 0.04 | 0.05 | 0.06 | 0.01 | 82.34 | 0.14 | 0.10 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.16 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.12 |
| Thakuri | 100.00 | 89.42 | 1.08 | 0.58 | 0.56 | 0.16 | 0.00 | 1.68 | 0.12 | 1.14 | 0.09 | 0.15 | 0.03 | 0.10 | 0.77 | 0.07 | 0.00 | 4.05 |
| 2. Hill Native | 100.00 | 47.94 | 0.49 | 0.17 | 0.16 | 0.09 | 0.01 | 0.13 | 0.05 | 0.73 | 11.39 | 17.16 | 5.84 | 4.15 | 9.40 | 0.40 | 0.02 | 1.87 |
| Magar | 100.00 | 74.01 | 0.19 | 0.13 | 0.06 | 0.09 | 0.01 | 0.11 | 0.04 | 0.51 | 0.34 | 0.94 | 22.14 | 0.02 | 0.82 | 0.05 | 0.01 | 0.54 |
| Tamang | 100.00 | 30.39 | 0.46 | 0.18 | 0.05 | 0.09 | 0.00 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.64 | 0.37 | 65.08 | 0.37 | 0.08 | 0.30 | 1.02 | 0.01 | 0.90 |
| Rai | 100.00 | 41.21 | 0.43 | 0.12 | 0.46 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.24 | 0.23 | 0.43 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.12 | 0.74 | 54.71 | 0.06 | 0.01 | 0.80 |
| Gurung | 100.00 | 47.11 | 0.44 | 0.14 | 0.03 | 0.14 | 0.00 | 0.10 | 0.03 | 1.18 | 43.61 | 1.98 | 0.23 | 0.16 | 0.44 | 0.37 | 0.04 | 4.00 |
| Limbu | 100.00 | 30.38 | 0.35 | 0.08 | 0.28 | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0.09 | 0.01 | 0.88 | 0.12 | 0.24 | 0.18 | 60.74 | 5.62 | 0.39 | 0.04 | 0.53 |
| Danuwar | 100.00 | 53.24 | 23.84 | 0.46 | 0.69 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.39 | 0.00 | 0.69 | 0.23 | 7.41 | 2.08 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.46 | 0.00 | 9.49 |
| Sunuwar | 100.00 | 60.79 | 5.88 | 1.95 | 2.30 | 0.00 | 0.10 | 1.57 | 0.00 | 0.87 | 0.14 | 0.42 | 0.31 | 0.00 | 2.92 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 22.76 |
| 3. Other Native | 100.00 | 68.82 | 0.97 | 1.18 | 0.47 | 0.11 | 0.02 | 0.61 | 0.25 | 1.01 | 1.82 | 0.74 | 0.40 | 0.19 | 0.97 | 0.53 | 0.02 | 21.88 |
| 4. Occupational | 100.00 | 82.76 | 5.31 | 4.38 | 1.08 | 0.04 | 0.02 | 1.38 | 0.15 | 0.84 | 0.07 | 0.10 | 0.09 | 0.03 | 0.77 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 2.96 |
| 5. Others | 100.00 | 82.48 | 1.87 | 0.62 | 1.44 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 2.32 | 0.33 | 1.26 | 0.39 | 1.34 | 0.39 | 0.12 | 0.63 | 0.12 | 0.03 | 6.59 |
| C. Mountain | 100.00 | 30.70 | 0.76 | 0.35 | 0.07 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.24 | 0.12 | 0.48 | 0.30 | 6.91 | 0.22 | 0.49 | 0.54 | ***** | 0.23 | 6.84 |
| 1. Mountain Caste | 100.00 | 30.04 | 0.76 | 0.35 | 0.06 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.22 | 0.10 | 0.42 | 0.31 | 7.06 | 0.22 | 0.30 | 0.55 | ***** | 0.23 | 6.09 |
| Sherpa | 100.00 | 28.55 | 0.76 | 0.28 | 0.05 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.21 | 0.11 | 0.42 | 0.31 | 7.01 | 0.23 | 0.30 | 0.55 | ***** | 0.24 | 5.96 |
| Bhote | 100.00 | 57.03 | 0.78 | 1.56 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.00 | 0.39 | 0.00 | 0.39 | 0.20 | 8.01 | 0.00 | 0.20 | 0.59 | ***** | 0.00 | 8.40 |
| 2. Others | 100.00 | 52.92 | 0.69 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.03 | 0.69 | 2.41 | 0.00 | 2.06 | 0.34 | 6.87 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.34 | 31.96 |
| E. Not Stated | 100.00 | 46.71 | 7.99 | 1.42 | 4.95 | 1.21 | 0.00 | 6.07 | 1.31 | 2.22 | 0.61 | 1.62 | 1.11 | 0.71 | 0.61 | 0.10 | 0.00 | 23.36 |
| D. Foreigners | 100.00 | 9.87 | 1.32 | 0.59 | 0.34 | 0.05 | 0.15 | 3.18 | 0.24 | 0.93 | 0.59 | 0.24 | 0.15 | 0.00 | 0.20 | 0.34 | 0.05 | 81.77 |

Appendix 5: Percentage Distribution of Caste/Ethnic of Rural Population by Mother Tongue, 1991.

| | Total | Nepali | Mait-hily | Bhoj-puri | Abadhi | Tharu | Rajba-nshi | Hindi | Urdu | Newari | Gurung | Tamang | Magar | Limbu | Rai Kirati | Sherpa | Satar | Other |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-----------|-----------|--------|-------|------------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|------------|--------|-------|-------|
| Total | 100.00 | 50.53 | 12.17 | 7.80 | 2.07 | 5.72 | 0.49 | 0.74 | 1.00 | 2.04 | 1.20 | 5.15 | 2.48 | 1.45 | 2.46 | 0.68 | 0.15 | 3.87 |
| A. Terai | 100.00 | 5.04 | 37.08 | 23.51 | 6.21 | 17.90 | 1.41 | 2.15 | 3.14 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.06 | 0.14 | 0.04 | 0.44 | 2.59 |
| 1. Terai Caste | 100.00 | 5.29 | 28.63 | 15.80 | 3.03 | 41.85 | 3.02 | 1.06 | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0.09 | 0.06 | 0.09 | 0.03 | 0.05 | 0.82 |
| Tharu | 100.00 | 5.89 | 3.28 | 11.23 | 0.50 | 77.45 | 0.04 | 0.27 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.08 | 0.06 | 0.09 | 0.08 | 0.01 | 0.08 | 0.87 |
| Yadav,Ahir | 100.00 | 3.87 | 62.41 | 23.55 | 6.59 | 0.68 | 0.13 | 1.87 | 0.05 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.14 | 0.01 | 0.09 | 0.07 | 0.01 | 0.46 |
| Brahman | 100.00 | 8.42 | 62.54 | 16.91 | 7.22 | 0.75 | 0.14 | 2.33 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.39 | 0.05 | 0.04 | 0.02 | 0.12 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.97 |
| Rajbanshi | 100.00 | 4.24 | 8.13 | 0.37 | 0.06 | 0.56 | 82.12 | 0.69 | 0.19 | 0.16 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.17 | 0.12 | 0.04 | 0.10 | 3.00 |
| Rajput | 100.00 | 5.36 | 53.29 | 28.46 | 1.72 | 4.55 | 0.54 | 4.56 | 0.23 | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0.18 | 0.05 | 0.08 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.84 |
| 2. Trader | 100.00 | 13.60 | 37.00 | 27.27 | 7.28 | 0.96 | 0.15 | 6.66 | 0.16 | 0.08 | 0.05 | 1.61 | 0.83 | 0.05 | 0.30 | 0.06 | 0.02 | 3.92 |
| Baniya | 100.00 | 9.98 | 35.05 | 31.51 | 9.91 | 0.94 | 0.09 | 6.85 | 0.05 | 0.09 | 0.04 | 2.48 | 1.25 | 0.05 | 0.28 | 0.05 | 0.01 | 1.38 |
| Kayastha | 100.00 | 20.16 | 46.96 | 22.48 | 2.91 | 1.08 | 0.11 | 3.34 | 0.10 | 0.08 | 0.07 | 0.19 | 0.12 | 0.06 | 0.36 | 0.08 | 0.01 | 1.88 |
| Marwadi | 100.00 | 16.62 | 6.99 | 9.43 | 3.24 | 0.52 | 0.96 | 21.17 | 1.54 | 0.06 | 0.01 | 0.07 | 0.24 | 0.04 | 0.21 | 0.02 | 0.10 | 38.76 |
| 3. Occupational | 100.00 | 4.12 | 54.14 | 30.72 | 4.82 | 1.78 | 0.19 | 2.05 | 0.17 | 0.08 | 0.04 | 0.05 | 0.04 | 0.08 | 0.17 | 0.05 | 0.01 | 1.49 |
| 4. Religious | 100.00 | 3.55 | 22.71 | 24.90 | 14.13 | 0.43 | 0.51 | 4.39 | 27.40 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.13 | 0.01 | 0.12 | 0.03 | 0.07 | 1.46 |
| 5. Other | 100.00 | 6.51 | 29.39 | 27.07 | 14.00 | 1.52 | 0.52 | 3.20 | 0.21 | 0.10 | 0.05 | 0.10 | 0.04 | 0.05 | 0.20 | 0.03 | 3.69 | 13.31 |
| <i>B. Hill</i> | 100.00 | 72.06 | 0.71 | 0.58 | 0.16 | 0.11 | 0.07 | 0.09 | 0.01 | 2.99 | 1.75 | 7.52 | 3.62 | 2.12 | 3.55 | 0.19 | 0.01 | 4.46 |
| 1. Hill Caste | 100.00 | 87.98 | 0.31 | 0.32 | 0.13 | 0.08 | 0.08 | 0.09 | 0.00 | 5.84 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.07 | 0.05 | 0.62 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 4.29 |
| Chhetri | 100.00 | 92.61 | 0.19 | 0.20 | 0.06 | 0.07 | 0.15 | 0.07 | 0.00 | 0.07 | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.55 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 5.82 |
| Brahman | 100.00 | 94.77 | 0.43 | 0.54 | 0.24 | 0.09 | 0.01 | 0.12 | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0.07 | 0.05 | 0.79 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 2.71 |
| Newar | 100.00 | 45.23 | 0.48 | 0.09 | 0.04 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.04 | 0.00 | 52.85 | 0.17 | 0.14 | 0.11 | 0.09 | 0.40 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.23 |
| Thakuri | 100.00 | 87.65 | 0.21 | 0.32 | 0.09 | 0.13 | 0.01 | 0.24 | 0.02 | 0.05 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.07 | 0.05 | 0.58 | 0.11 | 0.03 | 10.40 |
| 2. Hill Native | 100.00 | 37.59 | 0.62 | 0.12 | 0.06 | 0.12 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.08 | 5.54 | 24.27 | 11.56 | 6.76 | 10.08 | 0.52 | 0.01 | 2.62 |
| Magar | 100.00 | 65.23 | 0.11 | 0.08 | 0.02 | 0.08 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.07 | 0.06 | 0.44 | 31.28 | 0.02 | 0.74 | 0.10 | 0.00 | 1.71 |
| Tamang | 100.00 | 11.40 | 0.23 | 0.08 | 0.01 | 0.13 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.07 | 0.12 | 86.78 | 0.20 | 0.02 | 0.12 | 0.60 | 0.01 | 0.23 |
| Rai | 100.00 | 25.36 | 0.17 | 0.09 | 0.18 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0.08 | 0.75 | 67.68 | 0.04 | 0.02 | 5.44 |
| Gurung | 100.00 | 44.47 | 0.27 | 0.12 | 0.05 | 0.17 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.18 | 48.72 | 1.72 | 0.19 | 0.05 | 0.63 | 2.70 | 0.05 | 0.65 |
| Limbu | 100.00 | 14.38 | 0.12 | 0.04 | 0.22 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.10 | 0.02 | 0.12 | 0.05 | 82.15 | 2.18 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.49 |
| Danuwar | 100.00 | 19.83 | 30.70 | 2.27 | 0.03 | 2.00 | 0.02 | 0.34 | 0.04 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 2.05 | 0.59 | 0.01 | 2.39 | 0.15 | 0.05 | 39.49 |
| Sunuwar | 100.00 | 51.34 | 1.40 | 0.65 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.02 | 0.10 | 0.01 | 0.19 | 0.03 | 0.15 | 0.23 | 0.06 | 0.40 | 0.03 | 0.00 | 45.15 |
| 3. Other Native | 100.00 | 37.77 | 0.89 | 0.61 | 0.12 | 0.03 | 0.00 | 0.07 | 0.25 | 0.09 | 0.59 | 1.22 | 0.25 | 0.36 | 0.75 | 0.23 | 0.02 | 56.74 |
| 4. Occupational | 100.00 | 87.61 | 2.09 | 2.21 | 0.47 | 0.20 | 0.15 | 0.19 | 0.02 | 0.05 | 0.07 | 0.06 | 0.12 | 0.03 | 0.73 | 0.04 | 0.00 | 5.96 |
| 5. Others | 100.00 | 82.46 | 0.54 | 0.53 | 0.15 | 0.31 | 0.01 | 0.41 | 0.01 | 0.10 | 0.32 | 0.69 | 0.16 | 0.30 | 0.62 | 0.31 | 0.02 | 13.03 |
| C. Mountain | 100.00 | 12.70 | 0.55 | 0.12 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0.02 | 0.09 | 3.02 | 0.05 | 0.11 | 0.47 | 79.80 | 0.07 | 2.89 |
| 1. Mountain Caste | 100.00 | 12.05 | 0.53 | 0.09 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.07 | 2.95 | 0.05 | 0.08 | 0.47 | 80.75 | 0.07 | 2.78 |
| Sherpa | 100.00 | 11.51 | 0.52 | 0.08 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.06 | 1.86 | 0.06 | 0.08 | 0.49 | 82.31 | 0.07 | 2.85 |
| Bhote | 100.00 | 16.62 | 0.59 | 0.18 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.00 | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.14 | 12.18 | 0.02 | 0.11 | 0.28 | 67.52 | 0.02 | 2.20 |
| 2. Others | 100.00 | 62.97 | 2.34 | 2.48 | 0.48 | 0.07 | 0.14 | 0.34 | 0.76 | 0.00 | 1.72 | 8.41 | 0.07 | 2.41 | 0.28 | 6.28 | 0.00 | 11.24 |
| E. Not Stated | 100.00 | 52.44 | 12.64 | 7.44 | 0.93 | 1.06 | 0.54 | 2.69 | 0.13 | 0.44 | 0.16 | 1.71 | 2.40 | 0.59 | 1.55 | 0.16 | 0.34 | 14.78 |
| D. Foreigners | 100.00 | 7.07 | 3.09 | 1.44 | 0.55 | 0.22 | 0.33 | 2.43 | 0.00 | 0.44 | 0.66 | 0.44 | 0.66 | 0.22 | 0.11 | 0.55 | 0.00 | 81.77 |

References

- Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), 1968, Population Census 1961. Vol.. II, NPC, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- CBS, 1975, Population Census 1971, Vol.. II, Part II, Table 13 and 14, NPC, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- CBS, 1975, Population Census 1971. Vol.. V, Table 41, NPC, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- CBS, 1977, The Analysis the Population Statistics of Nepal , Table 2.8, NPC, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- CBS, 1984, Population Census 1981, Vol.. I, Part III , Table 12 and 13, NPC, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- CBS, 1984, Population Census 1981, Vol.. III, Table 10, NPC, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- CBS, 1987, Population Monograph of Nepal, Table 4.1, NPC, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- CBS, 1993, Population Census 1991, Vol.. I, NPC, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- CBS, 1993a, Statistical Year Book of Nepal, NPC, Kathmandu, Nepal
- CBS, 1994, Population Census 1991. Vol.. II, Vol.. III, NPC, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- CBS, 1995, Population Census 1991, Vol.. IV, NPC, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Department of Statistics (DOS), 1958, Population Census 1952/54. Part II, Table 5 and 9, National Planning Commission (NPC), Kathmandu, Nepal.
- KC, Bal Kumar and D.D. Ulak, 1993, Social Composition of Population in Nepal, Based on 10 per cent Sample (Kathmandu: CBS), pp. 143-182.