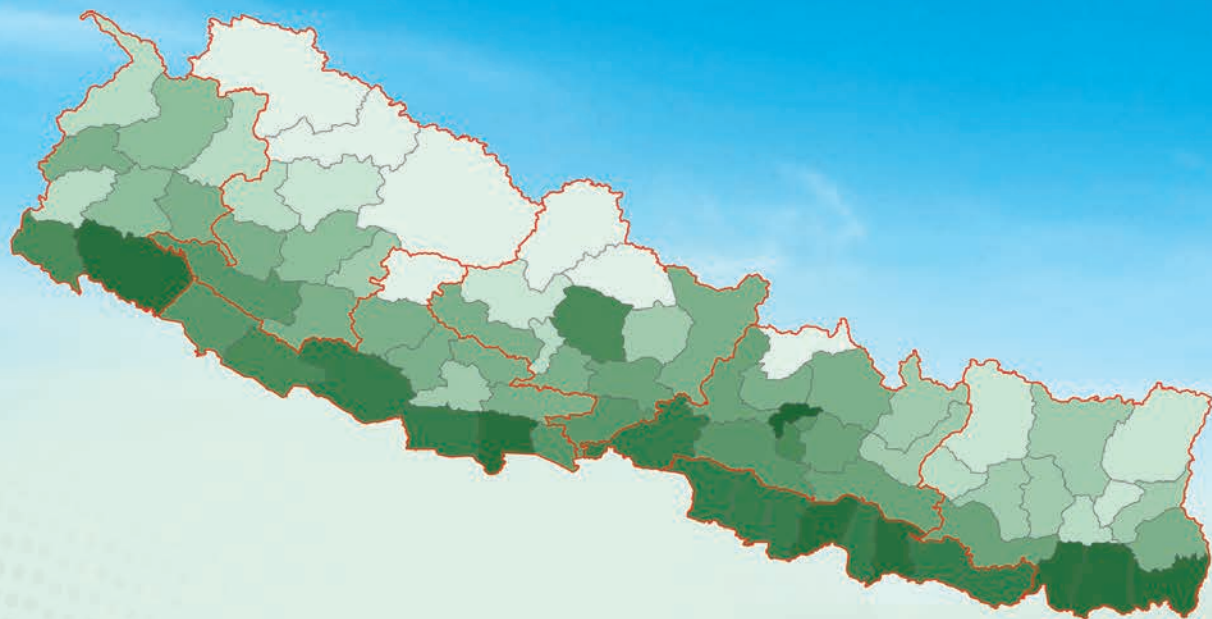# National Population and Housing Census 2021
International Migration in Nepal

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

MY CENSUS
MY PARTICIPATION
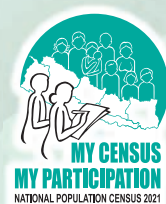NATIONAL POPULATION CENSUS 2021

National Population and Housing Census 2021

International Migration in Nepal

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

MY CENSUS
MY PARTICIPATION
NATIONAL POPULATION CENSUS 2021

Chief Secretary

Foreword

Government of Nepal has placed great emphasis on evidence-based policymaking, which depends on the availability of reliable and high-quality official data. The National Statistics Office (NSO) has consistently served this need by providing crucial data to inform government initiatives. As a key agency under the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, the NSO plays a critical role in producing socio-economic and environmental statistics. These statistics are vital not only for federal, provincial, and local governments but also for a wide range of stakeholders across various sectors. Access to accurate and timely statistics is essential for implementing policies and plans at all levels of governance.

International migration has become a significant socio-economic force shaping Nepal's development trajectory. This report, *International Migration in Nepal*, provides an in-depth analysis of the key drivers, trends, and consequences of international migration, shedding light on its profound impact on households, labour markets, and the national economy. The increasing outflow of Nepali workers, the heavy reliance on remittances, and the demographic shifts associated with migration present both opportunities and challenges for the country.

In response, the Government of Nepal has been refining its policies to enhance skills development, protect migrant rights, and ensure the productive use of remittances. Furthermore, state interventions are being directed towards creating sustainable employment opportunities within the country to mitigate excessive reliance on foreign employment. Strengthening bilateral labour agreements and improving reintegration mechanisms are also key priorities.

On behalf of the Government of Nepal, I extend my sincere appreciation to all those who have contributed to the preparation of this long-awaited report. Their dedication and expertise have made this valuable resource possible, helping to strengthen Nepal's policy framework for sustainable development. I also appreciate the untiring work of the NSO team in producing such a highly technical report, which will serve as a vital foundation for informed decision-making.

I am confident that this report will serve as a crucial resource for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders in shaping informed and effective migration policies.

March 2025

Eaknarayan Aryal
Chief Secretary

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

Phone 5345946
5345947
5345948
5345848
5341801
5328406

Ref. No.

Fax: 977-1-5327720
Post Box No.: 11031
Thapathali, Kathmandu

Foreword

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

I am pleased to present the report *International Migration in Nepal*. International migration has long been a defining feature of Nepal's demographic landscape. Over the decades, the absentee population has steadily increased, reflecting the growing mobility of Nepal's workforce beyond national borders. While male migrants have traditionally dominated, census data now indicate a rising trend of female migration as well.

Findings from the 2021 National Population and Housing Census (NPHC) show that emigration is largely driven by economic factors such as employment, business, education, and job-seeking. The data further reveal that most emigrants belong to the working-age population, raising concerns about future human resource availability. If this trend continues, it could impact Nepal's labour force and economic productivity. At the same time, census data show a gradual rise in immigration, though emigrants still far outnumber immigrants. Given these dynamics, migration-related policies and programmes must be prioritised to address both challenges and opportunities.

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

Specifically, I commend the Population Section staff for their tireless efforts in generating data, providing support, and reviewing the report. The Head of the Social Statistics Division at NSO coordinated all activities, and I value his contributions.

Special thanks to migration experts Dr. Padam Prasad Khatiwada and Mr. Mahendra Kumar Rai for analyzing crucial data and presenting important findings, and to Mr. Uttam Narayan Malla, former Director General of the Central Bureau of Statistics, for reviewing it from a government perspective. I also appreciate the technical support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Additionally, I extend my gratitude to the British Embassy Kathmandu and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) for their financial support at various stages of this report's development.

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

March 2025

Maddhu Sudan Burlakoti
Chief Statistician

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Contributors to the "International Migration in Nepal", thematic report

S.N.	Name and Designation	Organization	Role
1.	Mr. Maddhu Sudan Burlakoti, *Chief Statistician*	National Statistics Office, Thapathali Kathmandu	Overall supervision
2.	Dr. Hem Raj Regmi, *Deputy Chief Statistician*	National Statistics Office, Thapathali Kathmandu	Overall guidance
3.	Mr. Dhundiraj Lamichhane, *Deputy Chief Statistician*	National Statistics Office, Thapathali Kathmandu	Quality assurance and data processing/ Reviewer
4.	Dr. Padma Prasad Khatiwada, *Associate Professor*	Central Department of Population Studies, TU	Analyst
5.	Mr. Mahendra Kumar Rai, *Assistant Professor*	Ratna Rajyalaxmi Campus, TU	Analyst
6.	Mr. Uttam Narayan Malla, *Former Director General, CBS*	Freelance, Statistician	Reviewer
7.	Mr. Rajan Silwal, *Director*	National Statistics Office, Thapathali, Kathmandu	Reviewer
8.	Mr. Binod Sharan Acharya, *Director*	National Statistics Office, Thapathali, Kathmandu	Reviewer
9.	Mr. Deenanath Lamsal, *Statistics Officer*	National Statistics Office, Thapathali, Kathmandu	Data management
10.	Mr. Dol Narayan Shreshtha, *Computer Officer*	National Statistics Office, Thapathali, Kathmandu	Data and statistical table generation
11.	Mr. Kapil Dhital, *Statistics Officer*	National Statistics Office, Thapathali, Kathmandu	Support
12.	Mr. Ashok Neupane, *Statistics Assistant*	National Statistics Office, Thapathali, Kathmandu	Support

Additional Support

1.	Mr. Atul Joshi	Map Designer	Map generation

CONTENTS

TABLES

FIGURES

MAPS

ANNEX TABLES

ABBREVIATIONS

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BLAs	Bilateral Agreements
CDPS	Central Department of Population Studies
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of Child
DoFE	Department of Foreign Employment
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EMR	Emigration Rate
FEIMS	Foreign Employment Information Management System
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GCM	Global Compact on Migration
GMR	Gross Migration Rate
GoN	Government of Nepal
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMR	Immigration Rate
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MER	Migration Expectancy Rate
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoLESS	Ministry of Labour Employment and Social Security
MoTCA	Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRC	Migrant Resource Centre
NDHS	Nepal Demographic and Health Survey

NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NMR	Net Migration Rate
NPC	National Planning Commission
NPHC	National Population and Housing Census
NSO	National Statistics Office
RERP	Rural Enterprises and Remittance Project
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNDOC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund

GLOSSARY

Absentee population

An individual absent from the household and currently living abroad for more than six months before the census date and has possibility to return.

Age dependency ratio

The age-dependency ratio is the ratio of people in the "dependent" ages (those under age 15 and ages 65 and older) to those in the "economically active" ages (15 to 64 years) in a population. The age-dependency ratio is often used as an indicator of the economic burden the productive portion of a population must carry—even though some people defined as "dependent" are producers and some people in the "productive" ages are economically dependent.

Current migrants

Current migrants are those migrants who migrated during the last one-year period preceding the census. They are a part of lifetime migrants. Current migrants are also called as "most recent" migrants because it presents most recent movements of the population. Current migration data are generally analysed in terms of in-migration rate, out-migration rate, and net migration rate.

Dependent variable

The dependent variable is also known as outcome variable or response variable. It is being tested and measured using statistical test in a study. Such variable is expected to change as a result of variation in the independent variables.

Emigration Rate

The emigration rate is the number of emigrants departing in the area of origin per 1,000 population at that area of origin in a given year.

Immigration Rate

The immigration rate is the number of immigrants arriving at a destination per 1,000 population at that destination in a given year.

Independent variable

The independent variable is the predictor variable, which is also known as explanatory variable. This variable has direct impact on dependent variable. So, this variable is controlled, manipulated or observed to determine its effect on the dependent or outcome variable.

Lifetime migrants and non-migrants

According to the migration status, the total population of a country can be classified into two categories lifetime migrants (migrant) and non-migrants. A person is a lifetime migrant whose current place of residence is different from his area of birth, regardless of intervening migrations (Shrock, Seiegel and Associates, 1976). Non-migrants are those who have not moved from one migration-defining area to another. Lifetime migration data are generally analysed in terms of volume of migration (number of migrants) and percentage of lifetime migrants in native-born population.

Migration

Migration is the geographical movement of people across a specified boundary for the purpose of establishing a new place of residence. Along with fertility and mortality, migration is a component of population change. The terms "immigration" and "emigration" are used to refer to moves between countries (international migration). The parallel terms "in-migration" and "out-migration" are used for movement between areas within a country (internal migration).

Migration defining area   In identifying the migration status of a person, a migration-defining area is required. In a migration study, civil or geographic units are generally taken as migration-defining areas. The Nepalese censuses have commonly considered districts (there are 77 districts in Nepal) as migration-defining areas. According to this, a person is classified as a migrant if his/her district of enumeration (current residence) is different from their district of birth. Nepal's seven provinces, three ecological zones, that is, Mountain, Hill and Tarai and place of residence as urban, peri-urban and rural are other categories of migration defining area which this thematic report has carried out while analysing data of international migration in national and sub-national levels. Similarly, Nepal's 753 local levels are the migration defining area, however, it is difficult to identify the status of migration on all variables by local level.

Native born   The total population of a country according to country of birth can be classified into two categories native born and foreign born. Those born in countries other than Nepal are considered as foreign born, even though some of them hold Nepali citizenship. A person who is born in any part of Nepal is considered as native born even though some of them may also be foreign citizens. Internal migration analysis is primarily confined to the native born population only.

Net Migration   The net effect of immigration and emigration on an area's population (increase or decrease) is referred to as net migration.

Net Migration Rate   The net migration rate shows the net effect of immigration and emigration on an area's population, expressed as an increase or decrease per 1,000 population of the area in a given year.

Non-resident Nepalis'　　A foreign citizen of Nepalese origin and this term also includes a Nepalese citizen residing abroad. "Foreign citizen of Nepalese origin" means a person who him/herself or whose father, mother grandfather or grandmother was a citizen of Nepal at any time and has subsequently acquired the citizenship of any other foreign country other than a member country of the South Asian Association of Regional Co-operation (SAARC). "Nepali citizen residing abroad" means a Nepali citizen who has been residing in any foreign country for at least two years engaged in any profession, occupation, business and employment except a Nepalese citizen residing in a member country of SAARC or serving in a diplomatic mission or consulate situated in a foreign country under the assignment of the Government of Nepal and pursuing studies in an academic institution in a foreign country. Family members of NRN can also register as NRN and obtain their ID cards.

Odds Ratio　　An odds ratio is a statistic that quantifies the strength of the association between two events i.e.; dependent and independent variables. This is a statistical measure used to determine the strength of association between two events, typically in the context of a binary outcome. Basically, it compares the odds of an event occurring in one group to the odds of it occurring in another group. The value of odds ratio is equal to one refers that there is no association between the groups. Whereas the value is greater than one and less than one refers that more likely and less likely in group 'A' and group 'B' respectively.

Population census　　The process of collecting, compiling, evaluating, analysing, and publishing demographic, economic and social data pertaining to all persons in a country or territory.

Reference category　　In logistic regression, the reference category is the comparison group or reference group against which the effects of other categories of categorical variable are measured. It is basically applied when categorical variable is encompassed in the model as a predictor by converting it into dummy variables.

कार्यकारी सारांश

यस विषयगत प्रतिवेदनमा नेपालमा अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय बसाइँसराइको विश्लेषण गरिएको छ। यसमा विदेश अनुपस्थितका आधारमा आप्रवासन र प्रवासन दुवैमा केन्द्रित भई अध्ययन गरिएको छ। मुख्यतः राष्ट्रिय जनगणना २०७८ को तथ्याङ्कीय विवरणमा आधारित भई नेपालमा अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय बसाइँसराइको प्रवृत्तिको बारेमा विस्तृत विश्लेषण गरिएको छ। श्रम अनुमतिसम्बन्धी तथ्याङ्क वैदेशिक रोजगार विभागबाट प्राप्त गरी जनगणनाका तथ्याङ्कसँग आबद्ध गरी थप विश्लेषण गरिएको छ। केही सूचकहरूको तुलनात्मक विश्लेषण पनि गरिएको छ। यस्तो तुलना विशेष गरी दक्षिण एसियाली सन्दर्भमा र नेपालको अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय आप्रवासनसँग सम्बन्धित नीतिहरू र कार्यक्रमहरूसँग तादात्म्य गरेर प्रस्तुत गरिएको छ। रिग्रेसन मोडेलको आधारमा अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय बसाइँसराइसँग सम्बन्धित जनसाङ्ख्यिकीय र सामाजिक-आर्थिक सहसम्बन्धहरूको विश्लेषणसमेत गरिएको छ।

नेपालबाट प्रवासन

प्रवासनको प्रवृत्तिः नेपालको प्रवासन प्रवृत्तिले वि.सं. २०५८ मा ३.३ प्रतिशत र त्यसको दुई दशकपछि २०७८ मा ७.५ प्रतिशतको अनुपस्थितदर देखाएको छ। समयको गति सँगसँगै यसमा पुरूषहरूको अनुपात अत्यधिक उच्च (८२.२%) छ भने महिलाको अनुपात पुरूषको तुलनामा करिव पाँचगुणाले न्यून (१७.८%) रहेको देखिन्छ।

उमेर र लैङ्गिक संरचनाः अनुपस्थित जनसङ्ख्यामध्ये आधा (४९.४%) व्यक्तिहरू २०-२९ वर्ष उमेर समूहमा पर्छन्। त्यसपछि ३०-३९ वर्ष उमेर समूह (१९.५%) दोस्रो र १०-१९ वर्ष उमेर समूह (१७.३%) तेस्रो क्रममा रहेका छन्। प्रारम्भिक उमेर (खासगरी बाल्यावस्था) का महिला (बालिका) को अनुपात विभिन्न जनगणनामा तुलनात्मक रूपमा उच्च नै रहेको देखिन्छ। वि.सं. २०७८ को जनगणनाअनुसार ५ वर्ष र सोभन्दा मुनिको उमेर समूहमा ४५ प्रतिशत महिला अनुपस्थितको सङ्ख्याभित्र परेका छन् जबकि २०-२९ वर्ष उमेर समूहमा केवल १८ प्रतिशत महिला विदेशमा अनुपस्थित छन्।

प्रस्थान गर्दाको उमेर : तीनचौथाइभन्दा बढी (७५.८%) अनुपस्थितहरू १५-३४ वर्ष उमेर समूहभित्रका रहेका छन्। विदेश अनुपस्थितको दोस्रो ठुलो उमेर समूह ३५-५४ वर्ष रहेको छ जसको हिस्सा १४ प्रतिशत छ भने ५५ वर्ष र सोभन्दा माथिको उमेर समूहमा केवल ०.९ प्रतिशत विदेश अनुपस्थित छन्।

लिङ्गका हिसाबले पुरूष र महिलाको विदेश जाँदाको उमेरमा विशेष भिन्नता देखिएको छैन तर ३५-५४ वर्ष उमेर समूहमा महिलाहरूको अनुपात (९.४%) भने उल्लेखनीय रूपले फरक छ।

परिवारको आकार र प्रकारः विदेश अनुपस्थितमध्ये लगभग ४२ प्रतिशत जनसङ्ख्याको परिवारमा ३ देखि ४ जना मात्र सदस्यहरू रहेको देखिन्छ। एकदेखि २ जना मात्र सदस्य भएका परिवारबाट विदेश अनुपस्थित हुनेको अनुपात करिब एकचौथाइ (२३.४%) रहेको छ। यो अनुपात ५-६ जना सदस्य भएको परिवारहरूबाट विदेश अनुपस्थित हुने अनुपात (२१.९%) सँग लगभग समान छ। विदेश अनुपस्थित जनसङ्ख्यामध्ये लगभग ४३ प्रतिशत परिवारको प्रकार एकल प्रकृतिको छ जहाँ परिवारमुलीको रूपमा पिता वा आमा रहेका थिए। आधाभन्दा थोरै बढी (५१%) विदेश अनुपस्थितहरूको परिवारको संरचना संयुक्त प्रकारको थियो।

घरको संरचनाः कम्तीमा एक जना विदेशमा अनुपस्थित सदस्य भएका परिवारहरूमध्ये करिब एकचौथाइ परिवार बसिरहेको घर पक्की थियो। त्यस्तै अर्धपक्की घरमा बसोबास गरिरहेका परिवारबाट कम्तीमा एक सदस्य विदेश अनुपस्थित हुनेहरूको हिस्सा करिब २० प्रतिशत रहेको थियो।

जातजातिः सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेशबाट विदेश अनुपस्थितमध्ये लगभग २५ प्रतिशत पहाडी जातजातिका छन् भने करिब २० प्रतिशत लुम्बिनी प्रदेशबाट अनुपस्थित हुनेहरू थिए। करिब २० प्रतिशत विदेश अनुपस्थित जनसङ्ख्या क्षेत्री थिए भने यसमा पहाडी ब्राह्मणको हिस्सा १३.३ प्रतिशत थियो । विदेश अनुपस्थितमध्ये जातजातिका हिसाबले मगर र विश्वकर्माको हिस्सा क्रमश: ८.९ प्रतिशत र ८.६ प्रतिशत रहेको छ। नेवार समुदायबाट विदेश अनुपस्थित जनसङ्ख्यामध्ये करिब दुईतिहाइको बसोबास सहरी क्षेत्रमा रहेको देखिन्छ। नेवार समुदायबाट जत्तिकै अनुपातमा विदेश अनुपस्थित मिजार जातिका मानिसहरू ग्रामीण क्षेत्रबाट गएका थिए।त्यस्तै विदेश अनुपस्थित मुसलमान समुदायका व्यक्तिहरूमध्ये लगभग तीनचौथाइ अर्धसहरी क्षेत्रबाट गएका देखिन्छन्।

अनुपस्थित र शैक्षिक अवस्थाः विदेश अनुपस्थित व्यक्तिहरूमध्ये लगभग ३९ प्रतिशत अनुपस्थित व्यक्तिहरू विदेश जाँदाको समयमा साक्षर नभएको देखियो। जनगणनाको समयमा विदेश अनुपस्थित व्यक्तिहरूमध्ये निरक्षर हुनेहरू सर्वाधिक सुदूरपश्चिम (५१.१%) मा देखियो भने दोस्रो (४६.४%) क्रममा कर्णाली प्रदेश देखिएको छ। उच्च साक्षरताका आधारमा हेर्दा अनुपस्थितमध्ये बागमतीका ७३.६ प्रतिशत र कोशी प्रदेशका ६९.६ प्रतिशत रहेका छन् । हिमाली क्षेत्रका करिब ५१ प्रतिशत विदेश अनुपस्थित

व्यक्तिहरू निरक्षर रहेका थिए। सहरी क्षेत्रका विदेश अनुपस्थितमध्ये तीन चौथाइभन्दा बढी (७६.३%) सहरी क्षेत्रमा बसोबास गर्नेमध्येका थिए। विदेश अनुपस्थितमध्ये लगभग ४५ प्रतिशतले माध्यमिक शिक्षा पूरा गरेका थिए भने ४१.२ प्रतिशतले आधारभूत शिक्षा मात्र पूरा गरेका थिए। स्नातक तह पूरा गरेर विदेश अनुपस्थित हुनेको हिस्सा सर्वाधिक (१४.४%) बागमती प्रदेशमा रहेको थियो।

जन्म स्थानः विदेश अनुपस्थितमध्ये सम्पन्नताको उच्च वर्गमा पर्ने लगभग दुई-तिहाइ (६९.९%) व्यक्तिहरूको जन्म स्थान सोही स्थानीय एकाइमा रहेको थियो भने लगभग आधा (४४.७%) अनुपस्थितहरूको जन्म अर्को जिल्लामा थियो।

गन्तव्य देशः कुल अनुपस्थितहरूको १४ प्रतिशतले मध्यपूर्वी देशहरूमा प्रवासन गरेको देखिन्छ । लगभग ११ प्रतिशत भारत र ३ प्रतिशत प्रशान्त महासागरीय क्षेत्रका देशहरूमा प्रवासन भएका देखिन्छन्।

अनुपस्थितिको कारणः विदेश अनुपस्थित हुनुका मुख्य कारणहरूमा तलब/ज्याला, नोकरी, व्यापार/ व्यवसाय, अध्ययन/तालिम, कामको खोजी र 'आश्रित हुनु' रहेका छन्। कुल विदेश अनुपस्थितमध्ये ५९.८ प्रतिशतको विदेश जानुको कारण तलब/ज्याला नै रहेको देखिन्छ। त्यसैगरी २०.४ प्रतिशत अभिभावकमाथि आश्रित हुनुको कारणले र १४ प्रतिशतले काम खोज्ने उद्देश्यले विदेशमा बसाइँसराइ वा प्रवासन गरेको देखिन्छ।

नेपालमा आप्रवासनको प्रवृत्ति

नेपालमा सम्पन्न भएका जनगणनाहरूले विदेशमा जन्म भएका व्यक्तिहरूको नेपालमा आप्रवासन हुने प्रवृत्ति एकपछि अर्को जनगणनामा बढ्दै गएको देखाएका छन्। वि.सं. २०१८ मा यस्ता आप्रवासीहरूको सङ्ख्या ३,३७,६२० थियो भने वि.सं. २०७८ मा त्यस्ता व्यक्तिहरूको सङ्ख्या ७,३४,६६३ पुगेको छ। विदेशी नागरिकता भएका व्यक्तिहरूको हकमा ठुलो उतारचढाव देखिएको छ। वि.सं. २०१८ मा १,१०,०६१ जना विदेशी नागरिक गणनामा समावेश भएका थिए भने त्यसको २० वर्षपछि अर्थात् वि.सं. २०३८ मा सो सङ्ख्या उल्लेखनीय रूपले बढेर ४,८३,०१६ पुगेको थियो। तर, यो वृद्धि वि.सं. २०७८ सम्म कायम रहन सकेन र खुम्चिएर १,३७,२१८ भएको छ।

जन्मेको देश र नागरिक हैसियतः नेपालको कुल जनसङ्ख्यामध्ये २,८४,२०,३३३ जना नेपालमै जन्मिएकाहरू थिए। नेपालमै जन्मिएका यी २,८४,२०,३३३ मध्ये २,८३,९६,८२१ जना नेपाली

नागरिक थिए भने २३,३५२ जना विदेशी नागरिक थिए। त्यसैगरी, कुल जनसङ्ख्यामध्ये ७३४,६६३ जना विदेशमा जन्मिएका थिए जसमा ६,२०,७८९ जना नेपाली नागरिक र १,१३,८४५ जना विदेशी नागरिक थिए।

विदेशमा जन्मेका जनसङ्ख्याको उमेर, लिङ्ग र नागरिकताः विदेशमा जन्मेका कुल जनसङ्ख्यामा महिलाहरूको सङ्ख्या पुरुषको तुलनामा करिब तीनगुणा बढी रहेको छ (महिला ५,४७,८३७ र पुरुष १,८६,८२६)। विदेशमा जन्मेका कुल जनसङ्ख्यामध्ये दुईतिहाइभन्दा बढी १५-५९ वर्ष उमेर समूहका देखिन्छन् भने ०-१४ वर्ष उमेर समूहका १० प्रतिशतभन्दा पनि कम देखिएका छन्। विदेशमा जन्मेका कुल जनसङ्ख्यामा सबैभन्दा उच्च (१२.७%) अनुपात २५-२९ वर्ष उमेर समूहको देखिन्छ भने सबैभन्दा कम (१.२%) अनुपात ७५ वर्ष र माथिको उमेर समूहमा पर्ने व्यक्तिहरूको रहेको छ।

विदेशमा जन्मिएका जनसङ्ख्याको देशगत प्रवृत्तिः पछिल्ला सातओटा जनगणनाको तथ्याङ्कले भारतमा जन्म भई नेपालमा बसोबास गरिरहेको जनसङ्ख्या अत्यधिक रहेको देखाउँछ। वि.सं. २०१८ देखि २०७८ सम्मको प्रवृत्ति हेर्दा कुल विदेशमा जन्मिएका जनसङ्ख्यामध्ये ९३ प्रतिशत भारतमा जन्म भएका व्यक्तिहरू देखिन्छन्। भारतमा जन्म हुनेमध्ये यहाँ महिलाको हिस्सा दुईतिहाइभन्दा बढी रहेको छ। अन्य देशमा जन्मेका जनसङ्ख्याको अनुपात ४ प्रतिशतको हाराहारीमा एकनास देखिएको छ तर यो वि.सं. २०७८ मा भने २.८ प्रतिशतमा झरेको छ।

विदेशमा जन्मिएकाहरूको नागरिकताः भारतमा जन्मेर नेपालमा बसोबास गरिरहेका कुल जनसङ्ख्यामध्ये करिब ८५ प्रतिशत नेपाली नागरिकको हैसियतमा छन् भने भारतीय नागरिकता हुनेको हिस्सा १५ प्रतिशत रहेको छ। विदेशमा जन्म भई हिमाली क्षेत्रमा बसोबास गर्नेमध्ये लगभग ५० प्रतिशत भारतीय नागरिक थिए भने त्यस क्षेत्रमा करिब १० प्रतिशत चिनियाँ नागरिक थिए। विदेशी नागरिकताअनुसार नेपालका विभिन्न जिल्लामा बसोबास गर्नेहरूको वितरण हेर्दा शीर्ष १० ओटा जिल्लामा क्रमशः काठमाडौँ, चितवन, रूपन्देही, कास्की, पर्सा, झापा, ललितपुर, मोरङ, बारा र सुनसरी रहेका छन्। यी सबै १० जिल्लामा भारतीय नागरिकहरूको अनुपात सबैभन्दा उच्च देखिएको छ। चिनियाँ नागरिक र अन्य देशका नागरिकहरूको अनुपात भारतीय नागरिकहरूको तुलनामा निकै नै न्यून रहेको छ।

बसाइको अवधिः यसअघिको बसोबास विदेश भई हाल बसोबास भएको स्थानमा गणना गरिएका व्यक्तिहरूहरूमध्ये लगभग एकतिहाइले नेपालमा पछिल्लो दुई दशकभन्दा बढी समयदेखि नेपालमा

बसोबास गरेको पाइन्छ भने एक चौथाइले १-५ वर्षसम्म बसोबास गरेका देखिन्छ। लगभग एकतिहाइ जनसङ्ख्या गाउँपालिका क्षेत्रमा दुई दशकभन्दा बढी समयदेखि बसिरहेका छन्। उमेर समूहको आधारमा विश्लेषण गर्दा १५-५९ वर्षको उमेर समूहमा पर्ने जनसङ्ख्याको लगभग एकतिहाइले १० देखि २४ वर्षसम्म हाल बसोबास भएको स्थानमा बसिरहेको देखिन्छ। यसैगरी ०-१४ वर्षको समूहको लगभग ४४ प्रतिशतले १-४ वर्षसम्म मात्र बसोबास गरेका छन्। लगभग ३६ प्रतिशत जनसङ्ख्या जसको उमेर ६० वर्ष र सोभन्दा माथि थियो, तिनले पाँच दशकभन्दा बढी समयदेखि हालको स्थानमा बसिरहेको अवस्था छ। लगभग एकतिहाइ आप्रवासीहरू १०-२४ वर्षसम्म हालको स्थानमा बसेका देखिन्छन्। एक वर्षभन्दा कम अवधिदेखि हालको स्थानमा बसोबास गर्नेहरूको अनुपात सबैभन्दा कम रहेको छ।

आप्रवासनका कारणः लगभग ४५ प्रतिशत आप्रवासीहरू वैवाहिक कारणले आफ्नो हाल बसोबास रहेको स्थानमा बसिरहेका देखिन्छन् भने विदेशबाट घर फर्किएका व्यक्तिहरूको हिस्सा २५.४ प्रतिशत रहेको छ। आफ्नो अभिभावक वा नातेदार वा कोही संरक्षकमाथि आश्रित भई आप्रवासन हुनेहरूको हिस्सा १०.५ प्रतिशत र काम/रोजगारीका लागि यहाँ आप्रवासन गर्नेहरू ९.४ प्रतिशत छन्। गणना गरिएका लगभग तीनचौथाइ (७३.४%) महिलाहरू हाल बसोबास गरिरहेको स्थानमा आप्रवासी हुनुको कारण विवाह रहेको छ। यसैगरी कोशी (३६.२%), मधेश (८५.३%) र लुम्बिनी (५२.२%) प्रदेशमा बसोबास गर्ने महिला आप्रवासीहरूको मुख्य कारण वैवाहिक नै रहेको छ। भौगोलिक क्षेत्रका हिसाबले तराईमा लगभग दुईतिहाइ जनसङ्ख्या विवाहको कारणले हाल बसोबास भएको स्थानमा बसेका छन् र यसमा महिलाहरूकै हिस्सा सर्वाधिक छ।

अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय बसाइँसराइदर

प्रवासन र आप्रवासनदरः नेपालको प्रवासनदर प्रतिहजार जनसङ्ख्यामा ७.५ जना रहेको छ। खुद प्रवासनदर अर्थात् आउने र जानेबिचको अन्तर ऋणात्मक अर्थात् -५ प्रतिहजार जनसङ्ख्यामा पुगेको छ। प्रवासनदर नगरपालिकाहरूमा १.६ प्रतिहजार रहेको छ भने पहाडी क्षेत्रमा प्रतिहजार ८.४ रहेको छ। प्रदेशअनुसार हेर्दा सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेशमा १२.७ प्रतिहजार देखिन्छ।

आप्रवासनदर तुलना गर्दा नगरपालिका स्तरमा प्रतिहजार २.६ जना र तराई क्षेत्रमा प्रतिहजार ३.८ जना रहेको छ। प्रदेशअनुसार हेर्दा प्रतिहजार ३.९ जनासहित मधेश प्रदेशमा उच्च पाइएको छ। कुल बसाइँसराइको सन्दर्भमा उच्चतम अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय बसाइँसराइ भएका क्षेत्रमा तराई (१०.८) र सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश

(१३.८) रहेको देखिन्छ। खुद प्रवासनदर ऋणात्मक छ किनभने नेपालबाट बाहिरिने व्यक्तिहरूको सङ्ख्या नेपालमा भित्रिने व्यक्तिहरूको सङ्ख्याभन्दा निकै नै उच्च रहेको छ। खुद अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय बसाइँसराइदर पहाडी क्षेत्रमा ऋणात्मक रही प्रतिहजार -७.३ जना र सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेशमा पनि ऋणात्मक नै रही प्रतिहजार -११.७ जना देखिएको छ। ऋणात्मक खुद अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय बसाइँसराइदरले तत् तत् क्षेत्रबाट देशमा फर्की आउनेभन्दा देशबाट बाहिर जानेको अधिकतम सङ्ख्यालाई प्रतिविम्बित गर्दछ।

अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय बसाइँसराइ र जनसङ्ख्या वृद्धिः नेपालका ३४ जिल्लाहरूमा जनसङ्ख्या वृद्धिदर ऋणात्मक रहेको छ जसको औसत -०.६७ छ। यी ३४ जिल्लाहरूको कुल जनसङ्ख्यामा लगभग १० जनामा १ जना, अर्थात् ९.५ प्रतिशत जनसङ्ख्या अनुपस्थित छन्। यस आँकडामा, पुरूषहरूको नै बाहुल्यता रहेको छ जसले कुल जनसङ्ख्यामा १६ प्रतिशत हिस्सा ओगट्न पुगेको देखिन्छ भने ती क्षेत्रका महिलाहरूको कुल जनसङ्ख्यामा केवल ३ प्रतिशत मात्र विदेश अनुपस्थित अर्थात् अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय बसाइँसराइ भएका देखिन्छन्। धनात्मक जनसङ्ख्या वृद्धिदर भएका बाँकी सबै जिल्लाहरूको औसत जनसङ्ख्या वृद्धिदर १.४६ प्रतिशत छ। अनुपस्थित जनसङ्ख्या र जनसङ्ख्या वृद्धिदरको सहसम्बन्धको मानाङ्क ऋणात्मक अर्थात् -०.२९३ पाइएको छ जसले यी दुई चरहरूबिच कुनै सम्बन्ध नभएको देखाउँछ।

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This thematic report concerns international migration in Nepal, focusing on both immigration and emigration based on absentee data. Relying largely on data from the Nepal Population and Housing Census (NPHC) 2021, the report presents a trend analysis of international migration in Nepal. The NPHC data were further substantiated with existing labour permit data maintained by Department of Foreign Employment (DoFE), Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MOLESS). Data comparison has also been made on some indicators, particularly in the South Asia context and with existing policies and programmes related to international migration in Nepal. An analysis of demographic and socio-economic associations related to international migration was carried out based on a regression model.

Emigration from Nepal

Emigration trend: Nepal's emigration trend shows an increasing absentee rate in Nepal at a rate of 3.3 percent in 2001 and 7.5 percent in 2021. Males are overwhelmingly represented (82.2%) compared to females (17.8%), with an increasing proportion visible over time.

Age sex structure: Nearly half (49.4%) of absentees fall within the 20-29 year age group, followed by the 30-39 year age group (19.5%) and 10-19 years (17.3%). The proportion of female absentees in the early ages were found to be represented at a comparatively higher rate in different census periods. In this regard, 45 percent females are represented in the age 5 and below age group in 2021 census data as compared to 18 percent in the 20-29 years age group in the same data set.

Age at departure and duration of years: Over three quarters (75.8%) showed absentee status between 15-34 years, followed by 14 percent in the 35-54 year age group, and 0.9 percent in the age group of 55 years and above. No significant difference was inferred between these statistics in terms of sex, except for the rate of female in the 35-54 year age group (9.4%).

Household size and type: Over two-fifths (41.7%) of the absentee population had households composed of 3-4 members, followed by nearly one quarter (23.4%) of households being composed of 1-2 members. This rate is almost equal to that of households with 5-6 members (21.9%). More than two-fifths (42.6%) of absentee population households were categorized as nuclear, where the family was headed either by father or mother, whereas more than half (51%) of households noted extended family. The highest rate of households comprised by extended family was found in Madhesh Province (56.8%), whereas the lowest number of households headed by father or mother and categorized as nuclear family was seen in Sudurpashchim Province (35.7%).

Housing unit: Among households with at least one absentee abroad, around one quarter (24.3%) were recorded as living in *Pakki* housing units, followed by one-fifth each living in *Ardha Pakki* and *Kachi* housing units.

Caste ethnicity: Nearly one quarter (24.7%) Hill caste groups were represented in Sudurpashchim Province, followed by one-fifth (20.4%) in Lumbini Province. More than one-fifth (20.2%) belonged to the Kshetri community, followed by Brahman-Hill (13.3%), Magar (8.9%) and Bishwokarma (8.6%). Two-thirds (66.2%) of absentees from Newar community were found in urban place followed by almost equal (62.8%) from Mijar community in the rural residence. Nearly, three quarters (72.4%) Musalman were identified in the peri-urban areas of Nepal. Similarly, over half of the Bishwokarma (59.8%) and 58 percent from Magar community were found residing in rural areas.

Educational attainment: Overall, nearly two-fifths (38.9%) absentees were illiterate. The highest illiteracy rate is seen in Sudurpashchim (51.1%), followed by Karnali (46.4%). Absentee populations with the highest literacy rate were observed in Bagmati (73.6%), followed by Koshi (69.6%). More than half (50.9%) of the absentee population from Mountain zone were illiterate, whereas literate absentee migrants were represented at a rate of over three quarters (76.3%) in urban residence. Almost half (44.9%) of the absentees were found to have completed a secondary level of education, followed by over two-fifths (41.2%) attaining basic level of education. The highest number of absentee migrants with bachelor level education were recorded in Bagmati Province (14.4%).

Occupation: Nearly two-thirds (64.2%) of the data indicates occupation as skilled agriculture, forestry and fishery works. The highest rate of this professional group was found in Karnali (79.8%), with almost equal representation from Mountain ecological zone, and with nearly 80 percent in the lowest wealth quintile.

Place of birth: Whereas the place of birth for more than two-thirds (69.9%) of the absentees from the higher wealth quintile held the same local unit, nearly half (44.7%) of the absentees' birthplace was recorded in other districts. Among them, nearly one quarter (22.5%) were in the highest quintile and almost one-fifth were in higher and lowest quintiles.

Place of destination: Of the total absentees, 14 percent were recorded to migrate to Middle Eastern countries, followed by nearly 11 percent migrating to India, and three percent to the Pacific Ocean region. Of the top 10 sending districts in Nepal, Rupandehi held the highest number (17.5%) of absentees, followed by Jhapa (17.5%) and Morang (15%) districts.

Reasons for absence: The main reasons for absence were identified as salary/wage, job, trade/business, study/training, seeking job and dependent. Three fifths (59.8%) of the total absentees expressed salary/wage earning as their reason for moving abroad, followed by one-fifth (20.4%) being dependents to their guardians, and 14 percent seeking jobs.

Absentees at local level: Of the top 10 districts with the prominent number of absentees recorded, the highest were recorded in Kanchanpur district (12.9%), followed by an almost equal rate from Kailali (12.2%) and Kaski (11%). The lowest among the districts were Morang and Sunsari, with a rate of around 7 percent each. Lamki Chuwa Municipality and Gauriganga Municipality showed the highest magnitude of absentees with respect to volume at 18 percent each, whereas Dhangadi Sub-Metropolitan City (6.8%) had the lowest magnitude of absentees.

Logistic regression of factors associated with international migration

The emigration of Nepali people to different destination countries can be seen to have been influenced by different factors. The logistic regression was applied to observe which factors had statistically significant association with the probability of emigration. Logistic regression was applied at two levels: at the household level and the individual level. One model was applied at household level and four models were applied at individual level to observe the statistical associations between dependent and independent variables.

Logistic regression analysis at household level: It is observed that the status of emigration varies with different independent variables. The likelihood ratio of emigration from ecological belt is observed highest in Tarai. The likelihood ratio of emigration from households located at peri-urban and from Sudurpashchim are observed highest. Similarly, the likelihood ratio of emigration from own house is observed two times higher (OR=2.23) and such likelihood is observed about three times higher with household from extended family and female headed households (OR=2.82).

Similarly, in terms of caste/ethnicity, the likelihood ratio of emigration is observed about two times higher among Hill castes and Mountain/Hill Janajati. The likelihood ratio is observed least among Tarai Janajati (OR=0.82). The level of education of household head is also significantly associated with household with at least one absentee. The likelihood ratio is observed lower among household head having secondary level of education (OR=0.59). The probability of emigration from household with agriculture occupation is found about two times higher than non-agriculture.

Logistic regression analysis at individual level: The status of emigration to Middle Eastern countries largely varies with different background variables. The likelihood ratio of emigration to Middle East region is observed to be higher with emigrants having secondary education. This ratio is observed at a rate which is seven times higher for the 25-34 age group (OR=6.91), six times higher for the 35-44 years age group (OR=6.08) and five times higher for the 15-24 age group (OR=4.63). In terms of caste/ethnicity, the likelihood ratio is observed to increase at a rate of almost three times higher in religious/linguistic groups (OR=2.73), followed by Tarai Janajatis and Hill Dalits. The majority of emigration to the Middle East region is observed where the household head is listed with an agriculture related occupation.

The likelihood ratio of emigration to India is observed as higher in Tarai (OR=1.16) as well as in the rural area (OR=1.34). The outflow of Nepali migrants to India is significantly associated by province. The likelihood ratio of emigrating to India is observed 40 times higher from Sudurpashchim, about 8 times higher from Karnali, and 5 times higher from Lumbini compared to the reference group. In terms of duration of stay in India, the likelihood ratio of emigrants staying for 20 years and above is found to be five times higher (OR=4.70) than the reference group. The likelihood ratio is observed four times lower with household in the highest wealth quintile (OR=0.25).

The likelihood ratio of duration of stay for less than five years is higher in Tarai and rural areas. The likelihood ratio is found to be about two times higher in Karnali (OR=2.19), whereas it is least observed in Gandaki (OR=0.78). The likelihood ratio of staying less than five years is found to be two

times higher in European countries (OR=1.67) and it is least observed in ASEAN countries (OR=0.77). The likelihood ratio is observed three times lower with households having highest wealth quintile (OR=0.39).

The likelihood ratio of the main reason of absence as salary/wage is higher in Hill (OR=1.32) as well as rural (OR=1.16) region. The likelihood ratio is found about two times higher in Middle Eastern and ASEAN countries (OR=2.05 and OR=1.75 respectively). The likelihood ratio of emigrating for salary/wage is observed higher with migrants who possess secondary level of education. Similarly, the likelihood ratio is observed lowest among households with an extended family structure (OR=1.10), whereas such likelihoods is observed lower with households having the highest wealth quintile (OR=0.87).

Immigration into Nepal

Trend of foreign-born population in Nepal: The NPHC 2021 data revealed the fact that the trend of immigration of foreign-born population has been increasing over the successive censuses, ranging from 337,620 in 1961 to 734,663 in the 2021 census. Large fluctuations are observed in the case of foreign citizens. In 1961, 110,061 foreign citizens were recorded which drastically increased to 483,016 in 1981, and again decreased to 137,218 in 2021. As a labour sending country, Nepal's proportion of foreign citizens is observed less than one percent, except in the censuses of 1961, 1971 and 1981.

Country of birth and country of nationality: Out of Nepal's total population, 28,420,333 individuals were native born. Of this figure, 28,396,821 were Nepalese citizens and 23,352 were foreign citizens. Similarly, out of the total population, 734,663 of the population were foreign born, comprising of 620,789 with Nepalese nationality and 113,845 as foreign citizens. Whereas 9,582 individuals had unknown place of birth and 189 had unknown nationality status.

Age-sex structure of foreign-born population and foreign citizens: Of the total foreign-born population, women outnumber its counterparts (547,837 vs. 186,826). More than two third foreign-born population were from age group 15-59 year whereas very few i.e., less than one tenth were from age group 0-14 years. In terms of ecological belt, the proportion of foreign-born population is observed highest in age group 15-59 years of age group in all three ecological belts. Similarly, more than three-fourths foreign citizen were from economically active age group, followed by child dependent age group. Of the total foreign-born population, the higher proportion were from age group 25-29 years of age (12.7%) whereas the least proportion of foreign citizen is observed in age group 75+ years (1.2%).

Literacy status of foreign citizens: More than two-thirds foreign citizens were literate in which the significant proportion is observed in Mountain (92.8%). The higher proportion of literate foreign citizen is observed in Gandaki (85.1%) whereas least is observed in Madhesh (44%). The urban municipalities, rural area, and household with highest wealth quintile have seen higher literate foreign citizens. About 50 percent foreign citizens had basic level of education, followed by secondary level of education (34%). The proportion of foreign citizen with their basic level of education is observed

higher in Tarai, Karnali, rural municipalities, peri-urban area, extended family and household with lowest wealth quintile. However, the proportion of foreign citizens with their higher level of education is observed high in Mountain, Bagmati, urban municipalities, rural area, nuclear family and household with highest wealth quintile.

Trend of foreign-born population by country of birth: The overwhelming majority of foreign-born population were from India representing more than 93 percent in seven successive censuses i.e.; from 1961 to 2021 in which female covers more than two-thirds of the total India born population. The proportion of foreign-born population from other counties is observed almost uniform, about 4 percent in six successive censuses whereas this figure slightly decreased to 2.8 percent in 2021.

Foreign-born population by country of nationality: Of the total Indian-born population, around 85 percent had the nationality/citizenship of Nepal which is followed by nationality of India (15%). Similarly, about 61 percent other SAARC country born population, 95 percent other Asian country born population and 77 percent European country born population had the nationality of Nepal. Similarly, the majority of foreign-born population had the nationality of India i.e., 97 percent, which is followed by China (1.4%) and other countries (1.4%). In terms of urban-rural municipality, about 97 percent foreign born population had Indian nationality both in urban and rural municipalities. About four-fifths foreign-born population who were enumerated at mountain belt had the nationality of India whereas about one tenth immigrants in the same belt had the nationality of China. At Bagmati province, about 3 percent immigrants had Chinese nationality whereas at Karnali province 3.1 percent immigrants had the nationality of other countries.

Foreign citizens by country of nationality: Out of the 77 districts, the top ten residing districts of foreign citizens are recorded. Kathmandu stands amongst the topmost followed by Chitawan, Rupandehi, Kaski, Parsa, Jhapa, Lalitpur, Morang, Bara and Sunsari. The proportion of foreign citizens from India is observed highest in all ten districts. The proportion of Chinese citizens and citizens from other countries who were recorded in census is very few compared to Indian citizens.

Country of nationality by country of birth: Of the total foreign-born population, a significant proportion were reported to be from India, followed by other Asian countries, SAARC countries and European countries (95.9%, 1.6%, 0.7% and 0.2% respectively). Similarly, of the total Indian-born population, the majority were female, about four-fifths i.e.; 78 percent were from the age group 15-59. About 97 percent foreign-born population were from India, followed by ASEAN countries, other Asian countries, SAARC countries, and middle east countries. In mountain belt about 5 percent foreign born population were reported from other Asian countries whereas in Bagmati and Gandaki, foreign born population is observed highest from ASEAN countries (2.3% in each province).

Duration of stay: About one third of the population who were enumerated at the current place by former place of residence is observed to have stayed in Nepal for more than two decades, whereas one-quarter had stayed for 1-5 years. It is observed that around one-third of the population stayed for more than two decades in rural municipalities. In terms of age group, around one-third of the population whose age was 15-59 years stayed for 10-24 years, whereas around 44 percent of the

0-14 age group stayed for 1-4 years. About 36 percent of the population aged 60 years and above stayed for more than five decades. Around one-third immigrants are observed to have stayed for 10-24 years, whereas the lowest ratio is observed to have stayed for shorter periods of time, i.e. less than one year.

Reasons for immigration: About 45 percent immigrants are staying at their current place due to marriage, next followed by those returning back to their own area (25.4%), dependents (10.5%) and for work/employment (9.4%). About three-quarters (73.4%) are female migrants who were enumerated at their current place in Nepal as a result of marriage. Similarly, the main reason for staying in Koshi, Madhesh and Lumbini provinces was due to marriage (36.2%, 85.3% and 52.2% respectively). Alternatively, returning back was recorded as the main reason of staying in Bagmati, Gandaki, Karnali and Sudurpashchim provinces. In the Tarai belt, around two-thirds of the population stayed due to marriage. Marriage and returning back to place of residency are the leading factors for staying in Nepal. Similarly, the main reason for staying in Nepal for the 20-70+ age group was marriage, whereas the main reason of stay for the 0-19 years age group was due to dependency. Marriage is therefore observed as the main reason for staying in Nepal for women, whereas returning back is found leading causes of staying in Nepal for men.

International migration rates

Emigration and immigration rates: The emigration rate of Nepal reached 7.5 per thousand population whereas the net migration rate decreased to -5 per thousand population. The emigration rate is observed as higher in urban municipalities (1.6), Hill zone (8.4) and Sudurpashchim Province (12.7), whereas the immigration rate is found to be higher in urban municipalities (2.6), Tarai zone (3.8) and Madhesh Province (3.9). In terms of gross migration, the rate is observed as higher in urban municipalities, Tarai zone (10.8) and Sudurpashchim Province (13.8), whereas the net migration rate is observed negatively due to the high volume of absentees from Nepal compared to immigrant figures into Nepal. The net migration rate is observed lowest in Hill zone (-7.3) and Sudurpashchim Province (-11.7).

International migration and population growth: The average negative population growth rate from across the concerned 34 districts is -0.67, or around 26 percent of total households. Nearly 1 in every 10 population, or 9.5 percent of Nepal's total population, are absent from these districts. Of this figure, a large majority are males, represented at a rate of 16 percent of the total male population in contrast to the rate of 3 percent of the female population. The average population growth rate of the districts with a positive population growth rate is 1.46 percent. The correlation value of absentee population and the population growth rate is at the negative figure of -0.293 and can therefore be found to show no association between these two variables.

The overall sex ratio of the absentee population was found to be 460.4, the highest was found in the age group 40-44 years (831.2) and the lowest in the age group 0-4 (121.6).

<div style="text-align: center">

CHAPTER 1

BACKGROUND

</div>

Migration is the process of change in usual place of residence (International Organization for Migration [IOM], 2019). The definition of migration has expanded to include both voluntary and forced movement. This is due to increased human mobility driven by various factors including natural disasters, which results in displacement and dislocation. Long-term and seasonal migration, diaspora and student migration, and travel for family reunion and visits are examples of internal and international mobility. External causes create forced migration, which includes trafficking, smuggling, refugee, and internal displacement. Return, repatriation, security, health-related measures, diaspora and related issues, including migration costs, climate change, migration and environment, and cross-border mobility are crucial issues for investigation.

Globally, the number of international migrants reached 281 million in 2020 (IOM, 2020a). The growing number of international migrants is associated with population growth, increased connectivity, demographic imbalances, rising inequality, and climate change. IOM (2018) conceptualizes the nexus between migration, environment, and climate change (MECC) as neither entirely forced nor entirely voluntary but in a grey zone (IOM, 2018). Nepal's environmental vulnerability has an impact on the scale of internal and international migration. Climate change, environmental degradation, natural and human-made disasters trigger displacement and dislocation from the land, meaning that many Nepalis migrate to ensure a sustainable livelihood (IOM, 2020b). It is however difficult to establish a direct causal link between environmental factors and the decision to migrate, and rather a cumulative effect of climate change and environmental degradation impacting sustainability of livelihoods such as failure in agriculture, resulting in reduced income or poverty which drives migration.

Globally, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused economic, social, political and cultural ramifications and migration is one such social phenomenon witnessing a direct impact. Due to the pandemic, migrant workers have not only lost their jobs but also faced massive economic shocks and disruptions in supply of goods and services (IOM, 2020b). This overall scenario suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic has instigated an unprecedented crisis in the field of human mobility and foreign labour migration, which is a key global economic and social activity supporting the livelihoods of millions of families (IOM, 2020b). Nepali citizens tend to reside abroad for work, for study or on diplomatic mission. According to the 2008 Non-Resident Nepali Act, non-resident Nepalis are eligible for NRN[1] identification cards for 10 years, with the possibility of renewal. These cards grant benefits such as the waiver of visa for entry into Nepal and eligibility for certain rights in Nepal, including investment and purchase of

---

1   Non-resident Nepali (NRN) refers to foreign citizen of Nepali origin and this term includes a Nepali citizen residing abroad.

land (Nepal Law Commission, 2008). Nepal is a country with growing human trafficking incidences, particularly of women and girls (National Human Rights Commission [NHRC], 2019). They are trafficked within the country or to other countries such as India and regions such as the Middle East, Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa. An estimated 15,000 Nepali women, girls and children are trafficked with false promises of employment to India every year (IOM, 2019b). As a transit country, Bangladeshi and Sri Lankan women transit via Nepal en route to the Middle East, occasionally using fraudulent Nepali travel documents (ibid.).

Migration in Nepal is characterized mainly by internal migration; long-term and seasonal migration; diaspora, foreign labour migration; student migration; refugees, internally displaced persons due to natural and human-made disasters; and return migration. The overall internal migration pattern is centred in Tarai zone, where more than half (53.6%) of the population resides (NSO, 2023). International migration is characterized by both emigration and immigration. Volume of emigrants and immigrants were almost equal until 2001 as indicated in periodic population censuses of Nepal. Since 2011, the number of emigrants has doubled compared to immigrants. The National Population and Housing Census (NPHC) 2021 data published by National Statistics Office (NSO) showed that 2,190,592 people were absent from Nepal, including 390,917 (17.8%) females (Ibid.). International migration for foreign employment has become a common livelihood option for majority households of Nepal (NSO, 2024).

The Government of Nepal has issued institutional labour permits for foreign employment in 111 destination countries. Of these, working labour permits have been banned for Nepali migrants in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya. With this background, this report presents trend analysis of international migration in Nepal in terms of both emigration and immigration using mainly the NPHC 2021 data.

1.2 Historical overview of international migration

Migration has taken place in the country for many centuries. Historical data shows that early settlers migrated south to Nepal from Tibet and ethnic groups migrated north to Nepal from India between the 5th to 13th centuries. Both groups settled predominately in the Hill zone. These mixed flows were responsible for Nepal's significant ethnic diversity. For centuries, successive conflicts continued to push ethnic Indians into Nepal in search of sanctuary and the Muslim invasion of Northern India in the 11th and 12th centuries caused Hindus and Buddhists to flee into Nepal to escape religious persecution (IOM, 2019; Khatiwada, 2024).

Following the Anglo-Nepalese war of 1814-1816, the Treaty of Sugauli was signed, resulting in the establishment of Nepal's borders. The treaty saw some territories of Nepal being given to British India and, in 1815, Britain began to recruit Nepali Gurkhas to join the East India Company. This initiated a significant trend of Nepali Gurkhas being recruited into the British and Indian armies and, more

generally, young Nepali men migrating abroad for work. Some 100,000 Nepali men served in the British forces in the First World War, recognized by the signing of the British-Nepal Treaty of Friendship in 1923 (Brown, 2017). Through this treaty, Britain also recognized Nepal as an independent country and returned some of the formerly annexed Tarai region. Many Indians migrated to this region for employment as industries began to be established in the 1930s and land became readily available (Subedi, 1991). At the same time, Nepalis migrated to India for work, largely in the Darjeeling tea plantations and for lumbering opportunities in Assam, and later to extract coal and oil in the north-east of India. Many Nepalis settled permanently in these regions, seeking better opportunities.

In 1950, Nepal and India signed the Treaty of Peace and Friendship, in recognition of the "ancient ties which have happily existed between the two countries" (CIA, n.d.). Through its Article 7, the Treaty provides reciprocal rights to the nationals of India and Nepal in the matter of residence, ownership of property, participation in trade and commerce, movement and other similar privileges. In effect, this created full freedom of movement between the countries. After its signature, Nepalis started emigrating further into India in search of employment to the cities of Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore (Sijapati & Limbu, 2017). There were also continued cross country movements to and from Nepal Many Indians migrated to Tarai zone from Northern India; some 16,000 Tibetans fled in 1959/60 due to political instability at home; a, refugees of Nepali origin entered from Burma in 1964 after the Burmese Naturalisation Act, and about 10,000 Bihari Muslims thought to be coming from Bangladesh in the 1970s. From the mid-1980's, Nepalis also started to migrate to the Gulf States and Malaysia for work. The Gulf States were experiencing rapid economic growth, while Nepal's agricultural production and economic opportunities were declining. The growth in the number and accessibility of labour recruitment agencies and the decentralization of passport issuance in Nepal contributed to out-migration of unskilled and semi-skilled Nepalis to the Gulf States, particularly to the construction and service sectors (Sharma, 2011). The historic trend for Nepali youth to move abroad in search of work, and the continuation of cross-border movements with India, have become defining characteristics of Nepal's migration context.

CHAPTER 2

METHODOLOGY

During the inception phase, a consultation was made with the experts to discuss the expected objectives, outputs, and deliverables along with the working framework. The consultation also focused on analysing data related to international migration based on the NPHC 2021 sources, the challenges that might come in carrying out the analysis, and possible measures to overcome the challenges. This was a type of an orientation organized jointly by NSO, Central Department of Population Studies (CDPS) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The purpose of the orientation was to familiarize analysts with the guidelines and standards for producing thematic reports, hence ensuring that authors understand the specific requirements for developing quality thematic reports, and to ensure clarity, consistency and coherence in reporting. During the orientation, five documents were discussed to use as a common guideline for the analysts:

1. Writing Guidelines-2021 Census Reports;

2. 2021 Census Thematic Reports-Style Sheet;

3. Data Template-2021 Census Reports-2023_05_17.xlsx (Google Sheets);

4. Report Template-2021 Census Reports; and

5. Preparing tables, figures and charts both in Word and Excel sheets (with formula).

The purpose of distributing these documents to the analysts was to meet uniformity in writing style, data collection, documentation and updating as well as to use the same format and style for all thematic reports. Overall study design and conceptual framework were discussed and finalized among NSO, CDPS and UNFPA. These consultations helped in identifying the proper data analysis and policy feedback on migration and development related policies and programmes at national, provincial, and local levels.

2.1 Main sources and methods of data collection

Using mainly the NPHC 2021 data, this report presents a trend analysis of international migration in Nepal in terms of both emigration and immigration. Census-related data were received as comma-separated values (CSVs) files and frequency tables based on the dummies submitted by the writers were received from the NSO for both the emigration and immigration. The NPHC questionnaire contains place of birth, nationality, duration of residence and reasons for migration and these are the universal questions for researching any migration related issue, which the NPHC has included in every census questionnaire. Other questions in relation to international migration are related to absent population disaggregating with different questions: age, sex, place of residence, education, duration of absence, reasons, absence within country and destination countries (Table 2.1).

Table 2.1: Migration related topics in census schedules, censuses 1952/54-2021

| SN | Description of questions | 1952/54 | 1961 | 1971 | 1981 | 1991 | 2001 | | 2011 | | 2021 |
							C	S	C	S	
1.	Place of birth		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y			Y
2.	Native born		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y			Y
3.	Foreign born		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y			Y
4.	Duration of residence in Nepal (foreign born)				Y	Y					Y
5.	Duration of residence in present place				Y			Y			Y
6.	Reason for residence in present place				Y	Y		Y			Y
7.	Place of residence at fixed prior date									Y	Y
8.	Absentee population	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y		Y		Y
8.1	By age, sex				Y		Y		Y		Y
8.2	By place of residence								Y		
8.3	By education								Y		Y
8.4	Duration of absence					Y	Y		Y		Y
8.5	Reason for absence				Y				Y		Y
8.6	Absent within country but other district	Y	Y		Y				Y		Y
8.7	Destination abroad by sex	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y		Y		Y
8.9	Age at time of absence / departure					Y	Y		Y		Y
9.	Nationality		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y
9.1	Nepalese by sex, age		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y
9.2	Non-Nepalese by sex, age		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y

Note:

1. C = Complete enumeration,
2. S = Sample enumeration,
3. Y= Yes,
4. Blank = No

The data related to immigration in Nepal was made available only after the census of 1961. Following this, the successive censuses started to collect data of immigration into Nepal in the form of foreign-born population and foreign citizens. The NPHC 2021 has collected the data of immigrants based on six questions of individual roster. The question related to immigration are: a) where is the birth place of the person?; b) which district/country was the birth place of the person?; c) where was the usual place of residence before residing here?; d) which country/district was the usual place of residence?; e) what is the total duration of years after staying here?; and f) what is the main reason of staying or immigrating in this place? Based on these aforementioned questions, information related to immigration into Nepal was captured at the census of 2021. The questions which were asked at the time of census is presented in table 2.2.

Table 2.2: Questions related to immigration in the census of 2021

			Total …… Page No. of the page …….			B
			Information on migration			
Questions related to place of birth		**Information related to previous place of residence and migration of last time**				
… [name]… where is the place of birth? ● Same Ga. Pa./Na. Pa………….1 **Skip to 21** ● Different Ga. Pa./ Na.Pa. of same district………...2 **Skip to 21** ● Another district… ……...3 ● Abroad … …..... 4	… [name]… Which district/ country is the birth place? (Write code and name of district or country)	…[name]… where is the usual place of residence before this place? ● Same Ga. Pa./Na. Pa…….…....1 **Skip to 26** ● Different Ga. Pa./ Na. Pa. of same district…….....2 **Skip to 23** ● Another district. …………...…3 ● Abroad …….....4	…[name]… which district/ country is the place of residence? (if the place is abroad) **Skip to 24**	…[name]… Is the place of residence before this place rural or urban? ● VDC/Ga.Pa…1 ● Na. Pa…......2 (For those having district code in Question 22)	…[name]… Duration of residence in this place? (Duration after migrated last time) **(write in years)**	…[name]… What is the main reason for migration? ● Work/ Employment….1 ● Trade/Business…....... 2 ● Study/Training. …..... 3 ● Marriage ……….... 4 ● Dependent…….….... 5 ● Natural disaster……6 ● Agriculture………..7 ● Returnee ………....8 ● Other …………….... 9
	Name of district/ country | **(Code)**		**Name of district/ country** | **(Code)**			
(19)	**(20)**	**(21)**	**(22)**	**(23)**	**(24)**	**(25)**
	………...		………...			
	………...		………...			
	………...		………...			

Data on labour migration were obtained from Department of Foreign Employment (DoFE). Wherever relevant, other sources of data such as national surveys were also revisited and analysed for the cross-verification of data and triangulation.

The NPHC data were further substantiated with international level indicators, particularly at the South Asian level. The study team also reviewed the existing policies and programmes related to international migration in Nepal. They include periodic plans and migration related documents. The main purpose of the overall review is to identify how the global commitments on migration have been translated into these national and sub-national level policies.

2.2 Data editing, cleaning, analysis and report writing

The data obtained based on the dummy tables submitted to the NSO were edited, cleaned, and analysed thematically by applying content analysis techniques. The report follows the UNFPA House Style provided during the orientation organised by UNFPA and CDPS.

2.3 Analysis and interpretation

2.3.1 Analysis of demographic and socio-economic associates on international migration

For the analysis of demographic and socio-economic data related to international migration, regression analysis has been executed. The main aim of this analysis is to identify the relationship between dependent and independent variables, enabling the prediction or explanation of one variable based on the others. By this method, an attempt has been made to examine how categorical or continuous independent variables related to migration can have influence over the dichotomous dependent variable (Hosmer & Lemeshow, 1989).

The multivariate logistic regression is represented by the following equation:

$$\log (p/1-p) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \ldots\ldots + \beta_n X_n$$

Where p is the probability of outcome variable, β_0 is the odds of intercept, $\beta_1 \ldots \beta_n$ are the coefficients associated with the reference group , and $X_{1 \ldots} X_n$ are the independent variables.

In this report, five models have been applied in with one concerned with household level whereas remaining four are related with individual or migrant level. The first model is related with the probability of having absentee in households are determined by the different household characteristics. In this regards, logistic regression model is performed for households (absentee, 0 = no and 1 = yes) category. The logistic regression model compares the odds of households having absentees those with and without in terms of selected independent variables like household size, occupation, education,

ecological belt, place of residence, province, household ownership, wealth quintile, family structure and caste/ethnicity.

For the individual or migrant level regression analysis, four models were applied to observe the association between dependent and independent variables. In the first model, the dependent variable was categorized as emigration to middle east countries and other remaining countries where emigration to middle east was coded as '1' and emigration to other countries was coded as '0'. The second model at individual level is related to emigration to India in comparison to other countries in which emigration to India was coded as '1' and emigration to other countries was coded as '0'. Similarly, in the third model the dependent variable was selected as the duration of emigration less than five years in comparison to higher than five years. The first period of time – i.e., duration of emigration less than five years – is coded as '1' conversely higher than five was coded as '0'. The fourth model's dependent variable was selected as main reason of absence as salary/wage compared with other reason where salary/wage is coded as '1' and other reason is coded as '0'. The independent variables for these four models have been selected as age group, sex, caste/ethnicity, ecological belt, place of residence, province, household ownership, wealth quintile, family structure and caste/ethnicity. The applied models for regression analysis at household and individual level are classified by determining the list of dependent and independent variables (Annex Table 1).

2.3.3 Review of policy documents

A desk review was carried out to cross verify and validate the laws, policies and programmes. The desk review included review of Nepal's Constitution, policies and programmes, SDG Roadmap of Nepal 2016-2030, migration related achievements made by Fifteenth Periodic Plan and further policies and programmes set forth in the Sixteenth plan. The existing policies, laws, plans and other relevant instruments related with migration and sustainable development were also assessed. They included global literatures like Global Compact on Migration for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration (GCM), Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The review of secondary sources also consists of but not limited to the reports of UN agencies, including IOM Migration Profile, Status Report of Nepali Migrant Workers in Relation to COVID-19, and that of non-UN entities like periodic/annual development plans/programmes and reports related to migration and development. The secondary sources of data also consisted of, but not limited to, national report published by NSO based on NPHC 2021, the reports of UN agencies, including IOM's Migration Profile, Status Report of Nepali Migrant Workers in Relation to COVID-19, and that of non-UN entities.

<div style="text-align:center;">

CHAPTER 3

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

</div>

The UN human rights treaties include a common provision of prohibiting discriminations and affirm that every right set out applies to every person without discrimination of any kind with respect to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political opinion, national or social origin, birth and other status.[2] This chapter presents the theoretical overview of migration and its status of application in the Nepali context. The policy review section presents a cursory analysis of both the UN and ILO conventions related to migration and their domestication status in Nepal. Finally, migration policies framed by Nepal in relation to both internal and international migration are reviewed, highlighting gaps and challenges in them.

3.1 Theoretical review

Historical evidence suggests migration phenomena have existed throughout the history of humankind. However, the theoretical interpretation is first defined by Ravenstein through the 'Laws of Migration' (Ravenstein, The Laws of Migration , 1885). Based on the British census of 1881, Ravenstein concluded that the following forms of migration usually prevail in migration studies: migration and distance; migration by slopes; stream and counter stream; urban-rural difference in propensity to migrate, and predominance of females among short distance migrants. He further concluded that technology and migration and the dominance of economic motives are also factors which determine migration (Ravenstein, 1889). Ravenstein's laws of migration became the basis for contributors such as Stouffer (1960) and Lee (1966) who would continue to explore migration concepts (Stouffer, 1960 & Lee, 1966). Whereas Stouffer introduced the concept of intervening opportunities, Lee introduced the factors of migration associated with the area of origin, destination, intervening obstacles, and personal factors. Lee further reformulated Ravenstein's theory to contextualise push and pull factors which are affected by the variables like distance, physical and political barriers (Khatiwada, 2014).

Even though migration creates unemployment and induces informal sector growth, this behaviour is stated to be economically rational and utility-maximizing in the context of the Harris–Todaro model (Todaro, 1969). In this model, if the migrating economic agents have complete and accurate information concerning rural and urban wage rates and probabilities of obtaining employment, they will make an expected income-maximizing decision. Migration as a social process is defined more as the 'hypothesis of mobility transition', a concept initially developed by Zelinsky (Zelinsky, 1971)

---

2   Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other core international human rights instruments prohibit any kind of discrimination based on sex, race, colour, language, religion, political and other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status (UDHR Article 2, ICERD Article 1, ICCPR Article 2, ICESCR 2.2, CEDAW Article 2, CAT Article 1, CRC Article 2, ICMW Article 7, CPED Article 13.7 and CRPD Article 5).

in the five-phase model of mobility transition: phase one concerning the pre-modern traditional society, phase two the early transitional society, phase three the late transitional society, phase four the advanced society, and finally phase five as the future super-advanced society.

The migration systems theory, as pioneered by the Nigerian geographer Akin Mabogunje (1970), has provided the most comprehensive attempt at integrating both first (endogenous) and second order (contextual) migration system feedback (Mabogunje, 1970), along with the world-systems theory as developed by Immanuel Wallerstein in the 1970s and 1980s (Wallerstein, 2004).

Relative deprivation as one of the main indicators for migration was first coined by Sam Stouffer and his associates in their wartime study 'The American Soldier' (1960). The theory states that relative deprivation occurs where individuals or groups subjectively perceive themselves as unfairly disadvantaged over others who are perceived as having similar attributes and deserving similar rewards (their reference groups).

The differential characteristics of streams of migration are regarded as consequences of social and cultural constraints upon the head of a household. Migration is a large concern for policy makers because flows of population can significantly affect local political, social, economic, and ecological structures for both sending and receiving areas (DaVanzo, 1981). Regional economists, demographers, sociologists and geographers have made numerous contributions to migration studies since 1960 (Greenwood, 1969). Many early economic studies used aggregated data to treat migration as an equilibrating mechanism that minimizes geographic wage and employment differentials, while later studies have shifted to a microeconomic approach to study why individuals and families move (DaVanzo, 1981).

Theorists have attempted to develop a formal theory of decision-making in human migration. Other examinations of the decision-making process have contained several shortcomings, such as examining residential preferences without reference to other constraints acting on the migration decision, which will be addressed in this paper. Further, the links between migration decision-making and aggregate rates of migration have been left unspecified or it has been assumed that detailed micro data are needed to apply decision-making frameworks to migration data. Judson is one theorist who aims to re-examine these issues within migration decision theory and presents conclusions which suggest that decision theory has a much broader application to migration data than previously specified (Judson, 1990).

Hampton argued that many real-life decision-making problems incorporate a higher-order structure, involving interdependencies between different stimuli, actions, and subsequent rewards (Hampton, 2007). It is not known whether brain regions such as the ventromedial prefrontal cortex are implicated in decision making or employ a stored model of the task structure to guide choice (model-based

decision making) or merely learn action or state values without assuming higher-order structure, as in standard reinforcement learning.

Finally, there is a substantial and influential body of literature regarding migration decision-making based on work of theorists such as Ajzen and Fishbein which is relevant here. The theory of reasoned action "traces the causal links from beliefs, through attitudes and intentions, to actual behaviour" and is used to explain "behaviour that is largely under a person's volitional control" (Ajzen, 1985).

3.2 Application of theories in the Nepalese context

Population migration can create both solutions and problems and therefore may account for positive and negative impacts globally. It creates opportunities for migrants to gain knowledge and skills and to earn money in the form of remittances contributing to national economy. Migration may however pose problems to a host community due to heavy inflow of newcomers associated with intolerance and crime. This remained a characteristic phenomenon during the 10 yearlong armed conflict period in Nepal. Although very few studies focusing on the nature of forced migration in Nepal have been researched, Khatiwada (2008) studied migration by contextualizing the mass exodus of conflict affected people during the conflict period as a dichotomy of migration in terms of voluntary and forced migration (Khatiwada P. P., 2008). Nepalese migration trends therefore do not remain within the limited scope of classic push and pull factors; the trends have experienced paradigm shifts from the voluntary forced dichotomy to the post-conflict relative deprivation, decision making, and livelihood approaches.

Traditionally, studies of migration were confined within the Marxist-capitalist, social, cultural, religious, developmental and economic approaches and measured largely in the context of push and pull factors. Several ups and downs have occurred during the last 100 years of human mobility and, as a result, approaches to migration studies can be analysed as a shift from traditional Marxist-capitalist to legal, social-development, political economy and security approaches (Khatiwada P. P., 2024). Prior to armed conflict or during armed conflict, three main approaches are linked to the promotion of migration – legal institutional approaches, social development, and security approaches mainly on humanitarian grounds during conflict with an emphasis in rural Nepal. In Nepal, trends of individuals migrating abroad for labour work – most commonly to the Gulf countries and Malaysia – has increased during the armed conflict period and can be seen to be led by a security approach. In this post-conflict period, it is the political economy approach that has direct links with the relative deprivation, the shift in decision making and livelihood factors.

After the post-conflict period, many realized their relative deprivation from the opportunity to participate in politics, state affairs and many other sectors of state building, and the state could not address the growing aspirations of its people. As a result, the level and trend of migration was

impacted through the form of increased foreign labour. This trend did not only impact areas of relative deprivation but also created huge shifts in decision making. Previously, the decision for a family member to migrate remained among the households with male decision makers, whereas an increase in female-led households was seen during armed conflict, with this shift also having a direct impact on migration. As a result of this change, more and more females have taken their own decision to migrate abroad for the purpose of labour. Livelihood has been the main push factor for these people to go abroad and earn money to improve their well-being.

3.3 Policy review

Nepal has ratified almost all core UN human rights treaties, including: the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD); International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). However, Nepal has not ratified the Convention on Rights of the Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, 1990. Nepal has ratified 11 ILO Conventions (Table 2.1). The country has not ratified major ILO Conventions such as C097: *Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97).*

Table 3.1: ILO Conventions Ratified by Nepal

S.N.	ILO Conventions ratified by Nepal	Ratification date
1.	**C169** - Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169)	14 Sep 2007
2.	**C105** - Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)	30 Aug 2007
3.	**C029** - Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)	03 Jan 2002
4.	**C182** - Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)	03 Jan 2002
5.	**C138** - Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)Minimum age specified: 14 years	30 May 1997
6.	**C098** - Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)	11 Nov 1996
7.	**C144** - Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144)	21 Mar 1995
8.	**C014** - Weekly Rest (Industry) Convention, 1921 (No. 14)	10 Dec 1986
9.	**C100** - Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)	10 Jun 1976
10.	**C111** - Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)	19 Sep 1974
11.	**C131** - Minimum Wage Fixing Convention, 1970 (No. 131)	19 Sep 1974

Source: Normlex/ILO (n.d.)

Similarly, Nepal has not ratified the core ILO Convention on Migration for Employment (C 097) and the Domestic Workers Convention (No. C 189) (2011), which is also a fundamental tool which, after

having been ratified by States, contributes to guaranteeing the rights of female nationals as well as female migrants who are employed as domestic workers.

Table 3.2: ILO Conventions related to migration not ratified by Nepal

S.N.	ILO Conventions not ratified by Nepal	Remarks
1.	**C097** - Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97)	Core migration convention
2.	**C087** - Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)	Core human rights convention
3.	**C081** - Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81)	Core governance conventions
4.	**C122** - Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122)	
5.	**C129** - Labour Inspection (Agriculture) Convention, 1969 (No. 129)	
6.	**C143** - Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143)	Core migration convention
7.	**C156** - Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention, 1981 (No. 156)	Related to migration
8.	**C161** - Occupational Health Services Convention, 1985 (No. 161)	Related to health issues of migrant workers
9.	**C189** - Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189)	Related to women migrant workers
10.	**C190** - Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190)	Related to women migrant workers

Source: (ILO, n.d.).

As a Member State of the United Nations, Nepal has made a commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs). Nepal is committed to achieving the targets and indicators set forth in the SDGs by harnessing broader cooperation among the countries and stakeholders in safeguarding safe, regular, and orderly migration. Nepal is also the signatory to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), a document committed to the protection of all kinds of migrants. According to the key informants selected for this study, the Government of Nepal has been developing strategies for materialising all 23 of the GCM's objectives to ensure and promote safer migration. For this, Nepal needs to prioritise GCM's 23 objectives, all of which are set out in the form of commitments to making migration safer at local, regional and international levels. Nepal is criticised as lacking a well-planned preparation to accommodate the return and reintegration needs of the returnee migrant workers and their accompanying children in terms of plans, policies, programmes and resources, even prior to the situation caused due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises (NHRC, 2020).

Human trafficking in Nepal is diverse in its forms. Trafficking of men, women and children occurs for various purposes. Internal, cross-border and transnational trafficking are the most common types of human trafficking which occur in Nepal. The Government of Nepal has pledged to achieve sustainable development goals by 2030 and has shown political commitment to achieve SDG 8.7 through its endorsement of the 'Call to Action to End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking', as well as through its agreement to become a 'Pathfinder Country' of the Alliance 8.7 global initiative. These recent commitments reinforce longstanding efforts by the Nepalese government to address human trafficking and promote decent work conditions (Plan International, 2019).

Nepal ratified the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, commonly known as Palermo Protocol, in June 2020. Nepal became the 176th country to ratify the protocol, which stands as the first global legally binding instrument with an agreed definition on trafficking in persons and protecting people at home and abroad. The enforcement of this protocol benefits Nepal and other countries which send their citizens to work abroad and a country that has been as a source, transit, and destination country for human trafficking. A key few of the aims of the Palermo Protocol are to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, paying particular attention to women and children; to protect and assist the victims of such trafficking, with full respect for their human rights; and to promote cooperation among States Parties (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNDOC], 2004).

3.4 Domestication of Nepal's global commitments on migration

The Constitution of Nepal is the key legal document that primarily recognises the issues of Nepal's foreign employment. Provisions on nationality, citizens' right to freely move, ensuring foreign employment free from exploitation and guaranteeing the rights of migrant workers, and mobilisation of the capital and skills of returning migrants are included in the constitution. In the state's policies relating to labour and employment, the Constitution of Nepal has the provision to regulate and manage foreign employment to ensure that labour is free from exploitation, that it is safe and systematic and to guarantee employment and rights of the labourers, and to encourage the mobilization of capital, skills, technology, and experience gained from foreign employment in productive sectors in the country (Government of Nepal [GoN], 2015).

The Fifteenth Periodic Plan of Nepal has incorporated migration in its goal 'to manage population and migration appropriately'. The earlier periodic plans were limited in their approach to regulating migration and contained few clear polices and indicators. For the first time, the Fifteenth Plan shifted from regulating migration to managing migration, as per the reflective approach of the SDGs. To manage migration, this plan recommends keeping internal and external migration-related records and statistics systems and in a more succinct way compared to previous periodic plans. It introduces policy for the demographic management to be institutionalised as an integral part of the overall

development process through coordination and collaboration between population and migration, development, and environment. It further states for migration to become more systematic and introduces the classification of manufacturing and service sector industries based on local products and raw materials to have contributed to economic development and poverty alleviation. Furthermore, the plan highlights the strengthening of border management and immigration systems and the control of undocumented migration and cross border crimes (National Planning Commission [NPC], 2019).

The Fifteenth Periodic Plan of Nepal is thus committed to fulfilling the spirit of the Goal 10.7 of the SDGs; however it lacks policy vision to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well managed migration policies (United Nations$_a$, n.d.). Nepal has developed indicators to promote decent works (SDG 8) through protecting labour rights and through the promotion of safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers and in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment management (indicator 8.8). There are still other SDG areas related to migration – such as targets 5.4 on gender and 4.4 on education – to which Nepal lacks mainstreaming through concrete policies.

While international migration has provided employment opportunities to youth, it has also led to social implications, as well as the loss of productive contributions of youth within the country (NPC, 2020). The plan mainly highlights the government's long-term vision to create better employment opportunities within the country with a view to reducing the number of youths who are compelled to look for employment abroad. Despite these shortcomings, the Government of Nepal is working on improving labour conditions in the countries of destination, extending support for better utilisation of the skills of the returnees, and providing resources for productive purposes with various schemes and programmes, including financial inclusion and financial literacy in different parts of the country.

The present Constitution of Nepal forbids human trafficking and considers it as a punishable offense. Provisions of fundamental rights such as rights of women, the right to employment, the right against exploitation, the right to justice, the right against torture, the right to freedom and the rights of children are guaranteed. Particularly, Article 29 has the provision of right against exploitation which further guarantees that no one shall be subjected to trafficking nor shall be held in slavery or servitude (GoN, 2015). In June 2020, Nepal ratified the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, also referred to as the Palermo Protocol (UN, n.d.). As per the Palermo Protocol, the act of human trafficking encompasses the broader scope with the following elements: a) Action: Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of the person; b) Means: Threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person; and c) Purpose: Exploitation of the person.

3.5 International migration policies in Nepal

Nepal has framed its migration policies to target foreign employment, internal mobility/migration, and immigration, as well as cross-cutting issues like governance, human trafficking, gender, and reintegration. The Foreign Employment Policy 2012 has given a direction for the effective management of foreign employment with the purpose to make the process of migration safe and accessible and to solve the existing issues in the field of foreign labour migration. The main objective of the policy is to provide knowledge and skills as demanded by the international labour market and develop a skilled, capable, and competitive labour force to make the entry of Nepali workers into the international market safe, organized and respectable. This policy has further given priority to the protection of the rights and welfare of Nepali migrants (GoN, 2012). To promote safe, secure and dignified migration, the policy contains a provision of directives and manuals such as the Standard on the Enlisting Process of the Health Examination (2013), a Directive on the Procedure on Individual Labour Permits (2013), the Manual on Registration and Renewal of Orientation Training Institutions (2014) and Directives on Sending Domestic Helpers for Foreign Employment (2015).

The first Foreign Employment Act was passed in 1985 and the Foreign Employment Rules were enacted in 1999 with the aim to control and manage foreign employment. This act was amended in 1998 and 2007, with an amendment of the rules following in 2008, which set forth the provision to regulate the process associated with foreign employment and also regulated the works and behaviour of recruiting agencies, prescribing penalties for fraud and misrepresentation (GoN, 2007). However, this act does not cover undocumented migrations. This law enables the government to enter into agreement with the countries of destination to protect the rights of migrant workers by regulating minimum wages, costs of recruitment and introducing requirements for training, insurance and other programmes.

With the changes in the State structure of Nepal from unitary to federal, the Constitution of Nepal has put the employment creation responsibility in concurrent powers of Federal and Provincial governments. The Provincial Governments have been given priority to reduce the existing higher rate of youth unemployment. However, Nepal should work further to make foreign employment more secure and safe in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. Nepal set targets to protect labour rights and promotes safe and secure working environments for all workers including women migrant workers (SDG-8.8) (NPC, 2016). Foreign employment has been undertaken by youth from all seven provinces. In the fiscal year 2018/2019, migrant workers were recorded at the highest rate in Koshi (24.4%) and at the lowest rate in Sudurpashchim Province (2.6%) (Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security [MoLESS], 2020). The first periodic plans of all seven provinces envisions to create employment and self-employment opportunities for youth by providing vocational and skill-based development trainings to reduce the present compelling situation in which youth migrate to foreign countries for employment. Within this framework, there is a strategy to protect worker's rights, increase employment and end gender discrimination within the employment sector, with emphasis on

entrepreneurship and self-employment, increased skilled human resources, promotion of respectful work culture and ensuring access to concessional loans, among other needs (Khatiwada, P.P., Subedi, D.R., Gurung, Y.B., Pradhan, M.S., Pradhan, P., 2023). To realise this plan, all the provinces have set interventions to take skill tests of returnees, provide skill certificates, provide additional required skill development training and provide collateral-free bank loans, including for returnees.

The share of female migrant workers in the fiscal year 2020/2021 totalled to around 10 per cent of the population. The districts with highest percentage of female migrant workers include Jhapa, Sindhupalchowk, Makawanpur, Morang, Kathmandu, Kavrepalanchok, Ilam, Sunsari and Chitawan. These 10 districts account for over 50 per cent of the total female migrant workers (MoLESS, 2020).

The 2017 Local Government Operation Act has stated that local governments can provide financial literacy and skill training for the labour force going abroad (GoN, 2017). Similarly, the National Population Policy 2014 has stated that out- migration of productive human resources has impacted agricultural productivity and has changed the demography of rural area by leaving only women, children and senior citizens behind (Khatiwada et.al, 2024).

The 1992 Immigration Act and the 1994 Immigration Rules, the 2008 Immigration Procedures, the 2007 Foreign Employment Act, the 2008 Foreign Employment Rules, the 2012 Foreign Employment Policy and the 2007 Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act and its Rules (2008) are the key legal frameworks to guide Nepal's foreign migration sector. Such legal frameworks have laid emphasis on the fact that foreign employment should be developed as a tool for transferring of new skills and technology by recognising foreign employment returnees as development partners for the country through utilisation of their skill and savings. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 2000 and the Labour Act 2017 are also the key legal instruments determining the areas relating to labour and migration. Regarding reference to foreign workers in Nepal, the government policies are restrictive except for highly skilled workers.

The 2017 Labour Act has restricted foreigners from employment in Nepal, stating that no employer shall employ any foreign citizen as a labourer without obtaining the relevant work permit. However, the employer may employ a foreign labourer only if skilled labourers cannot be supplied from among Nepali citizens. The act has a clear provision which states that, prior to employing a foreign labourer, the employer should publish an advertisement in a national daily newspaper to acquire the required skilled labour from among the Nepali citizens. If no application is received from any Nepali citizen as prescribed, or if no Nepali citizen is selected, the employer should make an application to the Labour Department. The Department may issue a work permit for the employment of a foreign skilled labourer if it deems reasonable upon inquiring into the application received and the evidence attached.

During the period of COVID-19, the Supreme Court ordered the government to use welfare funds to repatriate Nepali workers stranded abroad. Similarly, the Government of Nepal passed a directive related to repatriation on 20 July 2020. As per the provision of directive, the Government of Nepal has provided facilitation to return home to those who were in stranded, vulnerable and difficult situations at the country of destination (Pradhan, et. al., 2021).

A directive to allow overseas voting has been discussed for the past few years, which is the result of a Supreme Court case which recognised that a figure of around 25 per cent of Nepalis reside outside of the country for different purposes at any time and that all Nepalis should have the right to contribute to democratic nation building (IOM, 2019b).

3.6 Immigration policies

The Immigration Act, 1992 and the Immigration Regulation, 1994 are the main regulating frameworks for managing immigration in Nepal. The Immigration laws of Nepal govern the entry, exit and stay of immigrants, as well as for Nepali citizens to and from Nepal. The Immigration Act provides the basic provisions on entry, stay and departure and provides the authority of the Nepalese Government to regulate these matters. The act does not permit foreigners to enter and stay in Nepal without holding a passport and visa. In special cases, as contained under Article 13 of the act, individuals may be provided exemption from visa fees (GoN, 1992).

Similarly, immigration rules have different provisions related to definition, types of visa, renewal of visa, restriction in work, change in types of visa, cancellation of visa, exemption on visa fees, permission on travel and especial provision on mountaineers (GoN, 1994). The Regulations define different classes of visa, which are: a) Diplomatic visa for foreign diplomats, which is issued on the basis of reciprocity for the term of assignment in Nepal (issued by the MoFA); b) Official visa for staff in diplomatic missions and their family members and consultants of the Government, staff of UN and other international organizations and participants in Government of UN conferences (issued by MoFA); c) Tourist visa for foreign tourists and trekking permit; d) Study visa for foreigners and their family member who either work, study or conduct research for an educational institution in Nepal; e) Non-tourist visas, for a range of professionals; f) Business visa for foreigners who have obtained a licence to invest in, or trade from Nepal; g) Transit visa; h) Non-residential Nepalis visa for an NRN who intends to reside or conduct business in Nepal; and i) Residential visa for foreigners allowed to live in Nepal.

Furthermore, the Immigration Procedures, 2008 contains provisions of various functions of the Department of Immigration, the Director General and of Immigration Offices. It provides the overall vision and values about immigration as well as outlining a number of procedural matters. Similarly, the Department of Immigration is the principal institution for implementing the immigration laws and regulation of Nepal. This institution performs monitoring, controlling and regulating entry, exit

and stay of immigrants in Nepal. The Department of Immigration also oversees arrival and departure of Nepali citizens to and from Nepal.

Legal and Policy Provisions for Governing International Migration in Nepal

International Provisions

Conventions and dedications
- UDHR, 1948
- ICCPR, 1966
- ICESCR, 1966
- UNCMRW, 1990
- 189-Domestic Workers Convention, 2011
- New York Declaration for 4 Refugees and Migrants, 2016
- Palermo Protocol

Treaty and other provisions
- Treaty of Peace and Friendship. 1950
- Millennium Development Goals, 2000
- Sustainable Development Goals, 2015
- Abu Dhabi Dialogue
- Global Compact for Migration
- Global Forum for Migration and Development
- Different Movements

National Provisions

Constitution and legal provisions
- Constitution of Nepal, 2015
- Foreign Employment Act, 2007
- Foreign Employment Rules, 2008
- Human Trafficking and Transportation Act. 2007
- Human Trafficking and Transportation Rules, 2007
- Local Government Operation Act, 2015
- Immigration Act, 1992 and Rules, 1994
- National Health Insurance Act, 2017

Provisions related to policy and plan
- National Population Policy, 2015
- Foreign Employment Policy, 2012
- National Employment Policy, 2016
- National Youth Policy, 2015
- The Youth Vision, 2025
- The Population Perspective Plan, 2010-2031
- The National Health Policy, 2019
- Periodic Plans and Strategies

3.7 Institutional set up for regulating migration in Nepal

The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security stands as an apex body to regulate, monitor and manage labour migration. The line agencies responsible in the country to oversee the entire foreign employment domain of Nepal are the following:

- The Department of Foreign Employment is the key institution that manages issues related to foreign employment, including labour permits, recruitment agencies, grievances hearing and others;

- The Foreign Employment Board is chaired by the Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security, the Board consists of 23 members represented by different Ministries, Nepal Rastra Bank, civil society, and the private sector. The Board conducts promotional activities for foreign employments responsible for ensuring social protection and welfare of workers abroad or those returned or are in the process of returning. Tasked with formulating programmes to utilise the skills, capital and experience of returnee migrants, the Board manages the Foreign Employment Welfare Fund and conducts pre-departure orientation and skills training;

- The Foreign Employment Tribunal is another semi-judicial body responsible for settling cases regarding licenses for recruiting agencies and ensuring the recruiting agencies operate lawfully. The Tribunal is chaired by a Judge of Nepal's High Court, and an officer of the Labour Court and an officer of the Judicial Service;

- Labour Attachés appointed in the countries of destination is another provision for managing and regulating foreign labour migration in Nepal. It is regarded as one of the most important assignments of MoLESS for promoting and ensuring the rights and safety of Nepali migrant workers in the countries of destination. Legally, Section 68 of the Foreign Employment Act 2007 states that Labour Attachés can be appointed in the countries of destination having at least 5,000 Nepali migrant workers. Similarly, as per Rule 43 of the Foreign Employment Rules 2008, a female Labour Attaché in the country of destination can be appointed where at least 1,000 women migrant workers are based. However, this regulation is not fully implemented. To date, there are no female Labour Attaches based on the legal provision and the current number of Attachés appointed to date is nine. The Attachés are in Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Republic of Korea, Bahrain, Japan, Israel, Jordan, Malaysia and Mauritius. The main function of the Labour Attachés is to assist in disputes with employers, assist or rescue any Nepali workers in distress and provide information on the job market and conditions in the country of destination;

- The Vocational and Skill Development Training Centre operates under the Ministry and provides training programmes for Nepalis seeking foreign employment. It has several training centres located in cities throughout Nepal;

- The Foreign Employment Office of Tahachal was established in 2013 to provide all foreign employment related services in one place;

- The Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) first conceptualizes and started by IOM and now operated by various stakeholders and managed together with the local government were established to provide accurate and reliable information to migrant workers on foreign employment. Furthermore, MRC also provides access to justice, skills, financial literacy, and psycho-social support to both aspirant and returnee migrant workers.[3]

The Ministry does not oversee the overall migration and development issues. The Ministry of Home Affairs is responsible for immigration issues, including those which concern passports and visas, whereas the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is responsible for student migration. The issues connected with trafficking and smuggling of women and children are coordinated by the

---

3   IOM. Increasing the Capacity of Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs) in Nepal to Foster Safe, Humane and Orderly Migration.https://nepal.iom.int/increasing-capacity-migrant-resource-centres-mrcs-nepal-foster-safe-humane-and-orderly-migration.

Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens. This indicates a coordinating apex body such as a joint working group or committee to deal with the entire migration and development sector and exchange data and information on migration.

3.8 Gaps and challenges

The return of migrant workers requires not just the safe return home, but also the reintegration of returnees into national labour markets, as well as the support required to cope with socio-economic challenges during the post-pandemic recovery phase. The returnee migrant workers and accompanied children require support from their government to enable environments and supply-chain networks developed for entrepreneurship development. In addition, they need facilitation from the government, non-governments and private sector actors to flourish in their new business. The Fifteenth Periodic Plan realised for the first time the need of migration management policies, however, how they are reflected in the concrete policies and programmes are the major issues of concern. As a signatory to the Global Compact for Migration and being a champion country, Nepal has committed to reintegrate returnees into community life by providing them with equal access to social protection, employment opportunities, and 'skill recognition' what they have acquired overseas and matching them with the domestic labour market. Through the 'Comprehensive Integration Plan', the Government of Nepal has initiated a response to organise nationwide entrepreneurship development programmes that include financial literacy, vocational training, psychosocial support, shelter, and grants to individuals, yet this programme is not available to the thousands of migrants without labour permits.

The gender aspect should be made a key consideration when designing reintegration programmes. A study done with returnee migrants reveals that most are interested to begin pursuits in farming for which they need loans, improved seeds, fertilizers, insurance, and marketing to earn livelihood at homeland rather than to be compelled to go back to foreign employment (IOM, 2020$_b$). If such an enabling environment is created, then the skill and knowledge of returnee migrants can be utilized in productive sectors across Nepal. Those who wish to return to foreign employment should be provided with skill development training so that they earn more than unskilled labourers.

Laws related to child trafficking are insufficient because they do not clearly criminalise recruitment, harbouring or receipt of trafficked persons, or transportation in the absence of force, fraud, or coercion. The legal framework also does not explicitly prohibit the use of a child in the production of child pornography. In addition, the legal framework prohibiting the use of children in illicit activities is insufficient as it does not prohibit the use of children in the production of drugs or extend to children who are 17 years of age.

In 2017, Nepal made a pledge at the Fourth Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour held in Argentina to take initiatives on adopting the National Master Plan on the Elimination of Child Labour, amending the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, and conducting research on child labour and forced labour. Although the Government of Nepal has a policy to address human trafficking, it does not have a policy to address other worst forms of child labour. In 2017, the National Planning Commission approved the National Master Plan on the Elimination of Child Labour and forwarded it the Cabinet, which remained awaited endorsement for a long period.

CHAPTER 4

EMIGRATION FROM NEPAL

This chapter presents Nepal's trend of emigration based on both household and individual characteristics. Using data sourced both from the NPHC 2021 and Department of Foreign Employment (DoFE), the first part of this chapter presents information on age-sex structure and household characteristics. The second part discusses the international migration situation in terms of caste, ethnicity, education, occupation, place of origin and destination, migration and skill, and reason for migration. The third part of this chapter is focused on the findings from the regression analysis.

4.1 Trend of emigration

Nepal's emigration status is counted as population absence during the census period. The trend shows an increasing absentee ratio in Nepal, such as, from 3.3 percent in 2001 to 7.5 percent in 2021 (Figure 4.1). The main reason of an increased percentage of absentees can be seen to be due to the increasing trend of foreign employment and student migration from Nepal.

Figure 4.1: **Nepal's trend of emigration, NPHC 2001-2021**
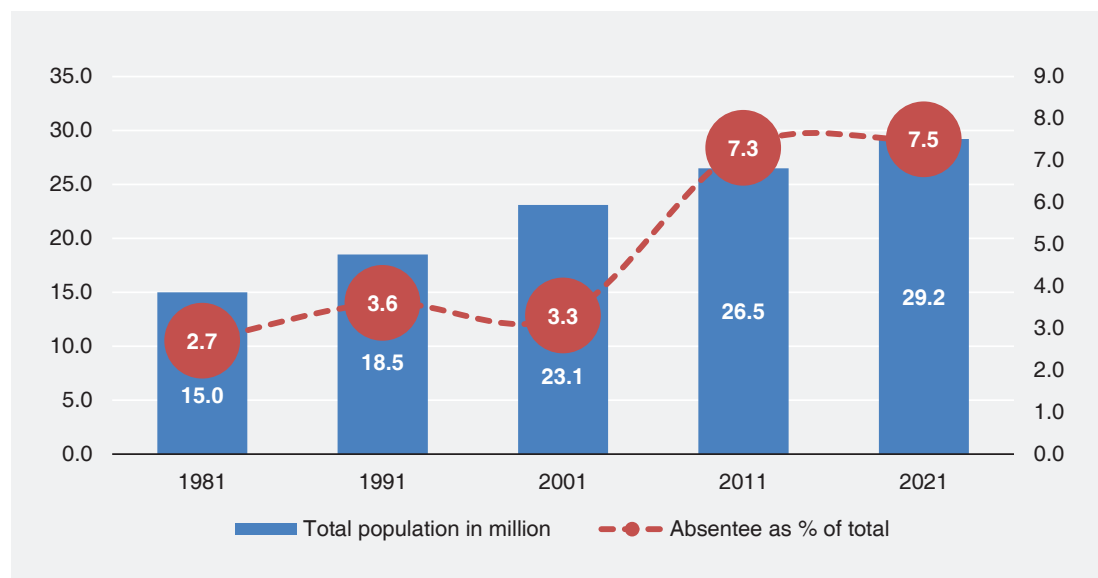
Among the absentees, males (82.2%) are overwhelmingly represented compared to females (17.8%). The proportion of females has increased over time, such as from 10.8 percent in 2001 to 17.8 percent in 2021 (Table 4.1). This is a large increment increase from the ratio of 12 percent in 2011.

Of the total absentees abroad, the proportion of male absentees (12.6%) sits at a figure around four times higher than female absentees (2.6%). The main reason behind this gap could be inferred from the restriction of government for domestic work in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, the predominantly labour-based demand from overseas countries, socio-economic status of the population, and patriarchal societal norms which prevent women's participation in overseas migration.

Table 4.1: Emigration trend of Nepal, NPHC, 1911 - 2021

Year	Total Population	Absent Population	Absentees as % of Total Population	Male		Female	
				No.	%	No.	%
1911	5,638,749	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1920	5,573,788	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1930	5,532,574	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1942	6,283,649	87,722	1.4	NA	NA	NA	NA
1952/54	8,256,625	198,120	2.3	173,619	87.6	24,501	12.4
1961	9,412,996	328,470	3.4	NA	NA	NA	NA
1971	11,555,983	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1981	15,022,839	402,977	2.6	328,448	81.5	74,529	18.5
1991	18,491,097	658,290	3.4	548,002	83.2	118,288	16.8
2001	23,151,423	762,181	3.2	679,489	89.2	82,712	10.8
2011	26,494,504	1,921,494	7.3	1,684,029	87.6	237400	12.4
2021	29,164,578	2,190,592	7.5	1,799,675	82.2	390,917	17.8

Note: NA refers not available.

In terms of province, Sudurpashchim Province showed the highest proportion of absentees (12.7%), followed by Gandaki Province (11.6%). Madhesh Province (5%) showed the lowest proportion of absentees. When assessing the proportion of absentees by gender, Gandaki Province showed the highest ratio of male absentees (20.5%), whereas Bagmati showed the least (9.2%). Sudurpashchim Province showed the highest ratio of female absentees (6.2%), with Madhesh Province showing the least (0.4%). The proportion of male absentees is observed to be highest in Hill (13.8%) whereas the ratio of female absentees is observed highest in Mountain (3.8%). Similarly, the male absentees are observed highest in peri-urban and rural areas, whereas in the case of female, the absentees are observed highest in urban areas. The socio-economic, developmental and empowerment factors seem to be positively correlated with the volume of female absentees in the context of Nepal (Figure 4.2).

Map 1: Absentees living abroad, both sexes by province and district, Nepal, NPHC 2021
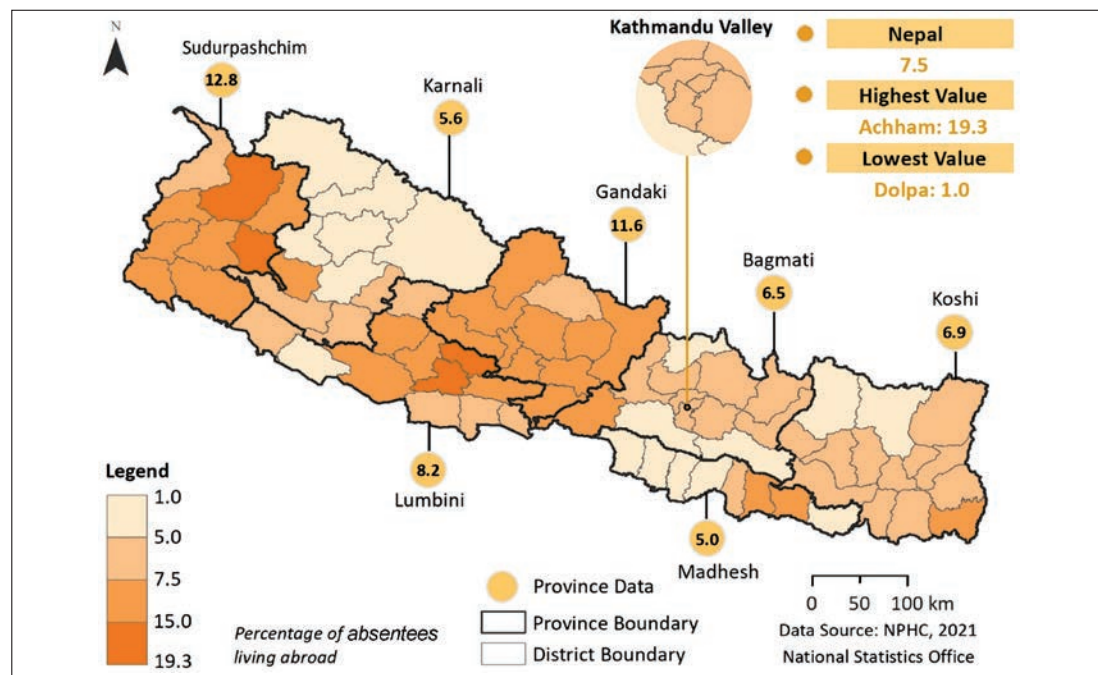
Figure 4.2: Absent population by sex, NPHC 2021
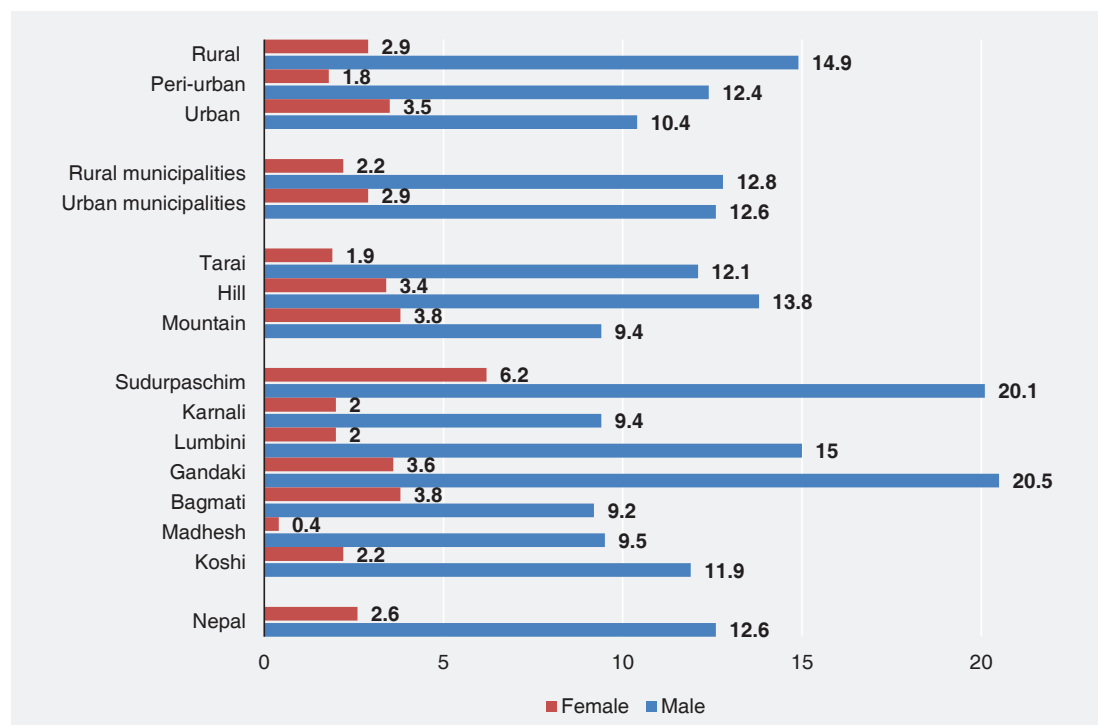
Map 2: Households with at least one absent member by province and district, Nepal, NPHC 2021
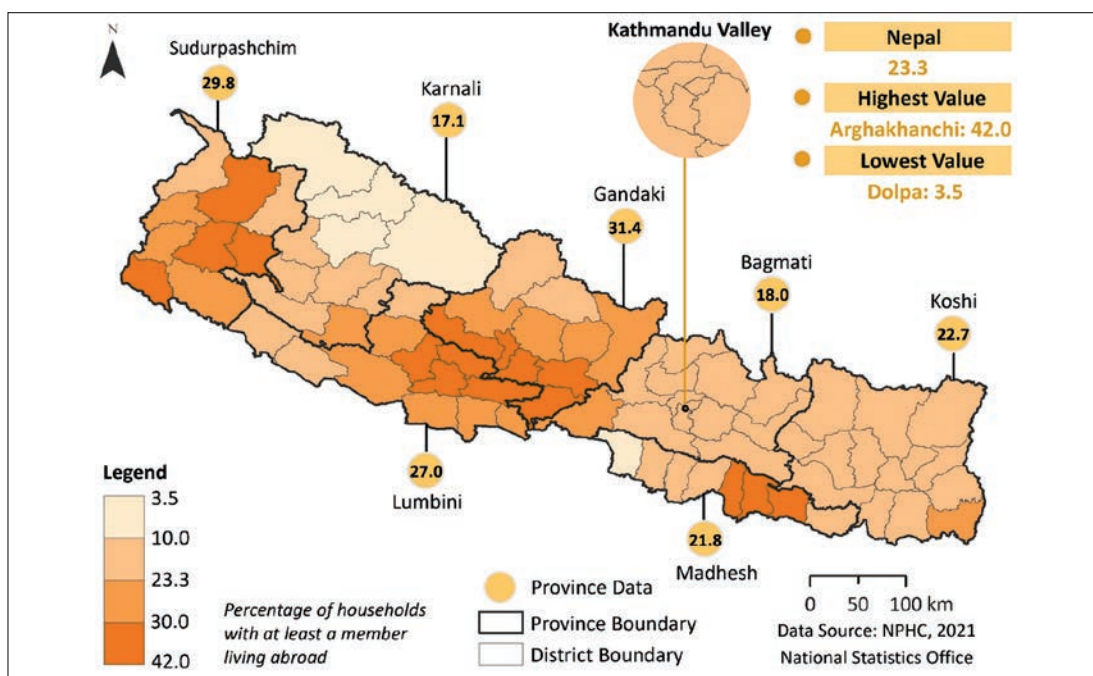
From the top 10 districts with the most prominent number of absentees, the highest ratios were seen to be from Kanchanpur district (12.9%), followed by an almost equal ratio from Kailali (12.2%) and Kaski (11.1%). The lowest among these districts were from Morang and Sunsari, at a ratio of around 7 percent each (Table 4.2).

Table 4.2: Absent population of top ten districts (in percentage) , NPHC 2021

District	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Nepal	1,799,675	12.6	390,917	2.6	2,190,592	7.5
Kanchanpur	51,596	21.4	14,639	5.4	66,235	12.9
Kailali	79,947	18.4	30,381	6.4	110,328	12.2
Kaski	50,594	17.3	15,733	5.1	66,327	11.1
Jhapa	73,025	15.3	18,289	3.5	91,314	9.1
Chitawan	50,655	14.4	14,409	3.9	65,064	9.0
Dhanusa	71,920	16.7	1,768	0.4	73,688	8.5
Kathmandu	92,944	9.0	51,940	5.2	144,884	7.1
Rupandehi	67,233	12.2	12,585	2.2	79,818	7.1
Sunsari	52,049	11.6	10,022	2.1	62,071	6.7
Morang	63,847	11.5	12,021	2	75,868	6.6

Map 3: Male absentees living abroad by province and district, Nepal, NPHC 2021
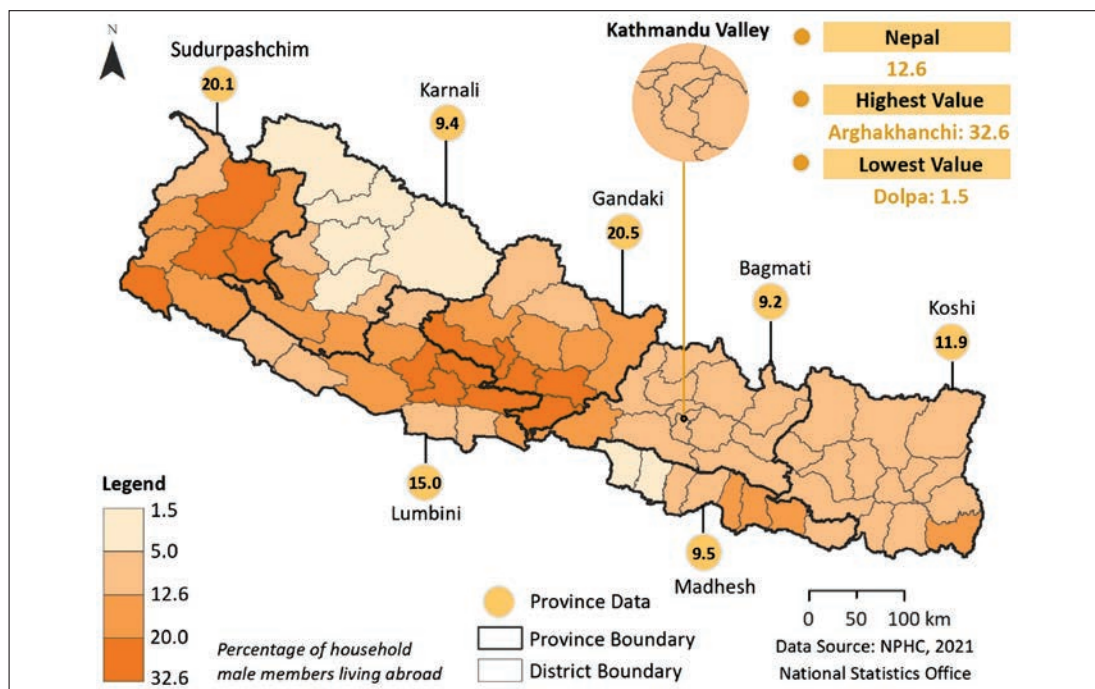
Map 4: Female absentees living abroad by province and district, Nepal, NPHC 2021
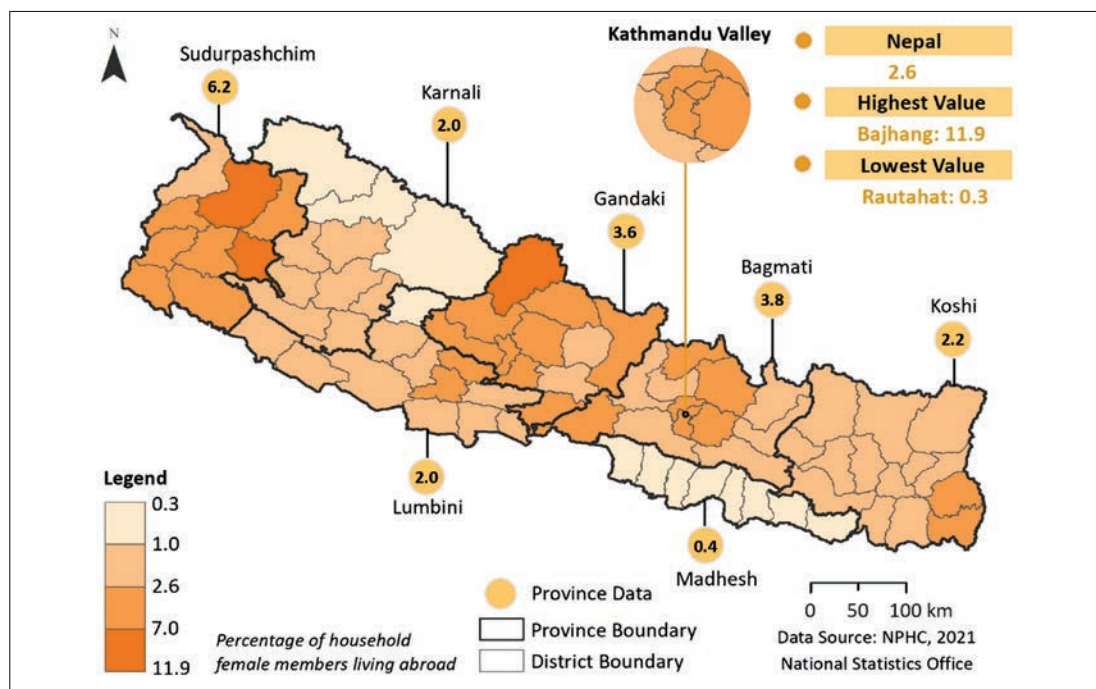
4.1.1 Trend of foreign labour migration in Nepal

The number of Nepali youths migrating for foreign employment has been increasing over time. During the period of 15 years (2009/10-2023/24), around 7.8 million new and old labour approvals were issued to Nepali migrants for foreign employment purposes. Overall, the number of Nepalis migrating for purposes of foreign employment per year has increased from 224,469 in 2009/10, reaching a peak of 771,320 migrants in 2022/23. In Nepal, the issuance of labour approvals follows a positive path of increment. The number of labour approvals is also directly associated with periodic disasters, including pandemic-like incidents, due to mobility restrictions. The lowest number of labour approvals were granted during the COVID-19 period due to strict mobility restrictions and low demand of workers at destination countries. Only around 167 thousand approvals were issued to Nepali youth for foreign employment purposes during the COVID-19 period (Table 4.3).

Table 4.3: The issuance of labour permits since 2009/10-2023/24

Year	Male		Female		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	(No.)
2009/10	220,761	98.35	3,708	1.65	224,469
2010/11	242,156	98.63	3,376	1.37	245,532
2011/12	434,002	95.45	20,679	4.55	454,681
2012/13	572,229	94.82	31,252	5.18	603,481
2013/14	622,481	95.16	31,642	4.84	654,123
2014/15	633,588	95.57	29,358	4.43	662,946
2015/16	564,257	94.82	30,803	5.18	595,060
2016/17	583,259	94.66	32,918	5.34	616,177
2017/18	578,012	94.61	32,919	5.39	610,931
2018/19	476,589	93.69	32,120	6.31	508,709
2019/20	339,901	92.28	28,431	7.72	368,332
2020/21	155,223	93.13	11,455	6.87	166,678
2021/22	580,947	92.20	49,128	7.80	630,075
2022/23	699,187	90.65	72,133	9.35	771,320
2023/24	661,125	89.18	80,172	10.82	741,297

Source: FEIMS, 2024.

In the context of Nepal, foreign labour migration is overrepresented by male migrants over female, with female migrants representing less than 11 percent of oversees labour migration from the very beginning. However, the number of women migrant workers who received labour approval has been increasing over time. The number of female migrants has increased drastically from 3,708 in 2009/10 to 80,172 in 2023/24, representing an increase ratio of around 22 times higher than in 2009/10 (Figure 4.3).

Figure 4.3: **The issuance of labour permit from Department of Foreign Employment (DoFE), 2009/10-2023/24**
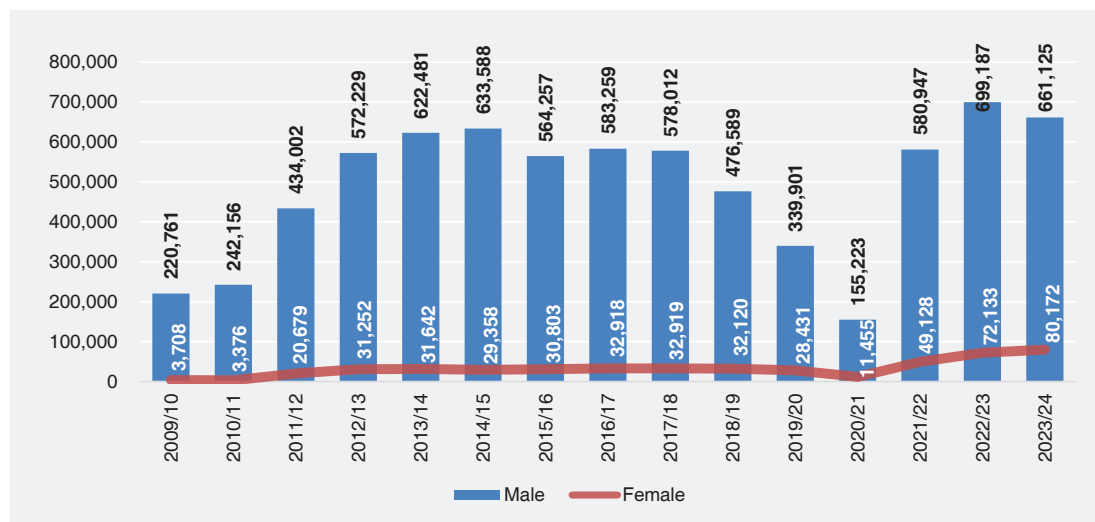
Throughout the years, the proportion of male has shown to dominate over the proportion of female migrants. However, the proportion of female migrants is observed to increase over the years, representing a ratio of 1.65 percent in 2009/10, 5.39 percent in 2017/18 and 10.82 percent in 2023/24 (Figure 4.4). As such, it can be stated that the proportion of female migrant workers are increasing despite restrictions of the Government of Nepal to encourage full participation of Nepali domestic workers to different destination countries.

Figure 4.4: **Trend of issuance of final approval from DoFE by gender, 2009/10-2023/24**
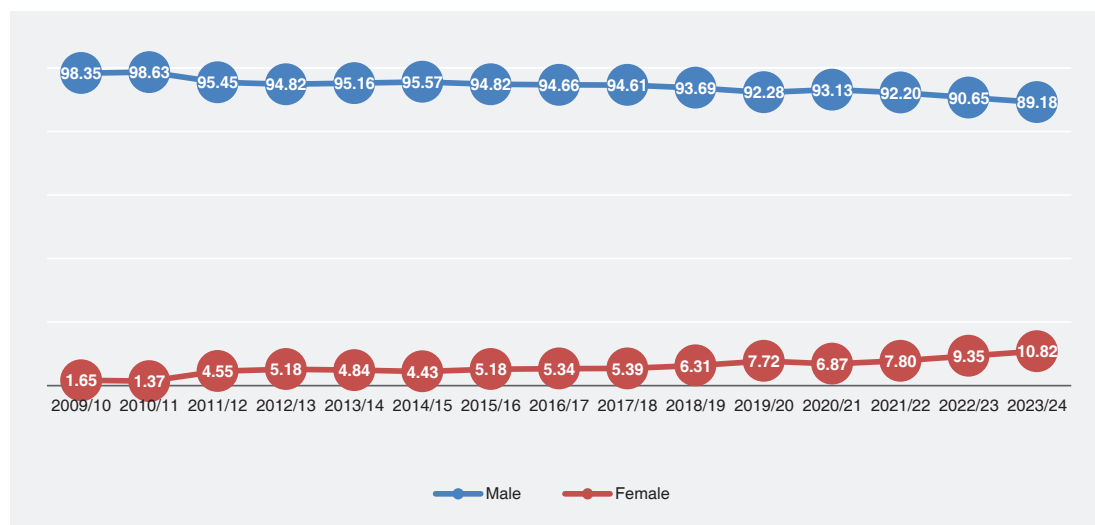
4.2 Age-sex structure

The absentee population as outlined by age-sex pyramid of migrants between 2011 and 2021 show a heavy tilt towards representation of male migrants, especially in the 20-24 age group. The number of female migrants in 2021 is found to have increased slightly compared to 2011 census data from a ratio of 3.5 percent in 2011 to a ratio of 5.6 percent in 2021 (Figure 4.5).

Figure 4.5: **Pyramid of absentee population, NPHC 2011-2021**
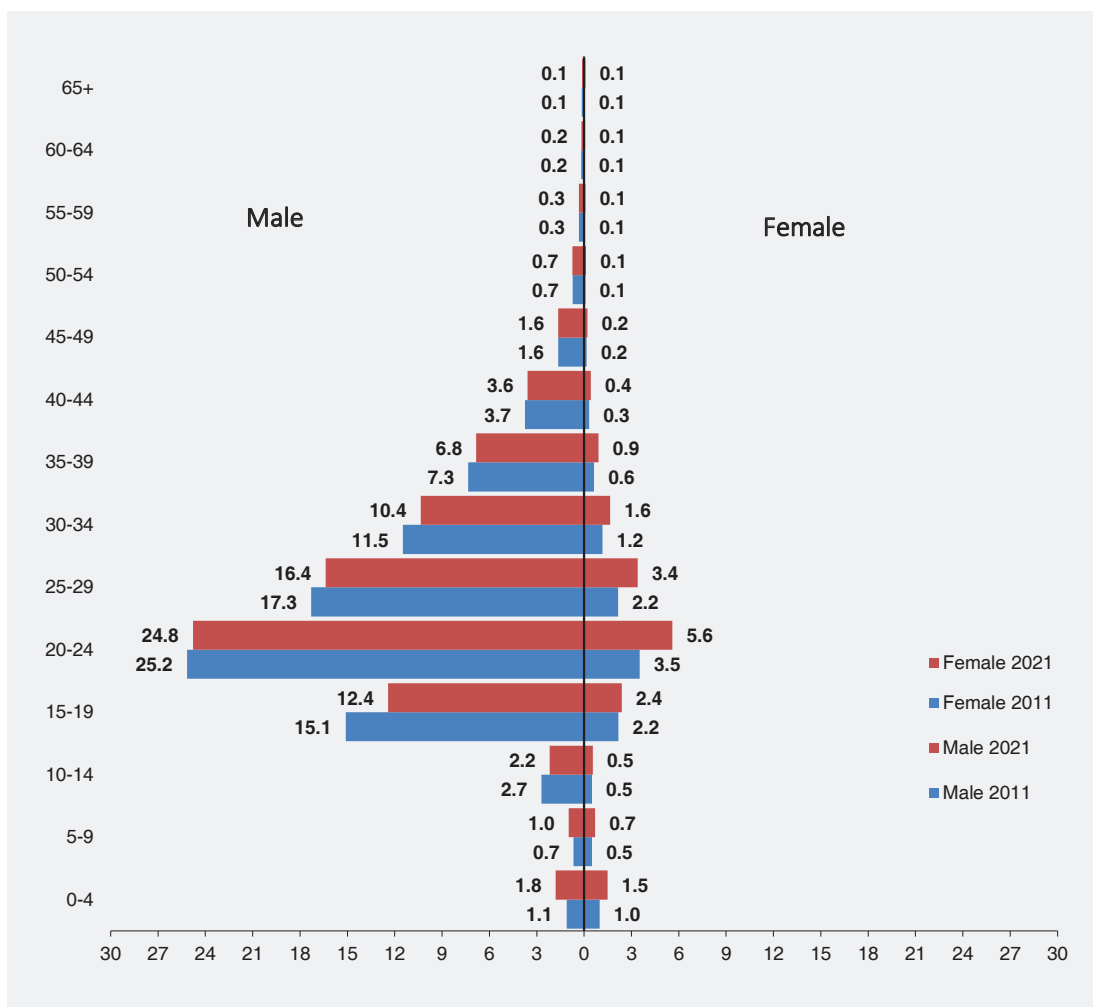
Source: CBS, 2014; NSO, 2023

Map 5: Economically active population living abroad, both sexes, by province and district, Nepal, NPHC 2021
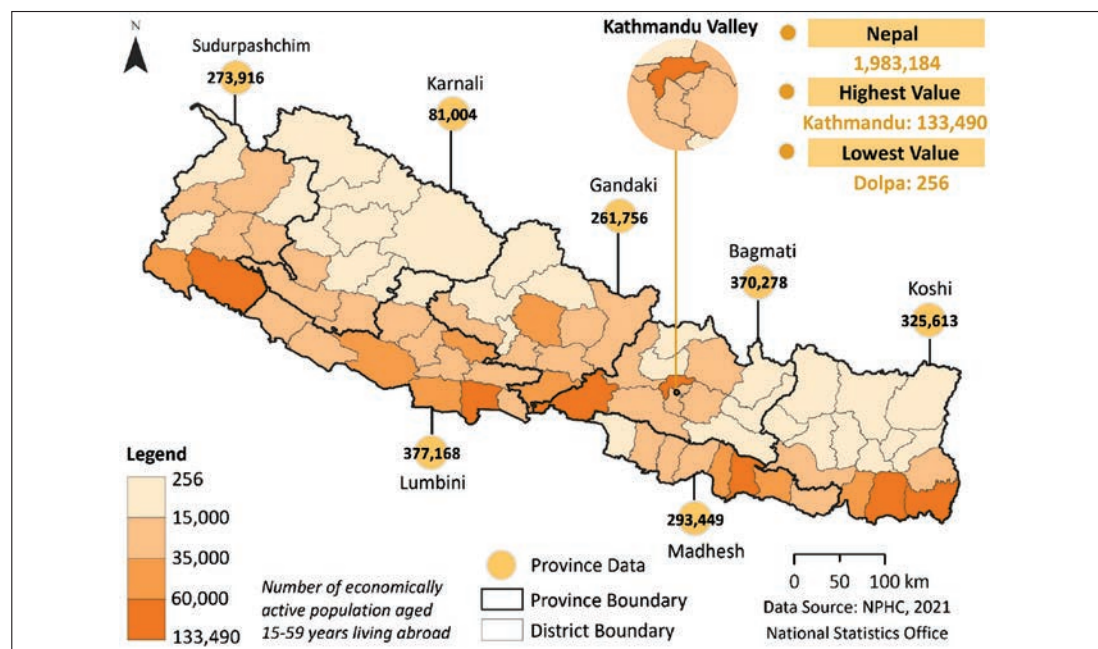
The proportion of female absentees in early age groups were found to be comparatively higher than the ratio of female absentees in the adult age groups. For example, female migrants in the age range of 5 and below are represented at a ratio of 45 percent in 2021 census data, compared to 18 percent in the 20–29-year age group (Annex Table 3) of the same census year. The same rule applies to the elderly age group, where a ratio of 32 percent is seen in the 60–69-year age group for 2021 census data (Figure 4.6).

Figure 4.6: Absent population by age and sex, 2001-2021 censuses
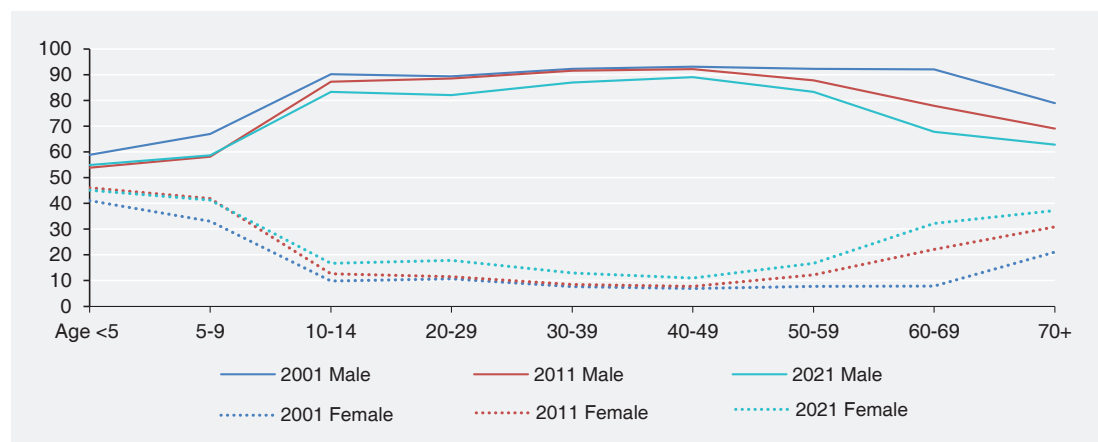
4.2.1 Age at departure and duration of stay

Analysis of absentee population by age of departure and duration of stay is another attempt carried out in this report, although information of nearly two-fifths (38%) of the population was unstated. By combining these factors within the same status, over three quarters (75.8%) had absentee status between 15-34 years, followed by 14 percent with 35-54 years, and 0.9 percent with the age group of 55 years and above (Table 4.4). There is no significant difference between these statistics in terms of sex, except for the ratio of female migrants in the 35–54-year age group (9.4%).

Table 4.4: Percentage distribution of absent population by age at departure and duration of stay, NPHC 2021

Age group Duration	Under 14 years	15-34 years	35-54 years	55 and above	Age not stated	Total (No.)
Total						
Under 1 year	11.3	68.6	17.9	1.5	0.7	240,704
1-2 years	6.6	74.5	17.1	1.0	0.8	701,002
3-5 years	5.6	78.8	14.3	0.6	0.9	602,964
6-9 years	6.7	80.5	11.1	0.6	1.1	263,507
10-19 years	8.4	79.7	10.2	0.5	1.2	260,264
20 years and above	14.2	77.6	6.4	0.5	1.3	90,832
Not stated duration	20.7	30.1	7.4	3.9	38.1	31,319
Total	7.6	75.8	14.3	0.9	1.5	2,190,592
Male						
Under 1 year	8.1	70.8	19.1	1.4	0.6	203,566
1-2 years	5.0	74.9	18.4	1.0	0.8	582,242
3-5 years	4.3	78.7	15.7	0.5	0.8	481,547
6-9 years	5.2	81.6	11.8	0.4	1.0	214,031
10-19 years	7.0	81.1	10.5	0.4	1.0	217,706
20 years and above	14.1	78.2	6.1	0.4	1.2	79,304
Not stated duration	17.2	36.9	9.0	3.2	33.6	21,279
Total	6.0	76.7	15.4	0.8	1.2	1,799,675
Female						
Under 1 year	29.2	56.3	11.6	2.0	0.9	37,138
1-2 years	14.6	72.2	10.7	1.4	1.1	118,760
3-5 years	10.7	78.8	8.5	0.8	1.2	121,417
6-9 years	13.2	75.8	8.2	1.1	1.7	49,476
10-19 years	15.5	72.7	8.8	1.2	1.8	42,558
20 years and above	15.1	73.3	8.4	0.8	2.4	11,528
Not stated duration	28.0	15.5	4.0	5.1	47.4	10,040
Total	**15.0**	**71.8**	**9.4**	**1.3**	**2.5**	**390,917**

4.3 Household characteristics

4.3.1 Housing unit

Of the total 1,555,961 households with at least one absentee abroad, around one quarter (24.3%) were found to be living in the *Pakki* housing units, followed by one-fifth living in each the *Ardha Pakki* and *Kachchi* housing units. Around one-third (31.7%) of absentees were registered as living in Pakki housing units in Gandaki, whereas Bagmati showed the lowest ratio of absentees living with Pakki households (18.1%). Comparatively, highest number of absentees were identified living in Tarai (25.7%). Conversely, a ratio of nearly 18 percent of absentees among the total housing units were recorded in Mountain zone (Table 4.5).

Table 4.5: Percentage distribution of absent population by housing unit, NPHC 2021

Province	Pakki	Ardha Pakki	Kachchi	Others	Total	Total (No.)
Nepal	**24.3**	**20.6**	**20.2**	**12.3**	**23.4**	**1,555,961**
Koshi	23.9	20.7	14.0	0.1	22.7	269,892
Madhesh	22.9	21.6	20.3	0.0	21.8	252,015
Bagmati	18.4	14.0	16.2	0.2	18.1	283,228
Gandaki	31.7	25.3	21.7	1.1	31.4	207,910
Lumbini	28.3	20.5	15.7	0.1	27.0	308,073
Karnali	18.1	13.1	23.5	0.3	17.1	62,728
Sudurpashchim	30.3	28.8	28.0	0.1	29.8	172,115
Ecological belt						
Mountain	17.8	10.7	10.4	6.5	16.4	66,981
Hill	23.9	20.2	17.1	12.2	23.5	691,979
Tarai	25.7	21.8	20.5	12.9	24.1	797,001
Urban/Rural Municipalities						
Urban Municipalities	23.9	21.3	21.5	12.0	23.3	1,044,566
Rural Municipalities	25.0	19.5	17.5	12.8	23.4	511,395
Place of residence						
Urban	20.2	16.8	18.6	10.1	19.9	386,101
Peri-urban	26.9	21.8	20.7	12.2	24.8	604,061
Rural	25.9	20.2	19.2	13.9	24.7	565,799

4.3.2 Household size with absentee

Over two-fifths (41.7%) of the households with absent population recorded 3-4 members, followed by nearly one quarter (23.4%) with 1-2 members, and an almost equal ratio with 5-6 members (21.9%) (Figure 4.7).

Figure 4.7: **Household size of households with absent population, NPHC 2021**
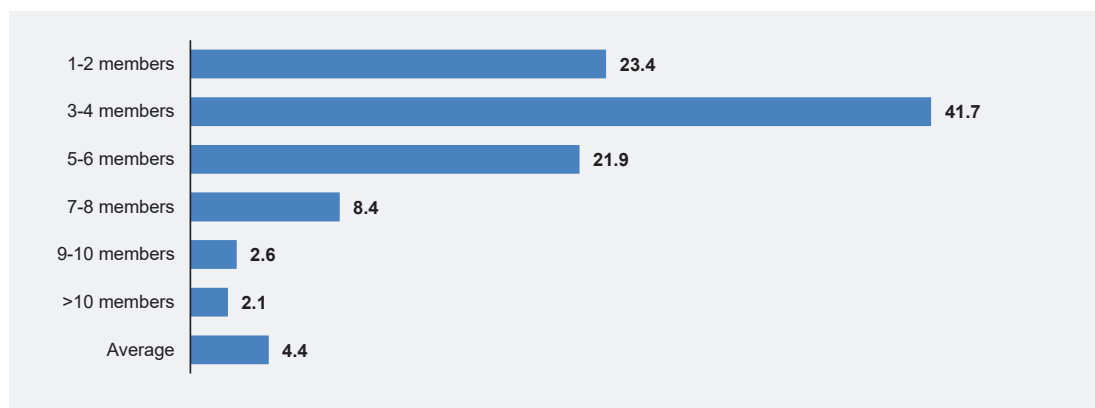
Data shows that more than two-fifths (42.6%) of absentee population households were categorized under a nuclear structure where the household is headed by either father or mother. More than half (51%) of households are shown to be headed by the extended family. The highest number of households headed by the extended family was found in Madhesh (56.8%), whereas the lowest number of households with a nuclear family structure (headed by father or mother) was seen in Sudurpashchim (35.7%) (Annex Table 10).

4.4 Caste/ethnicity

The distribution of absentees by caste/ethnicity shows that nearly one quarter (24.7%) of the absentees from Hill caste groups migrated from Sudurpashchim, followed by one-fifth (20.4%) from Lumbini. Those from Sudurpashchim were mainly rural based (37.1%), a figure which correlates to the ratio of Dalit absentees in the same province, to which 38 percent were registered to be from the rural places of residence (Annex Table 4). Nearly three quarters (72.6%) of absentees from Madhesh Province (with a similar proportion of peri-urban areas) were found representing Madhesh/Tarai caste, whereas nearly two-fifths (37%) of Dalit absentees were identified from Sudurpashchim province. Similarly, slightly over one-third (32.7%) of absentees from Mountain/Hill Janajati groups were from Bagmati Province, majority from urban areas, and nearly one-quarter (24.4%) of Tarai Janjati absentees were from Madhesh Province (Figure 4.8).

Figure 4.8: Absentees by their broad caste/ethnicity according to province, NPHC 2021
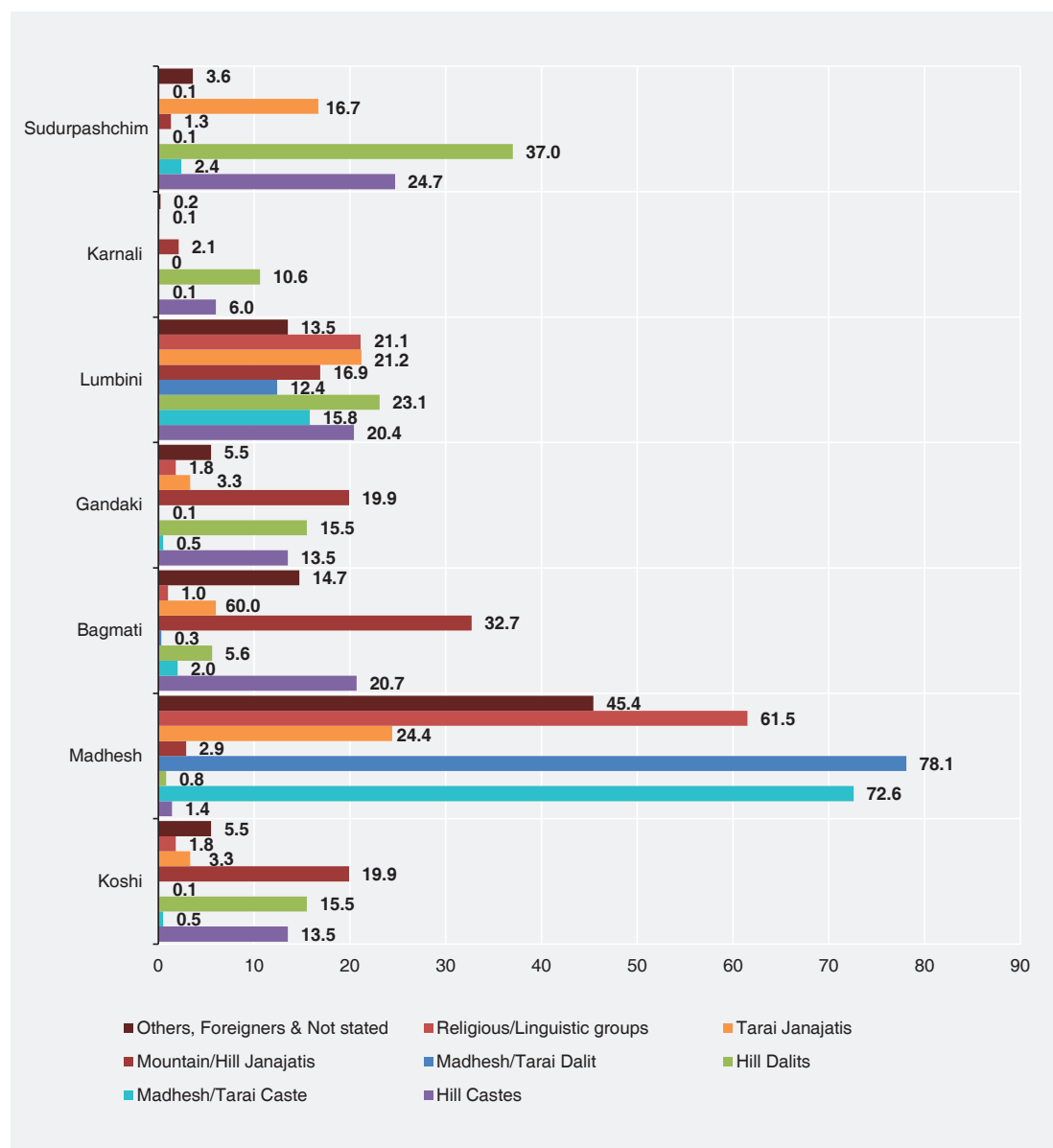
By distribution, more than 400 thousand absentees were identified to be from Kshetri communities, which account for one-fifth (20.2%) of the total absentee population. The absentee demographic ratio is followed by Brahman-Hill (13.3%), Magar (8.9%) and Bishwokarma (8.6%) absentees (Figure 4.9 & Annex Table 3).

Figure 4.9: Absent top twenty caste/ethnicity, Nepal, NPHC 2021
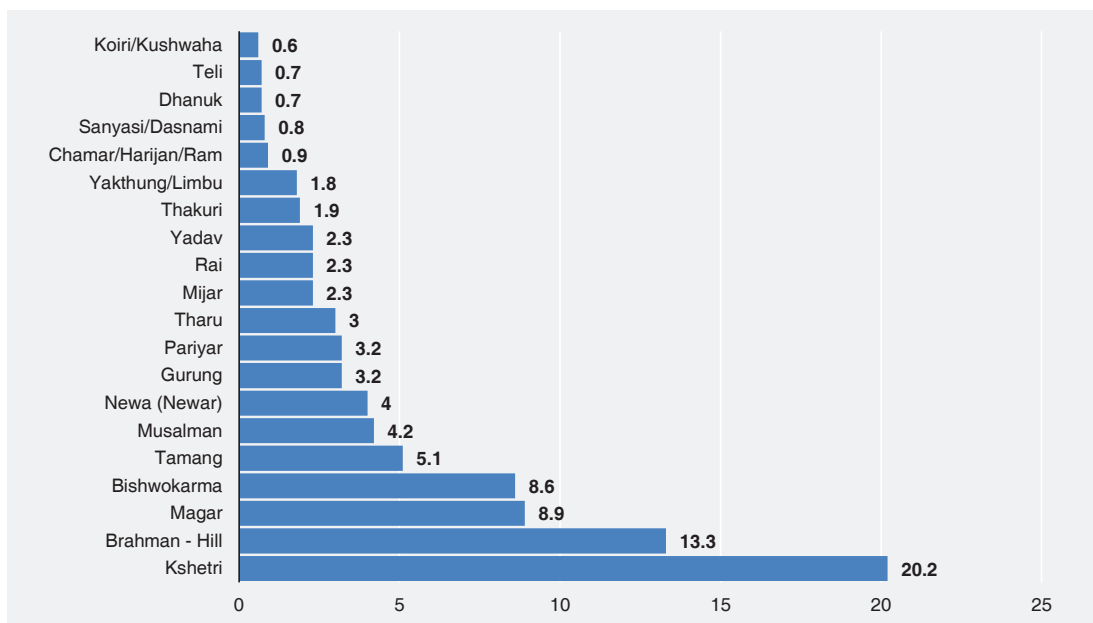
A striking finding is found in the analysis of the magnitude of the absentees by caste/ethnicity based on their total population. When comparing this data with the distribution of absentees by broad caste/ethnicity, the Gurung caste/ethnicity group presents the highest percentage of absentees by total population (13.1%) according to NPHC 2021 data, followed by Bishwokarma (12.9%) and Pariyar (12.5%) ethnic/caste groups (Figure 4.10).

Figure 4.10: Absent population by caste/ethnicity (top 20), NPHC 2021
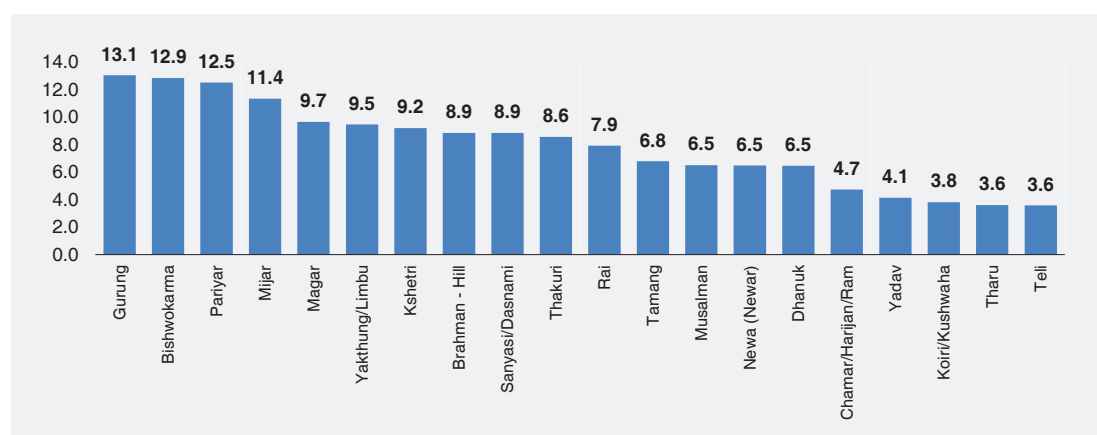
However, when addressing the magnitude of absentees by the total population of broad caste/ethnicity, nearly one-third (31.4%) of Hill Dalits (in terms of total population) and over one-third (33.2%) of Gandaki Province recorded absentee family members compared to their total population.

Map 6: **Absentees by caste/ethnicity by district, Nepal, 2021**
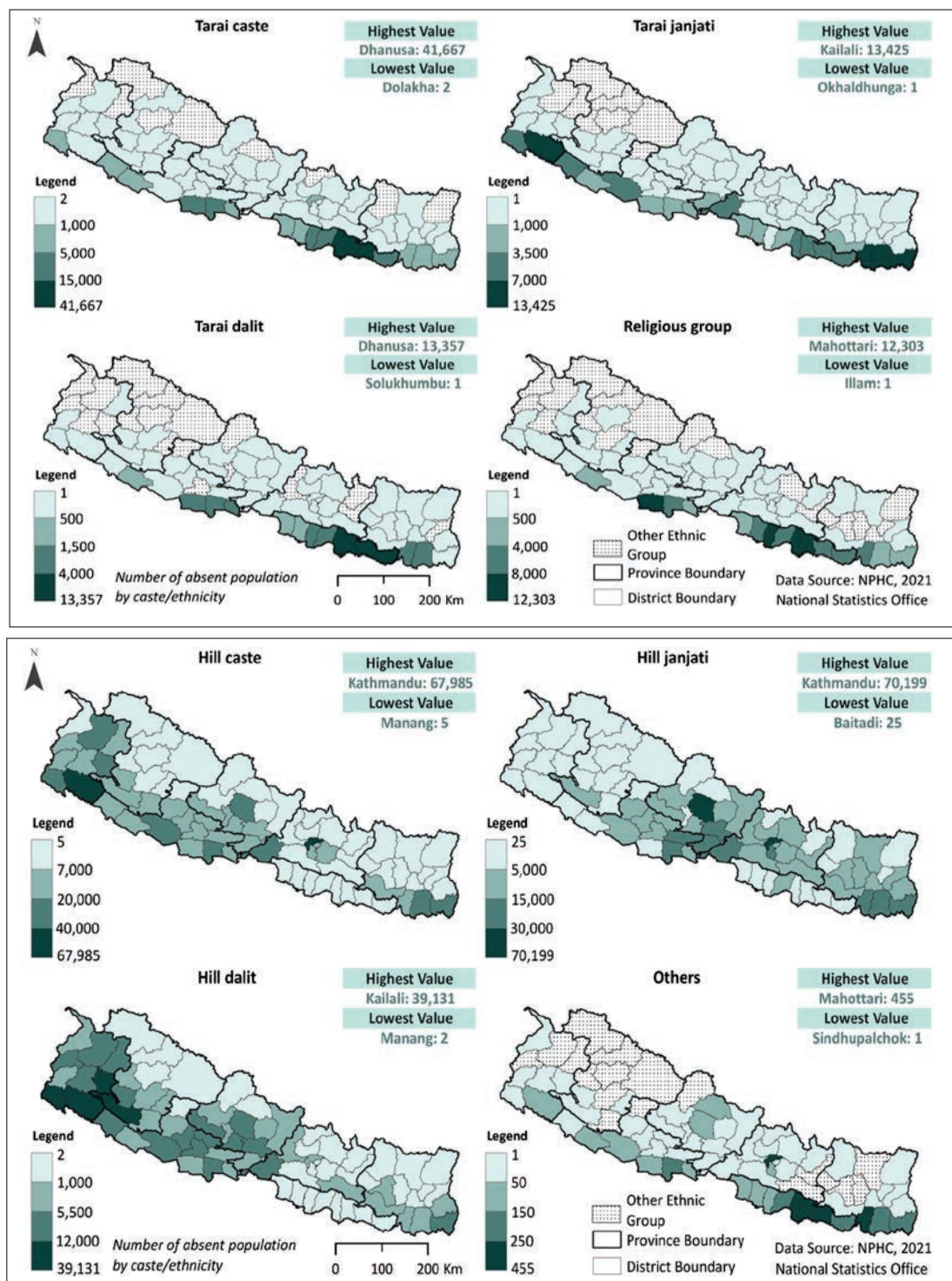
Whereas two-thirds (66.2%) of absentees from Newar community were found in urban areas, an almost equal ratio of Mijar absentees (62.8%) were found to reside in rural areas. Nearly three quarters (72.4%) of Musalman groups were identified in the peri-urban areas of Nepal. Data shows that over half of the population of both Bishwokarma and Magar communities reside in rural areas, at a rate of almost 60 percent and 58 percent respectively (Figure 4.11).

Figure 4.11: **Top twenty caste/ethnicity by rural-urban differences, NPHC 2021**
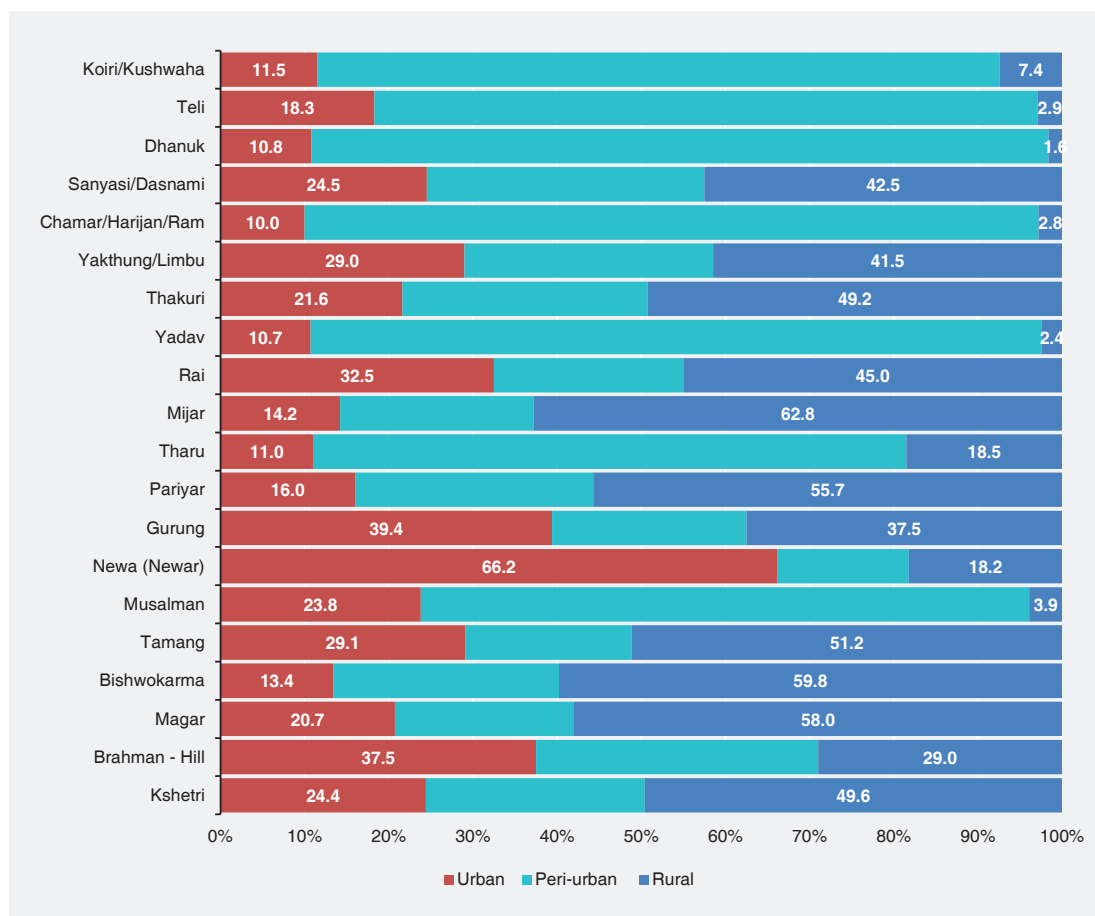
4.5 Level of education

Nearly half (44.9%) of the absentee population was found to have completed a secondary level of education, followed by a ratio of over two-fifths (41.2%) attaining a basic level of education. The absentee population with a bachelor's degree was registered at the much lower rate (5.3%) and very few (1.9%) had master's and above level (Figure 4.12).

Figure 4.12: Absent population by level of education, NPHC 2021
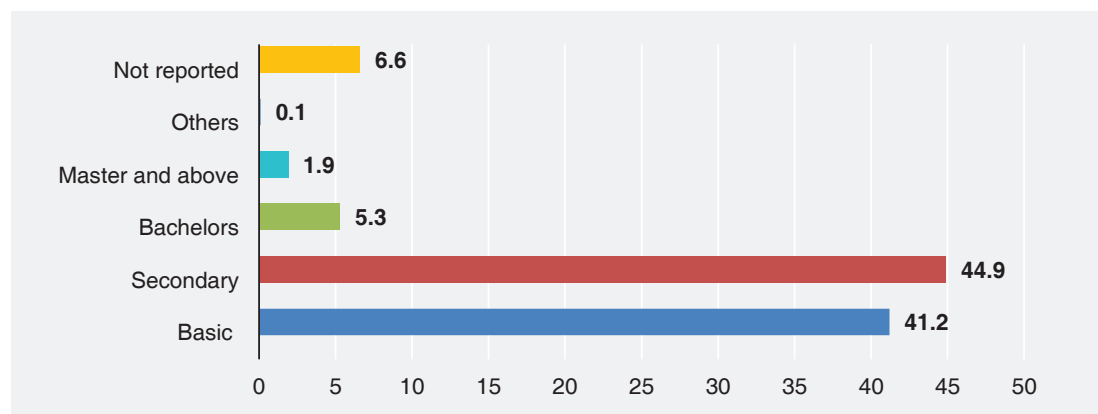
The highest number of absentees with bachelor level education was seen in Bagmati (14.4%). In both Karnali and Madhesh provinces, 12 percent of absentees did not report their educational status. Of this figure, 11 percent were recorded in the Mountain zone and were categorized in the lowest wealth quintile (Annex Table 12).

Map 7: Level of education of absent population by district, Nepal, NPHC 2021
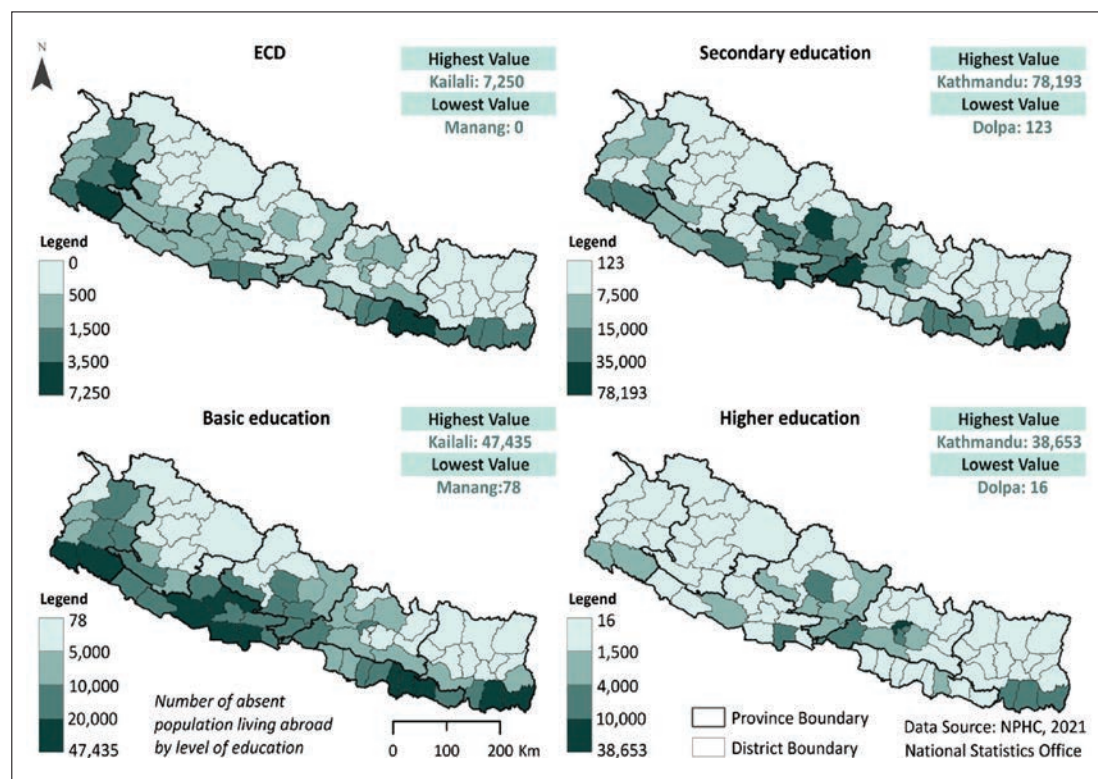
4.5.1 Occupation of household head

According to NPHC 2021 data, absentee household head occupations were recorded across various professions. Nearly two-thirds (64.2%) of absentee head of households were found to work in skilled agriculture, forestry and fishery works (Figure 4.13).

Figure 4.13: **Absent population by occupation of household head, NPHC 2021**
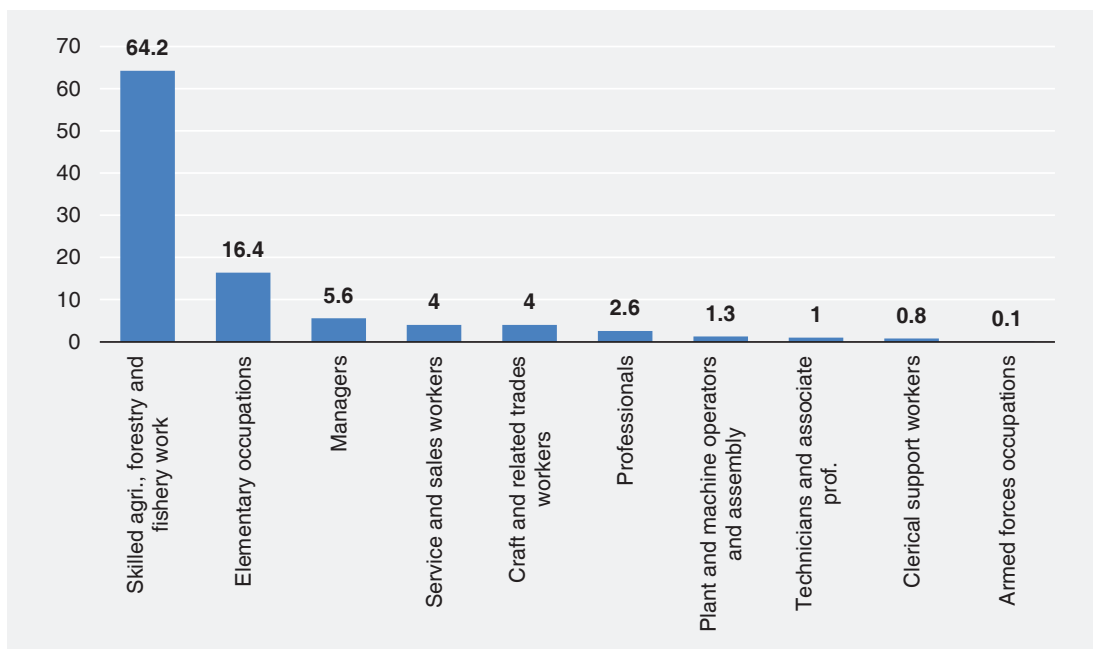
The highest number were found in Karnali (79.8%) and an almost equal ratio were represented in the Mountain ecological zone, with nearly 80 percent in the lowest wealth quintile. Nearly 16 percent of absentee household heads were found to work in elementary occupations, whereas six percent held managerial occupations. The highest ratio of managerial workers were recorded in Bagmati (11.3%) and 17 percent were recorded in the highest wealth quintile (Annex Table 8 & Figure 4.13).

4.6 Economic status (Wealth quintile)

Absentee place of birth is recorded by quintile analysis. Whereas the place of birth for more than two-thirds (69.9%) of the absentees from the lowest wealth quintile held the same local unit, nearly half (44.7%) of absentees from higher wealth quintile showed other districts (Annex Table 11). Nearly one quarter (22.5%) were in the highest quintile and almost one-fifth were in the higher and lowest quintile (Figure 4.14).

Figure 4.14: Absent population by wealth quintile, NPHC 2021
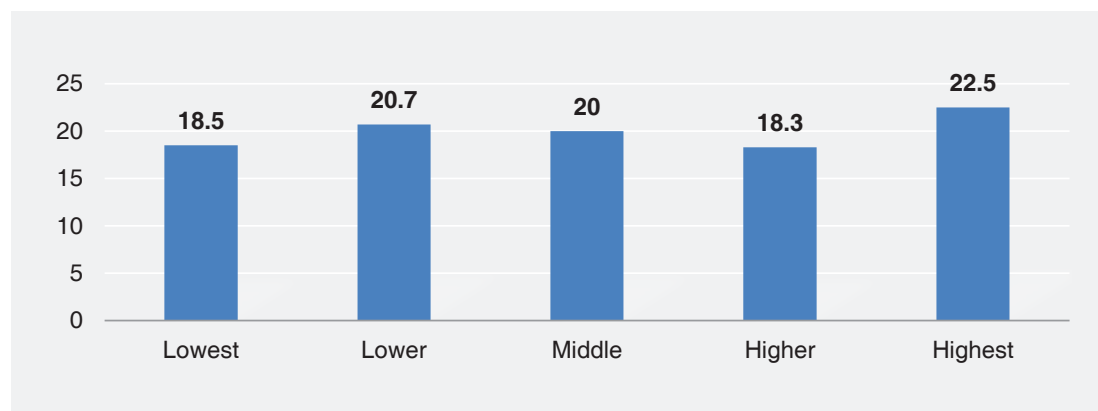
Over half (51.9%) of absentees were from Bagmati, against only 2 percent from Karnali, 5 percent from Sudurpashchim and 8 percent from Madhesh. Although 18.5 percent of absentees were from the lowest wealth quintile, with highest representation in Karnali (51.7%), nearly two-fifths from Sudurpashchim (39.2%) and 34 percent from the rural areas (Annex Table 14).

4.6.1 Main source district of emigration for foreign employment

Table 4.6 demonstrates top ten origin districts for labour approvals for foreign employment purposes in the past three successive years, 2021/22-2023/24. The data, obtained from Department of Foreign Employment (DoFE), revealed the fact that the highest proportion of Nepali migrant worker outflow were from Dhanusa district in the successive past three years, which was followed by Siraha in 2021/22 and by Jhapa in 2022/23 and 2023/24. In 2022/23, around 40 percent of labour approvals were issued for migrant workers from the top ten districts in 2021/22, to which the prior figure was 28 percent in 2022/23 and 36 percent in 2023/24. This shows that the proportion of Nepali migrants who received labour permits has been fluctuating over time in other districts and represented a figure of 60 percent in 2021/22, 72 percent in 2022/23 and 64 percent in 2023/24.

Table 4.6: Migrant labour by district of origin (top ten), Nepal (2021/22-2023/24)

2021/22		2022/23		2023/24	
District	%	District	%	District	%
Dhanusa	6.6	Dhanusa	5.1	Dhanusa	5.3
Siraha	5.1	Jhapa	3.5	Jhapa	4.6
Mahottari	4.6	Morang	3.1	Morang	4.2
Jhapa	4.4	Siraha	3.0	Siraha	4.2
Morang	3.8	Mahottari	2.9	Mahottari	3.7

2021/22		2022/23		2023/24	
District	%	District	%	District	%
Nawalparasi	3.3	Rupandehi	2.3	Sunsari	3.2
Sunsari	3.3	Sarlahi	2.3	Rupandehi	3.2
Sarlahi	3.2	Sunsari	2.2	Sarlahi	2.9
Rupandehi	3.0	Saptari	2.1	Saptari	2.8
Saptari	2.9	Dang	1.8	Chitawan	2.4
Other	59.8	Other	71.7	Other	63.5
Total %	**100.00**		**100.00**		**100.00**
Total No.	**630,075**		**771,320**		**741,297**

Source: DoFE, 2023/24.

Map 8: Issuance of labour permits for foreign employment, by district, Nepal, DoFE 2024
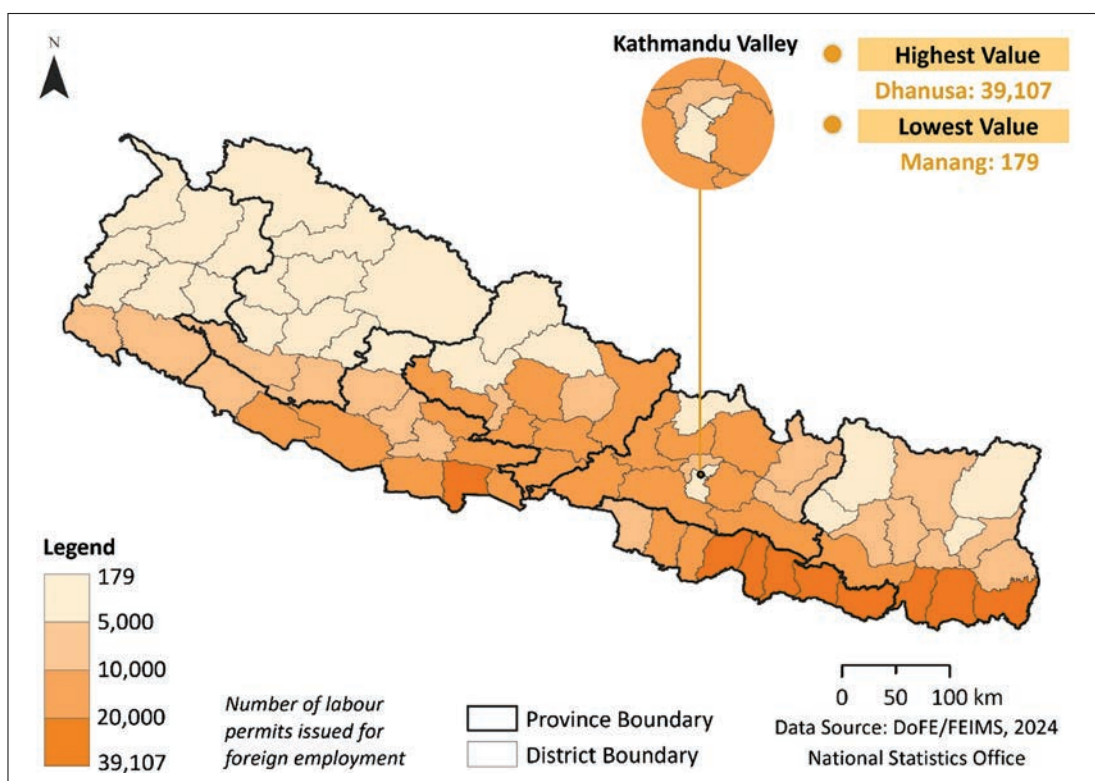
Similarly, figure 4.15 shows the top twenty origin districts in terms of issuing labour permits to Nepali migrant workers. The significant proportion of Nepali migrants who received labour permits were from Dhanusa, followed by Jhapa, Morang, Siraha, Mahottari, Sunsari and Rupandehi (Figure 4.15).

Figure 4.15: Top twenty origin districts for foreign labour migration, Nepal (2023/24)
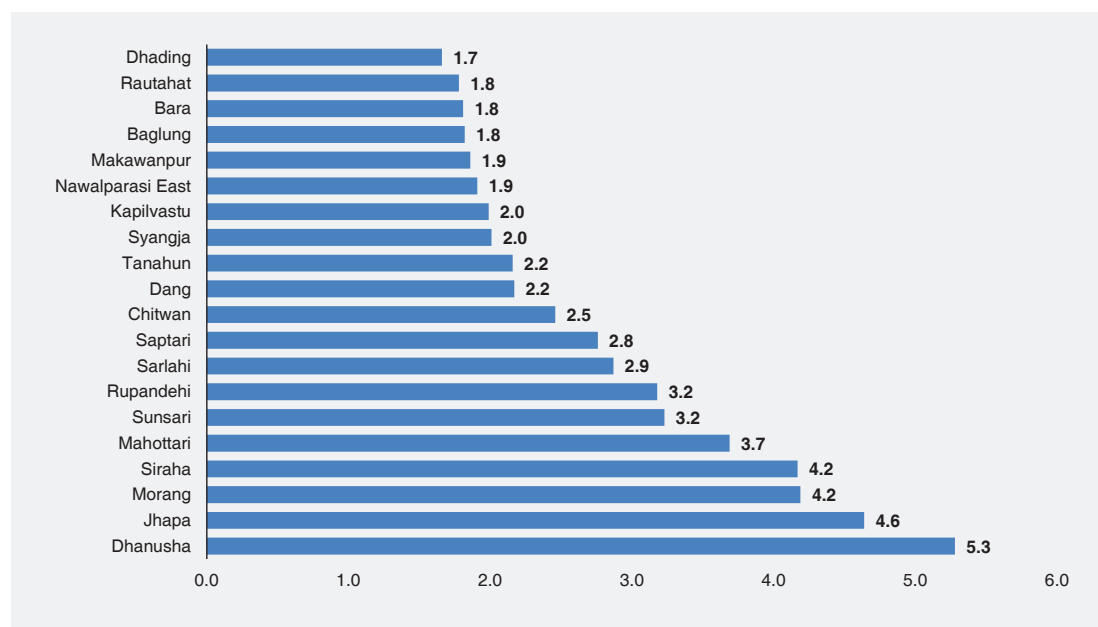
4.7 Country of destination

Of the total absentees, 14 percent were found to be destined for Middle Eastern countries, followed by nearly 11 percent to India and almost three percent in both the Pacific Ocean region (2.7%), other Asian countries (2.6%), and to ASEAN countries (2.6%) (Figure 4.16).

Figure 4.16: Absent population by major destination countries, NPHC 2021
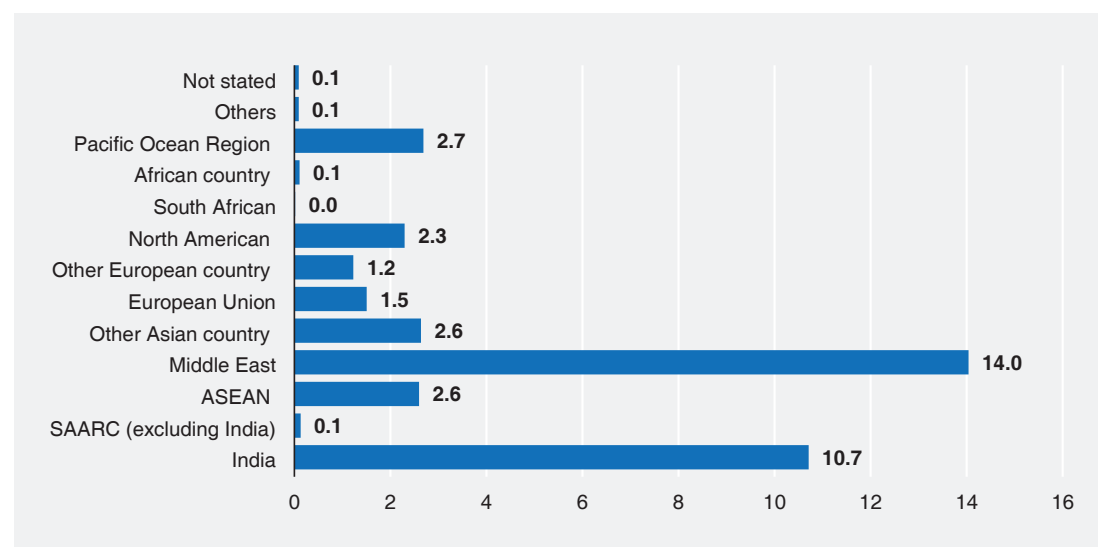
By top 10 sending districts, Rupandehi showed the largest number of absentees (25.9%), followed by Jhapa (17.5%) and Morang district (14.5%) (Annex Table 15). Further exercises were carried out to identity the absentee population by municipalities with respect to the size of population and magnitude of absentee population. The top 20 municipalities are presented in tabular form and the results for the remaining municipalities are presented in the map. Accordingly, Lamki Chuwa Municipality and Gauriganga Municipality had the highest magnitude of absentees with respect to volume at a ratio of 18 percent each. Similarly, Dhangadi Sub-Metropolitan City (6.8%) had the lowest magnitude of absentees (Figure 4.17).

Figure 4.17: Absentees by top ten origin municipalities, NPHC 2021
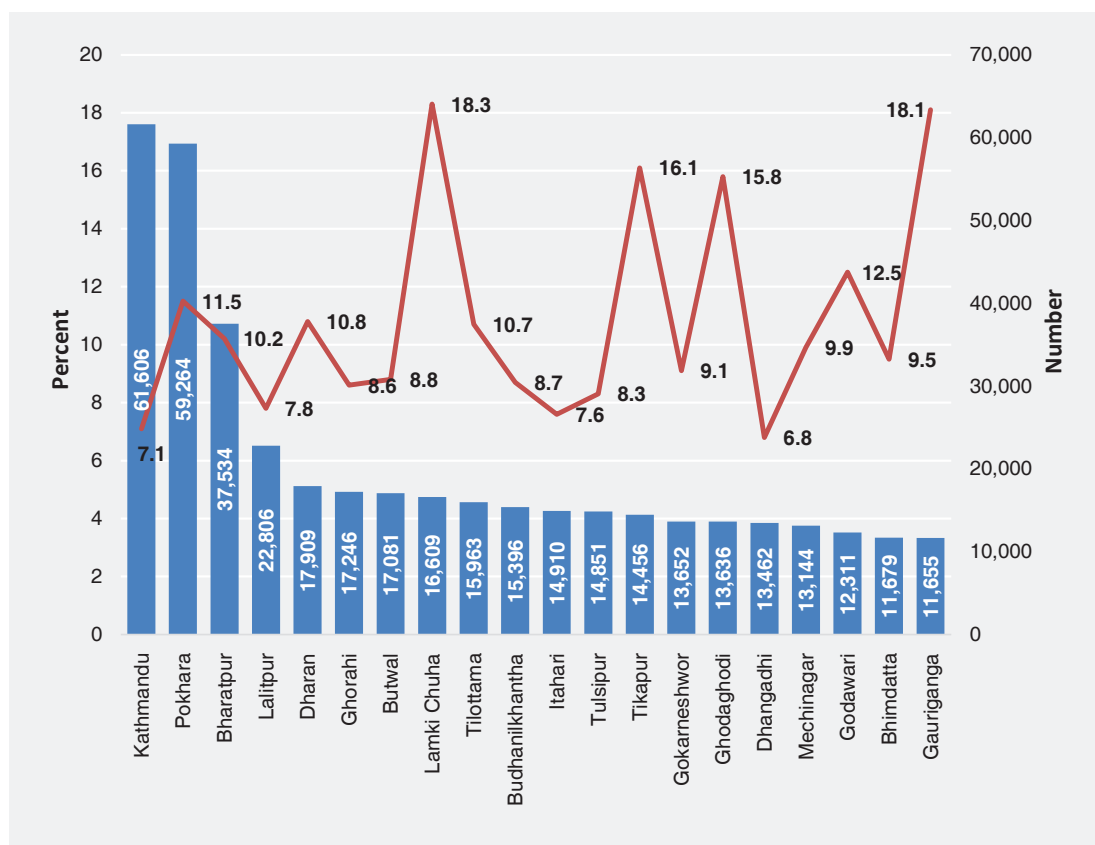
Table 4.7: **Absent population of top ten districts by destination countries (in percentage), NPHC 2021**

District	India	SAARC country (excluding India)	ASEAN country	Middle east country	Other Asian country	European union country	Other European countries	North American country	South African/ Caribbean country	African country	Pacific Ocean Region country	Others	Not Stated	Total (No.)
Nepal	**10.71**	**0.13**	**2.6**	**14.04**	**2.64**	**1.51**	**1.23**	**2.30**	**0.02**	**0.11**	**2.69**	**0.09**	**0.09**	**2,190,592**
Kathmandu	4.22	0.61	3.76	23.59	11.19	8.27	6.07	19.41	0.11	0.57	20.66	0.89	0.58	144,983
Kailali	89.22	0.08	1.91	4.76	1.39	0.5	0.21	0.87	0	0.09	0.69	0.05	0.14	110,428
Jhapa	17.45	0.29	9.72	55.06	4.74	3.2	1.91	3.66	0.03	0.23	3.43	0.1	0.08	91,414
Rupandehi	25.87	0.28	6.6	41.07	8.68	4.04	2.97	4.16	0.07	0.34	5.51	0.12	0.18	79,918
Morang	14.53	0.38	14.25	54.61	4.17	2.78	1.77	3.56	0.02	0.17	3.41	0.12	0.11	75,968
Dhanusa	10.47	0.25	12.26	74.54	0.44	0.37	0.15	0.79	0	0.05	0.3	0.12	0.12	73,788
Kaski	10.16	0.5	3.43	34.48	16.53	7.75	9.06	7.48	0.05	0.26	9.63	0.13	0.38	66,426
Kanchanpur	82.95	0.11	3.5	8.5	1.43	0.68	0.31	1.18	0.02	0.16	0.95	0.07	0.14	66,235
Chitawan	11.14	0.34	4.61	39.83	13.5	7.13	3.01	5.93	0.07	0.4	13.62	0.12	0.13	65,164
Sunsari	9.03	0.4	12.58	54.68	7.23	2.76	6.55	2.82	0.05	0.31	3.12	0.15	0.17	62,171

4.8 Emigration for foreign employment

Foreign labour migration is by no means a new phenomenon and it is regarded to be one of the main livelihood strategies of Nepali people. The history of foreign labour migration began with the ratification of Sugauli Treaty on 4 March 1816. The treaty had the provision of recruiting Nepali Gurkhas to the East India Company. Thereafter, hundreds of thousands of Nepalis started to join British Army to serve the British government (IOM, 2019). The tendency of leaving Nepal for foreign employment has diversified and is not solely limited to joining in British Army, Singapore Police and Indian Army. The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MoLESS) is the apex body for managing and governing foreign employment which maintains record of emigrants in the form of new entry and re-entry through the process of labour approval. Most Nepalis who leave Nepal for foreign employment are involved in unskilled, semi-skilled, and highly professional skilled work (MoLESS, 2022). As of August 2024, the Government of Nepal has formally opened 111 countries as a destination for foreign employment purposes (DoFE, 2023), albeit with temporary restrictions to three countries – Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya. The 2007 Foreign Employment Act, 2008 Foreign Employment Regulations and 2012 Foreign Employment Policy are the major legal bases for leveraging and governing foreign employment in Nepal. Around 954 recruitment agencies, 143 orientation centres, 223 medical centres, 20 banks and 18 insurance companies have directly involved in the process of foreign employment.[4]

---

4   https://dofe.gov.np/RA-Branch-Offices.aspx

Map 9: Nepali emigrants by country of destination
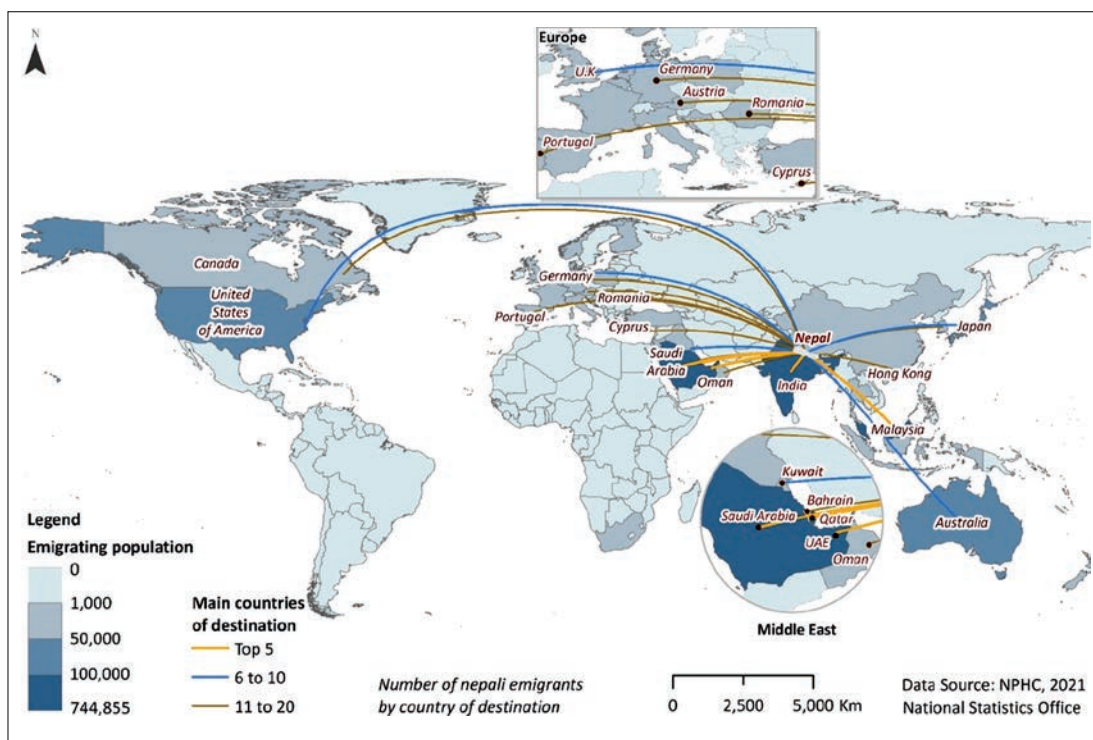
4.8.1 Major destination countries of Nepali migrant workers

Most Nepali migrants do not hold specific skills or higher levels of education (MoLESS, 2022). Majority of Nepalis major destination countries are GCC countries and Malaysia. According to the Foreign Employment Information Management System (FEIMS) of DoFE, new countries are being introduced in recent years as emerging migration destinations and most of the newly emerged countries are from European countries. These newly emerging destination countries can offer safe destination countries for Nepali migrants. According to table 4.8, about 80 percent Nepali migrants migrated to Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE in 2021/22, with Saudi Arabia recorded as the major destination country. In 2022/23, Malaysia was the major destination country to which around one-third of Nepalis chose as their destination country. In 2023/24, around one-fourth of Nepali migrants chose the UAE as their destination country. In the three successive years, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the UAE, Malaysia and Kuwait stood as the top five major destination countries for Nepali migrant workers (Table 4.8).

Table 4.8: Top ten destination countries for foreign employment, 2021/22-2023/24

2021/22		2022/23		2023/24	
Country	**%**	**Country**	**%**	**Country**	**%**
Saudi Arabia	30.0	Malaysia	33.7	UAE	26.1
Qatar	29.3	Qatar	17.3	Saudi Arabia	19.1
UAE	19.5	UAE	15.1	Qatar	18.2
Malaysia	5.8	Saudi Arabia	14.6	Malaysia	13.9
Kuwait	5.6	Kuwait	5.6	Kuwait	5.4
Bahrain	1.9	Republic of Korea	2.9	Croatia	2.1
Romania	1.2	Romania	1.8	Romania	2.0
Oman	1.1	Japan	1.2	Japan	1.9
Japan	0.9	Bahrain	1.0	Republic of Korea	1.8
Croatia	0.9	Croatia	1.0	Bahrain	1.3
Other	3.8	Other	5.8	Other	8.2
Total %	**100.0**		**100.0**		**100.0**
Total number	**630,075**	**Total number**	**771,320**	**Total number**	**741,297**

Source: DoFE, 2022 & FEIMS, 2024.

According to 2023/2024 data, around 26 percent of Nepalis chose the UAE as their destination country, followed by Saudi Arabia (19%), Qatar (18.17%) and Malaysia (13.95%) (Figure 4.18). The main reason for choosing these countries is due to low recruitment cost, peer and relative networks, and greater flexibility in lower skilled employment availability.

Figure 4.18: Top ten destination countries for foreign employment, 2023/24
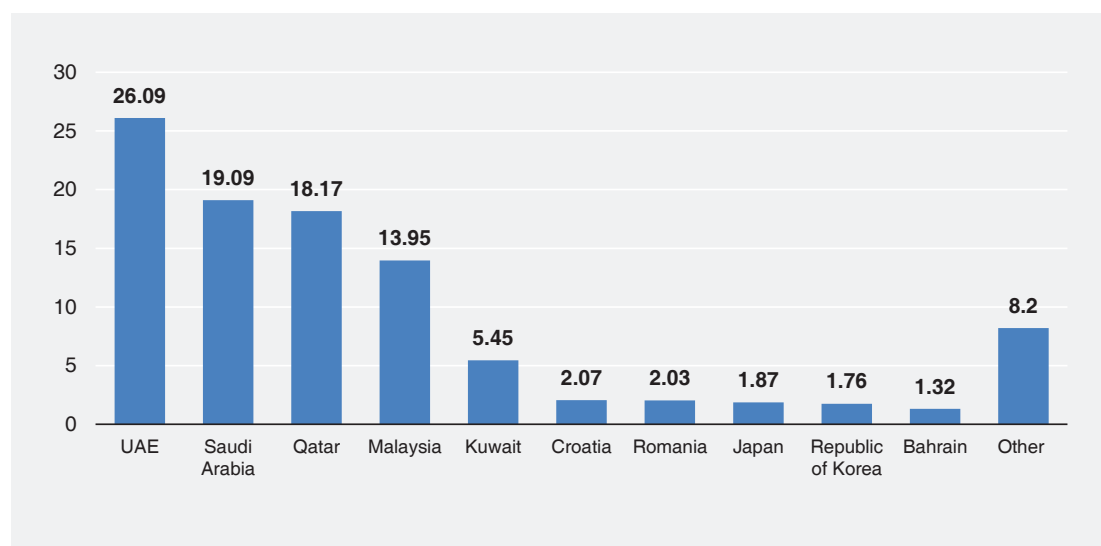
Source: DoFE, 2023/24.

In terms of gender ratio, around one-fourth of male migrant workers chose the UAE as the main destination country, whereas around one-fifth of the male migrant population opted for Saudi Arabia, followed by Qatar, Malaysia and Kuwait. However, Romania, the Republic of Korea, and Croatia are new destination countries which are emerging as attractive destinations for Nepalis due to preferable salaries and better security and working milieu (Figure 4.19).

Figure 4.19: **Top ten destination countries for foreign employment for male migrant workers, 2023/24**
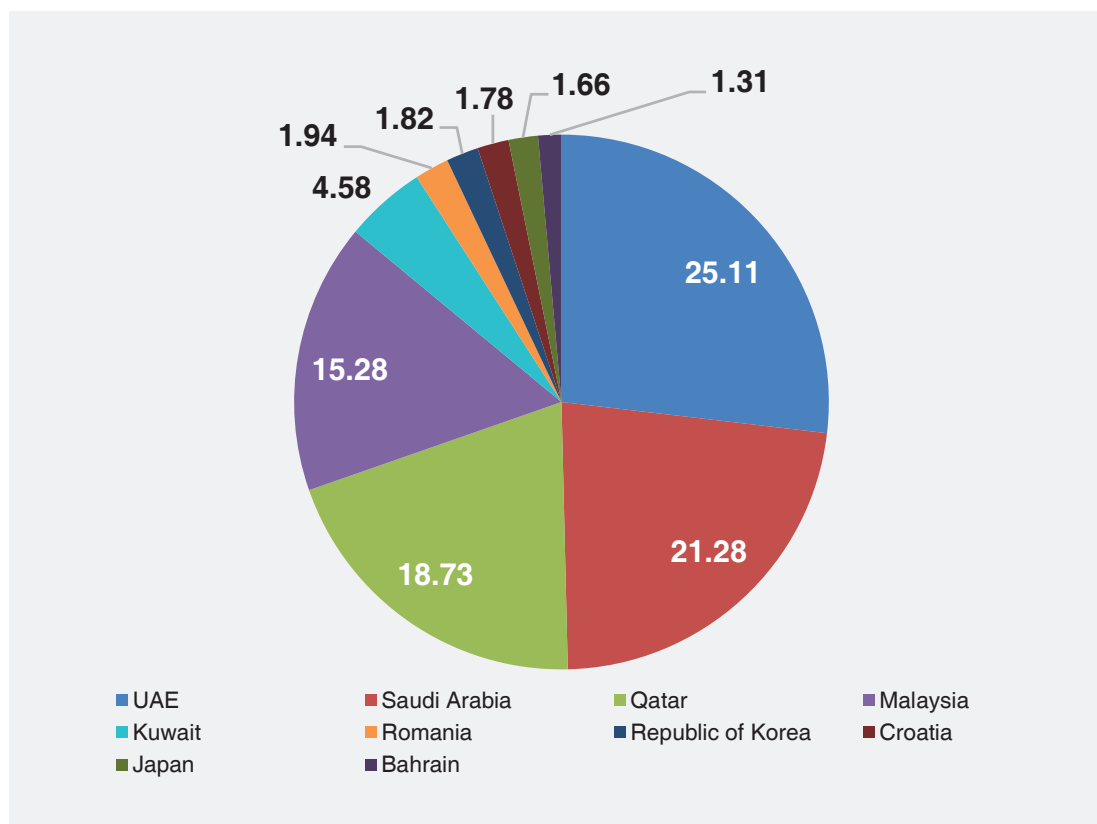
Source: DoFE, 2023/24.

Figure 4.20 presents the top ten destination countries for female migrants for foreign employment purposes. Of the total destination countries, around one-third of Nepali female migrant workers chose the UAE as their destination country, whereas one-fourth had chosen Kuwait, as well as Qatar, as their destination country. As like in the case of male migrants, Cyprus, Croatia and Romania have emerged as the new destination countries for female migrants. However, due to bans in different periods on female nationals emigrating for domestic work purposes by the Government of Nepal, the volume of Nepali female domestic workers has reduced significantly, especially in GCC countries.

Figure 4.20: Top ten destination countries for foreign employment for migrant workers, 2023/24
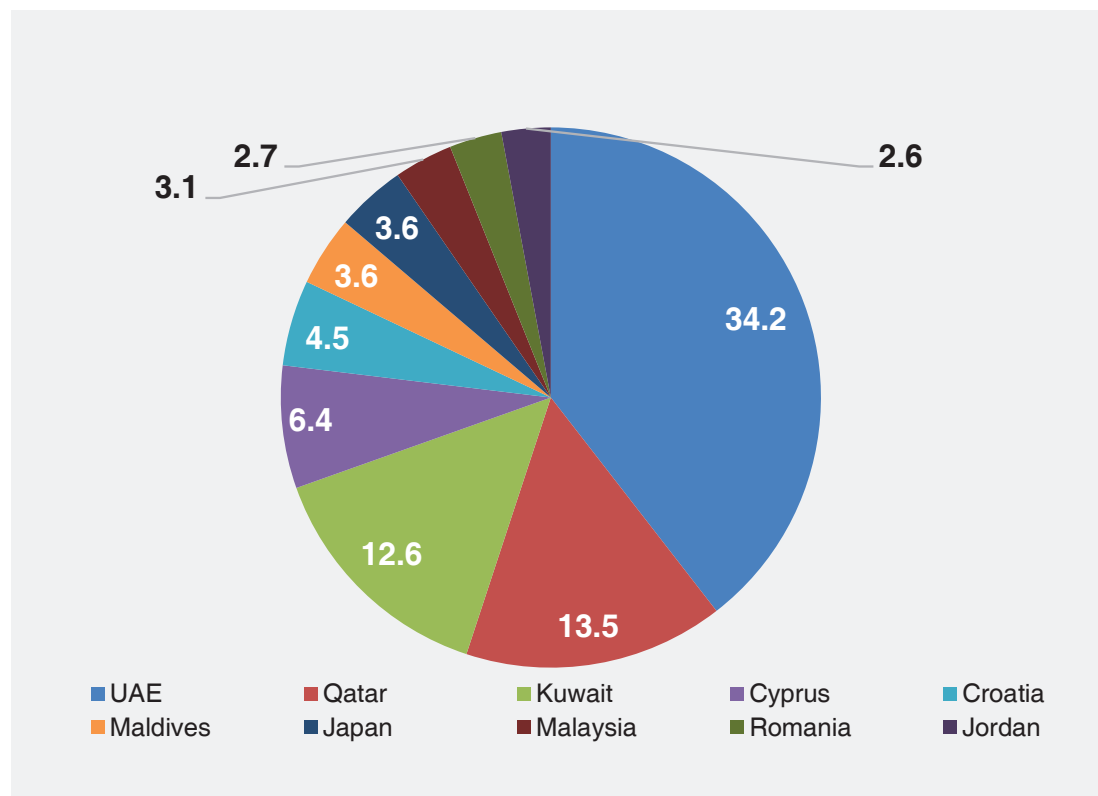
Source: DoFE, 2023/24.

4.8.2 Labour migration from South Asia

South Asian countries, especially India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, are the major labour sending countries. The major destination countries of most migrant workers from South Asia are the six GCC countries: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates. The total migrant workers who migrated to GCC countries from five South Asian countries were 1,790,543 in 2019, which was decreased to 564,883 in 2020 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and again increased to 1,130,610 in 2021. The major destination country of these five South Asian countries was Saudi Arabia over three successive years. The second major destination country was remained the UAE in 2019 and 2020, whereas Qatar remained as second major destination country in 2021. For Nepal, India and Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia was the major destination country in 2019 and 2020, whereas in 2021, the major destination country for Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan was Saudi Arabia (Table 4.9).

Table 4.9: Migrants workers in GCC countries from South Asia, 2019-2021

Year	Country of Origin	Destination countries						Total
		Bahrain	Kuwait	Oman	Qatar	Saudi Arabia	UAE	
2019	India	9,997	45,712	28,392	31,810	161,103	76,112	353,126
	Bangladesh	133	12,299	72,654	50,292	399,000	3,318	537,696
	Nepal	3,305	8,973	1,995	29,835	39,279	52,046	135,433
	Pakistan	8,189	126	28,404	19,371	332,764	211,270	600,124
	Sri Lanka	3,017	43,073	9,016	40,783	35,415	32,860	164,164
	Total	**24,641**	**110,183**	**140,461**	**172,091**	**967,561**	**375,606**	**1,790,543**
2020	India	4,175	8,107	7,206	8,907	44,316	17,891	90,602
	Bangladesh	3	1,744	21,071	3,608	161,726	1,082	189,234
	Nepal	1,202	1	767	7,247	9,061	8,702	26,980
	Pakistan	7,843	419	10,348	7,422	136,736	53,676	216,444
	Sri Lanka	1,050	8,040	2,723	9,689	9,407	10,714	41,623
	Total	**14,273**	**18,311**	**42,115**	**36,873**	**361,246**	**92,065**	**564,883**
2021	India	6,382	10,158	19,452	49,579	32,845	10,844	118,416
	Bangladesh	11	1848	55,009	0	457,227	29,202	514,095
	Nepal	5,062	8,011	2556	58025	100,313	36,872	173,967
	Pakistan	12,977	54	38,349	37,985	155,771	27,442	245,136
	Sri Lanka	1,918	12,816	6,433	30,516	27,313	20,185	78,996
	Total	**26,350**	**32,887**	**121,799**	**176,105**	**773,469**	**124,545**	**1,130,610**

Source: 'Labour Migration Outflow Database,' Situation Report: International Migration in South and South-West Asia, accessed 13 September 2024, https://sitreport.unescapsdd.org/labour-migration-outflow

4.9 Migration and skill

According to FEIMS 2024, a large proportion of labour approval was issued for skilled work (71.78%) which is followed by unskilled (19.63%) and semi-skilled (8.11%) labour. Conversely, very few approvals were issued for professional and high-skilled labour (Figure 4.21).

Figure 4.21: Nepali migrant workers by skill category, 2023/24
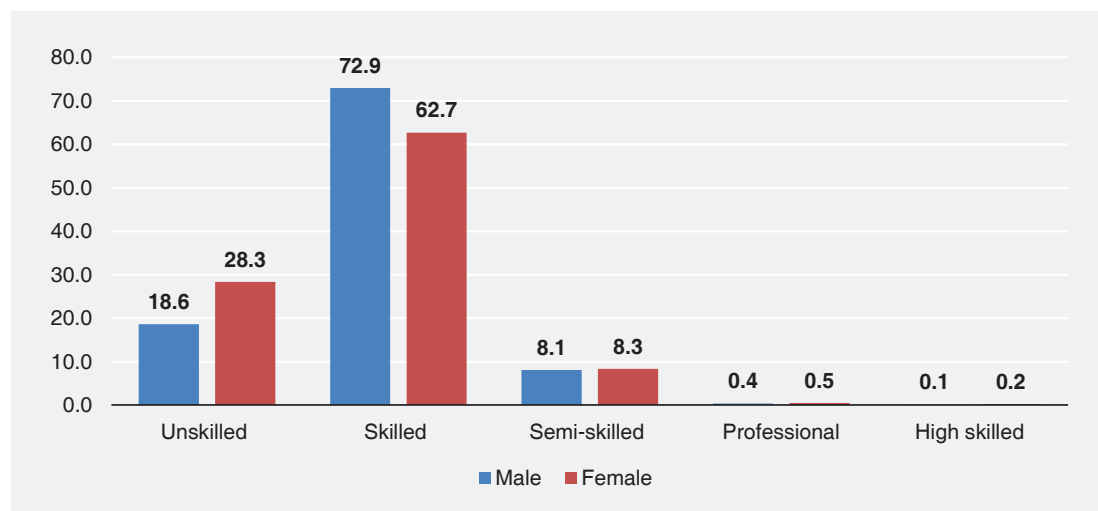
Source: DoFE, 2023/24.

4.10 Reasons for absence

As in the previous censuses, NPHC 2021 had included one closed-type question on the reasons for absence. The eight response categories were as mentioned in Figure 4.22. The main reasons for absence were identified as salary/wage, job, trade/business, study/training, seeking job and dependent. Three-fifths (59.8%) of the total absentees expressed their reason for going abroad as for salary/wage earning, followed by one-fifth (20.4%) being dependents to their guardians, and 14 percent for seeking jobs (Figure 4.22).

Figure 4.22: Absent population by main reason of absence, NPHC 2021
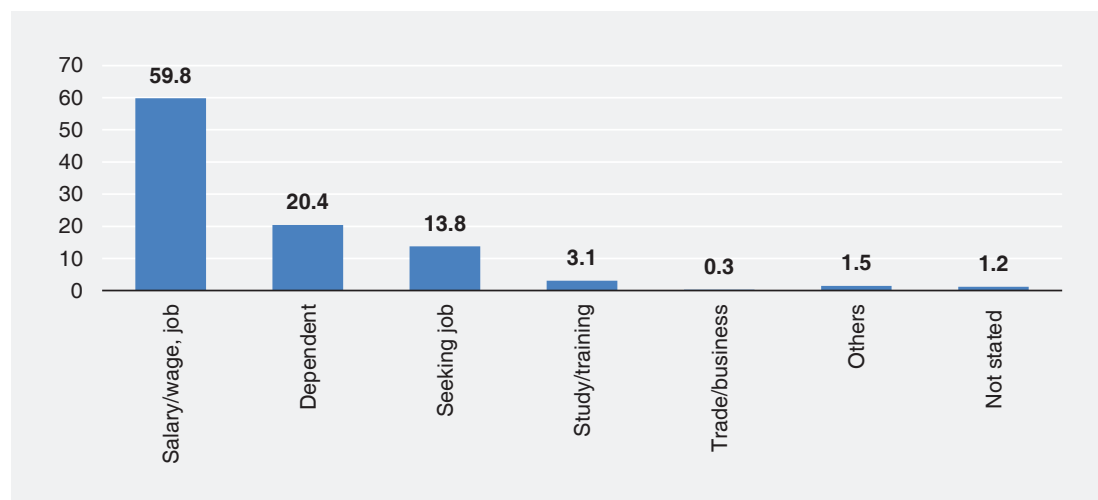
Whereas the main reason for absence from Koshi and Madhesh Province was found as salary/wage/job for over three-quarters of absentees, 28 percent of absentees from Bagmati Province were found to migrate abroad for study. A similar percentage of absentees from Karnali Province were found to migrate abroad for job seeking. A higher proportion (10 to 12%) of absentees from Karnali, Gandaki and Sudurpashchim were found to be dependents of other migrants (Table 4.10).

Table 4.10: **Main reason of absence by province, NPHC 2021**

Main reason of absence		Salary/wage, job	Trade/business	Study/training	Seeking job	Dependent	Others	Not stated	Don't know	Total
Koshi	No.	260,782	1,784	23,924	29,824	21,589	3,099	465	1,567	343,034
	%	76.0	0.5	7.0	8.7	6.3	0.9	0.1	0.5	100.0
Madhesh	No.	233,992	2,592	11,945	37,459	13,878	1,831	788	1,801	304,286
	%	76.9	0.9	3.9	12.3	4.6	0.6	0.3	0.6	100.0
Bagmati	No.	209,615	3,262	109,978	28,513	37,793	6,294	580	1,895	397,930
	%	52.7	0.8	27.6	7.2	9.5	1.6	0.1	0.5	100.0
Gandaki	No.	194,863	1,489	28,966	23,240	29,744	2,583	1,988	3,720	286,593
	%	68.0	0.5	10.1	8.1	10.4	0.9	0.7	1.3	100.0
Lumbini	No.	295,364	2,636	21,770	49,436	42,547	3,793	1,675	3,685	420,906
	%	70.2	0.6	5.2	11.7	10.1	0.9	0.4	0.9	100.0
Karnali	No.	50,632	377	2,273	26,653	11,394	1,339	574	1,078	94,320
	%	53.7	0.4	2.4	28.3	12.1	1.4	0.6	1.1	100.0
Sudur-pash-chim	No.	205,290	986	10,521	47,259	70,127	5,055	1,504	2,781	343,523
	%	66.2	0.6	9.6	11.1	10.4	1.1	0.3	0.8	100.0
Total	No.	1,450,935	13,130	209,433	242,460	227,125	24,000	7,576	16,532	2,191,192
	%	59.8	0.3	3.1	13.8	20.4	1.5	1.2	0.8	100.0

4.11 Logistic regression of factors associated with international migration

The emigration of Nepalis to different destination countries can be seen to be affected by various factors. In this thematic report, logistic regression was applied to observe association between dependent and independent variables. Logistic regression was applied at two levels household

level and individual level. One model was applied at household level to see the statistical association between emigration and other factors, whereas four models were applied to the individual level in order to observe the statistical associations between dependent and independent variables.

4.11.1 Logistic regression analysis of factors associated with emigration at household level

The households with at least one absentee could have been affected by various independent variables. In this model, households with at least one absentee are regarded as the dependent variable whereas ecological belt, place of residence, province, house ownership, wealth quintile, family structure, gender of household head, caste/ethnicity, level of education of household head, size of household, occupation of household head and types of industry of household head are considered as independent variables.

The status of emigration varies with different independent variables. The likelihood ratio of emigration from ecological belt is observed higher in Tarai and Hill than in Mountain. The household located at peri-urban area experienced higher likelihood of emigration (OR=1.07) and households from Sudurpashchim experienced a higher likelihood ratio (OR=1.20), whereas this is least observed in Karnali (OR=0.62). Similarly, the likelihood ratio of emigration from own house is observed two times higher (OR=2.23) and such likelihood is observed about three times higher with households from extended family and female headed households (OR=2.82). Similarly, the likelihood ratio of emigration from household with the lowest wealth quintile is observed less chance of emigration compared to reference group.

Similarly, in terms of caste/ethnicity, the likelihood ratio of emigration is observed about two times higher among Hill castes, Mountain/Hill Janajati, Hill Dalits and religious/linguistic groups as compared to Madhesh/Tarai castes. The likelihood ratio is observed least among Tarai Janajati (OR=0.82). The level of education of household head is also significantly associated with household with at least one absentee. The likelihood ratio is observed lower among household head having secondary level of education (OR=0.59). The probability of emigration from household with agriculture occupation is found about two times higher than non-agriculture whereas the likelihood ratio is observed higher with household head having secondary and tertiary industry.

Figure 4.23: **Logistic regression analysis of factors associated with emigration at household level**

Adjusted Odds Ratio

Category	Group	Adjusted Odds Ratio
Ecological belt	Tarai®	1
	Hill	1.00
	Mountain	0.67
Province	Madhesh®	1
	Koshi	0.88
	Bagmati	0.70
	Gandaki	1.07
	Lumbini	1.03
	Karnali	0.62
	Sudurpaschim	1.20
Place of residence	Rural®	1
	Urban	0.92
	Peri Urban	1.07
House ownership	Rented®	1
	Own	2.23
	Institutional	0.57
	Others	1.43
Wealth quintile	Highest®	1
	Higher	0.71
	Middle	0.67
	Lower	0.64
	Lowest	0.51
Family Structure	Nuclear Family®	1
	Extended Family	2.82
Size of household	1-2 persons®	1
	3-4 persons	0.52
	5-6 persons	0.25
	7-8 persons	0.27
	9+ persons	0.34
Sex of HH head	Male®	1
	Female	4.46
Caste/ethncity of HH head	Madhesh/Tarai Castes®	1
	Hill Castes	1.72
	Mountain/Hill Janajatis	1.80
	Tarai Janajatis	0.82
	Hill Dalits	2.21
	Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	1.08
	Religious/Linguistic groups	2.03
	Others, Foreigners & Not stated	0.65
Level of education of HH head	ECD®	1
	Basic (1-8)	1.01
	Secondary (9-inter)	0.81
	Higher (bachelor+)	0.59
	Others	0.95
Occupation of HH head	Non-agriculture®	1
	Agriculture	1.75
Types of Industry of HH head	Primary®	1
	Secondary	1.04
	Tertiary	1.08

4.11.2 Logistic regression of international migration at individual level

The emigration from Nepal to different destination countries viz. Middle Eastern region, India and the main reason of emigration could have been affected by various independent variables. Three logistic regression models have been developed to observe which independent variables had association with the dependent variables. In this section, three models including individual emigrants who went to Middle Eastern countries, to India, and main reason of emigration are considered as dependent variables. Whereas ecological belt, place of residence, province, level of education of absentee, gender, age group, caste/ethnicity of HH head, occupation of HH head, types of industry of household head, level of education of household head, size of household, house ownership, family structure and wealth quintile are chosen as independent variables.

4.11.2.1 Logistic regression of Nepali emigrants to middle east vs. other countries

The outflow of Nepali migrants from Nepal to different destination countries largely varies with the background variables/independent variables. As like, the likelihood ratio or odds ratio also varies with the independent variables. In this model, the dependent variable is regarded as the Nepali migrant who moved to Middle Eastern countries.

The status of emigration to Middle Eastern countries largely varies with different background variables. The likelihood ratio of emigration to middle east countries is found higher among household from both Hill and Tarai as well as in peri-urban and rural areas. The likelihood ratio of emigration to middle east is observed about 16 times lower from Sudurpashchim and four times lower from Karnali. This indicates that most of the emigration from these provinces are concentrated to India or other countries. It also reveals the fact that the probability of emigrating for middle east is highest in Koshi and Madhesh compared to other provinces.

Similarly, the likelihood ratio of emigration to Middle East is observed higher with emigrants having secondary education. Such ratio is observed seven times higher from age group 25-34 (OR=6.91) compared to reference group. In terms of caste/ethnicity, the likelihood ratio is observed about three times higher in religious/linguistic groups (OR=2.73), followed by Tarai Janajatis and Hill Dalits. Most of the emigration to middle east is observed from the household head having agriculture occupation and secondary industry. The likelihood ratio is observed about two times higher among household having a higher wealth quintile (OR=2.03), followed by household with highest wealth quintile and middle wealth quintile (OR=1.66 and OR=1.57).

Figure 4.24: **Logistic regression analysis of factors associated with emigration to middle east countries**

Adjusted Odds Ratio

Category	Subgroup	Value
Occup Types of Industry -ation of HH of HH head head	Primary®	1
	Secondary	1.21
	Tertiary	1.15
Occup -ation of HH head	Agriculture®	1
	Non-Agriculture	0.83
Caste/ethnicity of HH head	Hill castes®	1
	Madhesh/Tarai Caste	0.87
	Mountain/Hill Janajatis	0.97
	Tarai Janajatis	1.18
	Hill Dalits	1.12
	Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	1.06
	Religious/Linguistic groups	2.73
	Others, Foreigners & Not stated	0.70
Level of education of HH head	ECD®	1
	Basic (0-8)	1.07
	Secondary (9-12)	1.03
	Higher (bachelor+)	0.63
	Others	0.97
Wealth Quintile	Lowest®	1
	Lower	1.31
	Middle	1.57
	Higher	2.03
	Highest	1.66
Size of household	1-2 persons®	1
	3-4 persons	1.10
	5-6 persons	0.99
	7-8 persons	0.97
	9+ persons	1.04
House ownership	Own®	1
	Rented	1.31
	Institutional	1.01
	Others	0.97
Family struct -ure	Nuclear Family®	1
	Extended Family	0.97
Main reason of absent	Salary/wage®	1
	Trade/business	0.30
	Study/training	0.03
	Seeking job	0.83
	Dependent	0.50
	Others	0.11
	Not Stated	0.49
Duration of stay at destination	0-2 years®	1
	3-5 years	0.79
	6-9 years	0.70
	10-14 years	0.95
	15-19 years	0.80
	20+ years	0.32
	Not Stated	0.61
Level of education of absentee	ECD®	1
	Higher	0.43
	Secondary	1.14
	Others	0.90
	Illiterate	0.88
Age group	<14 years®	1
	15-24 years	4.63
	25-34 years	6.91
	35-44 years	6.08
	45+ years	2.67
	Not Stated	6.06
Sex	Male®	1
	Female	0.47
Province	Koshi®	1
	Madhesh	0.97
	Bagmati	0.86
	Gandaki	0.82
	Lumbini	0.45
	Karnali	0.23
	Sudurpaschim	0.06
Place of residence at the time of departure	Urban®	1
	Rural	1.15
	Peri Urban	1.20
Ecological belt	Mountain®	1
	Hill	1.10
	Tarai	1.25

0.00   1.00   2.00   3.00   4.00   5.00   6.00   7.00   8.00

4.11.2.2 Logistic regression of Nepali emigrants to India vs. other countries

The status of emigration to India is largely varied, with independent variables including emigration to Middle Eastern countries. The likelihood ratio of emigration to India is observed higher in Tarai (OR=1.34) as well as rural area (OR=1.16). The outflow of Nepali migrants to India is associated significantly with province. The likelihood ratio of emigrating to India is observed 40 times higher from Sudurpashchim, about eight times higher from Karnali, and five times higher from Lumbini compared to reference group. Similarly, the likelihood ratio of emigrating to India from all age groups is found lower than the reference group.

In terms of the duration of stay in India, the likelihood ratio of staying 20 years and above is found to be five times higher (OR=4.70) than the reference group. This implies that longer duration of stay is positively correlated with higher chances of emigrating to India. Similarly, the likelihood ratio is observed three times higher in the trade/business sector (OR=3.06). The probability of emigrating to India is found to be high amongst households having non-agriculture occupation (Or=1.21), whereas the likelihood ratio is observed as four times lower with households having the highest wealth quintile (OR=0.25).

Figure 4.25: Logistic regression analysis of factors associated with emigration to India at individual level

Adjusted Odds Ratio

Category	Group	Value
Types of Industry of HH head	Primary®	1
	Secondary	0.87
	Tertiary	0.78
Occupation of HH head	Agriculture®	1
	Non-Agriculture	1.21
Caste/ethnicity of HH head	Hill castes®	1
	Madhesh/Tarai Caste	1.70
	Mountain/Hill Janajatis	1.02
	Tarai Janajatis	0.72
	Hill Dalits	1.67
	Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	0.90
	Religious/Linguistic groups	0.88
	Others, Foreigners & Not stated	6.78
Level of education of HH head	ECD®	1
	Basic (0-8)	1.11
	Secondary (9-12)	0.96
	Higher (bachelor+)	1.11
	Others	1.24
Main reason of absent	Salary/wage®	1
	Trade/business	3.06
	Study/training	1.45
	Seeking job	1.32
	Dependent	0.66
	Others	1.89
	Not Stated	1.05
Duration of stay at destination	0-2 years®	1
	3-5 years	0.39
	6-9 years	0.53
	10-14 years	0.79
	15-19 years	1.64
	20+ years	4.70
	Not Stated	1.14
Level of education of absentee	ECD®	1
	Higher	0.22
	Secondary	0.60
	Others	1.11
	Illiterate	0.82
Age group	<14 years®	1
	15-24 years	0.16
	25-34 years	0.07
	35-44 years	0.10
	45+ years	0.33
	Not Stated	0.21
Sex	Male®	1
	Female	1.81
Wealth Quintile	Lowest®	1
	Lower	0.70
	Middle	0.49
	Higher	0.35
	Highest	0.25
Size of household	1-2 persons®	1
	3-4 persons	1.04
	5-6 persons	1.11
	7-8 persons	1.13
	9+ persons	1.03
House ownership	Own®	1
	Rented	1.13
	Institutional	1.19
	Others	1.01
Family structure	Nuclear Family®	1
	Extended Family	0.90
Province	Koshi®	1
	Madhesh	1.11
	Bagmati	0.77
	Gandaki	1.48
	Lumbini	4.50
	Karnali	7.96
	Sudurpaschim	39.86
Place of residence at the time of departure	Urban®	1
	Rural	1.16
	Peri Urban	1.00
Ecological belt	Mountain®	1
	Hill	1.09
	Tarai	1.34

0.00 5.00 10.00 15.00 20.00 25.00 30.00 35.00 40.00 45.00

4.11.2.3 Logistic regression of absentee by main reason of absence

Migration for wage/salary is observed as the primary reason for emigration from Nepal. In this model, wage/salary as a main reason of emigration is regarded as the dependent variable. The main reason for emigration directly determines the volume, trend, motif and direction of emigration. The likelihood ratio of the main reason of absence as salary/wage is higher in Hill (OR=1.32) as well as rural (OR=1.16). The likelihood ratio is found about two times higher in Middle East and ASEAN countries (OR=2.05 and OR=1.75 respectively). The likelihood ratio of emigrating for salary/wage is observed higher having secondary level of education. Similarly, the likelihood ratio is observed lowest among households with an extended family structure (OR=1.10), whereas such likelihood is observed lower with households having highest wealth quintile (OR=0.87).

Figure 4.26: Logistic regression analysis of factors associated main reason of absence (Salary/wage) at individual level

Adjusted Odds Ratio
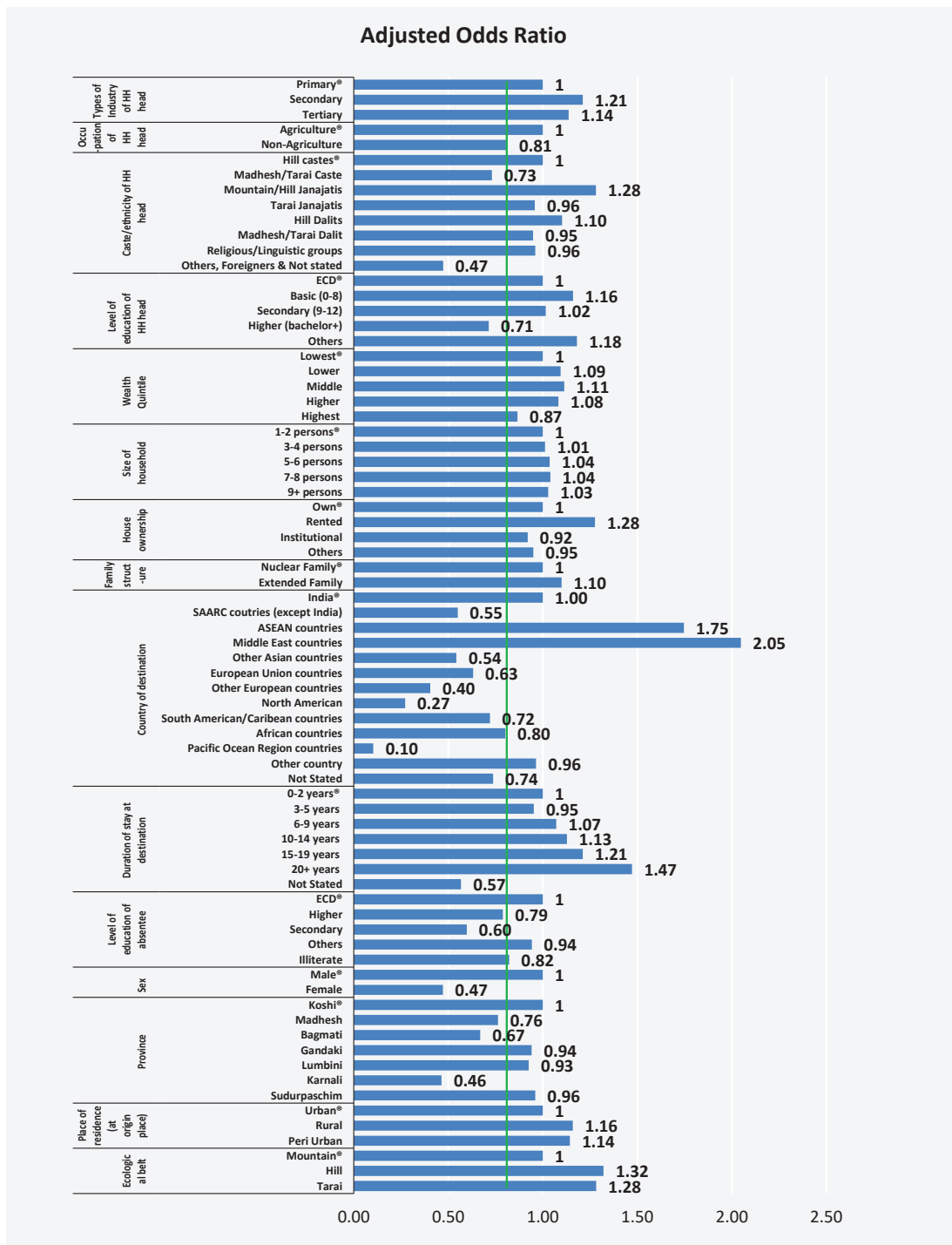
CHAPTER 5

IMMIGRATION INTO NEPAL

This section focuses on figures related to lifetime immigration, last immigration, return migration and country of nationality; categorizations which shall be outlined below. The data related to these three categories were captured through the aforementioned six questions in the census of 2021. For the purpose of census recording, lifetime immigration is defined as the process of changing usual place of residence from different countries and for various reasons. This process includes those immigrants who enter Nepal via crossing international borders and resides as usual place of residence. Last immigration refers to the status of immigrants who are recorded to be living in Nepal during the most recent census period. Return migration, however, refers to the process of migrants moving back to their place of origin or home country after spending a period of time in different countries for different purposes. Similarly, the country of nationality category refers to the country from where an immigrant/person holds legal citizenship and/or nationality.

The volume of immigration into Nepal is influenced by several factors, with legal and policy frameworks playing a crucial role. The 1992Immigration Act, 1994 Immigration Rules and the 2008 Immigration Procedures are the primary legal instruments governing immigration into the country. Additionally, the 1950 Peace and Friendship Treaty stands as the primary framework regulating cross-border migration between Nepal and India. Due to the open border between Nepal and India, both the volume of immigration from India and the emigration from Nepal to India has been recorded highest from initial census data. As Nepal is considered to be a source country for international migration (MoLESS, 2022), the inflow of foreign-born migrants is observed low as compared to the outflow of Nepali citizens to different countries.

The flow of foreign citizens into Nepal could have significant importance in terms of the country's geopolitics and diplomatic relations and it is regarded as a key issues from the lens of national security. To date, the Government of Nepal does not provide a separate policy to govern and manage immigrants in Nepal. The open border between Nepal and India leverages an increasing volume of in-flow of Indian citizens into Nepal. However, there is not any policy, plan, system or procedure to record the number of Indian citizens in Nepal for administrative, political and diplomatic relation purposes. The Government of Nepal, as well as CSOs, are raising the issues of rights of Nepali migrants working in different destination countries. However, at the same time, the government and CSOs underestimate the condition and human rights issues experienced by foreigners in Nepal, especially of Indian citizens who make up more than 90 percent of the total foreign-born population.

5.1 Trend of foreign-born population in Nepal

Data relating to immigration into Nepal was first captured from 1961, based on records of both foreign-born population and foreign citizens. The presence of foreign-born population trends is observed at an uniform pace since the beginning of available data due to various reasons. However, the volume of Nepal's foreign-born population has since shown to be at an increasing trend, except for the 1981 and 2011 censuses. The volume of foreign-born population was registered at 337,620 in 1961 – representing 3.6 percent of the total population – and increased to 734,663 in 2021, accounting for 2.6 percent of the total population. This reveals the fact that the percentage of the foreign-born population as a rate of the total population has been decreasing despite the increased volume of foreign-born population figures. The percentage of Nepal's foreign-born population to total population is observed at a ratio of 3.6 percent in 1961, which decreased to 1.6 percent in 1981 and again decreased to 1.8 percent in 2011, before reaching to 2.6 percent in 2021 (Table 5.1).

Both the volume of foreign-born population and the foreign citizen figures are observed to largely fluctuate. 110,061 foreign citizens were registered in 1961, a figure which drastically increased to 483,019 in 1981 census data and eventually decreased to the figure of 90,427 in 1991 (Table 5.1). The significant fluctuation in the percentage of foreign citizens as of total population is also observed in table 5.1. The share of foreign citizens of the total population is found to range from 3.2 percent in 1981 to 0.5 in the 2011 and 2021 censuses.

Table 5.1: **Foreign born population and foreign citizens in Nepal, 1961-2021**

Census Year	Total Population	Foreign born Population	% of total Population	Foreign Citizens	% of total Population
1961	9,412,996	337,620	3.6	110,061	1.2
1971	11,555,983	337,448	2.9	136,477	1.8
1981	15,022,839	234,039	1.6	483,019	3.2
1991	18,491,097	439,488	2.4	90,427	0.5
2001	23,151,423	608,092	2.7	116,571	0.6
2011	26,253,828*	479,625	1.8	138,910	0.5
2021	29,164,578	734,663	2.6	137,218	0.5

Refers non-institutional population only.

From the census of 1961, figure 5.2 reveals fluctuation in the ratio of the foreign-born population and the foreign citizen population as percentages of the total population. The overall picture shows that the ratio of foreign-born population and foreign citizens are in experiencing a decreasing trend (Figure 5.2).

Figure 5.2: **Foreign born population and foreign citizens as percentage of total population**

●●●● Foreign born population as % of total Population   ▪▪▪▪ Foreign citizens as % of total Population
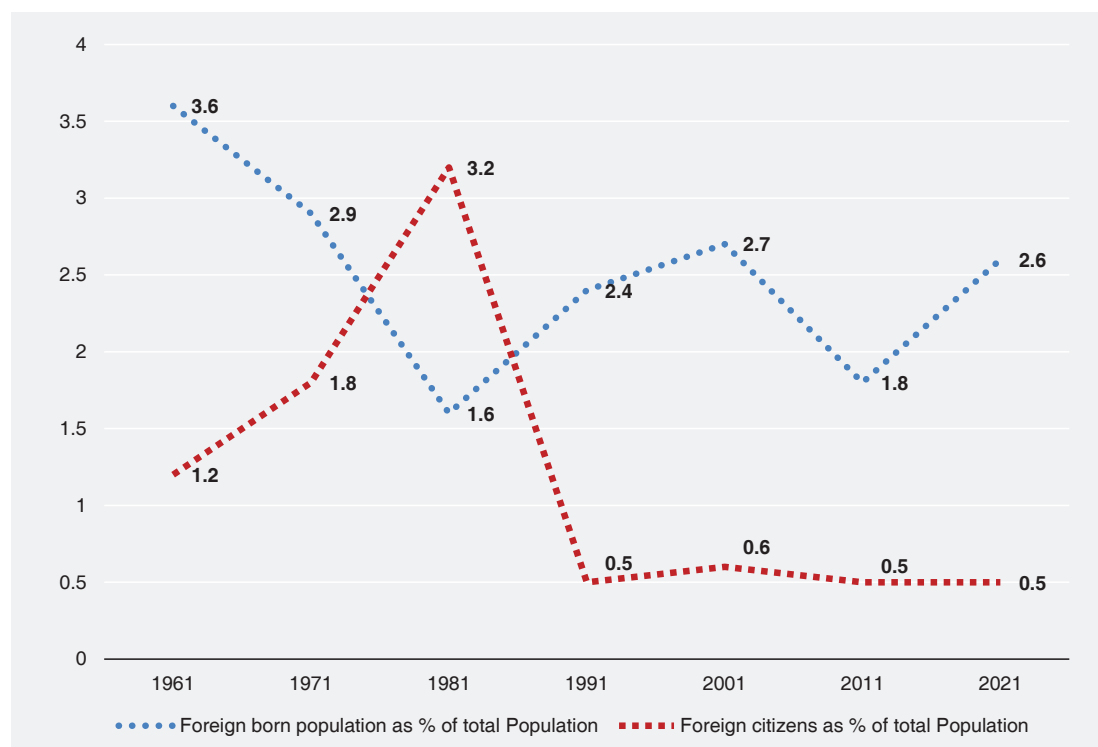
5.2 Country of birth and nationality

Country of birth and country of nationality are concepts which are included in the immigration section. Country of birth refers to the country where an individual was physically born, primarily determined by the place where birth took place regardless of parents' nationality or citizenship. The country of nationality refers to the status where an individual holds legal citizenship or nationality. Information related to country of birth does not fall under country of nationality.

Table 5.2 shows the country of birth and nationality status as per census data from 2021. Of the total population, 28,420,333 individuals were native born, in which 28,396,821 were Nepalese citizens and 23,352 were foreign citizens. Similarly, of the total population, 734,663 were of foreign-born population – 620,789 as Nepalese citizen and 113,845 as foreign citizens – whereas 9,582 individuals had an unknown place of birth and 189 held unknown nationality status.

Table 5.2: Status of country of birth and nationality status, NPHC 2021

Place of birth	Nepalese citizen	Foreign citizen	Nationality not stated	Total
Native born	28,396,821	23,352	160	28,420,333
Foreign born	620,789	113,845	29	734,663
Birth place not stated	9,561	21	0	9,582
Total	29,027,171	137,218	189	29,164,578

5.3 Age-sex structure of foreign-born population and foreign citizens

The National Population and Housing Census also collected data related to the status of identification. According to figure 5.3, the total number of the recorded foreign-born population was at a figure of 734,663, in which the number of identified females were 547,837 and males at a figure of only 186,826. Of the total identified foreign-born population, approximately four-fifths are female (Figure 5.3).

Figure 5.3: Status of foreign-born population in Nepal by sex, NPHC 2021
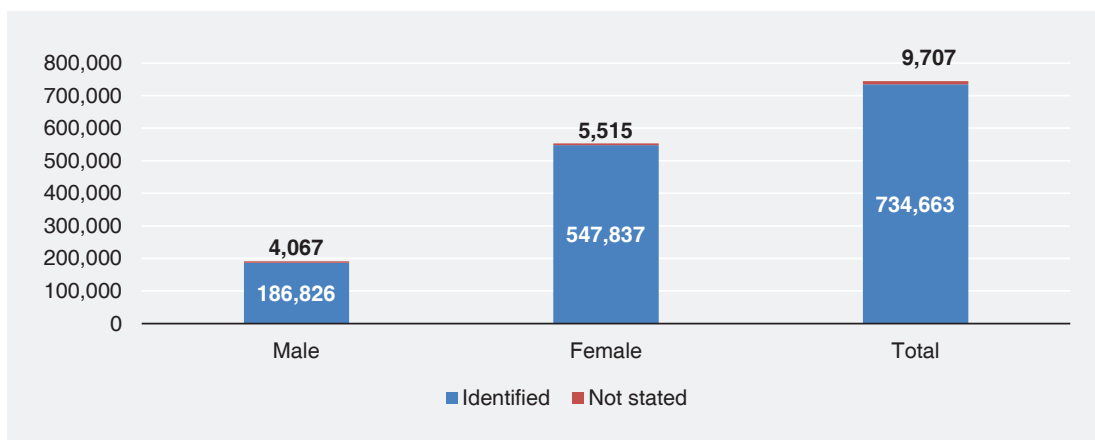
Figure 5.4 reveals the distribution of the foreign-born population by 5 years age group. Of the total foreign-born population (734,663), more than two-thirds are from the 15-59 age group, whereas less than one-tenth is from the 0-14 years age group. In terms of ecological belt, all three ecological belts show that the highest proportion of their foreign-born population fall within the 15-59 years age group than other age groups i.e. 77.3 percent in Tarai, 76.2 percent in Hill and 79.8 percent in Mountain. Similarly, a higher proportion of the foreign-born population in all seven provinces and urban rural municipalities is observed to fall within the economically active age group than other groups such as the child and old age groups (Annex Table 19).

Figure 5.4: **Foreign-born population by 5 years age group, NPHC 2021**
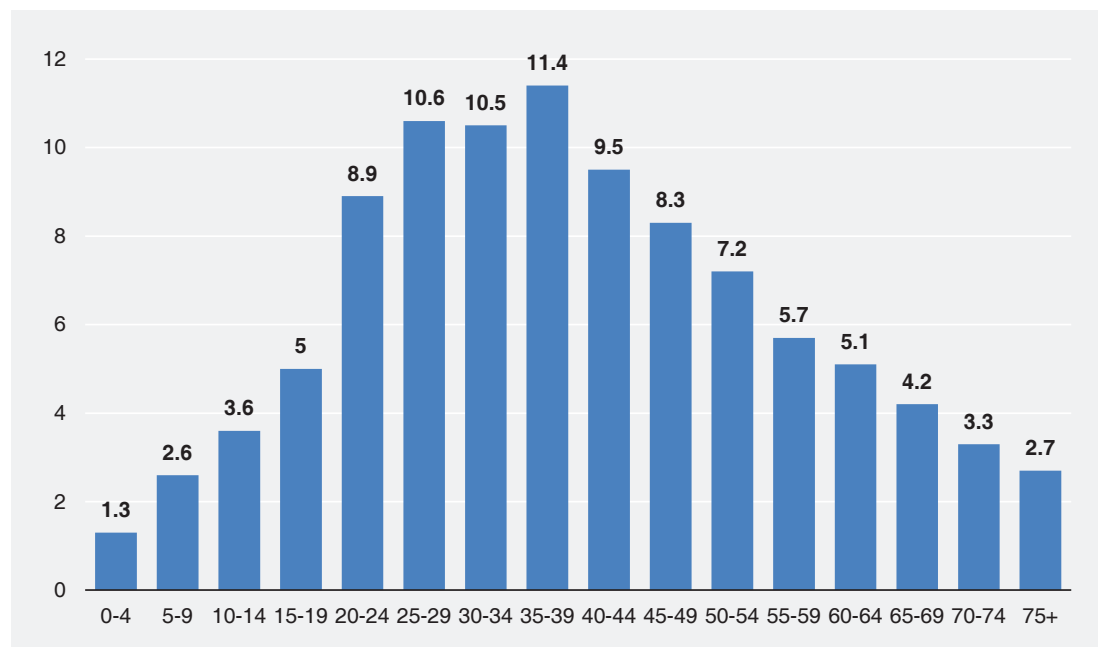
Figure 5.5: **Population pyramid of foreign-born population, NPHC 2021**
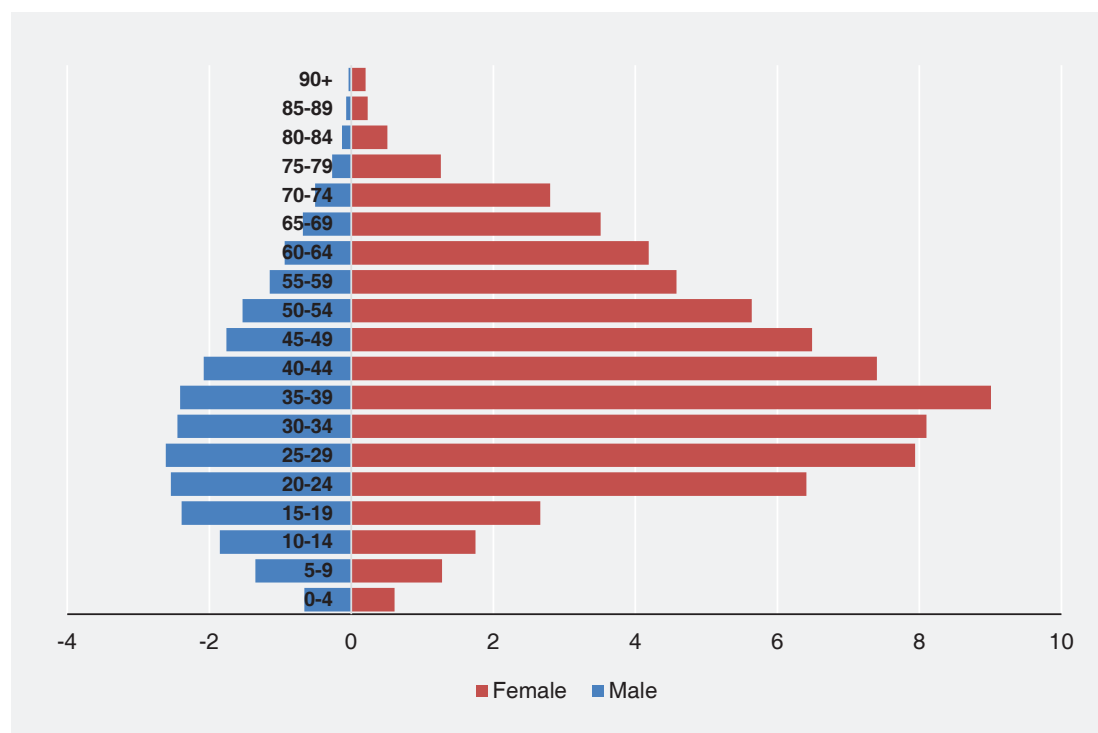
At a ratio of more than three-quarters, the highest proportion of foreign citizens were from economically active age groups, followed by the child dependent age group. Of the total foreign-born population, a higher proportion were from the 25-29 years age group (12.7%), followed by 20-24 (11.9%) and 30-34 (11.1%) years of age. Foreign citizens aged 75 years and above were represented as the lowest proportion (Figure 5.6).

Figure 5.6: Foreign citizens by 5 years age groups, NPHC 2021
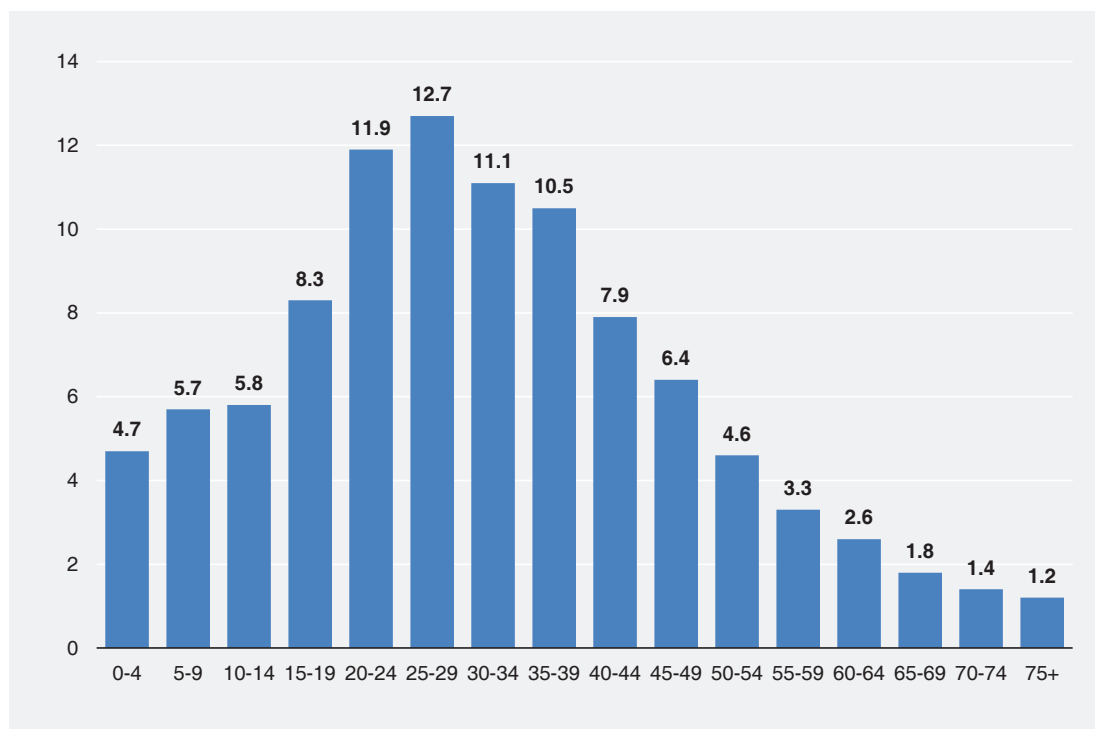
5.4 Literacy status of foreign citizens

Of the total foreign citizens, more than two-thirds register as literate, in which the most significant proportion is observed in Mountain zone (92.8%). Similarly, in terms of province, the highest proportion of literate foreign citizens is observed in Gandaki (85.1%) and the lowest is observed in Madhesh (44%) (Figure 5.7). The amount of literate foreign citizens is observed to be higher in urban municipalities compared to its counterparts, with the rural area showing the highest literate foreign citizens. There exists a positive correlation between the wealth quintile and literacy status of foreign citizens. Higher literacy rates in foreign citizens are observed in the highest wealth quintile and vice versa.

Figure 5.7: Distribution of foreign citizen aged 5 years and above by literacy status, NPHC 2021
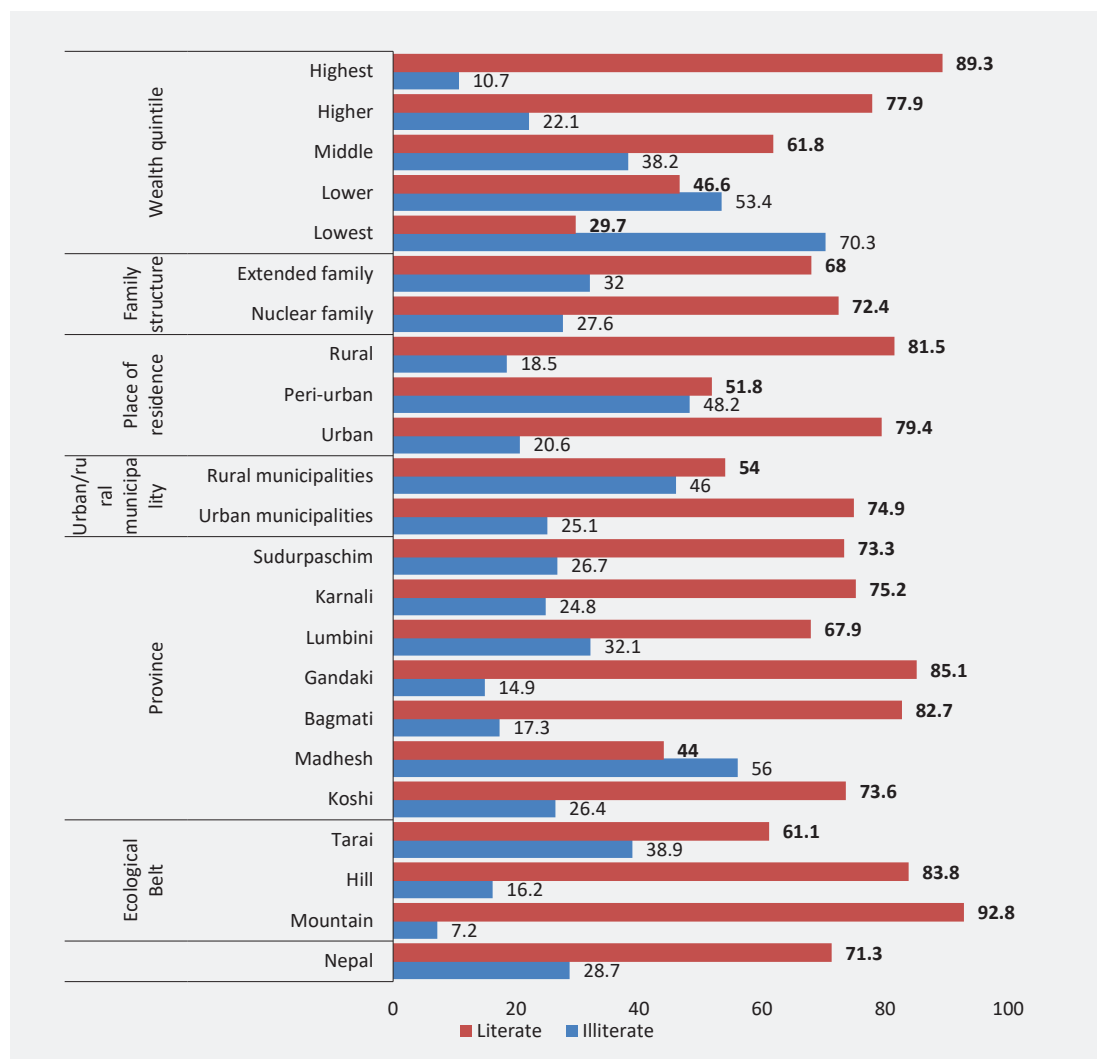
The literacy status of foreign citizens is presented in table 5.3. Of the total literate foreign citizens, around 50 percent were with a basic level of education, followed by 34 percent with secondary education. ECD education level alone is represented at the lowest rate. The proportion of foreign citizens with a basic level of education is observed highest in Tarai, Karnali, rural municipalities, and the peri-urban area, as well as in households led by extended family and in households in the lowest wealth quintile. When addressing higher levels of education of foreign citizens, a rate of 13 percent is observed in Mountain zone, 12.7 percent in Bagmati Province, 10.4 percent in urban municipalities, and 12 percent in rural areas. With regard to social factors, 10.4 percent of foreign citizens held a higher level of education in households in a nuclear family structure, with this figure observed at 22 percent in the highest wealth quintile households (Table 5.3).

Table 5.3: Distribution of foreign citizen aged 5 years and above by level of education, NPHC 2021

Area	ECD (0)	Basic (1-8)	Secondary (9-12)	Higher (bachelor+)	Others	Education status not stated
Nepal	2.9	49.8	33.7	10.0	3.5	0.1
Ecological belt						
Mountain	0.5	32.0	44.7	13.0	9.7	0.1
Hill	2.9	46.4	33.9	12.5	4.3	0.1
Tarai	3.0	54.3	33.0	7.2	2.4	0.1
Province						
Koshi	2.3	49.9	37.4	8.4	2.0	0.0
Madhesh	2.5	53.5	35.2	6.8	2.0	0.1
Bagmati	2.9	46.7	33.0	12.7	4.6	0.0
Gandaki	3.3	51.4	33.7	7.5	3.8	0.4
Lumbini	2.8	52.0	32.9	9.7	2.5	0.1
Karnali	5.3	57.8	24.8	8.5	3.6	
Sudurpashchim	4.6	57.2	28.7	5.3	4.2	0.0
Urban/Rural municipality						
Urban municipalities	3.1	49.6	33.3	10.4	3.5	0.1
Rural municipalities	1.7	50.8	36.8	7.1	3.4	0.1
Place of residence						
Urban	3.2	48.5	33.7	11.1	3.5	0.1
Peri urban	2.3	56.2	32.5	5.7	3.3	0.1
Rural	2.0	42.9	38.3	12.0	4.8	0.0
Family structure						
Nuclear Family	4.4	50.2	32.1	10.4	2.8	0.1
Extended Family	2.0	52.5	33.6	8.4	3.4	0.1
Wealth quintile						
Lowest	3.6	69.9	21.5	0.7	4.0	0.2
Lower	2.9	64.9	24.4	1.8	6.0	0.1
Middle	3.2	60.9	29.2	3.0	3.6	0.1
Higher	3.6	55.9	32.5	5.0	2.9	0.1
Highest	2.5	34.2	38.8	22.0	2.5	0.1

5.5 Trend of foreign-born population by country of birth

Table 5.4 reveals that the trend of foreign-born population migration into Nepal is also in a fluctuating pattern. The figure ranges from 337,620 in 1961, decreasing to 234,039 in 1981 and again increasing to a figure of 608,092 in 2001 prior to decreasing to 479,625 in 2011. Throughout the six successive censuses, the percentage of the female foreign-born population exceeds that of males and an upward trend in the percentage ratio of females is observed. For example, across the previous 6 censuses, more than two-thirds of the foreign born population were recorded as female over male: 63 percent vs. 37 percent in 1971; 69 percent vs. 31 percent in 1981; 72 percent vs. 28 percent in 1991; 70 percent vs. 30 percent in 2001; 70.5 percent vs. 29.5 percent in 2011; and 74 percent vs. 26 percent in 2021.

The overwhelming majority of the foreign-born population were seen from India, representing more than 93 percent in seven successive censuses. This rate is present in data from 1961 to 2021, throughout which female migrants represent more than two-thirds of the total India—born population. This phenomenon may be due to socio-cultural relations, such as marriage relation[5], and the rate may be explained by open borders due to the countries' peace and friendship treaty. However, the proportion of the overall foreign-born population from other countries is observed to be almost uniform. The rate is at around 4 percent in the successive six censuses and the figure has slightly decreased to 2.8 percent in 2021. In the case of other countries, the proportion share of both male and female migrants is found to be almost equal during a the seven decade period of 1961-2021 (Table 5.4).

Table 5.4: Trends of foreign-born population in Nepal by country of birth, 1961-2021

Year	Sex		1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021
Total foreign-born population	**Both sexes**	No.	337,620	337,448	234,039	439,488	608,092	479,625	734,663
		%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Male	No.		123,480	71,555	123,560	183,037	141,165	186,826
		%		36.6	30.6	28.1	30.1	29.4	25.4
	Female	No.		213,968	162,484	315,828	425,055	338,460	547,837
		%		63.4	69.4	71.9	69.9	70.6	74.6
India	**Both sexes**	No.	324,159	322,718	222,278	418,982	583,599	449,149	713,973
		%	96.0	95.6	95.0	95.3	96	93.6	97.2
	Male	No.		115,606	65,285	113,405	171,224	129,057	175,930
		%		35.8	29.4	27.1	29.3	28.7	24.6
	Female	No.		207,112	156,993	305,577	412,375	320,092	538,043
		%		64.2	70.6	72.9	70.7	71.3	75.4

---

5   Similar socio-cultural beliefs, rituals and practices promote marriage migration from India to Nepal particularly in Tarai zone. Data shows that the main reason for immigration to Nepal is marriage, with 45 percent of immigration into this country due to this factor.

Other countries	Both sexes	No.	13,231	14,236	10,308	20,506	24,493	20,430	20,565
		%	3.9	4.2	4.4	4.7	4	4.3	2.8
	Male	No.	0	7,613	5,555	10,155	11,813	9,006	10,847
		%		53.5	53.9	49.5	48.2	44.1	52.7
	Female	No.	0	6,623	4,753	10,251	12,680	11,423	9,718
		%		46.5	46.1	50	51.8	55.9	47.3
Not stated	Both sexes	No.	230	494	1,453			10,046	125
		%	0.07	0.15	0.62			2.09	0.02
	Male	No.		261	715			3,102	49
		%		52.8	49.2			30.9	39.2
	Female	No.		233	738			6,945	76
		%		47.2	50.8			69.1	

5.6 Foreign-born population by country of nationality

The NPHC 2021 shows that of the total Indian-born population, around 85 percent possessed Nepali nationality, followed by nationality of India (15.4%). Similarly, around 61 percent of Nepali citizens were born in other South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries, 95 percent from other Asian country born populations, and 77 percent of European country born populations (Table 5.5). Of the total Nepali born population, a majority had the nationality of Nepal and much lower percentage shows Indian nationality. The nationality proportion ratio of the population who were born in the USA or Canada demonstrates that the tendency to hold Nepali nationality is higher than that of the USA or Canada, at a higher rate of 59 percent for Nepali citizens as opposed to 39 percent for USA or Canadian citizens.

Table 5.5: Distribution of total population by country of nationality, NPHC 2021

Birthplace	Nationality								Total (No.)
	Nepal	India	Other SAARC countries	Other Asian countries	European countries	USA/ Canada	Other countries	Countries not stated	
India	84.55	15.44	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	713,973
Other SAARC country	60.66	2.42	8.94	27.79	0.00	0.02	0.09	0.07	5,458
Other Asian country	95.21	0.33	0.02	4.25	0.07	0.07	0.02	0.03	12,264
European country	77.17	0.15	0.15	0.44	21.37	0.29	0.44	0.00	1,371

Birthplace	Nationality								
	Nepal	**India**	**Other SAARC countries**	**Other Asian countries**	**European countries**	**USA/ Canada**	**Other countries**	**Countries not stated**	**Total (No.)**
USA/ Canada	59.35	0.52	0.13	0.52	0.78	38.69	0.00	0.00	765
Other countries	76.94	2.12	0.00	0.57	0.71	0.00	19.66	0.00	707
Not Stated	99.50	0.38	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.06	9,707
Nepal Born	99.92	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**28,420,333**
Total	**99.53**	**0.46**	**0.00**	**0.01**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**29,164,578**

Indian citizens constitute the largest proportion of immigrants by nationality or country of nationality, whereas few immigrants from other countries are as dominantly present. Of the total population, around 0.5 percent hold Indian nationality. By province, the highest proportion of persons with Indian nationality is reported in Bagmati Province (0.8%), followed by Gandaki (0.5%). The highest proportion of persons reported from other countries is also observed in Bagmati Province.

Similarly, the lowest figure of Indian immigrants is found in Mountain zone, whilst Indian immigrants are observed highest in urban municipality (0.6%). In terms of place of residence, peri-urban areas are observed as major areas of residence of Indian immigrants in Nepal. Bagmati Province, hill and urban areas are observed as the main areas of residence of migrants from other countries (Annex 19).

According to table 5.6, 97 percent of the foreign-born population held nationality of India, constituting an overwhelming majority. This figure is followed by China (1.4%) and other countries (1.4%). In terms of the foreign born population in the urban-rural municipality, around 97 percent had Indian nationality in both urban and rural municipalities, whereas very few immigrants living in rural municipalities had SAARC country nationality. About four-fifths of the foreign-born population who were enumerated at Mountain zone had Indian nationality. Significantly, around one-tenth of immigrants in the same zone held nationality of China. With respect to province, around 3 percent of foreign-born immigrants in Bagmati Province had Chinese nationality. 3.1 percent of immigrants held nationality of other countries in Karnali province (Table 5.6).

Similarly, Tarai sees a significant proportion of foreign citizens who were born in India (99.2%), with the highest observed in rural municipality (96.9%) and peri-urban area (99%). With regard to Chinese-born citizens, the most significant proportion is observed in Bagmati (2.8%), Mountain zone (11.2%) and rural municipality (2.3%).

Table 5.6: Distribution of foreign born population by country of nationality, NPHC 2021

Area	India		China		SAARC country (except India)		Other		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Nepal	132,781	96.8	1,882	1.4	580	0.4	1,975	1.4	137,218
Urban-rural municipality									
Urban Municipalites	109,904	96.7	1,336	1.2	550	0.5	1,816	1.6	113,606
Rural Municipalities	22,877	96.9	546	2.3	30	0.1	159	0.7	23,612
Ecological belts									
Mountain	2,119	85.7	277	11.2	26	1.1	52	2.1	2,474
Hill	54,839	94.0	1,416	2.4	463	0.8	1,629	2.8	58,347
Tarai	75,823	99.2	189	0.2	91	0.1	294	0.4	76,397
Province									
Koshi	19,019	98.8	47	0.2	63	0.3	118	0.6	19,247
Madhesh	27,307	99.6	4	0.0	20	0.1	90	0.3	27,421
Bagmati	48,361	93.7	1,450	2.8	402	0.8	1,404	2.7	51,617
Gandaki	12,321	95.3	341	2.6	69	0.5	202	1.6	12,933
Lumbini	18,681	99.2	36	0.2	5	0.0	109	0.6	18,831
Karnali	691	96.9	-	-	-	-	22	3.1	713
Sudurpashchim	6,401	99.1	4	0.1	21	0.3	30	0.5	6,456

Map 11: Foreign born population residing in Nepal, by province and district, Nepal, NPHC 2021
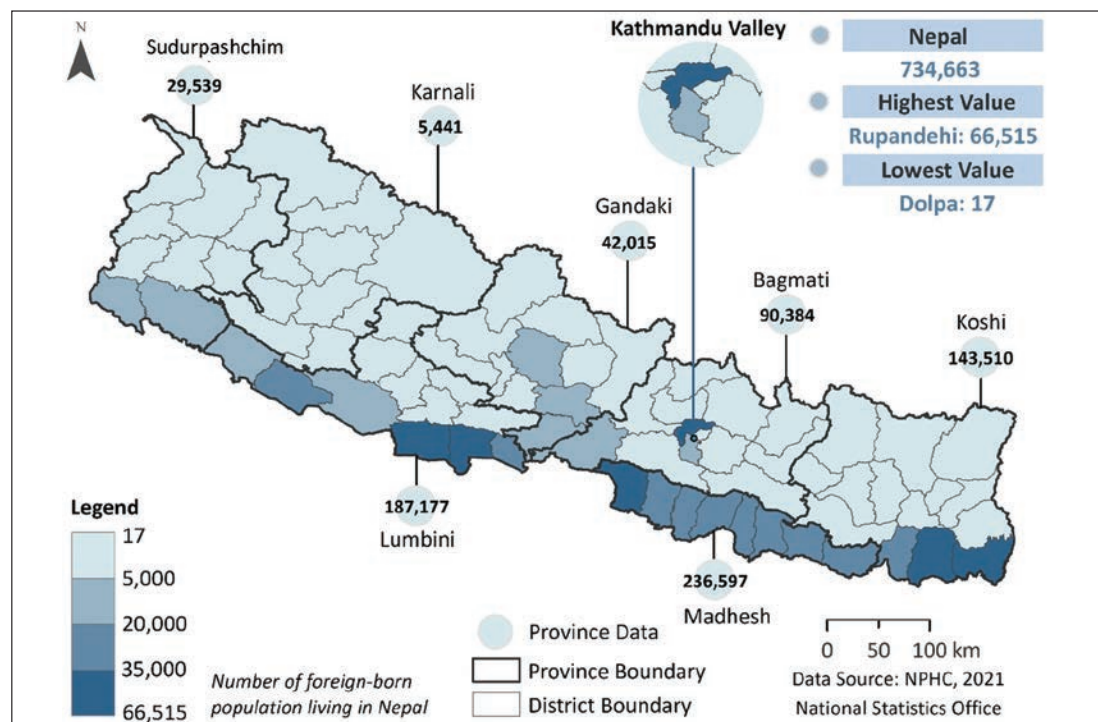
Map 12: Foreign born male population by province and district, Nepal, NPHC 2021
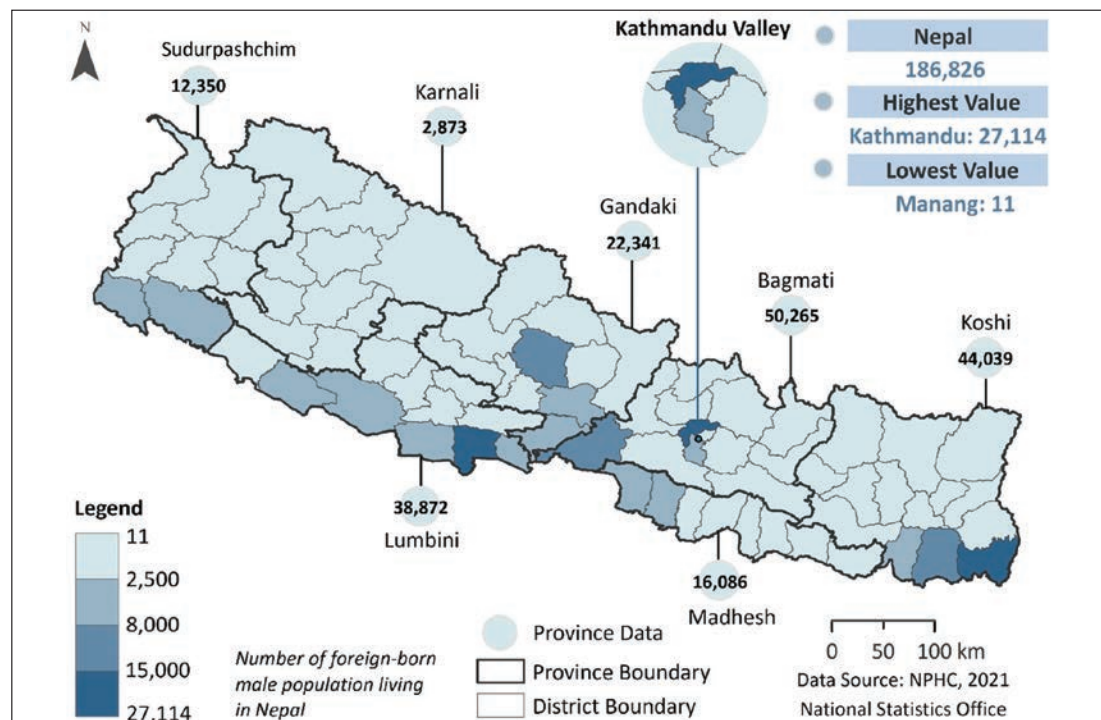
Map 13: Foreign born female population by province and district, Nepal, NPHC 2021
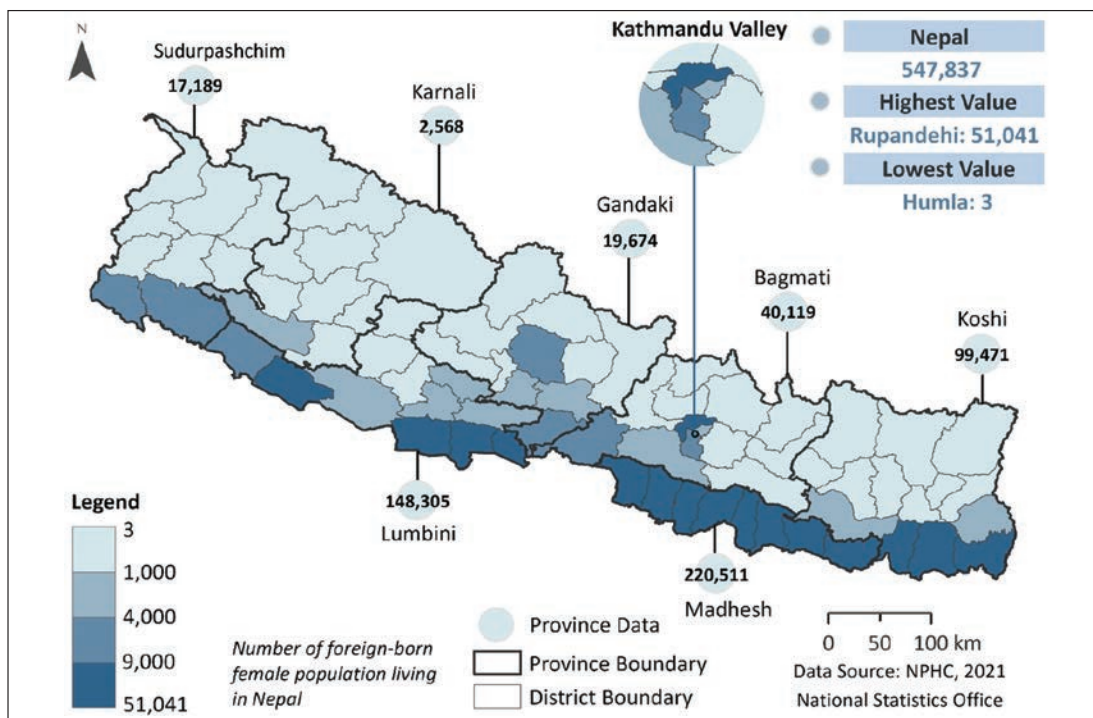
Map 14: Foreign born population residing in Nepal by country of origin, NPHC 2021
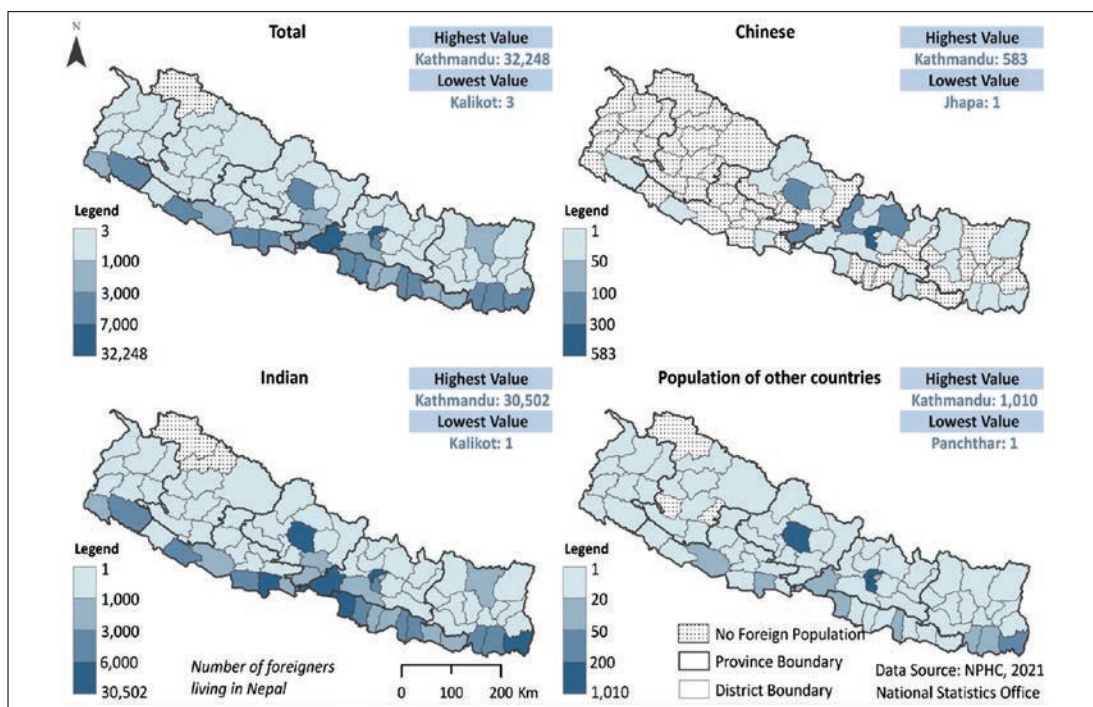
5.7 Foreign citizens by country of nationality

NPHC 2021 data also recorded information relating to the country of nationality and current residing district. According to table 5.7, the top ten residing districts for foreign citizens is observed in Kathmandu followed by Chitawan, Rupandehi, Kaski, Parsa, Jhapa, Lalitpur, Morang, Bara and Sunsari. The proportion of foreign citizens from India is observed highest in all ten of these districts and at the following percentage ratios: 95 percent in Kathmandu; 99 percent in Chitawan, Jhapa, Parsa, Rupandehi, Sunsari and Morang. As Nepal and India have an open border agreement as a result of peace and friendship treaty of 1950, most Indian citizens migrate to these districts for purposes such as marriage and many Indian citizens migrate to Nepal due to employment opportunities, particularly in construction sectors. The proportion of Chinese citizens and citizens from other countries who remain in Nepal is comparatively much lower to Indian citizens (Table 5.7).

Table 5.7: Distribution of foreign citizens according to countries of nationality by current top ten residing district, NPHC 2021

District	Sex	India		China		Other countries		Total
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	(No.)
Kathmandu	Male	20,738	96.33	260	1.21	530	2.46	21,528
	Female	9,764	92.40	323	3.06	480	4.54	10,567
	Both sexes	30,502	95.04	583	1.82	1,010	3.15	32,095
Chitawan	Male	4,969	98.96	28	0.56	24	0.48	5,021
	Female	1,987	99.10	6	0.30	12	0.60	2,005
	Both sexes	6,956	99.00	34	0.48	36	0.51	7,026
Rupandehi	Male	3,837	99.04	28	0.72	9	0.23	3,874
	Female	2,957	99.33	6	0.20	14	0.47	2,977
	Both sexes	6,794	99.17	34	0.50	23	0.34	6,851
Kaski	Male	4,495	93.39	218	4.53	100	2.08	4,813
	Female	1,728	93.66	10	0.54	107	5.80	1,845
	Both sexes	6,223	93.47	228	3.42	207	3.11	6,658
Parsa	Male	2,080	99.33	1	0.05	13	0.62	2,094
	Female	4,521	99.80	1	0.02	8	0.18	4,530
	Both sexes	6,601	99.65	2	0.03	21	0.32	6,624
Jhapa	Male	4,156	98.95	1	0.02	43	1.02	4,200
	Female	2,287	99.43	0	0.00	13	0.57	2,300
	Both sexes	6,443	99.12	1	0.02	56	0.86	6,500

District	Sex	India		China		Other countries		Total
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	(No.)
Lalitpur	Male	3,332	87.04	174	4.55	322	8.41	3,828
	Female	1,490	75.33	162	8.19	326	16.48	1,978
	Both sexes	4,822	83.05	336	5.79	648	11.16	5,806
Morang	Male	2,442	99.43	4	0.16	10	0.41	2,456
	Female	2,593	98.78	2	0.08	30	1.14	2,625
	Both sexes	5,035	99.09	6	0.12	40	0.79	5,081
Bara	Male	984	99.39	0	0.00	6	0.61	990
	Female	3,828	99.79	0	0.00	8	0.21	3,836
	Both sexes	4,812	99.71	0	0.00	14	0.29	4,826
Sunsari	Male	2,514	99.37	0	0.00	16	0.63	2,530
	Female	2,279	99.26	3	0.13	14	0.61	2,296
	Both sexes	4,793	99.32	3	0.06	30	0.62	4,826

Map 15: Foreign citizens in Nepal by province and district, Nepal, NPHC 2021
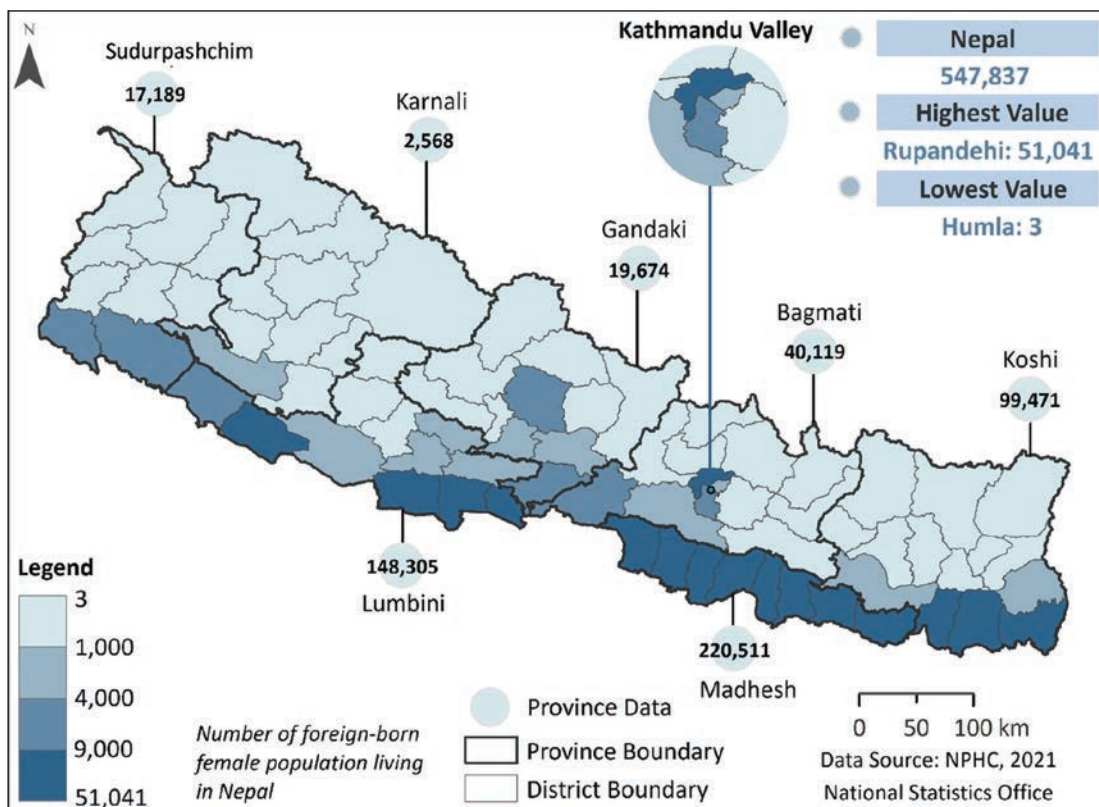
Map 16: Foreign male citizens in Nepal by province and district, Nepal, NPHC 2021
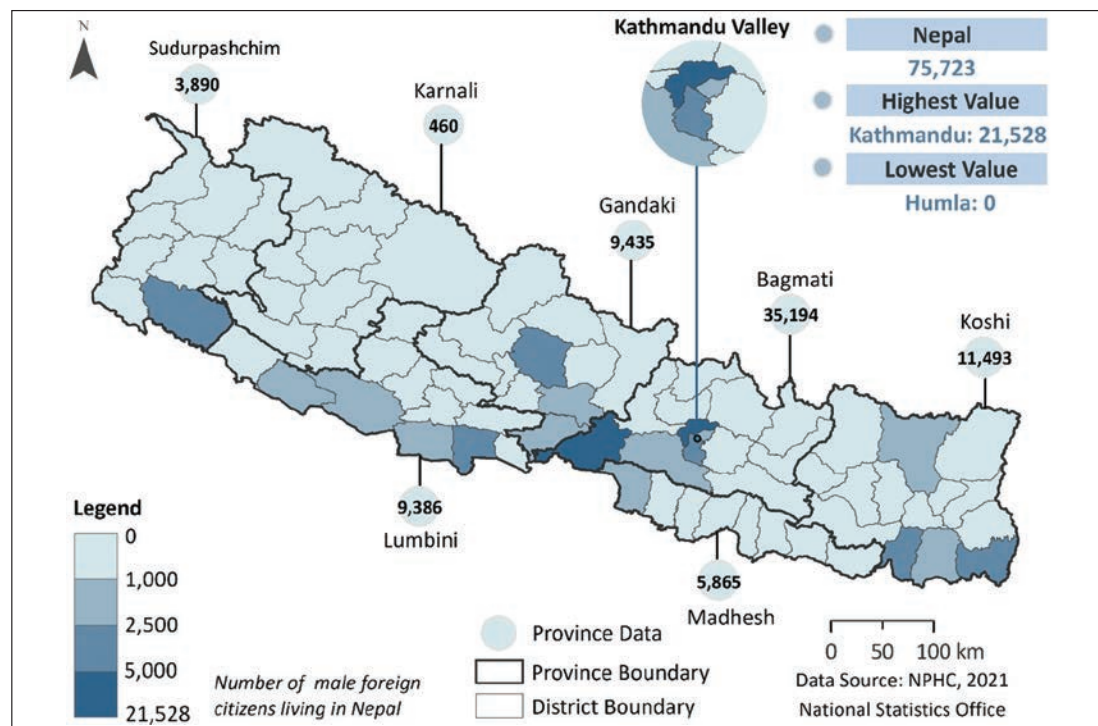
Map 17: : Foreign female citizens in Nepal by province and district, Nepal, NPHC 2021
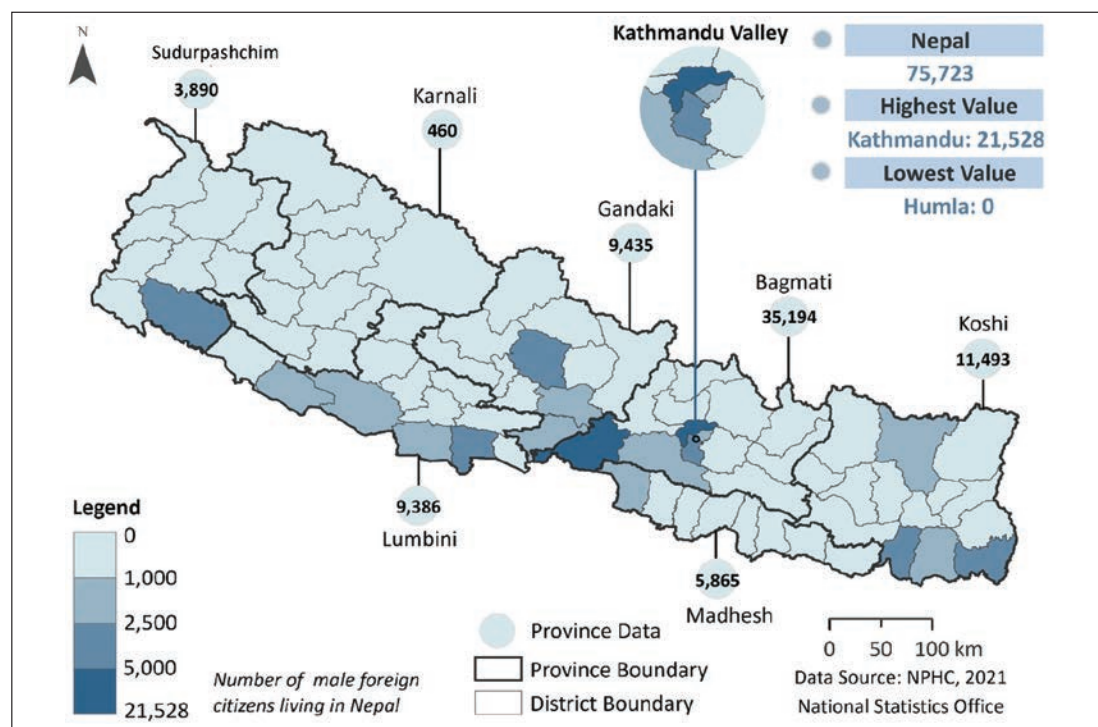
5.8 Country of nationality by country of birth

Given Nepal and India's open border, a significant number of Indian-born Indian citizens migrate to and reside in Nepal for different purposes. Of the total population having citizenship of a foreign country, the significant proportion were born in India (95.9%), followed by Asian countries (1.6%), other SAARC countries (0.7%) and European countries (0.2%) respectively. It is further observed that, of the total population whose country of nationality is India and were born in India, the majority are female and around four-fifths (78%) are from the 15-59 age group. A similar pattern is also observed in the case of male and female ratios for other countries too (Table 5.8).

Table 5.8: : Country of nationality by countries of birth and age sex structure, NPHC 2021

Age Group	India		Other SAARC country		Other Asian country		European country		USA/ Canada		Other countries		Total foreign born (No.)
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Both sexes													
0-14 years	50,665	91.97	217	0.39	2,798	5.08	644	1.17	387	0.70	377	0.68	**55,088**
15-59 years	554,775	97.90	4,019	0.71	6,783	1.20	575	0.10	317	0.06	230	0.04	**566,699**
60+ years	108,533	96.26	1,222	1.08	2,683	2.38	152	0.13	61	0.05	100	0.09	**112,751**
Total	713,973	97.20	5,458	0.74	12,264	1.67	1,371	0.19	765	0.10	707	0.10	**734,538**
Male													
0-14 years	26,043	91.86	98	0.35	1,472	5.19	340	1.20	206	0.73	192	0.68	**28,351**
15-59 years	132,413	95.28	1,999	1.44	4,017	2.89	279	0.20	150	0.11	121	0.09	**138,979**
60+ years	17,474	89.85	485	2.49	1,315	6.76	82	0.42	39	0.20	52	0.27	**19,447**
Total	175,930	94.19	2,582	1.38	6,804	3.64	701	0.38	395	0.21	365	0.20	**186,777**
Female													
0-14 years	24,622	92.09	119	0.45	1,326	4.96	304	1.14	181	0.68	185	0.69	**26,737**
15-59 years	422,362	98.75	2,020	0.47	2,766	0.65	296	0.07	167	0.04	109	0.03	**427,720**
60+ years	91,059	97.59	737	0.79	1,368	1.47	70	0.08	22	0.02	48	0.05	**93,304**
Total	**538,043**	**98.23**	**2,876**	**0.53**	**5,460**	**1.00**	**670**	**0.12**	**370**	**0.07**	**342**	**0.06**	**547,761**

Note: *Figures of other countries are not included in this table.*

Table 5.9 illustrates the distribution of the foreign-born population according to country of birth, province, ecological belt, rural/urban municipality and place of residence. The data shows that, of the total immigrant population, 97.2 percent were Indian-born. The proportion of the Indian-born population is found highest in Madhesh Province (99.8%), Tarai zone (98.5%), rural municipality (98.5%) and peri-urban (98.6%) area. The proportion of immigrants who were born in other SAARC countries, other Asian countries and European countries is observed to be much lower compared to Indian-born immigrants. The main reason behind this trend is due to the open land border shared between Nepal and India in three directions – i.e., east, south and west – as well as the similar socio-cultural components and practices shared between the two nations.

Table 5.9: **Distribution of foreign-born population by country of birth and according to province, ecological belt, rural/urban municipality and place of residence in Nepal, NPHC 2021**

Area/ Gender	India		Other SAARC countries		Other Asian countries		European countries		USA/ Canada		Other countries		Total (No.)
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Nepal													
Both Sexes	713,973	97.2	5,458	0.74	12,264	1.67	1,371	0.19	765	0.1	707	0.1	**734,538**
Male	175,930	94.19	2,582	1.38	6,804	3.64	701	0.38	395	0.21	365	0.2	**186,777**
Female	538,043	98.23	2,876	0.53	5,460	1	670	0.12	370	0.07	342	0.06	**547,761**
Province													
Koshi													
Male	40,979	93.05	745	1.69	2,215	5.03	45	0.1	27	0.06	27	0.06	**44,038**
Female	97,194	97.72	1,039	1.04	1,147	1.15	43	0.04	21	0.02	19	0.02	**99,463**
Both Sexes	138,173	96.29	1,784	1.24	3,362	2.34	88	0.06	48	0.03	46	0.03	**143,501**
Madhesh													
Male	15,903	98.87	30	0.19	138	0.86	7	0.04	5	0.03	1	0.01	**16,084**
Female	220,245	99.88	163	0.07	71	0.03	10	0	5	0	6	0	**220,500**
Both Sexes	236,148	99.82	193	0.08	209	0.09	17	0.01	10	0	7	0	**236,584**
Bagmati													
Male	45,776	91.12	1,258	2.5	2,156	4.29	467	0.93	310	0.62	268	0.53	**50,235**
Female	35,614	88.84	1,218	3.04	2,248	5.61	455	1.13	302	0.75	253	0.63	**40,090**
Both Sexes	81,390	90.11	2,476	2.74	4,404	4.88	922	1.02	612	0.68	521	0.58	**90,325**
Gandaki													
Male	20,663	92.51	415	1.86	1,048	4.69	137	0.61	30	0.13	42	0.19	**22,335**

Area/ Gender	India		Other SAARC countries		Other Asian countries		European countries		USA/ Canada		Other countries		Total (No.)
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Female	18,407	93.57	164	0.83	950	4.83	105	0.53	22	0.11	24	0.12	**19,672**
Both Sexes	39,070	93.01	579	1.38	1,998	4.76	242	0.58	52	0.12	66	0.16	**42,007**
Lumbini													
Male	37,632	96.83	83	0.21	1,075	2.77	41	0.11	11	0.03	22	0.06	**38,864**
Female	147,005	99.14	239	0.16	943	0.64	50	0.03	9	0.01	36	0.02	**148,282**
Both Sexes	184,637	98.66	322	0.17	2,018	1.08	91	0.05	20	0.01	58	0.03	**187,146**
Karnali													
Male	2,770	96.45	13	0.45	79	2.75	2	0.07	7	0.24	1	0.03	**2,872**
Female	2,527	98.4	13	0.51	17	0.66	4	0.16	6	0.23	1	0.04	**2,568**
Both Sexes	5,297	97.37	26	0.48	96	1.76	6	0.11	13	0.24	2	0.04	**5,440**
Male	12,207	98.85	38	0.31	93	0.75	2	0.02	5	0.04	4	0.03	**12,349**
Female	17,051	99.21	40	0.23	84	0.49	3	0.02	5	0.03	3	0.02	**17,186**
Both Sexes	29,258	99.06	78	0.26	177	0.6	5	0.02	10	0.03	7	0.02	**29,535**
Ecological Belt													
Mountain													
Male	3,262	91.73	185	5.2	93	2.62	7	0.2	7	0.2	2	0.06	**3,556**
Female	2,664	90.03	231	7.81	48	1.62	9	0.3	7	0.24	0	0	**2,959**
Both Sexes	5,926	90.96	416	6.39	141	2.16	16	0.25	14	0.21	2	0.03	**6,515**
Hill													
Male	62,575	91.2	1,469	2.14	3,412	4.97	556	0.81	337	0.49	264	0.38	**68,613**
Female	54,339	91.32	1,290	2.17	2,775	4.66	513	0.86	322	0.54	262	0.44	**59,501**
Both Sexes	116,914	91.26	2,759	2.15	6,187	4.83	1,069	0.83	659	0.51	526	0.41	**128,114**
Tarai													
Male	110,093	96.06	928	0.81	3,299	2.88	138	0.12	51	0.04	99	0.09	**114,608**
Female	481,040	99.12	1,355	0.28	2,637	0.54	148	0.03	41	0.01	80	0.02	**485,301**
Both Sexes	591,133	98.54	2,283	0.38	5,936	0.99	286	0.05	92	0.02	179	0.03	**599,909**
Urban/rural municipality													
Urban municipality													
Male	145,528	94.28	1,917	1.24	5,518	3.57	675	0.44	380	0.25	346	0.22	**154,364**
Female	343,641	97.62	2,176	0.62	4,885	1.39	638	0.18	358	0.1	326	0.09	**352,024**

Area/ Gender	India		Other SAARC countries		Other Asian countries		European countries		USA/ Canada		Other countries		Total (No.)
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Both Sexes	489,169	96.6	4,093	0.81	10,403	2.05	1,313	0.26	738	0.15	672	0.13	**506,388**
Rural municipality													
Male	30,402	93.8	665	2.05	1,286	3.97	26	0.08	15	0.05	19	0.06	**32,413**
Female	194,402	99.32	700	0.36	575	0.29	32	0.02	12	0.01	16	0.01	**195,737**
Both Sexes	224,804	98.53	1,365	0.6	1,861	0.82	58	0.03	27	0.01	35	0.02	**228,150**
Place of residence													
Urban													
Male	89,314	93.77	1,274	1.34	3,452	3.62	566	0.59	343	0.36	296	0.31	**95,245**
Female	158,710	96.38	1,290	0.78	3,553	2.16	523	0.32	316	0.19	279	0.17	**164,671**
Both Sexes	248,024	95.42	2,564	0.99	7,005	2.7	1,089	0.42	659	0.25	575	0.22	**259,916**
Per-urban													
Male	62,951	95.56	699	1.06	2,056	3.12	83	0.13	42	0.06	45	0.07	**65,876**
Female	345,583	99.21	1,079	0.31	1,484	0.43	102	0.03	38	0.01	45	0.01	**348,331**
Both Sexes	408,534	98.63	1,778	0.43	3,540	0.85	185	0.04	80	0.02	90	0.02	**414,207**
Rural													
Male	23,665	92.24	609	2.37	1,296	5.05	52	0.2	10	0.04	24	0.09	**25,656**
Female	33,750	97.1	507	1.46	423	1.22	45	0.13	16	0.05	18	0.05	**34,759**
Both Sexes	57,415	95.03	1,116	1.85	1,719	2.85	97	0.16	26	0.04	42	0.07	**60,415**

Note: *Figures of other countries are not included in this table.*

Map 18: Foreign citizens by province and district, Nepal, NPHC 2021
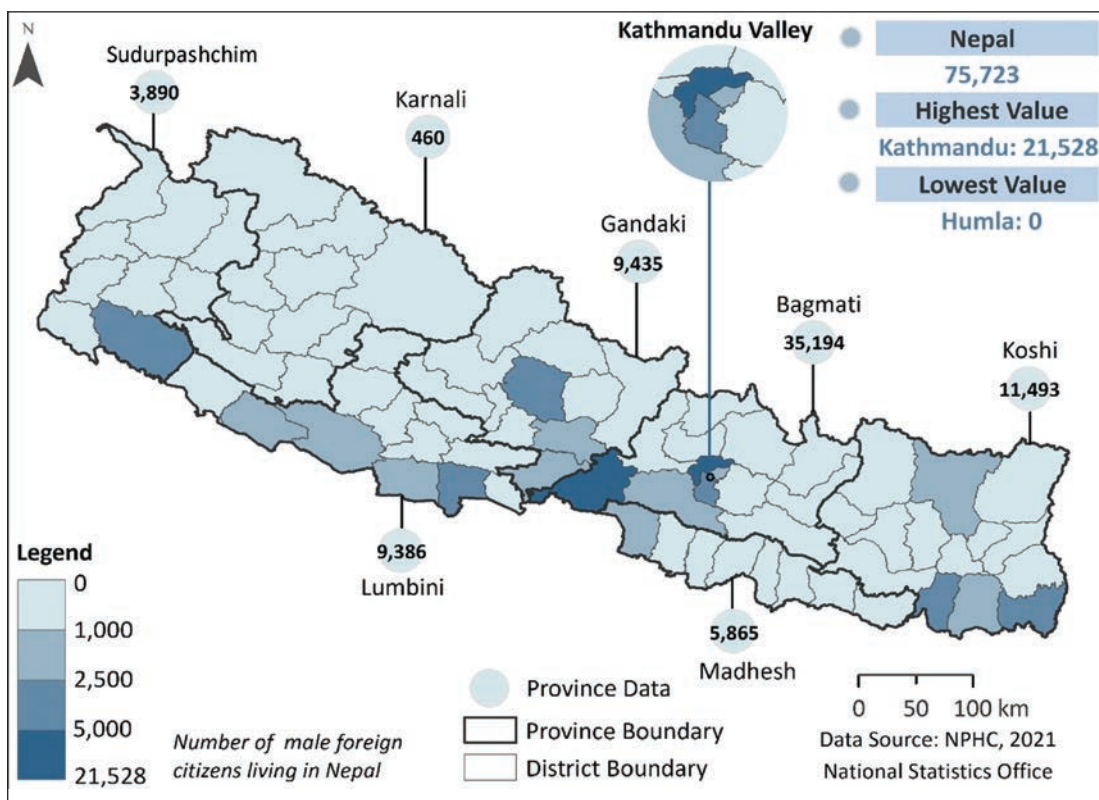
According to NPHC 2021, the majority of the Indian-born population in Nepal fall into the age group of 15-59 years (97.9%), followed by 60 years and above (96.2%). Approximately 2 percent of migrants born in Middle Eastern countries were in the 0-14 years age group, which is followed by other Asian countries. Interestingly, around 2% of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) born immigrants were in the 60 years and above age group (Figure 5.8).

Figure 5.8: Foreign-born Population by age group and country/region of birth, NPHC 2021
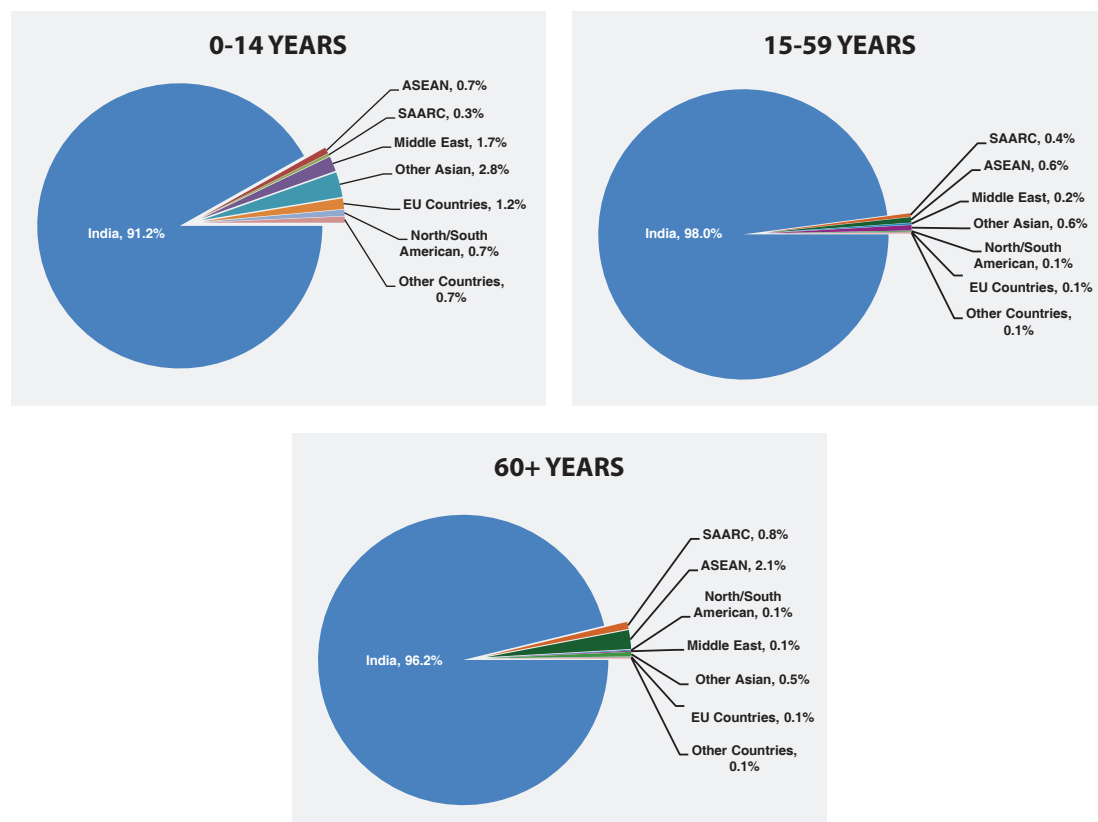
Table 5.10 further shows that around 97 percent of Nepal's foreign born population were from India, followed by ASEAN countries, other Asian countries, SAARC countries, and Middle Eastern countries. In the Mountain zone, around 5 percent of the foreign born population were from other Asian countries, whereas in Bagmati and Gandaki provinces, the foreign born population is observed highest from ASEAN countries (at a rate of 2.3% in each province).

It is observed that a majority of the Indian-born population were enumerated in the Tarai belt (98.5%), as well as in rural municipalities (98.5%) and Madhesh Province (99.8%). The proportion of the population born in other Asian countries is observed highest in Mountain zone (5.2%) and Bagmati Province (3.6%) (Table 5.10).

Table 5.10: Foreign born population by country/region of birth

Region	India	SAARC country (excluding India)	ASEAN country	Middle East country	Other Asian country	European Union country	Other European country	North American country (USA & Canada)	South American/ Caribbean country	African country	Pacific Ocean region country	Other	Not stated	Total Foreign Born Population
Nepal	97.18	0.45	0.88	0.32	0.76	0.07	0.11	0.09	0.01	0.02	0.05	0.03	0.02	734,663
Urban rural municipalities														
Urban Municipalities	96.58	0.50	1.06	0.36	0.95	0.10	0.16	0.13	0.02	0.02	0.07	0.04	0.02	506,479
Rural Municipalities	98.52	0.34	0.48	0.24	0.36	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	228,184
Ecological belts														
Mountain	90.95	1.61	1.20	0.55	5.19	0.14	0.11	0.21	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.02	6,516
Hill	91.21	0.92	2.10	1.02	2.94	0.33	0.50	0.46	0.05	0.06	0.20	0.15	0.05	128,182
Tarai	98.53	0.34	0.61	0.17	0.25	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	599,965
Province														
Koshi	96.28	1.16	1.21	0.69	0.53	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	143,510
Madhesh	99.81	0.07	0.05	0.04	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	236,597
Bagmati	90.05	1.01	2.25	0.78	3.57	0.42	0.60	0.62	0.06	0.09	0.29	0.20	0.07	90,384
Gandaki	92.99	0.47	2.30	0.60	2.76	0.22	0.35	0.11	0.01	0.03	0.11	0.02	0.02	42,015
Lumbini	98.64	0.14	0.75	0.15	0.21	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.02	187,177
Karnali	97.35	0.29	1.01	0.51	0.42	0.02	0.09	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.02	5,441
Sudurpashchim	99.05	0.25	0.49	0.07	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	29,539

5.9 Duration of stay

The significant proportion of the population who were enumerated at their current place by former place of residence are observed as staying in Nepal for more than two decades (31.9%), whereas one-fourth stayed for a duration of 1-5 years and around 15 percent stayed for a period of 6-10 years. It is observed that there is a large variation in the duration of stay of immigrated populations who were enumerated within the last year before census. The proportion of the immigrated population who stayed for less than 5 years is observed to be relatively high in Karnali and provinces. The short term and seasonal migration to and from India may be a significant reason behind this trend. In contrast, the share of the immigrated population who stayed for more than two decades is found relatively high in Madhesh and Lumbini provinces. The socio-cultural ties, particularly connected to marriage, could be the leading catalyst for the relatively high proportion of immigrated population who stayed for longer period in these two provinces compared to other provinces. Similarly, longer durations of stay of immigrated populations is observed to be relatively high in Tarai zone, peri-urban area compared to other areas (Table 5.11).

Table 5.11: Immigrant population by place of residence, and by duration since immigration, NPHC 2021

Area/ Characteristics	<1 Yr	1-5 yrs	6-10 yrs	11-15 yrs	16-20 yrs	21 and above	Not stated	Total (No.)
Province								
Koshi	4.1	27.3	16.8	10.9	9.0	31.4	0.5	181,474
Madhesh	1.1	13.6	11.0	10.2	13.2	50.2	0.7	243,118
Bagmati	6.6	39.0	19.6	10.4	8.1	15.4	0.8	110,716
Gandaki	6.1	34.6	19.0	10.5	8.0	16.0	5.9	73,068
Lumbini	3.8	24.3	15.6	11.0	10.9	32.3	2.2	222,822
Karnali	18.0	50.2	15.1	6.1	3.7	4.6	2.5	20,639
Sudurpashchim	10.8	40.0	17.0	9.7	6.5	14.7	1.3	52,481
Ecological belt								
Mountain	5.6	43.4	19.0	9.0	5.8	16.4	0.8	12,048
Hill	8.2	40.4	18.8	9.8	7.1	13.5	2.3	228,994
Tarai	3.0	21.0	14.2	10.8	11.2	38.5	1.3	663,276
Urban/rural municipality								
Urban municipality	4.5	27.0	15.9	10.6	10.0	30.2	1.7	600,562
Rural municipality	4.1	24.5	14.5	10.3	10.3	35.2	1.2	303,756
Urban/rural								
Urban	4.2	27.7	16.5	11.0	10.7	28.1	1.8	279,490

Area/ Characteristics	<1 Yr	1-5 yrs	6-10 yrs	11-15 yrs	16-20 yrs	21 and above	Not stated	Total (No.)
Per-urban	3.2	20.7	13.9	10.5	11.0	39.4	1.3	473,868
Rural	8.6	40.4	18.3	9.4	6.3	15.2	1.8	150,960
Total	**4.4**	**26.2**	**15.4**	**10.5**	**10.1**	**31.9**	**1.5**	**904,318**

The NPHC 2021 data has also collected information related to duration of stay in Nepal by age group. According to data contained in table 6.10, more than one-third of the population of the 15–59-year age group stayed for 10-24 years, whereas around 44 percent of those in the 0-14 year age group stayed for 1-4 years and nearly 40 percent of those aged 60 years and above stayed for a duration of 25-49 years. It is worth noting that around 36 percent of the population whose age is 60 years and above stayed for more than five decades. The population who stayed in Nepal for longer durations of stay may have been Nepali citizens regardless of their country of birth (Annex Table 22).

In terms of province distribution, about one-third of the population in Koshi, Madhesh and Lumbini stayed for 10-24 years, whereas the percentage of the population who stayed for 1-4 years in Bagmati, Gandaki, Karnali and Sudurpashchim provinces is observed at a rate of 31.6 percent, 28.3 percent, 44.4 percent and 34.1 percent respectively (Figure 5.9).

Figure 5.9: Immigrants by length of stay in the current place, NPHC 2021
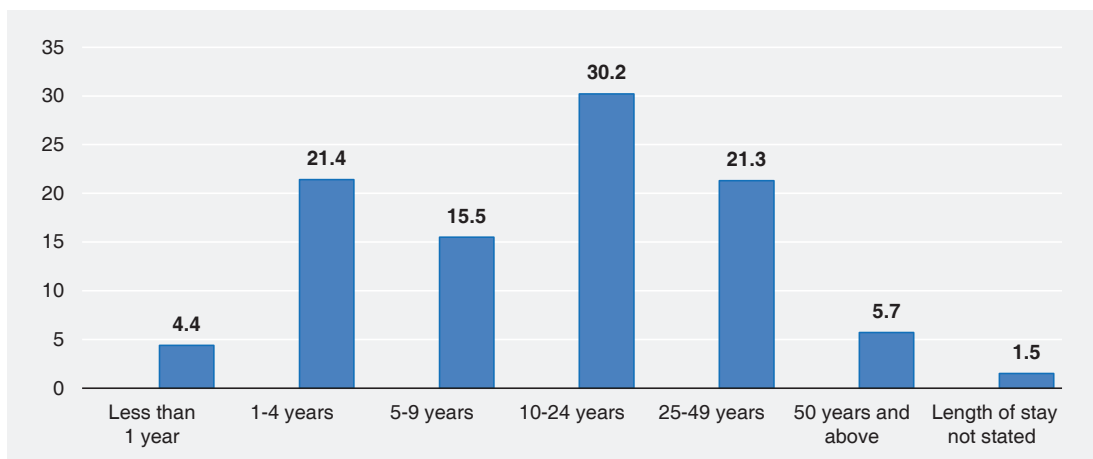
5.10 Reasons for immigration

The NPHC 2021 has adopted eight main reasons for immigration. These are as follows: work/ employment; trade/business; study/training; marriage; dependent; natural calamities; agriculture, and returning back. The census results revealed that the significant proportion of immigrants recorded staying in Nepal due to marriage (45.5%), followed by returning back (25.4%), dependents (10.5%)

and work/employment (9.4%). As marriage is the main reason for stay in Nepal, about three-quarters (73.4%) of female migrants stay in Nepal due to marriage, whereas this proportion is much less in the case of male migrants (1.5%). The proportion of male migrants (20.2%) who stay for work/employment is observed as much higher compared to female migrants (2.5%) (Figure 5.10).

Figure 5.10: Population from a foreign country by reasons of stay in Nepal, by sex, NPHC 2021
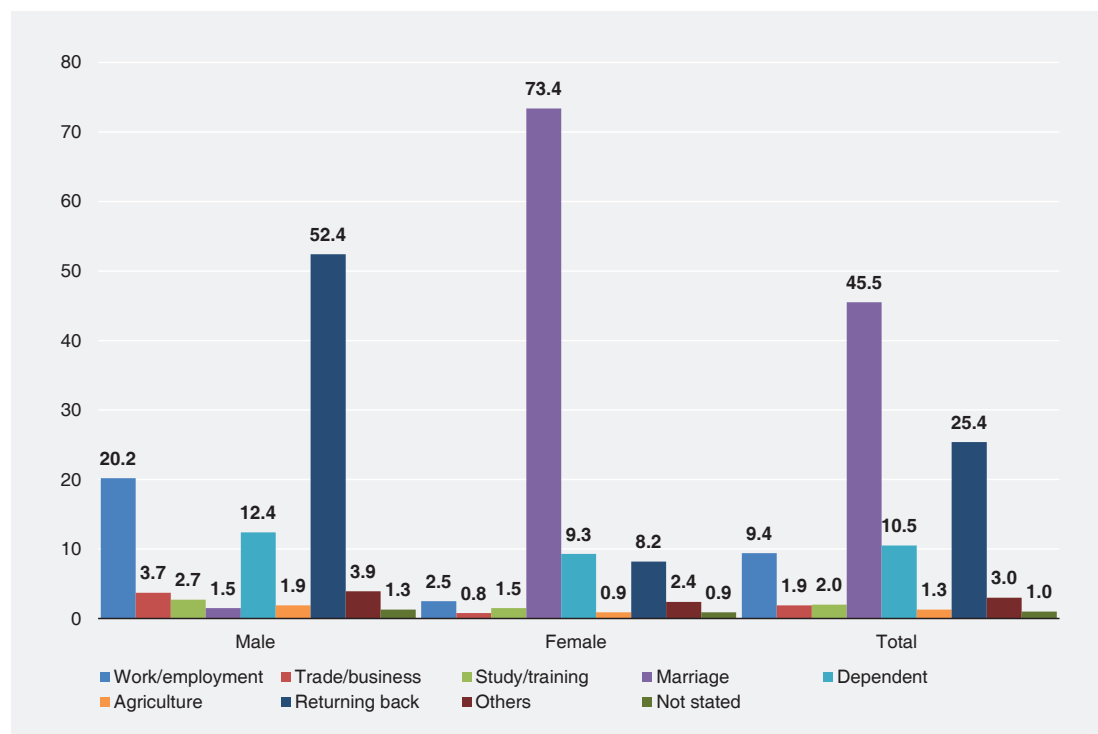
Table 5.10 reveals that the main reason for stay in Koshi, Madhesh and Lumbini provinces is due to marriage (at a rate of 36.2%, 85.3% and 52.2% respectively). However, the main reason for stay in Bagmati, Gandaki, Karnali and Sudurpashchim provinces is due to individuals returning back (30.4%, 53.5%, 76.8% and 51.1% respectively). With respect to ecological belt, the main reason for stay in Tarai is marriage (59.1%) whereas Mountain and Hill see returning back as the main reason stay (51.5% and 52.3% respectively).

Similarly, the main reason for stay in urban and rural municipalities is marriage (39.6% and 57.2% respectively). Furthermore, the main reason for stay in urban and peri-urban remains to also be due to marriage, whereas the main reason in rural areas is due to returning back (65%), and marriage being listed as the main reason for stay with all five levels of wealth quintile (Table 5.12).

Table 5.12: Distribution of population from a foreign country by reasons of stay in Nepal, NPHC 2021

Area	Work/ employment	Trade/ business	Study/ training	Marriage	Dependent	Natural calamities	Agriculture	Returning back	Others	Not stated	Total (No.)
Province											
Koshi	10.4	1.8	1.5	36.2	12.7	0.3	3.4	29.6	3.7	0.3	181,474
Madhesh	3.6	0.9	0.6	85.3	3.5	0.1	0.5	3.8	1.5	0.3	243,118
Bagmati	26.5	4.7	4.6	9.8	18.0	0.2	0.6	30.4	4.6	0.7	110,716
Gandaki	12.7	2.8	3.0	5.9	13.7	0.2	0.6	53.5	3.1	4.7	73,068
Lumbini	6.2	1.4	1.9	52.2	10.0	0.2	1.1	23.0	2.7	1.4	222,822
Karnali	6.0	1.4	1.7	2.5	8.2	0.1	0.4	76.8	1.5	1.5	20,639
Sudurpashchim	6.7	2.3	3.1	12.4	18.7	0.2	1.8	51.1	2.8	1.0	52,481
Total	**9.4**	**1.9**	**2.0**	**45.5**	**10.5**	**0.2**	**1.3**	**25.4**	**2.8**	**1.0**	**904,318**
Ecological belt											
Mountain	20.4	1.6	1.7	14.7	6.6	0.3	0.5	51.5	2.4	0.5	12,048
Hill	16.0	3.1	3.2	7.9	12.2	0.2	0.5	52.3	2.9	1.8	228,994
Tarai	6.9	1.5	1.6	59.1	10.0	0.2	1.6	15.6	2.8	0.8	663,276
Total	**9.4**	**1.9**	**2.0**	**45.5**	**10.5**	**0.2**	**1.3**	**25.4**	**2.8**	**1.0**	**904,318**
Urban/rural municipality											
Urban municipality	11.7	2.5	2.5	39.6	13.2	0.2	1.3	24.4	3.4	1.2	600,562
Rural municipality	4.7	0.8	0.9	57.2	5.3	0.2	1.3	27.2	1.7	0.7	303,756
Total	**9.4**	**1.9**	**2.0**	**45.5**	**10.5**	**0.2**	**1.3**	**25.4**	**2.8**	**1.0**	**904,318**
Urban/rural											
Urban	18.0	3.9	3.7	35.7	15.2	0.2	0.4	17.9	3.8	1.4	279,490
Per-urban	5.1	1.0	1.2	62.0	8.3	0.2	1.8	17.2	2.5	0.8	473,868
Rural	6.9	1.2	1.3	11.9	9.0	0.3	1.4	65.0	2.0	1.2	150,960
Total	**9.4**	**1.9**	**2.0**	**45.5**	**10.5**	**0.2**	**1.3**	**25.4**	**2.8**	**1.0**	**904,318**
Wealth quintile*											
Lowest	3.6	0.5	0.6	60.8	5.4	0.2	1.1	25.6	1.7	0.6	131,460
Lower	5.3	0.9	0.9	49.8	7.0	0.2	1.3	32.1	1.9	0.8	151,049
Middle	7.7	1.4	1.2	52.8	8.6	0.2	1.4	23.7	2.2	0.8	207,999
Higher	14.1	2.9	2.3	40.4	13.9	0.2	1.4	20.5	3.2	1.2	211,245
Highest	9.7	3.3	3.1	32.0	15.7	0.2	1.2	28.7	4.4	1.7	191,194
Total*	**8.6**	**1.9**	**1.7**	**46.1**	**10.6**	**0.2**	**1.3**	**25.7**	**2.8**	**1.1**	**892,947**

Not included institutional population.

The NPHC 2021 further tracked information related to reasons of stay by age group and sex. According to table 5.13, the main reason for stay in Nepal for 20-70+ age group is marriage, whereas for age group 0-19 years, the main reason of stay is due to dependency. Except for the 0-9 and 10-19 year age groups, the main reason for stay for males is returning home. For females, the main reason for stay is marriage, with the exception of the 0-9 year age group (Table 5.13).

Table 5.13: Distribution of immigrant population by reasons of stay in Nepal, by age group, NPHC 2021

Age and sex	Work/ employment	Trade/ business	Study / training	Marriage	Dependent	Natural calamities	Agriculture	Returning home	Other	Not stated	Total (No.)
Both sexes											
0-9 years	0.00	0.00	5.51	0.00	70.21	0.25	0.00	21.16	0.00	2.87	28,399
10-19 years	8.58	0.83	11.61	11.38	41.51	0.25	0.11	20.60	2.75	2.38	62,172
20-29 years	12.17	1.84	2.75	47.64	8.04	0.23	0.54	23.51	2.27	1.01	174,328
30-39 years	10.61	2.17	0.87	47.81	5.01	0.16	0.78	29.40	2.37	0.82	216,692
40-49 years	9.79	2.43	0.67	48.36	5.00	0.14	1.19	28.86	2.76	0.80	170,284
50-59 years	8.46	2.10	0.52	50.59	5.93	0.18	2.07	25.89	3.32	0.95	117,617
60-69 years	6.60	1.78	0.41	56.40	6.56	0.22	2.97	20.13	4.11	0.83	80,925
70+years	5.94	1.46	0.41	56.25	7.19	0.27	3.91	18.54	5.20	0.83	53,901
Total	**9.37**	**1.91**	**1.97**	**45.51**	**10.54**	**0.19**	**1.29**	**25.37**	**2.82**	**1.04**	**904,318**
Male											
0-9 years	0.00	0.00	5.65	0.00	70.24	0.23	0.00	21.06	0.00	2.83	14,646
10-19 years	15.10	1.20	11.74	0.83	42.50	0.21	0.13	22.98	2.80	2.51	31,024
20-29 years	27.09	3.44	3.77	1.61	9.94	0.22	0.63	49.05	2.95	1.29	67,725
30-39 years	21.98	4.03	1.21	1.39	5.21	0.24	1.03	61.01	2.87	1.02	88,086
40-49 years	20.44	4.64	1.04	1.27	4.89	0.22	1.78	61.22	3.47	1.03	67,636
50-59 years	18.84	4.40	0.89	1.55	6.02	0.30	3.34	58.90	4.53	1.23	42,511
60-69 years	17.37	4.47	0.80	2.59	7.18	0.43	5.83	53.36	6.86	1.11	23,638
70+years	16.06	3.79	0.74	3.26	8.03	0.49	8.06	49.04	9.44	1.10	15,838
Total	**20.19**	**3.68**	**2.70**	**1.49**	**12.43**	**0.26**	**1.89**	**52.41**	**3.64**	**1.32**	**351,104**
Female											
0-9 years	0.00	0.00	5.37	0.00	70.18	0.28	0.00	21.26	0.00	2.92	13,753
10-19 years	2.08	0.46	11.48	21.89	40.53	0.29	0.10	18.23	2.69	2.25	31,148
20-29 years	2.69	0.83	2.10	76.88	6.83	0.23	0.49	7.29	1.83	0.84	106,603
30-39 years	2.82	0.89	0.64	79.60	4.88	0.10	0.62	7.75	2.02	0.68	128,606

Age and sex	Work/ employment	Trade/ business	Study / training	Marriage	Dependent	Natural calamities	Agriculture	Returning home	Other	Not stated	Total (No.)
40-49 years	2.77	0.97	0.43	79.38	5.08	0.09	0.81	7.53	2.30	0.66	102,648
50-59 years	2.58	0.79	0.31	78.35	5.88	0.12	1.36	7.20	2.64	0.78	75,106
60-69 years	2.15	0.67	0.25	78.61	6.30	0.13	1.78	6.41	2.98	0.71	57,287
70+years	1.73	0.49	0.27	78.30	6.84	0.18	2.18	5.85	3.43	0.73	38,063
Total	**2.50**	**0.78**	**1.50**	**73.44**	**9.34**	**0.15**	**0.91**	**8.20**	**2.30**	**0.87**	**553,214**

5.11 Emigration vs. Immigration in Nepal

Figure 5.11 reveals the long-term trends of international migration in Nepal. In 1961, the number of immigrants was higher than emigrants, with 337,620 immigrants to 328,470 emigrants. However, from 1981, the number of emigrants exceeded immigrants. The number of emigrants has drastically increased from 328,470 in 1961 to 2,190,592 in 2021, about three times higher than that of immigrants. The comparative difference between the figure of emigrants and immigrants has increased drastically across the data period. For example, the comparative figure in 1981 stood at 168,938 which has drastically increased to 1,446,347 in 2021 (Figure 5.11).

Figure 5.11: Emigration vs. Immigration, 1961-2021
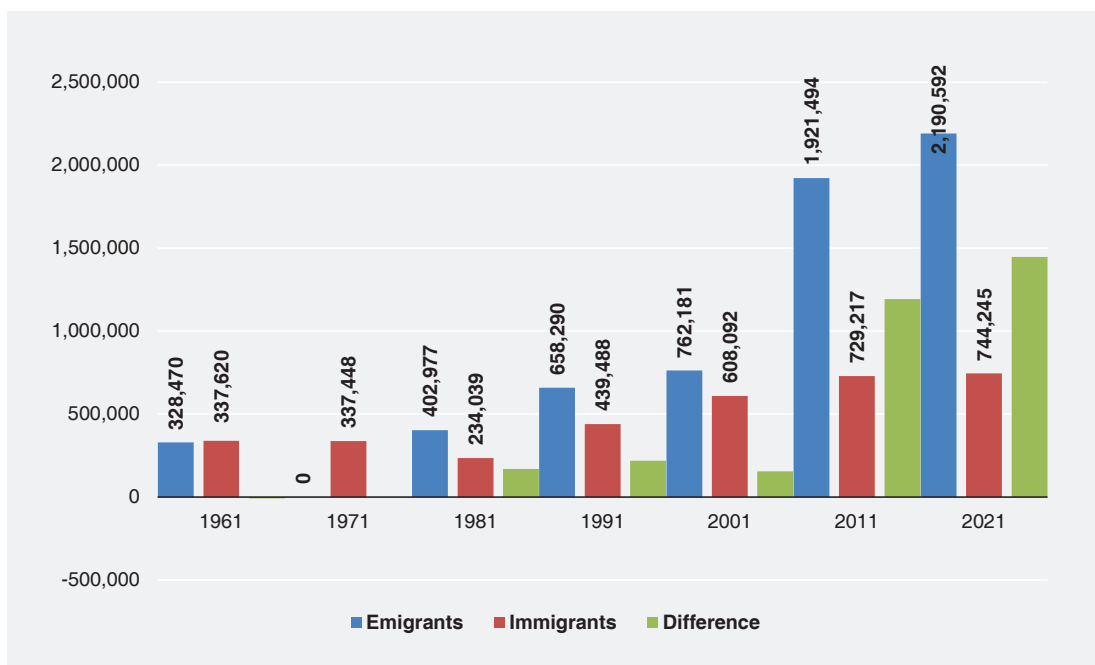
CHAPTER 6

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION RATES

For global population and for populations of countries where the role of international migration is negligible, a natural increase is the only source of the population growth. For those countries affected by migration, net migration is often the major component of population change, reflecting its dominant role in the growth and decline of cities, suburbs and towns. In this case, the rate of net migration (RNM) is based on the mid-year population:

$$RNM = \frac{Net\ migration}{Mid\text{-}year\ population} * K$$

By convention, the figure is usually referred to as a rate rather than a 'crude' rate. Net migration may be obtained from the balancing equation as a residual remaining after subtracting the natural increase from the total population growth. This is equivalent to the 'vital statistics method' of estimating net migration (Rowland, D. T. (2003).

6.1 Emigration and immigration rates

Nepal's emigration rate has reached a rate of 7.5 percent of the total population of Nepal. Whereas the net emigration rate decreased to minus 5 per thousand population, the gross migration rate has reached 10 percent. The emigration rate is observed higher in urban municipalities (1.6), Hill (8.4) and Sudurpashchim Province (12.7) whereas the immigration rate is found higher in urban municipalities (2.6), Tarai zone (3.8) and Madhesh Province (3.9). In terms of gross migration rate, the rate is observed higher in urban municipalities, Tarai (10.8) and Sudurpashchim (13.8) whereas the net migration rate is observed negative due to high volume of absentees from Nepal compared to immigrants into Nepal. The net migration rate is observed lowest in Hill (-7.3) and Sudurpashchim (-11.7) (Table 6.1).

Table 6.1: International migration rates

AREA	Emigration rate			Immigration rate			Gross migration rate			Net migration rate		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Nepal	12.6	2.6	7.5	1.3	3.7	2.5	13.9	6.3	10.0	-11.3	1.1	-5.0
Urban-rural municipalities												
Urban Municipalities	12.6	2.9	7.6	1.6	3.6	2.6	14.2	6.4	0.2	-10.9	0.7	-5.0
Rural Municipalities	12.8	2.2	7.3	0.7	3.9	2.3	13.4	6.0	9.6	-12.1	1.7	-5.0

AREA	Emigration rate			Immigration rate			Gross migration rate			Net migration rate		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Ecological zone												
Mountain	9.4	3.8	6.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	9.8	4.1	6.9	-9.0	-3.5	-6.2
Hill	13.8	3.4	8.4	1.2	1.0	1.1	15.0	4.3	9.5	-12.6	-2.4	-7.3
Tarai	12.1	1.9	6.9	1.5	6.1	3.8	13.6	8.0	0.8	-10.6	4.2	-3.1
Province												
Koshi	11.9	2.2	6.9	1.8	3.9	2.9	13.7	6.1	9.8	-10.0	1.7	-4.0
Madhesh	9.5	0.4	5.0	0.5	7.2	3.9	10.1	7.6	8.8	-9.0	6.8	-1.1
Bagmati	9.2	3.8	6.5	1.6	1.3	1.5	10.8	5.1	8.0	-7.5	-2.5	-5.0
Gandaki	20.5	3.6	11.6	1.9	1.5	1.7	22.4	5.1	13.3	-18.6	-2.1	-9.9
Lumbini	15.0	2.0	8.2	1.6	5.6	3.7	16.6	7.6	11.9	-13.4	3.6	-4.6
Karnali	9.4	2.0	5.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	9.7	2.3	5.9	-9.0	-1.7	-5.3
Sudurpashchim	20.1	6.2	12.7	1.0	1.2	1.1	21.1	7.4	13.8	-19.1	-5.0	-11.7

Note: *Observed migration rates are calculated per 100 population.*

6.2 Emigration rates and ratio absentee abroad with negative and positive population growth

The average population growth rate from the 34 districts with a negative population growth rate is -0.67. At a figure of 9.5 percent, the absentee population represents nearly one-tenth of Nepal's total population from these districts (Figure 6.1). Of these districts, a large majority of the absentee population is male, with a rate of 16 percent of the total male population from these districts against 3 percent of the female population (Annex 4.16). The average population growth rate of the districts with positive population growth rate is at 1.46 percent.

Figure 6.1: **Comparison of districts with negative and positive population growth in terms of absent population**

■ 34 Districts with negative population growth rate ■ 43 Districts with positive population growth rate
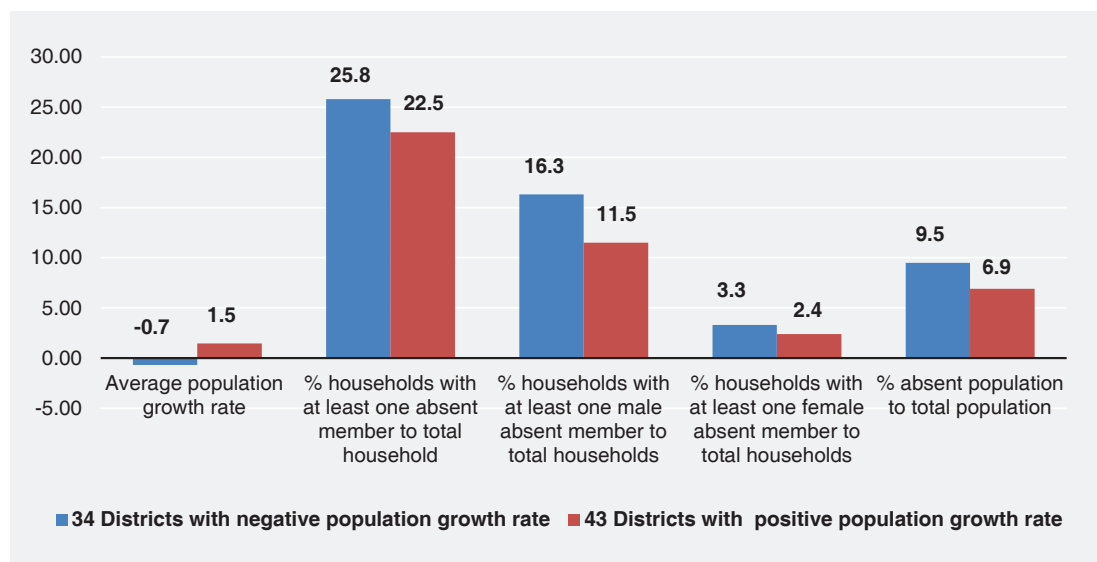
Figure 6.2: **Relation between percent of absentees and population growth rate by districts, NPHC 2021**

■ Absent (%) ── Population growth rate
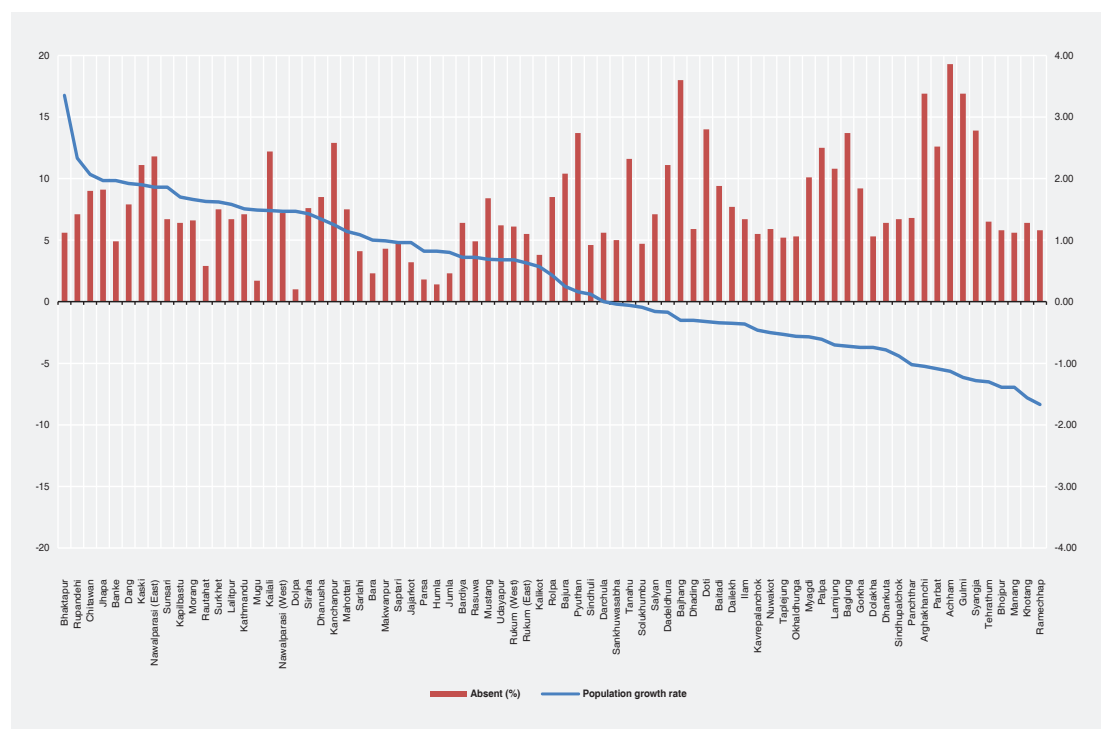
Map 19: : Households with absentees in districts with negative population growth, Nepal, 2021
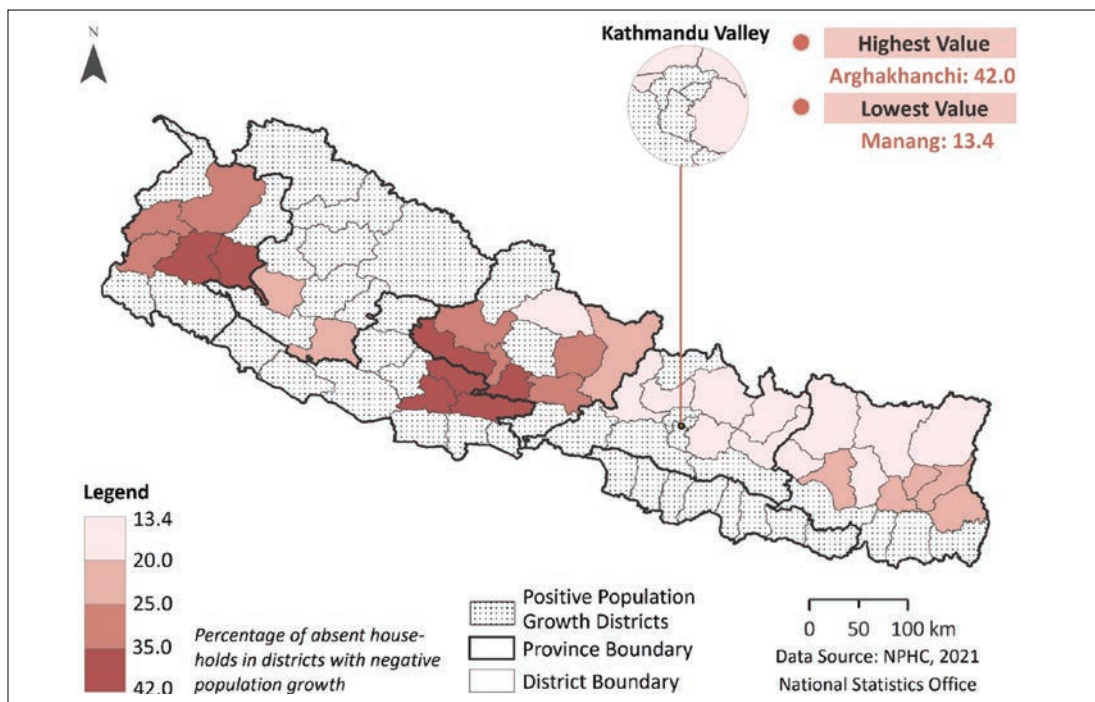
Map 20: Households with absentees in districts with negative population growth, Nepal, 2021
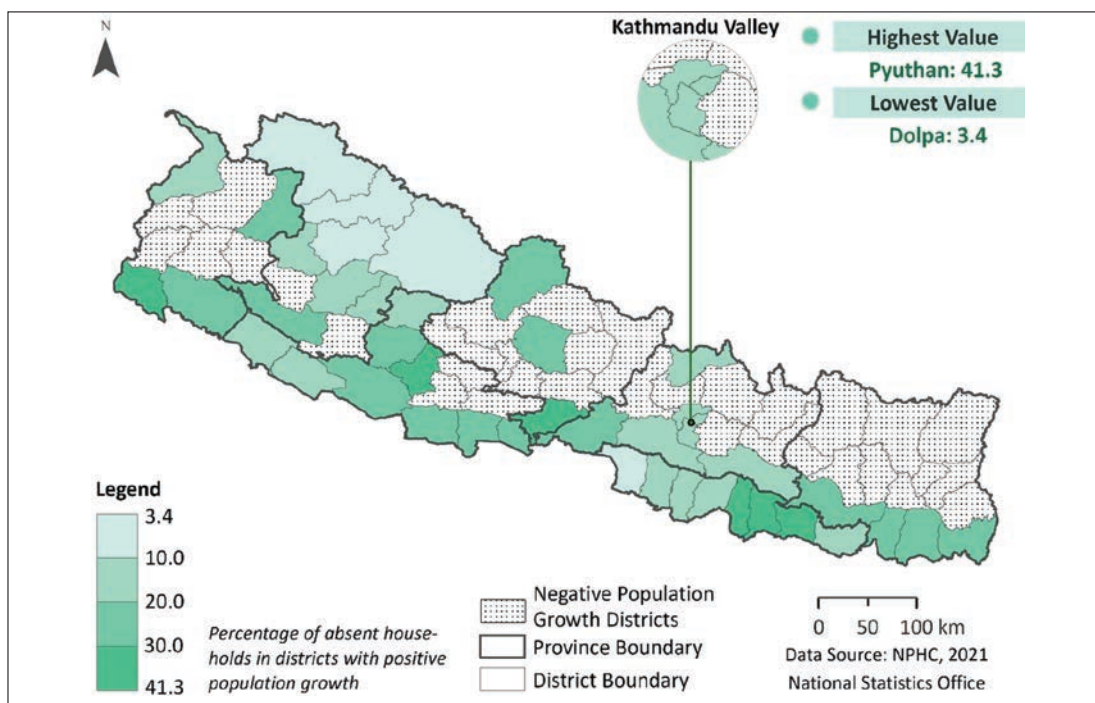
6.3 Age Dependency ratio

The age dependency ratio is another useful indicator to analyse the impact of absent population on the left behind population. Leave No One Behind (LNOB), a core tenet of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is an endeavour to reach those groups of people who are the "furthest behind" concerning all the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Various thematic indicators are compiled to disaggregate LNOB, with factors including gender, rural/urban residence, ecological zones, and provinces (Khatiwada, et al., 2024). Dependency ratio is one of the major techniques to analyse the impact of absentee population on the left behind population.

Since the correlation value of absentee population and population growth rate is found negative, that is at a rate of -0.293, it can be said that there is no association between these two variables. However, the correlation value of the dependency ratio without absentees, with absentees and the population growth rate is found to be positive at a rate of 0.258 and this helps to conclude that there is association between the dependency ratio and absentees (Figure 6.3).

Figure 6.3: **Age dependency ratio in household with and without absentee**
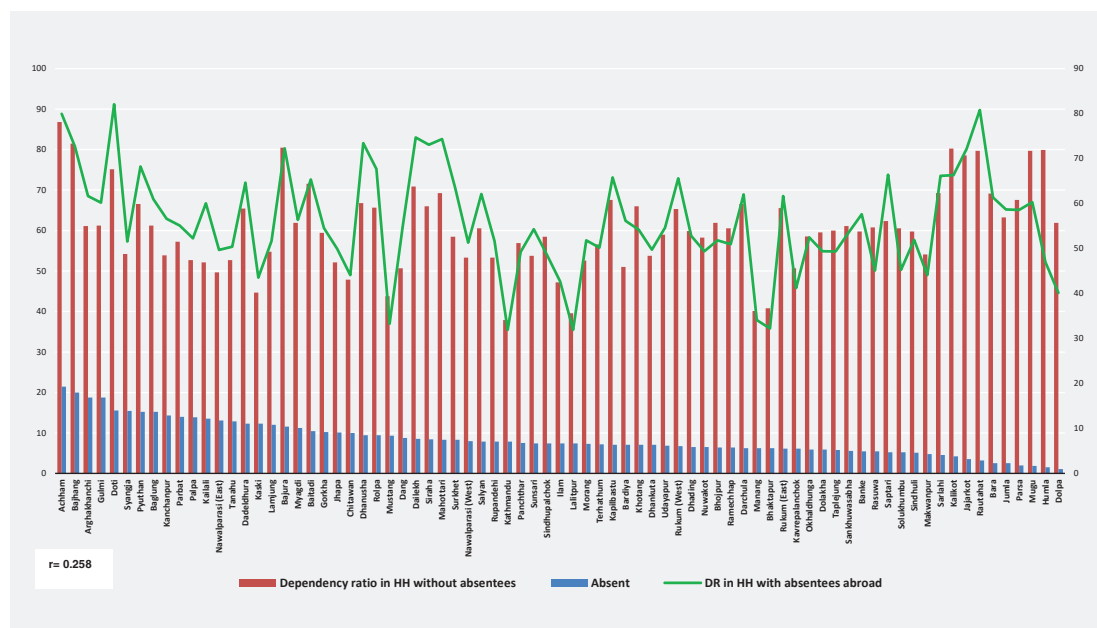
The overall sex ratio of the absentee population was found to be at a rate of 460.4. The highest was found in the age group 40-44 years (831.2) and the lowest in the age group 0-4 years (121.6) (Figure 6.4). The main reason for the high sex ratio is due to the high outflow of males compared to that of females, due to different factors which have been discussed in this report.

Figure 6.4: Sex ratio of absentee population
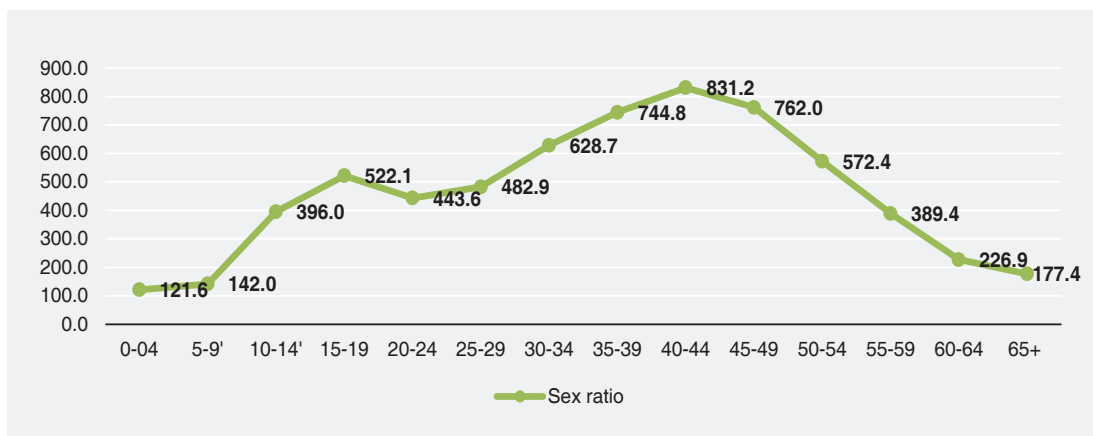
Overall sex ratio= 460

Table 4.9 reveals the fact that the highest number of districts – 27 districts in total – fall under a ratio range of 94-99, followed by 20 districts registering a ratio of >99. The lowest figure is observed in 13 districts, where the range of sex ratio registers from 89 to 94. In terms of the respective ecological belts, a majority (15 districts) are observed in the sex ratio range of 94-99, whereas the lowest figure is observed in the Mountain zone with a sex ratio less than 89 in 1 district (Table 6.2).

Table 6.2: Sex ratio by province and ecological belts

Area	Sex Ratio				
	<89	89-94	94-99	>99	Total
Province					
Koshi	0	3	7	4	14
Madhesh	0	0	3	5	8
Bagmati	0	1	7	5	13
Gandaki	6	1	2	2	11
Lumbini	6	1	5		12
Karnali	0	3	3	4	10
Sudurpashchim	5	4	0	0	9
Total	**17**	**13**	**27**	**20**	**77**
Ecological belt					
Mountain	1	2	3	10	16
Hill	13	7	15	5	40
Tarai	3	4	9	5	21
Total	**17**	**13**	**27**	**20**	**77**

CHAPTER 6

7. CONCLUSION AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Conclusion

Nepal's emigration trend shows an increasing absentee rate which justifies Nepal's status as a migrant sending country. As a patriarchal family structure, the country has witnessed a dominant representation in the number and rate of male absentees, however the rate of female absentees appears to be growing overtime. Nepal's census data further justifies that the working age population is experiencing a growing trend of absenteeism which can be seen to have implications on the shortage of human resources for the country soon.

Although Hill and Janjati castes greater represented by number do possess overall absentee characteristics, and the magnitude migration of Dalit and Madhesi communities shines light on rural settings in Nepal, indicating a level of inequality and poverty which should be targeted by policies and programmes. When addressing absentee data by education level, Sudurpashchim Province and Mountain zone are the main source of absentees with the lowest educational attainment. Low salary, job insecurity and occupational safety in home country are the main reasons for absence rather than unemployment. For populations within this group, absentees have made the Pacific Ocean and Middle East regions as their main destination.

As a source country, the outflow of Nepali youths entering foreign employment from Nepal has been increasing over time, ranging from a figure of 615 persons per day in 2009/10 and reaching a peak in 2022/23 with 2,113 person per day. The issuance of labour approvals follows is shown to be dominated by men, as males are much greater represented in foreign labour migration than women. The proportion of women migrant workers represents less than one tenth of the total outflow. The highest proportion of outflow of Nepali migrant workers is seen from Dhanusa district. Near four-fifths of Nepali migrants are recorded as migrating to Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE for foreign employment purposes in 2021/22. Due to low recruitment costs, peer and relative networks, and industries which demand labour more greatly than skills in these countries, around one fourth had chosen the UAE and one fifth had chosen Saudi Arabia as their major destination countries.

The 34 districts with a negative population growth rate share a common trend relating to the size of their absentee population. That is to say that 1 in every 10 individuals from each of these districts is recorded as absent. On the other hand, the correlation value of absentee populations and the population growth rate from districts with a positive population growth rate is negative, indicating that there is no association between these two variables.

The emigration of Nepalis to different destination countries is found to be affected by various factors. The likelihood ratio of emigration from ecological belts, peri-urban areas and Sudurpashchim Province are found to be the highest. It is observed that the likelihood ratio of households with agricultural occupations are represented at a rate of around two times higher than non-agricultural households. The likelihood ratio of emigrants from the 25-34 age group is observed seven times higher than the reference group, whereas the likelihood ratio of emigrants from households having a higher wealth quintile is observed about two times higher. Compared to reference group, the likelihood ratio of individuals emigrating to India is observed at a rate 40 times higher from Sudurpashchim Province, about eight times higher from Karnali, and five times higher from Lumbini. The likelihood ratio of emigrants staying abroad for less than five years is observed as two times higher from Madhesh/Tarai Dalit groups, whereas the likelihood ratio is observed as being three times lower with households having the highest wealth quintile. The likelihood ratio of individuals emigrating for salary/wage reasons is observed higher amongst individuals with a secondary level of education. Similarly, the likelihood ratio is observed lowest among households headed by an extended family structure and the likelihood of emigrants from households within the highest wealth quintile is further observed to be lower.

NPHC 2021 data reveals the fact that the number of immigrants has been increasing over the successive censuses. Emigrants outnumber the number of immigrants in Nepal and Nepal is regarded as a source country for emigration. Of the total foreign-born population, more than 80 percent are Nepalese citizens, whereas only 15 percent are foreign citizens. More than two-thirds of the foreign-born population are from the 15-59 age group. Similarly, more than three-quarters of foreign citizens are from economically active age groups. Nearly two-thirds of foreign citizens are literate, and half of this figure are recorded to possess a basic level of education, whereas one-third hold a secondary level of education.

The overwhelming majority of Nepal's foreign-born population were recorded from India, representing a rate of more than 93 percent across seven successive censuses. Of this figure, female migrants account for more than two-thirds of the total Indian born population. The proportion of foreign-born population from other countries is observed to have decreased in the recent census as compared to the previous six successive censuses. A majority of the foreign-born population held Indian nationality, followed by China. Approximately four-fifths of the foreign-born population who were enumerated at Mountain zone held citizenship from India, whereas about one-tenth of immigrants in the same belt held the citizenship of China. Out of 77 districts, Kathmandu, Chitawan, Rupandehi, Kaski, Parsa and Jhapa are the major districts with high numbers of foreign citizens in Nepal.

As highlighted, more than nine-tenths of the foreign-born population were from India, in which the female foreign-born population dominates its counterpart. One-third of the foreign-born population were recorded to have stayed at the current place for more than two decades. The main reason for

staying in current place was recorded as marriage (45%), whereas one-fourth were observed to have stayed at their current place due to returning back from a foreign country. The pattern of immigration into Nepal shows that, due to open borders as a result of peace and friendship treaties, both the number and proportion of Indian citizens has been increasing over time.

7.2 Policy implications

I.   Nepal's growing emigration trend is dominated through representation by Nepal's working age population and this is an issue to be prioritized due to its impact in the shortage of human resources for the country in the near future. As such, this must be addressed by policies and programmes and with high priority.

II.   The policies and programmes should target the rural areas as well as Sudurpashchim and Madhesh provinces and the Mountain zone of Nepal, notably focusing on Dalit, Madheshi and Janjati ethic/caste groups. This is because there is a growing absentee population rates by overall size of the population identified in these groups.

III. As the main reasons for absence were identified as factors regarding salary/wage, job, trade/business, study/training, seeking jobs, and dependents, it is recommended that national pay scales and overall measures of job satisfaction be revisited as matters of priority – both in the public and private sectors – in order to retain the working age population. Nepal's working age population has raised concern on poor salary, job security and occupational safety, rather than their situation of unemployment at the national level.

IV.   Specific policies and programmes should be formulated and implemented in districts which show negative population growth rates to retain the working age population. This can be executed by introducing responsive policies in the education, agriculture and tourism sectors of Nepal.

V.   Specific reintegration policies for returnees from abroad is needed, with focus on introducing programmes for individuals to utilise the knowledge and skills which they have learned from abroad, making available both the physical and financial resources and law friendly environments to encourage engagement in the sectors in which they were employed whilst abroad.

VI.   As noted, a number of absentees were identified as dependent populations. As a primary approach to reintegration, the government should explore the challenges and potential of returnee migrant workers and their accompanying children with an eye to reintegrating them into Nepal's labour market.

VII. The number of immigrants into Nepal has shown to be increasing over the census period, represented overwhelmingly by a significant proportion from India. Migration policy, especially policy concerned with immigration, is essential to promulgate and govern the issues of immigration into Nepal.

VIII. The major destination countries of most of Nepali youths are GCCs and Malaysia; destinations where many Nepalis do not possess specific matching skills and receive low salary at destination. As such, the government needs to enhance its focus on sector-wise skills for the benefit of prospective and aspiring Nepali youths to maximize the benefits of emigration and to further explore and diversify new destination countries where both the security and salary for Nepali emigrants could be advantageous.

IX. As the likelihood ratio of emigrating to India registers as significantly high in Sudurpashchim, Karnali and Lumbini provinces, special packages for aspiring and returnee migrants from India should be developed by three layers of government, viz. by federal, provincial and local governments in these provinces. This may take the form of a physical package of resources, guidance on bureaucratic support for reintegrating into national labour markets, and/or opportunities to develop/teach skills within Nepal.

X. The Constitution of Nepal guarantees the provision of safe, orderly and dignified migration; however, the recent foreign employment policy does not address the issues of cross-border migration. As a labour sending country, it is most essential for Nepal to develop a comprehensive migration policy.

XI. About one quarter of individuals cite returning to their own region/area as a main reason for returning to Nepal. This indicates that a large proportion of immigrants are Nepali returnees. It is therefore essential to prepare conducive policies to engage the significant number of returnees in productive way.

REFERENCES

Ajzen, I. (1985). From intentions to actions: A theory of planned behaviour. In *Action control: From cognition to behaviour* (pp. 11-39). Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer Berlin Heidelberg.

Brown, L. (2017). *The Ranas and the Raj Historia*. Retrieved from www.historiamag.com: http://www.historiamag.com/ranas-andraj/.

CIA. (n.d.). *Treaty of peace and friendship between the Government of India and the Government of Nepal, Kathmandu*. Retrieved from www.cia.gov: https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP81-1036R000100140065-5.pdf.

DaVanzo, J. (1981). Microeconomic Approaches to Studying Migration Decisions. In *Migration Decision Making: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Micro-level Studies in Developed and Developing Countries.* New York: Pergamon Press.

Government of Nepal [GoN] (2017). *The Local Government Operation Act 2017.* Kathmandu: Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

GoN. (2015). *The Constitution of Nepal.* Kathmandu: Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary

GoN. (2012). *Foreign Employment Policy 2012.* Kathmandu : Government of Nepal .

GoN. (2007). *Foreign Employment Act 2007.* Kathmandu : Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

GoN . (1994). *Immigration Rules 1994.* Kathmandu : Nepal Law Commission.

GoN. (1992). *Immigration Act 1992.* Kathmandu : Nepal Law Commission.

Greenwood, M. J. (1969). An Analysis of the Determinants of Geographic Labor Mobility in the United States. *The Review of Economics and Statistics, 51*, pp. 189-194.

Hampton, A. (2007). *www.mende.*

Hosmer, D. W., Jovanovic, B., & Lemeshow, S. (1989). Best subsets logistic regression. Biometrics, 1265-1270.

ILO. (n.d.). *Information system on international labour standards*. Retrieved from normlex.ilo.org: https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlx/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:1:0::NO.

International Organization for Migration [IOM]. (2019). *Migration in Nepal: A Country Profile.* Kathmandu: IOM.

International Organization for Migration. (2019). *Migration in Nepal: A Country Profile* . Kathmandu: International Organization for Migration.

IOM. (2018). *Perspectives on migration, environment and climate change.* Geneva: International Organization for Migration.

IOM. (2019). *Migration in Nepal: A COUNTRY PROFILE.* Kathmandu: International Organization for Migration.

IOM. (2019b). *Migration in Nepal: A COUNTRY PROFILE 2019.* Kathmandu : International Organization for Migration.

IOM. (2020a). *World Migration Report 2020.* Geneva: International Organization for Migration.

IOM. (2020b). *Status of Nepali migrant workers in relation to COVID-19.* Kathmandu : International Organization for Migration.

Judson, D. (1990). Human migration decision making: A formal model. *Behavioral Science, 35*, pp. 281-289.

Khatiwada, P. P. (2008). *Conflict Induced Migration in Nepal: A Social Inclusion Perspective.* Kathmandu: Social Inclusion Research Fund (SIRF).

Khatiwada, P. P. (2024). Migration and Integration Policies in Nepal. In S. I. Rajan, *South Asia Migration Report 2024 Remittances, Resilience and Rehabilitation.* Routledge India.

Khatiwada, P.P., Subedi, D.R., Gurung, Y.B., Pradhan, M.S., Pradhan, P. (2023). Challenges to Leave No Behind in Nepal for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals. In *SDGs in the Asia and Pacific Region.* Canada : Springer International Publishing.

Lee, E. (1966). A Theory of Migration. *Demography*, 428-445.

Mabogunje, A. (1970). System Approach to a Theory of Rural-Urban Migration. *Geographical Analysis, 2*, 1-18.

Migration, I. O. (2019). *Migration in Nepal: A Country Profile.* Kathmandu: Causes and Consequences of Rural to Rural Migration in Nepal: Final Report, Research Programme on Population and Development Policies.

Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security [MoLESS]. (2020). *Nepal Labour Migration Report 2020.* Kathmandu : Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security [MoLESS].

National Human Rights Commission [NHRC]. (2019). *National report on trafficking persons in Nepal 2019.* Kathmandu : National Human Rights Commission.

National Planning Commission [NPC]. (2019). *The Fifteen Plan.* Kathmandu : National Planning Commission.

NHRC. (2020). *COVID-19 Mahamariko Chapetama Nepali Aapravasi Shramikharuko Adhikar Adhyayan Pratibedan, 2077 [Rights of Nepalese Migrant Workers amid COVID-19 Pandemic].* Kathmandu : National Human Rights Commission.

NPC. (2016). *Needs Assessment, Costing and Financing Strategy for Nepal's Sustainable Development Goals.* Kathmandu : National Planning Commission.

NPC. (2020). *Nepal National Review of Sustainable Development Goals.* Kathmandu : National Planning Commission.

NSO . (2023). *National population and housing census 2021: National Report.* Kathmandu : National Statistics Office.

NSO. (2024). *Nepal Living Standard Survey IV-2022/23.* Kathmandu: National Statistics Office.

Plan International . (2019). *The Trafficking of Girls and Young Woemn in Nepal.* Kathmandu : Plan International.

Pradhan, e. a. (2021). The COVID-19 pandemic not only poses challenges, but also opens opportunities for sustainable transformation. *Earth's Future, 9*.

Ravenstein, E. (1885). The Laws of Migration . *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, 48*, 167-235.

Ravenstein, E. (1889). The Laws of Migration. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, 52*, 241-301.

Sharma, J. (2011). *The impact of environmental change on labour migration from Nepal to Gulf States.* London: Foresight, UK Government Office for Science.

Sijapati, B. &. (2017). *Governing Labour Migration in Nepal: An Analysis of Existing Policies and Institutional Mechanisms.* Kathmandu: Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility.

Stouffer, C. S. (1960). Intervening Opportunities and Competitive Migrants. *Journal of Regional Science*, 1-26.

Subedi, B. P. (1991). *International Migration in Nepal: Towards an analytical framework. Contributions to Nepalese Studies.* Kathmandu : ICIMOD.

Todaro, M. (1969). A Model of Labour Migration and Urban Unemployment in Less Developed Countries. *The American Economic Review, LIX*, 138-148.

UN. (n.d.). *United Nations Treaty Collections.* Retrieved from https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XVIII-12-a&chapter=18&clang=_en.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNDOC]. (2004). *United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto.* Retrieved from www.undoc.org: https://www.undoc.org/documents/treaties/UNTOC/Publications/TOC%20Convention/TOCebook-e.pdf

Wallerstein, I. (2004). *The Uncertainties of Knowledge.* Philadelhia: Temple University Press.

Zelinsky, W. (1971). The Hypothesis of the Mobility Transition. *The Geographical Review, LX (1)*, 219-249.

Wallerstein, I. (2004). *The Uncertainties of Knowledge.* Philadelhia: Temple University Press.

Zelinsky, W. (1971). The Hypothesis of the Mobility Transition. *The Geographical Review, LX (1)*, 219-249.

ANNEX

Annex 1: Regression models of international migration

Models	Dependent variables	Independent variables	
Regression analysis at household level			
Model-I	a. Emigration status (HH with at least one absent=1, HH without absentee=0)	a. Ecological belt b. Place of residence c. Province d. HH ownership e. Wealth quintile f. Family structure g. Gender of HH head h. Caste/ethnicity	i. Education level of HH head j. Proportion of population 60+years k. Proportion of population under 15 years l. HH with higher male m. Size of family n. Occupation of HH head o. Types of occupation (industry)
Regression analysis at individual level			
Model-I	a. Emigration status of Nepali migrants (Emigrated to middle east=1, other countries=0)	a. Ecological belt b. Place of residence c. Province d. Level of education of absentee e. Gender of absentee f. Age group g. Duration of stay at destination	h. Main reason of absent i. Caste/ethnicity of HH head j. Occupation of HH head k. Types of occupation (industry) l. Education level of HH head m. Size of family n. HH ownership o. Family structure p. Wealth quintile
Model-II	b. Emigration status of Nepali migrants (Emigrated to India=1, other countries=0)	a. Ecological belt b. Place of residence c. Province d. Level of education of absentee e. Gender of absentee f. Age group g. Duration of stay at destination h. Main reason of absent	i. Caste/ethnicity of HH head j. Occupation of HH head k. Types of occupation (industry) l. Education level of HH head m. Proportion of population 60+ years n. Proportion of population <15 years o. Size of family p. HH ownership q. Family structure r. Wealth quintile

Models	Dependent variables	Independent variables	
Model-III	b. Duration of stay at destination (Duration of stay <5 years=1, other =0)	a. Ecological belt b. Place of residence c. Province d. Destination country e. Level of education of absentee f. Gender of absentee g. Age group h. Main reason of absent	i. Caste/ethnicity of HH head j. Occupation of HH head k. Types of occupation (industry) l. Education level of HH head m. Proportion of population 60+ years n. Proportion of population <15 years o. Size of family p. HH ownership q. Family structure r. Wealth quintile
Model-IV	b. Main reason of emigration (Salary/ wage=1, other =0)	a. Ecological belt b. Place of residence c. Province d. Destination country e. Level of education of absentee f. Gender of absentee g. Age group h. Duration of stay at destination	i. Caste/ethnicity of HH head j. Occupation of HH head k. Types of occupation (industry) l. Education level of HH head m. Proportion of population 60+ years n. Proportion of population <15 years o. Size of family p. HH ownership q. Family structure r. Wealth quintile

Annex 2: Percent distribution of absent population living abroad by age group, 2021

Age group	<10	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70+	Not reported	Total
Nepal	**4.9**	**17.3**	**49.4**	**19.5**	**5.8**	**1.3**	**0.4**	**0.1**	**1.5**	**21,90,592**
Province										
Koshi	2.7	12.0	53.2	24.1	5.9	0.9	0.3	0.1	0.8	343,034
Madhesh	1.4	13.1	49.3	25.0	8.9	1.4	0.2	0.1	0.8	304,286
Bagmati	4.2	13.7	57.0	18.9	4.1	0.8	0.3	0.1	0.9	397,930
Gandaki	3.1	16.1	55.8	16.7	4.0	0.8	0.4	0.2	3.0	286,593
Lumbini	4.1	21.3	46.3	18.9	5.9	1.4	0.3	0.1	1.8	420,906
Karnali	8.1	20.2	41.6	18.0	7.3	2.2	0.5	0.2	1.9	94,320
Sudurpashchim	12.6	25.8	37.6	14.0	5.9	2.1	0.5	0.1	1.4	343,523
Ecological zone										
Mountain	10.5	18.2	47.0	15.8	4.7	1.3	0.4	0.1	1.9	116,060
Hill	5.1	18.9	50.8	17.1	4.7	1.2	0.4	0.1	1.7	990,723
Tarai	4.1	15.7	48.5	22.0	6.9	1.3	0.3	0.1	1.2	1,083,809
Urban/Rural Municipalities										
Urban Municipalities	4.8	16.5	50.2	19.8	5.7	1.2	0.4	0.1	1.4	1,468,517
Rural Municipalities	5.2	18.8	48.0	18.8	5.9	1.4	0.4	0.1	1.6	722,075
Place of residence										
Urban	4.7	15.4	52.4	19.4	5.1	1.1	0.4	0.1	1.4	552,809
Peri-urban	3.6	14.9	49.3	22.3	7.1	1.3	0.3	0.1	1.2	803,073
Rural	6.2	20.8	47.6	16.8	5.0	1.3	0.4	0.1	1.7	834,710
Wealth quintile										
Lowest	7.8	22.6	42.9	16.9	6.0	1.6	0.4	0.1	1.6	405,035
Lower	5.0	19.9	47.1	18.7	6.0	1.4	0.3	0.1	1.5	453,573
Middle	3.8	16.2	49.4	21.2	6.4	1.2	0.3	0.1	1.4	439,090
Higher	3.0	13.1	52.1	23.2	6.1	1.0	0.2	0.1	1.3	400,016
Highest	4.9	14.9	54.8	17.7	4.5	1.1	0.5	0.1	1.5	492,878

Annex 3: : Percent distribution of absentee population living abroad by age and Sex, 2001-2021 censuses

Age groups	2001			2011			2021		
	Male	Female	Total (No.)	Male	Female	Total (No.)	Male	Female	Total (No.)
Age <5	58.9	41.1	20,108	53.9	46.1	38,915	54.9	45.1	70,958
5-9	67.0	33.0	10,660	58.1	41.9	21,941	58.7	41.3	36,074
10-19	90.2	9.8	254,244	87.3	12.7	386,437	83.3	16.7	378,428
20-29	89.3	10.7	314,343	88.5	11.5	908,350	82.1	17.9	1,082,641
30-39	92.3	7.7	110,185	91.5	8.5	389,517	87.0	13.0	426,503
40-49	93.1	6.9	36,757	92.2	7.8	110,806	89.0	11.0	126,666
50-59	92.3	7.8	12,172	87.8	12.2	22,777	83.3	16.7	27,778
60-69	92.1	7.9	3,285	77.9	22.1	6,372	67.8	32.2	7,577
70+	78.9	21.1	427	69.1	30.9	1,696	62.8	37.2	2,082
Age not reported	-	-	-	69.4	30.7	34,683	69.5	30.5	31,885
Total	**89.2**	**10.9**	**762,181**	**87.6**	**12.4**	**1,921,494**	**82.2**	**17.8**	**2,190,592**

Annex 4: **Percent distribution of absent top twenty caste/ethnicity by province, NPHC 2021**

Caste/ethnicity	Koshi	Madhesh	Bagmati	Gandaki	Lumbini	Karnali	Sudurpashchim	Total	Total (No.)
Kshetri	13.7	1.4	16.5	9.5	19.0	7.8	32.1	20.2	441,984
Brahman - Hill	13.8	1.5	29.1	19.7	22.5	1.6	11.8	13.3	292,019
Magar	7.8	2.4	11.1	28.2	43.0	5.2	2.4	8.9	194,632
Bishwokarma	6.8	0.9	4.6	13.8	24.1	12.0	37.8	8.6	188,964
Tamang	16.6	8.3	69.8	3.6	0.7	0.1	0.9	5.1	111,278
Musalman	13.8	62.0	1.0	1.8	21.2	0.1	0.1	4.2	92,328
Newa (Newar)	15.4	2.0	63.0	12.2	6.8	0.3	0.3	4.0	86,958
Gurung	9.7	0.4	22.8	56.4	9.0	1.0	0.6	3.2	70,998
Pariyar	10.5	0.8	6.9	14.9	18.9	8.4	39.5	3.2	70,903
Tharu	15.0	13.5	7.7	5.1	35.1	0.1	23.5	3.0	65,204
Mijar	5.6	0.8	7.2	23.2	24.5	7.6	31.2	2.3	51,352
Rai	80.5	1.1	17.1	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.2	2.3	50,875
Yadav	3.5	83.8	0.7	0.0	11.9	0.0	0.1	2.3	50,775
Thakuri	1.2	1.2	7.8	13.3	18.3	17.6	40.6	1.9	42,425
Yakthung/ Limbu	92.3	0.1	7.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	1.8	39,282
Chamar/ Harijan/Ram	2.6	78.4	0.2	0.0	18.7	0.0	0.2	0.9	18,655
Sanyasi/ Dasnami	16.9	3.4	17.5	9.8	27.5	7.2	17.8	0.8	17,647
Dhanuk	6.3	92.7	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.7	16,315
Teli	8.3	78.3	1.3	0.1	11.5	0.0	0.4	0.7	15,438
Koiri/Kushwaha	11.0	81.1	0.7	0.1	7.1	0.0	0.0	0.6	13,583

Annex 5: Percent distribution of top 20 caste/ethnicity with high absentee family members by rural-urban differences, NPHC 2021

Caste/ethnicity	Urban		Peri-urban		Rural		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Kshetri	107,834	24.4	114,808	26.0	219,342	49.6	441,984	100.0
Brahman - Hill	109,599	37.5	97,800	33.5	84,620	29.0	292,019	100.0
Magar	40,363	20.7	41,351	21.3	112,918	58.0	194,632	100.0
Bishwokarma	25,246	13.4	50,676	26.8	113,042	59.8	188,964	100.0
Tamang	32,333	29.1	21,972	19.8	56,973	51.2	111,278	100.0
Musalman	21,945	23.8	66,801	72.4	3,582	3.9	92,328	100.0
Newa (Newar)	57,594	66.2	13,566	15.6	15,798	18.2	86,958	100.0
Gurung	27,997	39.4	16,397	23.1	26,604	37.5	70,998	100.0
Pariyar	11,317	16.0	20,081	28.3	39,505	55.7	70,903	100.0
Tharu	7,192	11.0	45,969	70.5	12,043	18.5	65,204	100.0
Mijar	7,300	14.2	11,796	23.0	32,256	62.8	51,352	100.0
Rai	16,553	32.5	11,439	22.5	22,883	45.0	50,875	100.0
Yadav	5,433	10.7	44,116	86.9	1,226	2.4	50,775	100.0
Thakuri	9,175	21.6	12,364	29.1	20,886	49.2	42,425	100.0
Yakthung/Limbu	11,378	29.0	11,618	29.6	16,286	41.5	39,282	100.0
Chamar/Harijan/Ram	1,859	10.0	16,269	87.2	527	2.8	18,655	100.0
Sanyasi/Dasnami	4,320	24.5	5,829	33.0	7,498	42.5	17,647	100.0
Dhanuk	1,755	10.8	14,306	87.7	254	1.6	16,315	100.0
Teli	2,818	18.3	12,169	78.8	451	2.9	15,438	100.0
Koiri/Kushwaha	1,567	11.5	11,009	81.1	1,007	7.4	13,583	100.0

Annex 6: Distribution of absent population by literacy status of household head, NPHC 2021

Area	Literate	Illiterate	Basic (grades 0-8)	Secondary (grades 9-12	Bachelor	Master and above
Nepal	**61.1**	**38.9**	**50**	**36.4**	**4.2**	**2.5**
Koshi	69.6	30.4	49.5	41.2	3	1.3
Madhesh	35.4	64.6	53.8	38.3	3.2	1.6
Bagmati	73.6	26.4	36.4	41.3	9.9	7
Gandaki	72	28	51	36.5	3.1	1.5
Lumbini	65.1	34.9	56.4	31.6	2.4	1.2
Karnali	53.5	46.4	57.7	32.1	1.7	0.7
Sudurpashchim	48.9	51.1	57.7	29.1	2.2	1.2
Ecological belt						
Mountain	49.1	50.9	57.8	29.8	2.1	1.3
Hill	66.8	33.2	48.5	35.1	5.3	3.6
Tarai	57.1	42.9	50.9	38.4	3.3	1.6
Place of residence						
Urban	76.3	23.7	34.6	45.9	9.4	6
Peri-urban	55.4	44.6	52.7	37.4	2.4	1.2
Rural	56.5	43.5	61.1	27	1.4	0.7
Wealth quintile						
Lowest	39.6	60.4	67	21.8	0.6	0.3
Lower	52.1	47.9	63	26	0.9	0.4
Middle	56	44	58	31.7	1.8	0.8
Higher	69.5	30.5	49	41.6	3.1	1.3
Highest	84.6	15.4	32	47.4	9.8	6.5

Annex 7: Distribution of absent population by literacy status of household head, NPHC 2021

Area	Literacy status of household head				Educational level of household head						
	Literate	Illiterate	Not reported	Total	Basic (grades 0-VIII)	Secondary (grades IX-XII)	Bachelor	Master and above	Other	Not reported	Total (No.)
Nepal	**61.1**	**38.9**	**0**	**2,190,592**	**50.0**	**36.4**	**4.2**	**2.5**	**0.2**	**6.6**	**1,332,514**
Koshi	69.6	30.4	**0**	343,034	49.5	41.2	3.0	1.3	0.1	4.7	236,183
Madhesh	35.4	64.6	**0**	304,286	53.8	38.3	3.2	1.6	0.1	3.0	107,023
Bagmati	73.6	26.4	**0**	397,930	36.4	41.3	9.9	7.0	0.3	5.3	289,693
Gandaki	72.0	28.0	0.1	286,593	51.0	36.5	3.1	1.5	0.2	7.6	206,080
Lumbini	65.1	34.9	0	420,906	56.4	31.6	2.4	1.2	0.2	8.3	274,037
Karnali	53.5	46.4	0	94,320	57.7	32.1	1.7	0.7	0.1	7.7	50,552
Sudurpashchim	48.9	51.1	0	343,523	57.7	29.1	2.2	1.2	0.2	9.7	168,946
Ecological belt											
Mountain	49.1	50.9	0	116,060	57.8	29.8	2.1	1.3	0.2	8.8	56,547
Hill	66.8	33.2	0	990,723	48.5	35.1	5.3	3.6	0.2	7.3	658,831
Tarai	57.1	42.9	0	1,083,809	50.9	38.4	3.3	1.6	0.2	5.7	617,136
Place of residence											
Urban	76.3	23.7	0.01	552,809	34.6	45.9	9.4	6.0	0.2	4.0	418,142
Peri-urban	55.4	44.6	0.01	803,073	52.7	37.4	2.4	1.2	0.2	6.0	443,439
Rural	56.5	43.5	0.02	834,710	61.1	27.0	1.4	0.7	0.2	9.6	470,933
Wealth quintile											
Lowest	39.6	60.4	0.01	405,035	67	21.8	0.6	0.3	0.2	10	160,088
Lower	52.1	47.9	0.01	453,573	63	26.0	0.9	0.4	0.2	10	236,154
Middle	56.0	44.0	0.01	439,090	58	31.7	1.8	0.8	0.2	8	245,362
Higher	69.5	30.5	0.01	400,016	49	41.6	3.1	1.3	0.2	5	276,825
Highest	84.6	15.4	0.01	492,878	32	47.4	9.8	6.5	0.2	4	414,085

Annex 8: Percentage distribution of absent population by occupation of household head, NPHC 2021

Area/Characteristics	Armed forces occupations	Managers	Professionals	Technicians and associate prof.	Clerical support workers	Service and sales workers	Skilled agri., forestry and fishery wor	Craft and related trades workers	Plant and machine operators and assembly	Elementary occupations	Don't know	Not reported	Total (No.)
Nepal	0.1	5.6	2.6	1.0	0.8	4.0	64.2	4.0	1.3	16.4	0.0	0.0	1,601,004
Province													
Koshi	0.0	6.3	2.4	0.9	0.6	4.0	63.3	4.1	1.6	16.6	0.0	0.0	263,618
Madhesh	0.0	2.9	1.7	0.6	0.4	3.8	59.6	4.1	1.3	25.7	0.1	0.0	216,008
Bagmati	0.3	11.3	5.6	2.9	2.1	8.2	43.3	5.1	2.4	19.0	0.0	0.0	257,001
Gandaki	0.1	7.2	3.1	0.9	0.7	3.8	64.0	3.4	1.1	15.6	0.0	0.1	197,500
Lumbini	0.0	4.5	2.0	0.7	0.5	2.9	69.8	3.7	1.0	14.7	0.0	0.0	313,742
Karnali	0.0	2.8	1.5	0.5	0.4	1.9	79.8	4.0	0.4	8.6	0.0	0.0	79,102
Sudurpashchim	0.1	2.5	1.6	0.5	0.3	2.3	77.7	3.4	0.6	11.0	0.0	0.0	274,033
Ecological zone													
Mountain	0.0	3.4	2.2	0.5	0.4	2.3	80.4	3.3	0.5	7.1	0.0	0.0	98,058
Hill	0.1	6.3	3.3	1.3	1.0	4.3	66.0	3.8	1.1	12.8	0.0	0.0	730,071
Tarai	0.1	5.2	2.1	0.8	0.6	4.0	60.6	4.3	1.5	20.9	0.0	0.0	772,875
Urban/rural Municipality													
Urban	0.1	7.1	3.2	1.4	1.0	5.1	56.0	4.5	1.6	19.8	0.0	0.0	1,006,015
Rural	0.0	2.9	1.7	0.4	0.3	2.1	78.1	3.1	0.7	10.6	0.0	0.0	594,989
Place of residence													
Urban	0.3	14.2	6.2	3.2	2.3	9.6	27.5	6.3	2.6	27.9	0.0	0.0	311,762
Peri-urban	0.1	4.2	1.9	0.7	0.5	3.5	63.4	4.0	1.4	20.3	0.0	0.0	590,817
Rural	0.0	2.8	1.7	0.4	0.3	1.9	81.3	2.9	0.6	7.9	0.0	0.0	698,425
Wealth quintile													
Lowest	0.0	1.1	0.6	0.2	0.2	1.0	79.4	3.0	0.4	14.0	0.0	0.0	327,756
Lower	0.0	1.8	1.2	0.3	0.3	1.7	78.2	3.4	0.6	12.6	0.0	0.0	371,827
Middle	0.0	3.3	1.9	0.5	0.4	3.1	70.8	4.2	1.1	14.8	0.0	0.0	340,250
Higher	0.1	6.7	2.9	1.2	1.0	6.0	54.1	5.8	2.0	20.2	0.0	0.0	274,632
Highest	0.3	17.2	7.4	3.4	2.2	9.7	30.7	4.0	2.7	22.3	0.0	0.0	286,539

Annex 9: Distribution of absent population by household size, NPHC 2021

Area	1-2 members	3-4 members	5-6 members	7-8 members	9-10 members	>10 members	Average	Total (No.)
Nepal	**23.4**	**41.7**	**21.9**	**8.4**	**2.6**	**2.1**	**4.38**	**2,190,592**
Koshi	23.7	44.2	21.7	7.3	2.0	1.1		343,034
Madhesh	11.3	37.1	27.1	13.1	5.4	6.0		304,286
Bagmati	31.1	43.0	18.3	5.4	1.4	0.7		397,930
Gandaki	30.1	44.2	18.4	5.6	1.3	0.6		286,593
Lumbini	23.0	43.2	20.5	7.8	2.6	2.9		420,906
Karnali	19.9	42.6	24.4	9.9	2.2	1.1		94,320
Sudurpashchim	20.7	37.7	25.8	11.1	3.1	1.7		343,523
Ecological belt								
Mountain	24.8	37.0	23.9	10.3	2.7	1.4		116,060
Hill	27.6	42.7	20.4	6.9	1.6	0.8		990,723
Tarai	19.5	41.3	23.1	9.5	3.4	3.3		1,083,809
Urban/rural municipality								
Urban Municipalities	24.1	42.6	21.3	7.8	2.4	1.9		14,68,517
Rural Municipalities	22.1	39.8	23.2	9.5	2.8	2.5		722,075
Place of residence								
Urban	28.3	43.2	18.9	6.3	1.9	1.5		552,809
Peri-urban	18.7	41.5	23.3	9.6	3.5	3.5		803,073
Rural	24.7	40.9	22.6	8.6	2.1	1.1		834,710
Wealth quintile								
Lowest	25.9	39.1	22.8	8.7	2.1	1.4		405,035
Lower	20.6	41.3	23.8	9.6	2.7	2.0		453,573
Middle	21.0	41.1	22.8	9.2	3.1	2.9		439,090
Higher	25.4	43.6	18.9	7.2	2.6	2.5		400,016
Highest	24.5	43.3	21.2	7.1	2.3	1.7		492,878

Annex 10: **Percent distribution of absent population by types of family, NPHC 2021**

Area	Single person household	Nuclear family (head is father/ mother)	Nuclear family (head is unmarried son/ daughter	Extended family	Total (No.)
Nepal	**5.1**	**42.6**	**1.3**	**51.0**	**2,190,592**
Koshi	4.4	43.4	1.0	51.2	343,034
Madhesh	2.2	40.4	0.6	56.8	304,286
Bagmati	5.9	47.1	1.4	45.6	397,930
Gandaki	6.4	44.9	0.8	48.0	286,593
Lumbini	5.0	43.3	1.1	50.7	420,906
Karnali	4.8	43.6	2.5	49.1	94,320
Sudurpashchim	6.2	35.7	2.5	55.6	343,523
Ecological belt					
Mountain	7.2	41.4	1.7	49.7	116,060
Hill	6.0	45.1	1.3	47.6	990,723
Tarai	4.0	40.5	1.2	54.3	1,083,809
Urban/Rural					
Urban	5.4	46.0	1.6	47.1	552,809
Peri-urban	3.8	40.6	1.1	54.5	803,073
Rural	6.1	42.4	1.3	50.3	834,710
Wealth quintile					
Lowest	8.1	44.7	1.6	45.6	405,035
Lower	4.5	41.8	1.2	52.5	453,573
Middle	4.6	40.5	1.2	53.7	439,090
Higher	5.0	45.0	1.5	48.5	400,016
Highest	3.5	41.7	1.1	53.7	492,878

Annex 11: Percent distribution of absent population by place of birth of household head, NPHC 2021

Area	Same local unit *Municipality)	Other local unit of same district	Other district	Foreign country	Not reported	Total (No.)
Nepal	**51.8**	**12.5**	**32.7**	**3.0**	**0.1**	**2,190,592**
Province						
Koshi	45.7	11.5	38.7	4.1	0.1	343,034
Madhesh	58.4	21.4	13.7	6.5	0.0	304,286
Bagmati	41.2	8.1	49.4	1.3	0.0	397,930
Gandaki	55.8	16.3	26.0	1.8	0.1	286,593
Lumbini	52.2	10.8	33.1	3.8	0.1	420,906
Karnali	76.9	10.3	12.4	0.4	0.1	94,320
Sudurpashchim	53.4	10.4	34.7	1.4	0.1	343,523
Ecological belt						
Mountain	85.4	10.1	4.0	0.4	0.0	116,060
Hill	59.9	13.2	25.9	1.0	0.1	990,723
Tarai	40.7	12.2	42.0	5.1	0.1	1,083,809
Urban/rural municipality						
Urban Municipalities	43.1	12.7	41.1	3.1	0.0	1,468,517
Rural Municipalities	69.4	12.2	15.6	2.8	0.1	722,075
Place of residence						
Urban	33.2	10.8	53.0	3.0	0.0	552,809
peri-urban	44.3	14.7	35.9	5.1	0.1	803,073
Rural	71.3	11.6	16.1	0.9	0.1	834,710
Wealth quintile						
Lowest	69.9	13.0	14.9	2.1	0.0	405,035
Low	66.6	13.7	17.3	2.3	0.1	453,573
Middle	55.3	13.7	27.3	3.6	0.1	439,090
Higher	38.5	12.9	44.7	3.9	0.1	400,016
Highest	30.9	9.7	56.5	3.0	0.0	492,878

Note: *Ga. Pa refers Gaupalika (Rural municipality)

**Na. Pa refers Nagarpalika (Urban municipality).

Annex 12: Percent distribution of absent population by main reason of absence, NPHC 2021

Area	Salary/ wage, job	Trade/ business	Study/ training	Seeking job	Dependent	Others	Not reported	Don't know	Total (No.)
Nepal	**59.8**	**0.3**	**3.1**	**13.8**	**20.4**	**1.5**	**0.4**	**0.8**	**343,523**
Koshi									
Urban	68.7	0.6	13.2	6.7	8.9	1.3	0.1	0.5	79,792
Peri-urban	78.1	0.5	5.6	8.9	5.5	0.8	0.1	0.4	152,423
Rural	78.4	0.5	4.4	9.9	5.5	0.8	0.2	0.5	110,819
Total	76.0	0.5	7.0	8.7	6.3	0.9	0.1	0.5	343,034
Madhesh									
Urban	70.8	1.3	9.4	10.6	6.0	1.0	0.4	0.6	47,937
Peri-urban	78.0	0.8	2.8	12.8	4.3	0.5	0.2	0.6	237,520
Rural	78.2	0.6	4.7	10.9	4.9	0.3	0.1	0.3	18,829
Total	76.9	0.9	3.9	12.3	4.6	0.6	0.3	0.6	304,286
Bagmati									
Urban	42.8	0.9	36.8	5.3	11.5	2.2	0.1	0.4	237,507
Peri-urban	61.6	0.7	20.2	8.5	7.4	0.9	0.2	0.5	60,923
Rural	70.8	0.7	10.4	10.9	6.0	0.6	0.2	0.6	99,500
Total	52.7	0.8	27.6	7.2	9.5	1.6	0.2	0.5	397,930
Gandaki									
Urban	60.9	0.6	16.2	6.7	12.1	1.1	0.8	1.6	74,038
Peri-urban	66.2	0.5	12.0	7.9	10.7	0.9	0.6	1.1	68,720
Rural	72.5	0.5	6.0	8.9	9.3	0.8	0.7	1.3	143,835
Total	68.0	0.5	10.1	8.1	10.4	0.9	0.7	1.3	286,593
Lumbini									
Urban	64.6	0.8	12.4	8.7	11.0	1.1	0.4	0.9	66,381
Peri-urban	70.9	0.7	5.2	12.3	8.7	0.9	0.4	0.9	172,926
Rural	71.5	0.4	2.5	12.3	11.1	0.9	0.4	0.9	181,599
Total	70.2	0.6	5.2	11.8	10.1	0.9	0.4	0.9	420,906
Karnali									
Urban	56.6	0.6	4.2	25.9	10.2	1.2	0.4	0.9	14,346
Peri-urban	69.8	0.9	7.2	11.0	8.0	1.1	0.8	1.3	2,924
Rural	52.5	0.4	1.9	29.4	12.6	1.5	0.6	1.2	77,050
Total	53.7	0.4	2.4	28.3	12.1	1.4	0.6	1.1	94,320
Sudurpashchim									
Urban	55.7	0.3	7.2	14.7	19.6	1.5	0.4	0.7	32,808
Peri-urban	63.7	0.4	3.6	10.9	19.1	1.3	0.3	0.6	107,637
Rural	58.3	0.2	2.1	15.1	21.2	1.6	0.5	0.9	203,078

Annex 13: : Distribution of absent population by their level of education, NPHC 2021

Area	Basic (0-8class)	Secondary (9-12 class)	Bachelors	Master and above	Others	Not reported	Total (No.)
Nepal	**41.2**	**44.9**	**5.3**	**1.9**	**0.1**	**6.6**	**2,119,634**
Koshi	36.2	54.5	4.7	1.6	0.1	3.0	337,410
Madhesh	50.7	34.6	1.9	0.8	0.2	11.9	301,655
Bagmati	23.4	54.0	14.4	4.6	0.2	3.4	386,366
Gandaki	32.1	54.5	5.8	2.2	0.1	5.4	280,621
Lumbini	49.9	39.5	3.2	1.3	0.0	6.1	409,616
Karnali	50.6	35.4	1.3	0.4	0.1	12.2	89,241
Sudurpashchim	53.6	34.2	1.7	0.9	0.1	9.6	314,725
Ecological belt							
Mountain	44.2	41.4	2.5	1.1	0.1	10.7	108,000
Hill	37.5	47.4	7.3	2.5	0.1	5.3	956,522
Tarai	44.3	42.9	3.9	1.4	0.1	7.4	1,055,112
Urban/Rural municipalities							
Urban Municipality	36.8	47.7	6.9	2.4	0.1	6.1	1,421,599
Rural Municipality	50.3	39.0	2.1	0.9	0.1	7.7	698,035
Place of residence							
Urban	24.5	53.7	12.9	4.2	0.1	4.6	534,693
Peri-urban	44.6	43.2	3.3	1.3	0.1	7.6	784,457
Rural	49.1	40.6	2.2	0.9	0.1	7.1	800,484
Wealth quintile							
Lowest	58.5	29.3	0.7	0.3	0.1	11.2	384,814
Lower	52.7	37.5	1.4	0.6	0.1	7.8	438,825
Middle	46.5	43.0	2.6	1.0	0.1	6.9	428,188
Higher	36.8	52.1	4.6	1.6	0.1	4.9	392,301
Highest	15.6	60.0	15.7	5.4	0.1	3.1	475,506

Annex 14: **Percent distribution of absent population living abroad by wealth quintile, 2021**

Area	Lowest	Lower	Middle	Higher	Highest	Total (No.)
Nepal	**18.5**	**20.7**	**20.0**	**18.3**	**22.5**	**2,190,592**
Province						
Koshi	13.5	19.9	20.3	23.2	23.1	343,034
Madhesh	19.6	22.7	30.0	20.0	7.8	304,286
Bagmati	5.0	8.2	13.8	21.1	51.9	397,930
Gandaki	10.0	20.1	19.5	19.5	30.9	286,593
Lumbini	15.9	24.9	22.2	18.8	18.3	420,906
Karnali	51.7	32.0	9.6	4.4	2.3	94,320
Sudurpashchim	39.2	26.6	18.9	10.6	4.6	343,523
Ecological belt						
Mountain	43.3	30.3	18.5	5.8	2.0	116,060
Hill	21.6	24.2	15.8	13.0	25.4	990,723
Tarai	13.0	16.5	24.1	24.4	22.1	1,083,809
Place of residence						
Urban	4.9	6.3	10.6	23.2	55.0	552,809
Peri-urban	12.1	17.2	26.1	25.1	19.6	803,073
Rural	33.7	33.6	20.5	8.4	3.8	834,710

Annex 15: Distribution of top ten districts with highest absent population by destination countries, NPHC 2021

District	India	SAARC countries	ASEAN countries	Middle east countries	Other Asian countries	European union countries	Other European countries	North American countries	South African/ Caribbean countries	African countries	Pacific Ocean Region countries	Others	Not Stated	Total (No.)
Nepal	10.7	0.1	2.6	14.0	2.6	1.5	1.2	2.3	0.0	0.1	2.7	0.1	0.1	2,190,592
Jhapa	17.5	0.3	9.7	55.1	4.7	3.2	1.9	3.7	0.0	0.2	3.4	0.1	0.1	91,414
Rupandehi	25.9	0.3	6.6	41.1	8.7	4.0	3.0	4.2	0.1	0.3	5.5	0.1	0.2	79,918
Morang	14.5	0.4	14.3	54.6	4.2	2.8	1.8	3.6	0.0	0.2	3.4	0.1	0.1	75,968
Dhanusa	10.5	0.3	12.3	74.5	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	73,788
Kaski	10.2	0.5	3.4	34.5	16.5	7.8	9.1	7.5	0.1	0.3	9.6	0.1	0.4	66,426
Kanchanpur	83.0	0.1	3.5	8.5	1.4	0.7	0.3	1.2	0.0	0.2	1.0	0.1	0.1	66,235
Chitawan	11.1	0.3	4.6	39.8	13.5	7.1	3.0	5.9	0.1	0.4	13.6	0.1	0.1	65,164
Sunsari	9.0	0.4	12.6	54.7	7.2	2.8	6.6	2.8	0.1	0.3	3.1	0.2	0.2	62,171
Kathmandu	4.2	0.6	3.8	23.6	11.2	8.3	6.1	19.4	0.1	0.6	20.7	0.9	0.6	144,983
Kailali	89.2	0.1	1.9	4.8	1.4	0.5	0.2	0.9	0.0	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.1	110,428

Annex 16: Percent distribution of absent population living abroad by age, NPHC 2021

Area	Age <5	05-09	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	>=65	Not reported	Total (No.)
Nepal	**3.2**	**1.7**	**2.7**	**14.6**	**29.9**	**19.5**	**11.8**	**7.6**	**4.0**	**1.8**	**0.9**	**0.4**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**1.5**	**2,190,592**
Male	2.2	1.2	2.6	14.9	29.7	19.7	12.4	8.2	4.3	2.0	0.9	0.4	0.2	0.2	1.2	1,799,675
Female	8.2	3.8	3.0	13.1	30.9	18.7	9.1	5.1	2.4	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4	2.5	390,917
Province																
Koshi	1.6	1.0	1.2	10.8	31.0	22.2	14.6	9.5	4.3	1.6	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.8	343,034
Madhesh	0.9	0.6	1.1	11.9	29.9	19.4	14.4	10.6	6.1	2.8	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.8	304,286
Bagmati	2.9	1.3	1.5	12.2	33.9	23.2	12.1	6.8	2.9	1.2	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.9	397,930
Gandaki	2.1	1.1	2.0	14.0	35.2	20.6	10.6	6.1	2.8	1.2	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.3	3.0	286,593
Lumbini	2.7	1.4	4.1	17.2	28.1	18.2	11.4	7.5	4.0	1.9	0.9	0.5	0.2	0.2	1.8	420,906
Karnali	5.4	2.7	3.5	16.7	24.9	16.8	10.6	7.4	4.7	2.6	1.5	0.7	0.3	0.3	1.9	94,320
Sudurpashchim	8.4	4.2	5.6	20.2	23.6	14.0	8.3	5.7	3.7	2.2	1.4	0.7	0.4	0.3	1.4	343,523
Ecological belt																
Mountain	6.9	3.5	3.6	14.6	29.4	17.5	9.8	6.0	3.2	1.6	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.3	1.9	116,060
Hill	3.5	1.6	3.0	16.0	31.2	19.6	10.7	6.4	3.2	1.5	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.3	1.7	990,723
Tarai	2.7	1.5	2.3	13.3	28.9	19.6	13.1	9.0	4.8	2.2	0.9	0.4	0.2	0.2	1.2	1,083,809
Urban/rural municipality																
Urban Municipalities	3.2	1.6	2.4	14.1	30.1	20.0	12.1	7.7	3.9	1.8	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.2	1.4	1,468,517
Rural Municipalities	3.3	1.8	3.3	15.6	29.5	18.4	11.3	7.5	4.0	1.9	0.9	0.5	0.2	0.2	1.6	722,075
Place of residence																
Urban	3.3	1.4	1.9	13.5	31.0	21.5	12.1	7.3	3.5	1.6	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.3	1.4	552,809
Peri-urban	2.3	1.3	2.1	12.9	29.5	19.7	13.2	9.1	4.9	2.2	0.9	0.4	0.2	0.2	1.2	803,073
Rural	4.1	2.1	3.8	17.0	29.7	18.0	10.4	6.4	3.4	1.7	0.9	0.4	0.2	0.2	1.7	834,710

Annex 17: Distribution of absent households by district with negative population growth

Province	Districts	Population Growth Rate	Households	Total	Male	Female
Koshi= 10 districts	Taplejung	-0.53	17.4	5.2	8.8	1.4
	Sankhuwasabha	-0.04	16.3	5.0	8.6	1.3
	Solukhumbu	-0.09	14.2	4.7	6.8	2.6
	Okhaldhunga	-0.56	15.9	5.3	9.2	1.7
	Khotang	-1.56	21.2	6.4	11.6	1.3
	Bhojpur	-1.39	18.7	5.8	10.3	1.3
	Dhankuta	-0.78	21.2	6.4	11.5	1.5
	Tehrathum	-1.3	21.4	6.5	12	1.2
	Panchthar	-1.02	22.2	6.8	12.1	1.6
	Ilam	-0.36	21	6.7	10.7	2.8
Bagmati= 6 districts	Dolakha	-0.74	13.5	5.3	8.1	2.6
	Sindhupalchok	-0.88	17.8	6.7	8.6	4.8
	Dhading	-0.3	17.8	5.9	10	1.9
	Nuwakot	-0.5	17.5	5.9	9.4	2.6
	Kavrepalanchok	-0.46	16.5	5.5	8.3	2.7
	Ramechhap	-1.67	15.8	5.8	9.7	2.2
Gandaki=8 districts	Gorkha	-0.74	24.2	9.2	16.4	2.8
	Manang	-1.39	13.4	5.6	6.4	4.6
	Myagdi	-0.57	28.9	10.1	17.2	3.3
	Lamjung	-0.7	29.5	10.8	19.9	2.6
	Tanahu	-0.06	32.8	11.6	22.2	2.4
	Syangja	-1.28	37	13.9	26.8	2.9
	Parbat	-1.09	32.6	12.6	22.9	3.4
	Baglung	-0.72	35.7	13.7	24.4	4.4
Lumbini=3 districts	Gulmi	-1.23	41.1	16.9	31.7	4.5
	Arghakhanchi	-1.05	42	16.9	32.6	3.8
	Palpa	-0.61	35.3	12.5	24.6	2.2
Karnali=2	Dailekh	-0.35	22.4	7.7	13.4	2.4
	Salyan	-0.16	23.4	7.1	12.8	1.8
Sudurpashchim = 5	Bajhang	-0.3	33.1	18	25.1	11.9
	Baitadi	-0.34	26.5	9.4	16.3	3.3
	Dadeldhura	-0.17	29.6	11.1	19.3	3.8
	Doti	-0.32	39	14	25.4	4.3
	Achham	-1.13	39.1	19.3	29.5	10.6
Total =34 districts		**-0.67**	**25.8**	**9.5**	**16.3**	**3.3**

Annex 18: Distribution of absent households by district with positive population growth

Province	Districts	Population Growth Rate	Households	Total	Male	Female
Koshi = 4 districts	Jhapa	1.97	28.5	9.1	15.3	3.5
	Morang	1.66	22.3	6.6	11.5	2
	Sunsari	1.86	22.8	6.7	11.6	2.1
	Udayapur	0.68	21.6	6.2	11.3	1.4
Madhesh = 8 districts	Saptari	0.96	19.6	4.7	9.2	0.3
	Siraha	1.43	32.3	7.6	15.3	0.3
	Dhanusa	1.34	34.4	8.5	16.7	0.4
	Mahottari	1.14	30.8	7.5	14.6	0.4
	Sarlahi	1.09	17.6	4.1	7.5	0.6
	Rautahat	1.63	13.9	2.9	5.5	0.3
	Bara	1.0	11	2.3	4.1	0.4
	Parsa	0.82	8.3	1.8	3.1	0.4
Bagmati= 7 districts	Rasuwa	0.72	16.2	4.9	5.5	4.3
	Kathmandu	1.51	17.8	7.1	9	5.2
	Bhaktapur	3.35	15.9	5.6	7.3	3.8
	Lalitpur	1.58	17.2	6.7	8.4	4.9
	Sindhuli	0.12	16.3	4.6	8.2	1.1
	Makwanpur	0.99	15	4.3	6.5	2.1
	Chitawan	2.07	26.1	9	14.4	3.9
Gandaki = 3 districts	Mustang	0.69	20.6	8.4	9.4	7.1
	Kaski	1.9	28.3	11.1	17.3	5.1
	Nawalparasi (East)	1.86	35.6	11.8	21.4	3.3
Lumbini= 9 districts	Rukum (East)	0.63	19.6	5.5	10.4	0.8
	Rolpa	0.43	28.8	8.5	16.2	1.8
	Pyuthan	0.16	41.3	13.7	27.9	2.1
	Nawalparasi (West)	1.47	26.5	7.2	13.1	1.7
	Rupandehi	2.33	24.7	7.1	12.2	2.2
	Kapilvastu	1.7	25.5	6.4	11.7	1.3
	Dang	1.92	25.8	7.9	14.7	1.7
	Banke	1.97	17.4	4.9	8.7	1.3
	Bardiya	0.72	19.4	6.4	11.3	2

Province	Districts	Population Growth Rate	Households	Total	Male	Female
Karnali = 8 districts	Dolpa	1.47	3.4	1	1.5	0.5
	Mugu	1.49	5.9	1.7	2.7	0.8
	Humla	0.82	4.7	1.4	1.8	1
	Jumla	0.8	6.5	2.3	3.4	1.2
	Jajarkot	0.96	10.1	3.2	5	1.5
	Rukum (West)	0.68	19.4	6.1	10.5	2
	Surkhet	1.62	21.2	7.5	12.7	2.6
	Kalikot	0.57	10.3	3.8	5.4	2.3
Sudurpashchim = 4 districts	Bajura	0.25	22	10.4	14.3	6.6
	Darchula	0	17.9	5.6	9.8	1.6
	Kailali	1.48	26.9	12.2	18.4	6.4
	Kanchanpur	1.25	32.4	12.9	21.4	5.4
Total = 43 districts		**1.46**	**22.5**	**6.9**	**11.5**	**2.4**

Annex 19: Distribution of foreign-born population by 5 years age group, NPHC 2021

Area	Age Groups															
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75+
Nepal	1.3	2.6	3.6	5.0	8.9	10.6	10.5	11.4	9.5	8.3	7.2	5.7	5.1	4.2	3.3	2.7
Ecological belt																
Mountain	1.6	3.6	5.5	6.6	8.4	11.9	12.0	10.8	9.7	8.2	7.3	4.9	3.2	2.3	1.9	2.2
Hill	3.1	5.8	7.1	9.2	10.5	10.9	10.3	10.0	8.5	7.1	5.7	4.1	3.0	2.1	1.3	1.4
Tarai	0.9	1.9	2.8	4.1	8.6	10.5	10.6	11.7	9.7	8.5	7.5	6.1	5.6	4.7	3.7	3.0
Province																
Koshi	0.7	1.9	3.0	4.4	8.3	10.2	10.3	11.1	9.9	8.8	8.2	6.9	6.0	4.5	3.1	2.7
Madhesh	0.2	0.5	0.7	2.1	8.0	10.1	10.7	12.7	10.2	9.4	8.0	6.6	6.4	5.7	4.9	3.8
Bagmati	2.7	5.0	5.8	8.4	10.5	11.2	10.7	10.5	9.3	7.6	5.9	4.2	3.2	2.1	1.3	1.6
Gandaki	2.8	5.7	7.6	10.4	11.3	11.1	10.0	9.4	7.7	6.4	5.4	4.1	3.2	2.2	1.3	1.2
Lumbini	1.1	2.6	3.9	5.2	9.4	11.5	11.2	11.8	9.4	7.6	6.7	5.3	4.6	4.0	3.1	2.5
Karnali	7.6	12.0	15.1	15.3	10.2	8.4	7.4	6.2	5.1	3.5	3.4	2.2	1.4	1.0	0.8	0.5
Sudurpashchim	5.1	9.9	13.4	11.3	8.8	7.6	7.4	7.0	6.4	5.8	5.4	3.9	3.2	2.1	1.6	1.3
Urban/rural municipality																
Urban Municipalities	1.5	3.1	4.2	5.7	9.0	10.3	10.4	11.2	9.4	8.2	7.0	5.6	4.9	3.9	3.0	2.5
Rural Municipalities	0.7	1.6	2.2	3.6	8.9	11.0	11.0	11.9	9.6	8.4	7.6	6.0	5.5	4.8	4.0	3.2

Place of residence

Urban	1.7	3.4	4.2	6.1	9.3	10.8	10.8	11.6	9.8	8.4	6.7	5.3	4.4	3.3	2.4	2.1
Peri Urban	0.8	1.7	2.5	3.8	8.7	10.6	10.6	11.7	9.5	8.4	7.6	6.2	5.8	4.9	4.0	3.2
Rural	2.9	6.1	8.4	9.1	8.9	9.5	9.1	9.0	7.7	6.9	6.4	4.9	4.0	3.0	2.1	1.9

Family structure

Nuclear Family	1.4	3.6	5.4	5.7	6.6	9.5	12.1	15.2	12.5	9.6	6.7	4.2	3.2	2.1	1.5	0.9
Extended Family	1.2	2.0	2.3	4.4	10.5	11.2	9.3	8.6	7.3	7.3	7.6	6.9	6.7	5.8	4.7	4.1

Wealth quintile

Lowest	1.0	2.0	2.5	3.5	8.4	10.1	10.8	12.1	9.3	7.8	7.0	6.0	6.1	5.4	4.6	3.4
Lower	1.2	2.4	3.4	4.5	9.1	10.3	10.3	11.4	9.2	8.3	7.3	5.6	5.5	4.6	3.9	3.0
Middle	1.1	2.3	3.2	4.7	9.2	10.9	10.6	11.7	9.3	8.1	7.1	5.6	5.3	4.5	3.7	2.9
Higher	1.5	3.3	4.4	6.2	9.8	11.5	10.9	11.4	9.0	7.7	6.5	5.1	4.4	3.5	2.6	2.2
Highest	1.4	2.9	3.9	5.1	7.5	9.1	9.8	10.8	10.6	9.4	8.2	6.7	5.3	4.0	2.7	2.7

Annex 20: Distribution of foreign-born Population by broader age group and country/region of birth, NPHC 2021

Age Group	India	SAARC	ASEAN	Middle East	Other Asian	European Countries	North/ South American	Other	Total (No.)
Nepal									
0 - 14 years	91.9	0.3	0.7	1.7	2.8	1.2	0.7	0.7	55,104
15 - 59 years	97.9	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	566,788
60+ years	96.2	0.8	2.1	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	112,771
Total	97.2	0.4	0.9	0.3	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.1	734,663
Province									
Koshi									
0 - 14 years	94.4	0.3	0.6	2.5	1.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	8,003
15 - 59 years	96.9	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	111,931
60+ years	94.1	2.7	2.6	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	23,576
Total	96.3	1.2	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	143,510
Madhesh									
0 - 14 years	99.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	3,404
15 - 59 years	99.8	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	184,069
60+ years	99.9	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	49,124
Total	99.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	236,597
Bagmati									
0 - 14 years	77.6	0.6	2.0	4.3	7.1	3.6	2.6	2.2	12,282
15 - 59 years	92.8	1.0	1.8	0.2	2.8	0.6	0.3	0.3	70,690
60+ years	84.2	1.4	6.5	0.1	4.7	1.2	0.6	1.2	7,412
Total	90.0	1.0	2.3	0.8	3.6	1.0	0.7	0.6	90,384
Gandaki									
00 - 14 years	88.2	0.2	0.8	1.6	6.2	1.8	0.4	0.8	6,763
15 - 59 years	95.1	0.5	1.5	0.4	2.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	31,943
60+ years	82.6	0.9	12.7	0.2	2.4	0.9	0.2	0.1	3,309
Total	93.0	0.5	2.3	0.6	2.8	0.6	0.1	0.2	42,015
Lumbini									
00 - 14 years	97.6	0.1	0.2	0.4	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	14,383
15 - 59 years	99.1	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	146,038

Age Group	India	SAARC	ASEAN	Middle East	Other Asian	European Countries	North/ South American	Other	Total (No.)
60+ years	96.6	0.2	2.8	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	26,756
Total	98.6	0.1	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	187,177
Karnali									
00 - 14 years	98.9	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	-	0.4	-	1,886
15 - 59 years	96.8	0.2	1.5	0.8	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	3,355
60+ years	93.0	1.0	1.5	-	3.0	1.0	-	0.5	200
Total	97.4	0.3	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	5,441
Sudurpashchim									
00 - 14 years	99.4	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	8,383
15 - 59 years	99.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18,762
60+ years	95.5	0.7	3.7	-	0.1	0.0	-	0.0	2,394
Total	**99.0**	**0.3**	**0.5**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**29,539**

Annex 21: Distribution of foreign citizen by 5 years age group, NPHC 2021

Area	Age Groups															
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75+
Nepal	4.7	5.7	5.8	8.3	11.9	12.7	11.1	10.5	7.9	6.4	4.6	3.3	2.6	1.8	1.4	1.2
Ecological belt																
Mountain	1.6	1.4	1.2	4.1	10.9	18.4	16.3	13.5	10.2	9.3	6.3	3.9	1.2	0.4	0.4	0.8
Hill	5.1	6.4	6.5	9.7	12.9	13.1	11.2	10.1	7.8	6.2	4.1	2.8	1.8	1.0	0.7	0.8
Tarai	4.6	5.3	5.5	7.3	11.1	12.2	10.9	10.7	8.0	6.5	5.0	3.7	3.2	2.5	2.0	1.5
Province																
Koshi	4.3	4.7	5.3	7.2	12.4	14.6	12.3	11.0	7.6	6.2	4.9	3.4	2.4	1.8	1.1	0.9
Madhesh	2.7	3.6	3.5	4.3	8.6	10.5	10.6	11.9	9.4	8.0	6.5	5.2	5.0	4.1	3.7	2.6
Bagmati	5.3	6.5	6.8	9.7	12.3	12.8	11.0	10.1	7.9	6.4	4.2	2.8	1.8	1.0	0.7	0.8
Gandaki	5.5	6.6	5.9	11.1	14.7	14.1	11.4	9.9	6.8	5.6	3.5	2.1	1.2	0.7	0.4	0.5
Lumbini	5.0	5.7	6.1	8.3	12.4	13.5	11.4	10.5	7.5	5.8	4.2	3.0	2.3	1.8	1.3	1.1
Karnali	7.7	9.5	6.5	12.8	17.0	12.1	10.5	7.7	5.5	3.2	2.8	2.0	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.7
Sudurpashchim	7.9	9.1	9.4	11.3	12.7	11.4	9.0	8.3	6.1	4.8	3.6	2.1	1.9	1.0	0.8	0.7
Urban/rural municipality																
Urban Municipalities	5.2	6.2	6.4	8.9	12.2	12.7	10.9	10.2	7.7	6.2	4.3	3.1	2.3	1.5	1.2	1.0
Rural Municipalities	2.7	3.2	3.3	5.4	10.3	12.9	12.0	11.8	9.0	7.4	6.2	4.3	3.7	3.2	2.6	2.0
Place of residence																
Urban	5.3	6.7	6.8	9.4	12.3	12.6	10.8	10.2	7.7	6.1	4.2	2.9	2.1	1.3	0.9	0.9
Peri Urban	3.6	3.9	4.2	6.0	11.0	12.5	11.1	11.0	8.4	7.1	5.5	4.2	3.8	3.2	2.6	1.9

Area	Age Groups															
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75+
Rural	3.8	4.2	4.3	7.7	11.4	14.9	14.0	10.8	8.2	7.0	5.1	3.3	2.0	1.3	0.9	0.8
Family structure																
Nuclear Family	6.6	8.8	8.8	7.7	8.3	10.2	11.1	11.8	9.1	6.9	4.3	2.6	1.7	1.0	0.7	0.5
Extended Family	3.6	3.5	3.3	8.7	14.7	14.4	10.6	9.0	6.8	5.9	4.9	4.0	3.6	2.7	2.2	1.9
Wealth quintile																
Lowest	3.5	4.5	4.4	5.3	8.9	10.0	10.8	10.9	8.5	7.0	5.8	4.7	5.2	4.1	3.6	2.6
Lower	4.1	5.0	5.1	7.2	11.0	12.1	10.6	10.6	8.2	7.0	5.4	3.6	3.4	2.7	2.3	1.6
Middle	4.9	5.2	4.9	8.0	12.4	12.8	10.9	10.8	7.9	6.3	4.7	3.4	2.8	2.2	1.6	1.2
Higher	5.9	7.0	6.5	9.4	13.2	14.1	11.4	10.0	7.0	5.5	3.6	2.4	1.7	1.0	0.8	0.7
Highest	4.7	6.3	7.0	8.1	9.5	10.1	10.1	10.1	9.0	7.4	5.5	4.2	3.0	2.1	1.4	1.4

Annex 22: Distribution of population in Nepal by nationality/country of nationality, NPHC 2021

Area	Nepal		India		Other country		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Nepal	**29,027,171**	**99.5**	**132,781**	**0.5**	**4,437**	**0.0**	**29,164,578**
Male	14,177,720	99.5	73,243	0.5	2,480	0.0	14,253,551
Female	14,849,451	99.6	59,538	0.4	1,957	0.0	14,911,027
Province							
Koshi	**4,942,158**	**99.6**	**19,019**	**0.4**	**228**	**0.0**	**4,961,412**
Male	2,405,833	99.5	11,378	0.5	115	0.0	2,417,328
Female	2,536,325	99.7	7,641	0.3	113	0.0	2,544,084
Madhesh	**6,087,176**	**99.6**	**27,307**	**0.4**	**114**	**0.0**	**6,114,600**
Male	3,059,884	99.8	5,809	0.2	56	0.0	3,065,751
Female	3,027,292	99.3	21,498	0.7	58	0.0	3,048,849
Bagmati	**6,065,096**	**99.2**	**48,361**	**0.8**	**3,256**	**0.1**	**6,116,866**
Male	3,013,401	98.8	33,462	1.1	1,732	0.1	3,048,684
Female	3,051,695	99.5	14,899	0.5	1,524	0.1	3,068,182
Gandaki	**2,453,472**	**99.5**	**12,321**	**0.5**	**612**	**0.0**	**2,466,427**
Male	1,161,386	99.2	8,988	0.8	447	0.0	1,170,833
Female	1,292,086	99.7	3,333	0.3	165	0.0	1,295,594
Lumbini	**5,103,243**	**99.6**	**18,681**	**0.4**	**150**	**0.0**	**5,122,078**
Male	2,445,019	99.6	9,306	0.4	80	0.0	2,454,408
Female	2,658,224	99.6	9,375	0.4	70	0.0	2,667,670
Karnali	**1,687,699**	**100.0**	**691**	**0.0**	**22**	**0.0**	**1,688,412**
Male	823,301	99.9	448	0.1	12	0.0	823,761
Female	864,398	100.0	243	0.0	10	0.0	864,651
Sudurpashchim	**2,688,327**	**99.8**	**6,401**	**0.2**	**55**	**0.0**	**2,694,783**
Male	1,268,896	99.7	3,852	0.3	38	0.0	1,272,786
Female	1,419,431	99.8	2,549	0.2	17	0.0	1,421,997
Ecological belt							
Mountain	**1,770,473**	**99.9**	**2,119**	**0.1**	**355**	**0.0**	**1,772,948**
Male	872,145	99.8	1,953	0.2	161	0.0	874,260
Female	898,328	100.0	166	0.0	194	0.0	898,688
Hill	**11,699,111**	**99.5**	**54,839**	**0.5**	**3,508**	**0.0**	**11,757,624**
Male	5,676,935	99.3	38,252	0.7	1,963	0.0	5,717,247
Female	6,022,176	99.7	16,587	0.3	1,545	0.0	6,040,377
Tarai	**15,557,587**	**99.5**	**75,823**	**0.5**	**574**	**0.0**	**15,634,006**
Male	7,628,640	99.6	33,038	0.4	356	0.0	7,662,044

Area	Nepal		India		Other country		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Female	7,928,947	99.5	42,785	0.5	218	0.0	7,971,962
Urban-rural municipality							
Urban Municipalities	**19,182,996**	**99.4**	**109,904**	**0.6**	**3,702**	**0.0**	**19,296,788**
Male	9,387,637	99.3	64,793	0.7	2,010	0.0	9,454,545
Female	9,795,359	99.5	45,111	0.5	1,692	0.0	9,842,243
Rural Municipalities	**9,844,175**	**99.8**	**22,877**	**0.2**	**735**	**0.0**	**9,867,790**
Male	4,790,083	99.8	8,450	0.2	470	0.0	4,799,006
Female	5,054,092	99.7	14,427	0.3	265	0.0	5,068,784
Place of residence							
Urban	**7,875,445**	**98.9**	**84,779**	**1.1**	**3,348**	**0.0**	**7,963,572**
Male	3,923,891	98.6	53,289	1.3	1,803	0.0	3,978,983
Female	3,951,554	99.2	31,490	0.8	1,545	0.0	3,984,589
Peri-urban	**11,513,605**	**99.6**	**40,250**	**0.3**	**427**	**0.0**	**11,554,282**
Male	5,635,668	99.7	14,277	0.3	233	0.0	56,50,178
Female	5,877,937	99.6	25,973	0.4	194	0.0	59,04,104
Rural	**9,638,121**	**99.9**	**7,752**	**0.1**	**851**	**0.0**	**9,646,724**
Male	4,618,161	99.9	5,677	0.1	552	0.0	4,624,390
Female	5,019,960	100	2,075	0	299	0.0	5,022,334

Annex 23: Distribution of population by age group whose former place of residence preceding the census was abroad by length of stay in the current place, NPHC 2021

Age group	Less than 1 year	1-4 years	5-9 years	10-24 years	25-49 years	50 years and above	Length of stay not stated	Total (No.)
Nepal								
0 - 14 years	10.5	43.6	28.4	13.0	0.0	0.0	4.5	53,686
15 - 59 years	4.6	22.8	16.7	34.7	19.5	0.4	1.4	715,806
60+ years	0.8	5.1	4.3	12.9	39.6	35.9	1.2	134,826
Total	**4.4**	**21.4**	**15.5**	**30.2**	**21.3**	**5.7**	**1.5**	**904,318**
Province								
Koshi								
0 - 14 years	8.2	40.8	33.6	15.7	0.0	0.0	1.7	7,634
15 - 59 years	4.5	24.5	18.6	32.8	18.4	0.7	0.5	146,836
60+ years	0.7	4.7	4.3	14.1	45.6	30.0	0.5	27,004
Total	**4.1**	**22.2**	**17.1**	**29.3**	**21.7**	**5.0**	**0.5**	**181,474**
Madhesh								
0 - 14 years	8.3	46.3	25.5	14.5	0.0	0.0	5.4	3,463
15 - 59 years	1.2	12.5	12.0	42.3	31.2	0.3	0.5	190,548
60+ years	0.1	2.1	1.5	4.1	40.5	51.0	0.7	49,107
Total	**1.1**	**10.9**	**10.1**	**34.2**	**32.6**	**10.5**	**0.7**	**243,118**
Bagmati								
0 - 14 years	10.2	46.9	29.1	12.7	0.0	0.0	1.3	11,087
15 - 59 years	6.6	31.7	21.6	29.2	10.0	0.3	0.7	90,898
60+ years	2.3	11.0	7.8	24.1	38.4	15.4	0.9	8,731
Total	**6.6**	**31.6**	**21.2**	**27.2**	**11.2**	**1.4**	**0.8**	**110,716**
Gandaki								
00 - 14 years	9.3	38.6	28.2	12.1	0.0	0.0	11.8	6,491
15 - 59 years	6.4	30.3	21.0	28.1	8.2	0.4	5.5	56,833
60+ years	1.7	9.2	8.9	31.8	35.3	9.0	4.0	9,744
Total	**6.1**	**28.3**	**20.0**	**27.2**	**11.1**	**1.5**	**5.9**	**73,068**
Lumbini								
0 - 14 years	10.2	42.9	28.6	12.4	0.0	0.0	5.8	13,753
15 - 59 years	3.8	20.9	16.4	36.8	19.9	0.3	1.9	175,895
60+ years	0.7	4.9	4.6	13.2	38.1	36.7	1.9	33,174
Total	**3.8**	**19.9**	**15.4**	**31.8**	**21.4**	**5.7**	**2.2**	**222,822**

Age group	Less than 1 year	1-4 years	5-9 years	10-24 years	25-49 years	50 years and above	Length of stay not stated	Total (No.)
Karnali								
0 - 14 years	18.4	45.1	21.8	8.2	0.0	0.0	6.5	2,298
15 - 59 years	19.1	46.6	15.7	14.0	2.5	0.1	2.0	16,691
60+ years	5.2	21.7	16.5	35.8	15.6	3.6	1.6	1,650
Total	**17.9**	**44.4**	**16.5**	**15.1**	**3.2**	**0.4**	**2.5**	**20,639**
Sudurpashchim								
0 - 14 years	13.1	45.5	25.5	13.1	0.0	0.0	2.7	8,960
15 - 59 years	11.4	34.2	16.3	26.3	10.1	0.4	1.1	38,105
60+ years	2.6	14.3	11.2	26.2	29.0	15.8	0.8	5,416
Total	**10.8**	**34.1**	**17.4**	**24.1**	**10.3**	**1.9**	**1.3**	**52,481**

Annex 24: Distribution of population from a foreign country by reasons of stay in Nepal, by sex, NPHC 2021

Reason for migration	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Work/employment	70,876	20.2	13,816	2.5	84,692	9.4
Trade/business	12,918	3.7	4,327	0.8	17,245	1.9
Study/training	9,474	2.7	8,299	1.5	17,773	2.0
Marriage	5,218	1.5	406,301	73.4	411,519	45.5
Dependent	43,634	12.4	51,663	9.3	95,297	10.5
Natural calamities	913	0.3	823	0.1	1,736	0.2
Agriculture	6,649	1.9	5,048	0.9	11,697	1.3
Returning back	184,007	52.4	45,377	8.2	229,384	25.4
Others	12,790	3.6	12,748	2.3	25,538	2.8
Not stated	4,625	1.3	4,812	0.9	9,437	1.0
Total	**351,104**	**100.0**	**553,214**	**100.0**	**904,318**	**100.0**

Annex 25: Distribution of absent population abroad by districts

District	India	SAARC country	ASEAN country	Middle east country	Other Asian country	European union country	Other European country	North American country	South African/ Caribbean country	African country	Pacific Ocean Region country	Others	Not Stated	Total
Taplejung	814	24	1,417	2,709	514	238	270	125	5	19	58	24	20	6,237
Sankhuwasabha	829	32	1,725	3,763	705	257	247	186	5	17	107	12	19	7,904
Solukhumbu	432	16	621	1,764	737	678	172	380	6	7	106	18	11	4,948
Okhaldhunga	1,480	17	1,411	3,094	530	227	307	199	4	41	109	7	23	7,449
Khotang	1,020	21	2,015	6,440	847	258	346	115	5	20	79	22	19	11,207
Bhojpur	1,270	35	2,084	4,403	588	202	250	133	2	8	103	17	14	9,109
Dhankuta	487	28	2,401	5,130	593	336	222	200	2	21	149	11	12	9,592
Tehrathum	587	12	1,352	2,840	439	150	135	101	2	6	121	19	8	5,772
Panchthar	1,229	21	2,727	5,750	1,121	221	283	147	1	17	143	19	22	11,701
Ilam	3,111	56	3,603	9,331	997	429	388	557	4	35	286	30	18	18,845
Jhapa	15,948	261	8,884	50,337	4,332	2,923	1,745	3,346	25	212	3,136	92	73	91,314
Morang	11,039	289	10,829	41,487	3,165	2,109	1,345	2,701	15	126	2,588	92	83	75,868
Sunsari	5,611	246	7,820	33,994	4,498	1,719	4,073	1,751	28	190	1,939	94	108	62,071
Udayapur	2,472	58	4,496	11,495	884	375	356	430	11	50	269	79	42	21,017
Saptari	4,596	78	9,270	18,367	208	177	67	349	13	21	169	100	95	33,510
Siraha	5,616	103	6,607	42,897	255	165	124	341	6	29	157	85	106	56,491
Dhanusa	7,727	185	9,044	55,003	326	276	110	585	2	38	218	89	85	73,688
Mahottari	10,483	94	8,720	32,286	224	149	66	327		48	132	64	81	52,674
Sarlahi	6,672	94	7,802	18,042	630	399	121	654	9	30	457	94	80	35,084
Rautahat	7,286	74	5,641	9,706	270	173	58	318	7	21	225	37	76	23,892

District	India	SAARC country	ASEAN country	Middle east country	Other Asian country	European union country	Other European country	North American country	South African/ Caribbean country	African country	Pacific Ocean Region country	Others	Not Stated	Total
Bara	2,054	71	4,663	8,781	432	335	114	357	7	43	385	53	62	17,357
Parsa	2,922	101	3,013	4,522	203	164	63	331	6	16	180	39	30	11,590
Dolakha	2,033	27	1,088	3,236	1,096	562	163	437	6	53	354	20	25	9,100
Sindhupalchok	2,785	54	1,946	8,589	1,321	1,093	234	770	9	102	500	56	73	17,532
Rasuwa	217	6	202	1,252	172	228	26	96	1	11	83	3	5	2,302
Dhading	3,699	74	2,154	8,079	1,988	1,120	308	589	18	59	838	76	61	19,063
Nuwakot	2,189	67	1,756	7,273	1,798	815	220	646	7	56	691	60	30	15,608
Kathmandu	6,125	886	5,457	34,208	16,225	11,991	8,796	28,139	153	826	29,954	1,287	837	144,884
Bhaktapur	842	169	1,109	6,690	2,961	2,078	1,042	3,869	12	165	5,034	37	31	24,039
Lalitpur	1,282	262	1,737	8,381	4,215	2,686	3,342	7,113	27	225	7,394	115	95	36,874
Kavrepalanchok	915	134	2,498	8,277	2,797	1,298	380	1,446	11	87	1,910	52	53	19,858
Ramechhap	1,627	37	1,305	4,480	1,076	480	187	329	14	50	212	21	35	9,853
Sindhuli	1,623	61	2,884	7,365	620	336	103	343	4	61	280	19	34	13,733
Makwanpur	1,585	97	2,753	10,381	1,795	842	257	924	16	72	1,216	50	32	20,020
Chitawan	7,261	221	3,003	25,953	8,799	4,648	1,964	3,864	47	263	8,876	79	86	65,064
Gorkha	4,295	64	2,270	10,145	2,326	1,124	688	1,012	13	102	849	45	135	23,068
Manang	36	1	19	18	62	41	9	114		3	14		2	319
Mustang	190	1	10	65	108	334	43	418		1	32		5	1,207
Myagdi	742	22	817	4,768	1,550	1,146	395	413	2	26	827	23	35	10,766
Kaski	6,749	335	2,276	22,905	10,982	5,145	6,021	4,967	36	174	6,399	87	251	66,327
Lamjung	2,435	47	1,096	9,244	1,280	713	658	677	1	66	568	26	60	16,871

District	India	SAARC country	ASEAN country	Middle east country	Other Asian country	European union country	Other European country	North American country	South African/ Caribbean country	African country	Pacific Ocean Region country	Others	Not Stated	Total
Tanahu	7,941	199	2,182	20,357	1,945	1,378	920	1,001	13	120	1,221	32	63	37,372
Nawalparasi (East)	9,118	128	3,321	20,534	4,282	2,061	743	1,517	8	139	2,819	29	72	44,771
Syangja	9,435	144	1,579	16,960	3,040	1,265	697	952	8	120	961	41	87	35,289
Parbat	4,163	61	677	6,564	1,816	1,175	353	961	13	38	554	24	47	16,446
Baglung	9,562	63	1,834	10,061	7,470	2,054	824	1,152	10	83	904	38	102	34,157
Rukum (East)	908	1	285	1,381	147	71	40	227	4	14	18	6	6	3,108
Rolpa	8,814	30	1,799	8,530	289	136	98	88	24	58	22	45	91	20,024
Pyuthan	23,954	22	1,105	5,712	348	128	76	179	6	34	82	7	67	31,720
Gulmi	22,126	98	1,439	11,609	3,164	1,225	422	642	23	97	587	45	73	41,550
Arghakhanchi	18,859	41	1,096	7,693	909	351	104	457	2	52	249	54	67	29,934
Palpa	12,920	94	2,291	12,273	1,089	469	337	572	9	117	448	15	64	30,698
Nawalparasi (West)	6,232	86	3,752	13,788	1,339	751	365	628	7	103	781	40	70	27,942
Rupandehi	20,674	226	5,272	32,821	6,939	3,228	2,370	3,321	57	269	4,402	94	145	79,818
Kapilvastu	21,108	67	3,170	17,027	697	499	179	530	19	58	333	71	123	43,881
Dang	21,290	127	6,497	18,519	1,776	928	691	2,023	11	136	1,158	79	159	53,394
Banke	13,805	87	3,124	9,813	722	398	201	566	7	129	559	83	100	29,594
Bardiya	17,013	67	2,565	7,853	648	283	75	399	2	57	197	32	52	29,243
Dolpa	233	4	29	53	20	27	9	32		1	12	4	6	430
Mugu	621	5	110	125	43	81	8	109			7		7	1,116

District	India	SAARC country	ASEAN country	Middle east country	Other Asian country	European union country	Other European country	North American country	South African/ Caribbean country	African country	Pacific Ocean Region country	Others	Not Stated	Total
Humla	443	3	25	36	80	78	8	94	4	5	17	1	2	796
Jumla	1,983	14	172	322	40	36	8	40	1	14	41	8	24	2,703
Kalikot	4,854	2	249	320	93	8	4	20		2	8	10	16	5,586
Dailekh	16,945	24	641	1,328	135	27	16	63	3	22	27	17	95	19,343
Jajarkot	4,135	10	842	969	70	20	13	29	1	4	13	3	27	6,136
Rukum (West)	5,944	18	1,297	2,075	264	63	21	397	3	13	37	23	38	10,193
Salyan	8,171	25	3,490	4,766	195	118	20	93	1	16	60	23	46	17,024
Surkhet	23,028	61	1,871	4,417	570	176	141	278	1	90	242	27	91	30,993
Bajura	13,482	18	237	365	76	30	8	51	1	5	22	18	26	14,339
Bajhang	32,972	17	300	303	203	58	11	71		11	54	18	75	34,093
Darchula	5,428	16	635	932	153	55	50	94	1	15	28	13	28	7,448
Baitadi	20,341	25	778	1,183	207	40	13	106	1	21	45	14	47	22,821
Dadeldhura	13,994	16	520	660	135	40	8	69	1	15	27	10	23	15,518
Doti	27,368	10	259	604	110	42	8	68	1	13	38	20	33	28,574
Achham	43,210	23	157	324	147	64	19	118	5	8	30	7	55	44,167
Kailali	98,523	90	2,105	5,259	1,533	549	228	959	5	102	757	60	158	110,328
Kanchanpur	54,943	73	2,315	5,628	947	453	206	783	16	105	626	45	95	66,235
Total	744,855	6,476	198,545	804,614	125,310	67,005	44,992	88,488	810	5,503	94,533	4,209	5,252	2,190,592

Annex 26: Emigration, immigration, gross and net migration rate per 100 by districts

District	Emigration rate			Immigration rate			Gross migration rate			Net migration rate		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Nepal	12.6	2.6	**7.5**	1.3	3.7	**2.5**	13.9	6.3	**10.0**	-11.3	1.1	**-5.0**
Taplejung	8.8	1.4	**5.2**	0.5	0.5	**0.5**	9.4	2.0	**5.7**	-8.3	-0.9	**-4.6**
Sankhuwasabha	8.6	1.3	**5.0**	2.3	0.6	**1.5**	11.0	1.9	**6.5**	-6.3	-0.7	**-3.5**
Solukhumbu	6.8	2.6	**4.7**	0.1	0.2	**0.2**	7.0	2.8	**4.9**	-6.7	-2.4	**-4.6**
Okhaldhunga	9.2	1.7	**5.3**	0.1	0.1	**0.1**	9.3	1.8	**5.5**	-9.1	-1.5	**-5.2**
Khotang	11.6	1.3	**6.4**	0.1	0.1	**0.1**	11.8	1.4	**6.5**	-11.5	-1.1	**-6.3**
Bhojpur	10.3	1.3	**5.8**	0.2	0.4	**0.3**	10.5	1.7	**6.1**	-10.1	-0.9	**-5.5**
Dhankuta	11.5	1.5	**6.4**	0.8	0.5	**0.7**	12.2	2.0	**7.0**	-10.7	-0.9	**-5.7**
Tehrathum	12.0	1.2	**6.5**	0.6	0.5	**0.5**	12.6	1.7	**7.0**	-11.4	-0.8	**-6.0**
Panchthar	12.1	1.6	**6.8**	0.4	0.6	**0.5**	12.4	2.2	**7.3**	-11.7	-1.0	**-6.3**
Ilam	10.7	2.8	**6.7**	0.7	1.8	**1.3**	11.4	4.6	**8.0**	-10.1	-0.9	**-5.5**
Jhapa	15.3	3.5	**9.1**	4.0	6.5	**5.3**	19.3	10.0	**14.5**	-11.2	3.0	**-3.8**
Morang	11.5	2.0	**6.6**	2.1	6.0	**4.1**	13.5	8.1	**10.7**	-9.4	4.0	**-2.5**
Sunsari	11.6	2.1	**6.7**	1.7	5.0	**3.4**	13.3	7.1	**10.1**	-9.9	2.9	**-3.3**
Udayapur	11.3	1.4	**6.2**	0.4	0.7	**0.6**	11.8	2.1	**6.7**	-10.9	-0.7	**-5.6**
Saptari	9.2	0.3	**4.7**	0.3	6.6	**3.5**	9.5	7.0	**8.2**	-8.9	6.3	**-1.3**
Siraha	15.3	0.3	**7.6**	0.3	5.5	**3.0**	15.6	5.8	**10.6**	-14.9	5.3	**-4.7**
Dhanusa	16.7	0.4	**8.5**	0.5	6.8	**3.7**	17.3	7.2	**12.2**	-16.2	6.4	**-4.8**
Mahottari	14.6	0.4	**7.5**	0.4	7.9	**4.2**	15.0	8.3	**11.6**	-14.2	7.4	**-3.3**
Sarlahi	7.5	0.6	**4.1**	0.4	5.9	**3.1**	7.9	6.5	**7.2**	-7.1	5.3	**-0.9**
Rautahat	5.5	0.3	**2.9**	0.3	6.3	**3.3**	5.8	6.6	**6.2**	-5.3	6.0	**0.3**
Bara	4.1	0.4	**2.3**	0.7	7.4	**4.0**	4.7	7.8	**6.2**	-3.4	7.0	**1.7**
Parsa	3.1	0.4	**1.8**	1.4	12.6	**6.8**	4.4	12.9	**8.5**	-1.7	12.2	**5.0**
Dolakha	8.1	2.6	**5.3**	0.4	0.3	**0.4**	8.5	2.9	**5.6**	-7.8	-2.2	**-4.9**
Sindhupalchok	8.6	4.8	**6.7**	0.4	0.4	**0.4**	9.0	5.2	**7.1**	-8.3	-4.4	**-6.3**
Rasuwa	5.5	4.3	**4.9**	0.2	0.1	**0.2**	5.7	4.4	**5.1**	-5.4	-4.2	**-4.8**
Dhading	10.0	1.9	**5.9**	0.6	0.3	**0.5**	10.6	2.3	**6.3**	-9.4	-1.6	**-5.4**
Nuwakot	9.4	2.6	**5.9**	0.3	0.2	**0.3**	9.8	2.8	**6.2**	-9.1	-2.3	**-5.7**
Kathmandu	9.0	5.2	**7.1**	2.6	2.1	**2.3**	11.6	7.2	**9.4**	-6.4	-3.1	**-4.7**
Bhaktapur	7.3	3.8	**5.6**	0.9	0.7	**0.8**	8.3	4.5	**6.4**	-6.4	-3.0	**-4.7**

District	Emigration rate			Immigration rate			Gross migration rate			Net migration rate		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Lalitpur	8.4	4.9	**6.7**	1.9	1.7	**1.8**	10.3	6.6	**8.5**	-6.5	-3.3	**-4.9**
Kavrepalanchok	8.3	2.7	**5.5**	0.4	0.3	**0.3**	8.7	3.0	**5.8**	-7.9	-2.4	**-5.1**
Ramechhap	9.7	2.2	**5.8**	0.2	0.2	**0.2**	9.9	2.4	**6.0**	-9.5	-2.0	**-5.6**
Sindhuli	8.2	1.1	**4.6**	0.3	0.3	**0.3**	8.5	1.4	**4.9**	-7.9	-0.8	**-4.3**
Makwanpur	6.5	2.1	**4.3**	0.9	0.8	**0.8**	7.4	2.8	**5.1**	-5.6	-1.3	**-3.4**
Chitawan	14.4	3.9	**9.0**	2.9	2.3	**2.6**	17.3	6.2	**11.6**	-11.5	-1.6	**-6.5**
Gorkha	16.4	2.8	**9.2**	0.6	0.5	**0.6**	17.0	3.3	**9.8**	-15.7	-2.3	**-8.6**
Manang	6.4	4.6	**5.6**	0.3	0.4	**0.4**	6.8	5.1	**6.0**	-6.1	-4.2	**-5.2**
Mustang	9.4	7.1	**8.4**	0.6	0.4	**0.5**	10.0	7.4	**8.9**	-8.8	-6.7	**-7.8**
Myagdi	17.2	3.3	**10.1**	1.7	0.6	**1.1**	18.9	3.9	**11.2**	-15.5	-2.7	**-8.9**
Kaski	17.3	5.1	**11.1**	3.0	2.3	**2.6**	20.3	7.4	**13.7**	-14.2	-2.9	**-8.4**
Lamjung	19.9	2.6	**10.8**	0.9	0.7	**0.8**	20.8	3.3	**11.6**	-19.1	-1.9	**-10.1**
Tanahu	22.2	2.4	**11.6**	2.1	1.6	**1.8**	24.3	4.0	**13.5**	-20.2	-0.8	**-9.8**
Nawalparasi (East)	21.4	3.3	**11.8**	2.8	2.6	**2.7**	24.3	5.9	**14.6**	-18.6	-0.7	**-9.1**
Syangja	26.8	2.9	**13.9**	1.1	1.0	**1.1**	27.9	4.0	**15.0**	-25.7	-1.9	**-12.9**
Parbat	22.9	3.4	**12.6**	1.1	1.1	**1.1**	24.0	4.4	**13.7**	-21.8	-2.3	**-11.5**
Baglung	24.4	4.4	**13.7**	0.9	0.7	**0.8**	25.2	5.1	**14.5**	-23.5	-3.7	**-12.9**
Rukum (East)	10.4	0.8	**5.5**	0.8	0.3	**0.6**	11.2	1.1	**6.0**	-9.6	-0.5	**-4.9**
Rolpa	16.2	1.8	**8.5**	0.2	0.2	**0.2**	16.4	2.0	**8.7**	-16.0	-1.6	**-8.3**
Pyuthan	27.9	2.1	**13.7**	0.6	0.5	**0.6**	28.5	2.7	**14.2**	-27.3	-1.6	**-13.1**
Gulmi	31.7	4.5	**16.9**	1.1	1.1	**1.1**	32.8	5.6	**18.0**	-30.6	-3.4	**-15.8**
Arghakhanchi	32.6	3.8	**16.9**	1.2	1.2	**1.2**	33.8	5.0	**18.1**	-31.4	-2.6	**-15.7**
Palpa	24.6	2.2	**12.5**	1.6	1.0	**1.3**	26.2	3.2	**13.8**	-23.1	-1.2	**-11.3**
Nawalparasi (West)	13.1	1.7	**7.2**	2.1	13.0	**7.7**	15.1	14.7	**14.9**	-11.0	11.3	**0.5**
Rupandehi	12.2	2.2	**7.1**	2.8	8.9	**5.9**	15.0	11.1	**13.0**	-9.4	6.7	**-1.2**
Kapilvastu	11.7	1.3	**6.4**	1.4	10.4	**6.0**	13.2	11.8	**12.5**	-10.3	9.1	**-0.4**
Dang	14.7	1.7	**7.9**	1.1	1.1	**1.1**	15.9	2.8	**9.0**	-13.6	-0.7	**-6.8**
Banke	8.7	1.3	**4.9**	1.4	6.6	**4.1**	10.1	7.9	**9.0**	-7.2	5.4	**-0.8**
Bardiya	11.3	2.0	**6.4**	0.8	2.4	**1.7**	12.1	4.4	**8.0**	-10.5	0.5	**-4.7**

District	Emigration rate			Immigration rate			Gross migration rate			Net migration rate		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Dolpa	1.5	0.5	**1.0**	0.1	0.0	**0.0**	1.6	0.5	**1.0**	-1.5	-0.5	**-1.0**
Mugu	2.7	0.8	**1.7**	0.1	0.1	**0.1**	2.8	0.8	**1.8**	-2.6	-0.7	**-1.7**
Humla	1.8	1.0	**1.4**	0.1	0.0	**0.0**	1.9	1.0	**1.5**	-1.8	-1.0	**-1.4**
Jumla	3.4	1.2	**2.3**	0.1	0.1	**0.1**	3.4	1.3	**2.4**	-3.3	-1.1	**-2.2**
Kalikot	5.4	2.3	**3.8**	0.1	0.1	**0.1**	5.5	2.3	**3.9**	-5.4	-2.2	**-3.8**
Dailekh	13.4	2.4	**7.7**	0.1	0.1	**0.1**	13.5	2.5	**7.8**	-13.4	-2.3	**-7.6**
Jajarkot	5.0	1.5	**3.2**	0.1	0.1	**0.1**	5.2	1.6	**3.4**	-4.9	-1.3	**-3.1**
Rukum (West)	10.5	2.0	**6.1**	0.7	0.3	**0.5**	11.2	2.3	**6.6**	-9.8	-1.6	**-5.6**
Salyan	12.8	1.8	**7.1**	0.3	0.2	**0.2**	13.1	2.1	**7.4**	-12.6	-1.6	**-6.9**
Surkhet	12.7	2.6	**7.5**	0.8	0.8	**0.8**	13.5	3.3	**8.2**	-11.9	-1.8	**-6.7**
Bajura	14.3	6.6	**10.4**	0.1	0.1	**0.1**	14.5	6.7	**10.5**	-14.2	-6.5	**-10.2**
Bajhang	25.1	11.9	**18.0**	0.1	0.1	**0.1**	25.2	12.0	**18.2**	-24.9	-11.7	**-17.9**
Darchula	9.8	1.6	**5.6**	0.1	1.3	**0.7**	10.0	2.9	**6.3**	-9.7	-0.3	**-4.9**
Baitadi	16.3	3.3	**9.4**	0.1	0.4	**0.3**	16.4	3.7	**9.7**	-16.2	-2.9	**-9.2**
Dadeldhura	19.3	3.8	**11.1**	0.4	0.5	**0.4**	19.6	4.3	**11.6**	-18.9	-3.3	**-10.7**
Doti	25.4	4.3	**14.0**	0.3	0.3	**0.3**	25.7	4.6	**14.2**	-25.1	-4.1	**-13.7**
Achham	29.5	10.6	**19.3**	0.5	0.3	**0.4**	30.0	10.9	**19.7**	-28.9	-10.3	**-18.9**
Kailali	18.4	6.4	**12.2**	1.6	1.9	**1.7**	20.0	8.3	**13.9**	-16.9	-4.6	**-10.5**
Kanchanpur	21.4	5.4	**12.9**	1.7	2.2	**1.9**	23.1	7.5	**14.8**	-19.8	-3.2	**-11.0**

Annex 27: **Distribution of top ten municipalities with highest absentees among total population by destination countries, NPHC 2021**

S.N.	Palika	Male		Female		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
1	Kathmandu Metropolitan City	37,479	8.6	24,127	5.7	61,606	7.1
2	Pokhara Metropolitan City	44,612	18.0	14,652	5.5	59,264	11.5
3	Bharatpur Metropolitan City	28,709	16.0	8,825	4.6	37,534	10.2
4	Lalitpur Metropolitan City	13,789	9.4	9,017	6.1	22,806	7.8
5	Dharan Sub-Metropolitan City	12,380	15.8	5,529	6.3	17,909	10.8
6	Ghorahi Sub-Metropolitan City	15,334	16.3	1,912	1.8	17,246	8.6
8	Butwal Sub-Metropolitan City	13,510	14.2	3,571	3.6	17,081	8.8
9	Lamki Chuha Municipality	11,672	27.5	4,937	10.2	16,609	18.3
7	Tilottama Municipality	12,695	17.7	3,268	4.2	15,963	10.7
10	Budhanilkhantha Municipality	9,869	11.3	5,527	6.1	15,396	8.7
11	Itahari Sub-Metropolitan City	12,596	13.5	2,314	2.2	14,910	7.6
12	Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City	13,089	15.4	1,762	1.9	14,851	8.3
14	Tikapur Municipality	10,038	23.7	4,418	9.3	14,456	16.1
13	Gokarneshwor Municipality	8,818	12.0	4,834	6.3	13,652	9.1
15	Ghodaghodi Municipality	9,768	24.3	3,868	8.4	13,636	15.8
16	Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City	10,249	10.4	3,213	3.2	13,462	6.8
17	Mechinagar Municipality	9,716	15.2	3,428	5.0	13,144	9.9
18	Godawari Municipality	9,147	19.6	3,164	6.1	12,311	12.5
19	Bhimdatta Municipality	9,274	15.9	2,405	3.8	11,679	9.5
20	Gauriganga Municipality	8,454	28.5	3,201	9.2	11,655	18.1

Logistic Regression Output Tables of Emigration

Annex 28: : Logistic regression analysis of factors associated with emigration at household level

Characteristics	Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR)	z-value	P-Value
Ecological belt			
Tarai	1		
Mountain	0.67	-50.21	0.000
Hill	1.00	-0.34	0.733
Place of residence			
Rural	1		
Urban	0.92	-18.03	0.000
Peri Urban	1.07	13.88	0.000
Province			
Madhesh	1		
Koshi	0.88	-20.07	0.000
Bagmati	0.70	-46.78	0.000
Gandaki	1.07	8.27	0.000
Lumbini	1.03	4.75	0.000
Karnali	0.62	-49.54	0.000
Sudurpashchim	1.20	24.12	0.000
House ownership			
Rented	1		
Own	2.23	149	0.000
Institutional	0.57	-21.48	0.000
Others	1.43	17.86	0.000
Wealth quintile			
Highest	1		
Higher	0.51	-111.03	0.000
Middle	0.64	-82.85	0.000
Lower	0.67	-82.38	0.000
Lowest	0.71	-75.26	0.000
Family Structure			
Nuclear Family	1		
Extended Family	2.82	278.69	0.000

Characteristics	Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR)	z-value	P-Value
Size of household			
1-2 persons	1		
3-4 persons	0.52	-160.75	0.000
5-6 persons	0.25	-261.94	0.000
7-8 persons	0.27	-184.31	0.000
9+ persons	0.34	-117.55	0.000
Sex of HH head			
Male	1		
Female	4.46	475.52	0.000
Caste/ethnicity of HH head			
Madhesh/Tarai Castes	1		
Hill Castes	1.72	78.13	0.000
Mountain/Hill Janajatis	1.80	82.55	0.000
Tarai Janajatis	0.82	-25.04	0.000
Hill Dalits	2.21	98.79	0.000
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	1.08	6.03	0.000
Religious/Linguistic groups	2.03	68.79	0.000
Others, Foreigners & Not stated	0.65	-12.5	0.000
Level of education of HH head			
ECD	1		
Illiterate	1.01	0.32	0.749
Basic (1-8)	0.81	-5.5	0.000
Secondary (9-12)	0.59	-13.72	0.000
Higher (bachelor+)	0.95	-1.26	0.206
Others	1.01	0.32	0.749
Occupation of HH head			
Non-agriculture	1		
Agriculture	1.75	16.45	0.000
Types of Industry of HH head			
Primary	1		
Secondary	1.04	1.19	0.234
Tertiary	1.08	2.25	0.025

Annex 29: Logistic regression analysis of factors associated with emigration to middle east at individual level

Characteristics	Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR)	z-value	p-Value
Ecological belt			
Mountain	1		
Hill	1.10	7.25	0.000
Tarai	1.25	14.83	0.000
Place of residence at the time of departure			
Urban	1		
Peri Urban	1.20	22.45	0.000
Rural	1.15	16.60	0.000
Province			
Koshi	1		
Madhesh	0.97	-2.40	0.016
Bagmati	0.86	-16.52	0.000
Gandaki	0.82	-22.40	0.000
Lumbini	0.45	-104.97	0.000
Karnali	0.23	-100.61	0.000
Sudurpashchim	0.06	-216.42	0.000
Level of education of absentee			
Basic	1		
Secondary	1.14	18.58	0.000
Higher	0.43	-60.48	0.000
Others	0.90	-4.38	0.000
Illiterate	0.88	-7.55	0.000
Sex of absentee			
Male	1		
Female	0.47	-91.73	0.000
Age group of absentee			
<14 years			
15-24 years	4.63	57.13	0.000
25-34 years	6.91	71.59	0.000
35-44 years	6.08	65.54	0.000
45+ years	2.67	32.38	0.000
Not Stated	6.06	52.28	0.000

Characteristics	Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR)	z-value	p-Value
Duration of stay at destination			
0-2 years	1		
3-5 years	0.79	-38.40	0.000
6-9 years	0.70	-43.76	0.000
10-14 years	0.95	-5.67	0.000
15-19 years	0.80	-16.42	0.000
20+ years	0.32	-77.89	0.000
Not Stated	0.61	-17.98	0.000
Main reason of absence			
Salary/wage	1		
Trade/business	0.30	-36.05	0.000
Study/training	0.03	-167.40	0.000
Seeking job	0.83	-24.78	0.000
Dependent	0.50	-46.89	0.000
Others	0.11	-47.59	0.000
Not Stated	0.49	-26.29	0.000
Caste/ethnicity of HH head			
Hill castes	1		
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	0.87	-10.20	0.000
Mountain/Hill Janajatis	0.97	-5.01	0.000
Tarai Janajatis	1.18	13.91	0.000
Hill Dalits	1.12	12.81	0.000
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	1.06	2.57	0.010
Religious/Linguistic groups	2.73	54.67	0.000
Others, Foreigners & Not stated	0.70	-4.88	0.000
Occupation of HH head			
Agriculture	1		
Non-Agriculture	0.83	-2.70	0.007
Types of Industry of HH head			
Primary	1		
Secondary	1.21	2.79	0.005
Tertiary	1.15	2.06	0.039

Characteristics	Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR)	z-value	p-Value
Level of education of HH head			
ECD			
Basic(1-8)	1.07	1.13	0.258
Secondary(9-inter)	1.03	0.46	0.646
Higher(bachelor+)	0.63	-7.43	0.000
Others	0.97	-0.53	0.598
Size of household			
1-2 persons	1		
3-4 persons	1.10	13.58	0.000
5-6 persons	0.99	-0.86	0.390
7-8 persons	0.97	-2.09	0.036
9+ persons	1.04	2.66	0.008
House ownership			
Own	1		
Rented	1.31	27.07	0.000
Institutional	1.01	0.11	0.910
Others	0.97	-0.93	0.352
Family structure			
Nuclear Family	1		
Extended Family	0.97	-5.19	0.000
Wealth quintile			
Lowest	1		
Lower	1.31	29.91	0.00
Middle	1.57	49.05	0.00
Higher	2.03	70.62	0.00
Highest	1.66	46.16	0.00

Annex 30: Logistic regression analysis of factors associated with emigration
to India at individual level

Characteristics	Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR)	z-value	P-Value
Ecological belt			
Mountain	1		
Hill	1.00	-0.36	0.719
Tarai	1.16	13.77	0.000
Place of residence at the time of departure			
Urban	1		
Peri Urban	1.09	5.60	0.000
Rural	1.34	16.84	0.000
Province			
Koshi	1		
Madhesh	1.11	6.25	0.000
Bagmati	0.77	-19.84	0.000
Gandaki	1.48	33.28	0.000
Lumbini	4.50	154.41	0.000
Karnali	7.96	138.92	0.000
Sudurpashchim	39.86	293.41	0.000
Level of education of absentee			
Basic	1		
Secondary	0.60	-64.82	0.000
Higher	0.22	-80.27	0.000
Others	1.11	3.86	0.000
Illiterate	0.82	-12.00	0.000
Sex of absentee			
Male	1		
Female	1.81	65.35	0.000
Age group of absentee			
<14 years	1		
15-24 years	0.16	-92.90	0.000
25-34 years	0.07	-132.00	0.000
35-44 years	0.10	-108.18	0.000
45+ years	0.33	-45.74	0.000
Not Stated	0.21	-51.51	0.000

Characteristics	Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR)	z-value	P-Value
Duration of stay at destination			
0-2 years	1		
3-5 years	0.39	-121.56	0.000
6-9 years	0.53	-61.94	0.000
10-14 years	0.79	-19.78	0.000
15-19 years	1.64	31.67	0.000
20+ years	4.70	108.16	0.000
Not Stated	1.14	4.60	0.000
Main reason of absence			
Salary/wage	1		
Trade/business	3.06	32.37	0.000
Study/training	1.45	29.47	0.000
Seeking job	1.32	29.67	0.000
Dependent	0.66	-26.59	0.000
Others	1.89	20.61	0.000
Not Stated	1.05	1.79	0.074
Caste/ethnicity of HH head			
Hill castes	1		
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	1.70	34.49	0.000
Mountain/Hill Janajatis	1.02	2.87	0.004
Tarai Janajatis	0.72	-20.94	0.000
Hill Dalits	1.67	53.71	0.000
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	0.90	-3.69	0.000
Religious/Linguistic groups	0.88	-5.98	0.000
Others, Foreigners & Not stated	6.78	28.85	0.000
Occupation of HH head			
Agriculture	1		
Non-Agriculture	1.21	2.38	0.017
Types of industry of HH head			
Primary	1		
Secondary	0.87	-1.78	0.076
Tertiary	0.78	-3.05	0.002

Characteristics	Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR)	z-value	P-Value
Level of education of HH head			
ECD	1		
Basic (0-5)	1.11	1.51	0.132
Secondary(9-12)	0.96	-0.63	0.530
Higher (bachelor+)	1.11	1.38	0.167
Others	1.24	2.99	0.003
Size of family			
1-2 persons	1		
3-4 persons	1.04	5.00	0.000
5-6 persons	1.11	9.44	0.000
7-8 persons	1.13	8.60	0.000
9+ persons	1.03	1.44	0.150
House ownership			
Own	1		
Rented	1.13	8.53	0.000
Institutional	1.19	2.68	0.007
Others	1.01	0.35	0.726
Family structure			
Nuclear Family	1		
Extended Family	0.90	-13.01	0.000
Wealth quintile			
Lowest	1		
Lower	0.70	-38.07	0.000
Middle	0.49	-70.87	0.000
Higher	0.35	-90.06	0.000
Highest	0.25	-104.61	0.000

Annex 31: Logistic regression analysis of factors associated with duration of stay at destination countries at individual level (less than 5 years=1 and other=0)

Characteristics	Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR)	z-value	P-Value
Ecological belt			
Mountain	1		
Hill	1.11	9.77	0.000
Tarai	1.26	18.95	0.000
Place of residence			
Urban	1		
Peri Urban	1.15	20.30	0.000
Rural	1.21	24.54	0.000
Province			
Koshi	1		
Madhesh	1.09	7.34	0.000
Bagmati	1.09	10.50	0.000
Gandaki	0.78	-30.20	0.000
Lumbini	1.15	19.61	0.000
Karnali	2.19	54.94	0.000
Sudurpashchim	1.44	38.46	0.000
Destination country			
India	1		
SAARC courtiers (except India)	1.47	10.46	0.000
ASEAN countries	0.77	-29.15	0.000
Middle East countries	1.29	37.80	0.000
Other Asian countries	1.02	1.42	0.154
European Union countries (Greenland is a territory of Denmark)	1.67	38.08	0.000
Other European countries	0.89	-6.98	0.000
North American	0.73	-24.36	0.000
South American/Caribbean countries	0.91	-0.85	0.397
African countries	1.83	14.25	0.000
Pacific Ocean Region countries including Australia and New Zealand	1.68	39.10	0.000
Other country	1.29	5.00	0.000
Country not stated	1.05	1.08	0.280

Characteristics	Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR)	z-value	P-Value
Level of education of absentee			
Basic	1		
Secondary	1.28	38.85	0.000
Higher	1.18	15.21	0.000
Others	0.84	-8.34	0.000
Illiterate	0.81	-15.95	0.000
Sex of absentee			
Male	1		
Female	1.26	35.70	0.000
Age group of absentee			
<14 years	1		
15-24	1.44	27.26	0.000
25-34	1.88	45.78	0.000
35-44	2.56	62.94	0.000
45+	3.34	65.50	0.000
Not Stated	0.78	-10.92	0.000
Main reason of absence			
Salary/wage	1		
Trade/business	0.82	-7.08	0.000
Study/training	1.47	42.29	0.000
Seeking job	1.12	15.38	0.000
Dependent	0.92	-7.73	0.000
Others	1.16	6.51	0.000
Not Stated	0.55	-26.63	0.000
Caste/ethnicity of HH head			
Hill castes	1		
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	1.45	30.28	0.000
Mountain/Hill Janajatis	1.01	2.23	0.026
Tarai Janajatis	1.32	24.35	0.000
Hill Dalits	1.12	14.96	0.000
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	1.84	24.63	0.000
Religious/Linguistic groups	1.63	29.04	0.000
Others, Foreigners & Not stated	1.37	5.20	0.000

Characteristics	Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR)	z-value	P-Value
Occupation of HH head			
Agriculture	1		
Non-Agriculture	0.97	-0.52	0.606
Types of industry of HH head			
Primary	1		
Secondary	1.11	1.95	0.051
Tertiary	1.04	0.70	0.483
Level of education of HH head			
ECD	1		
Basic (0-8)	0.98	-0.29	0.770
Secondary (9-12)	0.89	-2.20	0.028
Higher (bachelor+)	0.74	-5.40	0.000
Others	0.92	-1.42	0.155
Size of household			
1-2 persons	1		
3-4 persons	1.08	13.05	0.000
5-6 persons	1.08	8.94	0.000
7-8 persons	1.12	10.12	0.000
9+ persons	1.09	6.31	0.000
House ownership			
Own	1		
Rented	1.20	20.99	0.000
Institutional	1.22	4.31	0.000
Others	1.04	1.20	0.229
Family structure			
Nuclear Family	1		
Extended Family	0.97	-4.59	0.000
Wealth quintile			
Lowest	1		
Lower	0.84	-20.67	0.000
Middle	0.69	-42.85	0.000
Higher	0.55	-64.30	0.000
Highest	0.39	-94.62	0.000

Annex 32: Logistic regression analysis of factors associated main reason of absence (Salary/wage) at individual level

Characteristics	Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR)	z-value	p-Value
Ecological belt			
Mountain	1		
Hill	1.32	23.17	0.000
Tarai	1.28	18.32	0.000
Place of residence			
Urban	1		
Peri Urban	1.14	16.17	0.000
Rural	1.16	16.52	0.000
Province			
Koshi	1		
Madhesh	0.76	-20.02	0.000
Bagmati	0.67	-40.94	0.000
Gandaki	0.94	-5.91	0.000
Lumbini	0.93	-8.52	0.000
Karnali	0.46	-53.87	0.000
Sudurpashchim	0.96	-3.73	0.000
Destination country			
India	1		
SAARC courtiers (except India)	0.55	-16.71	0.000
ASEAN countries	1.75	49.33	0.000
Middle East countries	2.05	91.02	0.000
Other Asian countries	0.54	-54.46	0.000
European Union countries. Greenland is a territory of Denmark	0.63	-33.54	0.000
Other European countries	0.40	-51.52	0.000
North American	0.27	-90.32	0.000
South American/Caribbean countries	0.72	-2.95	0.003
African countries	0.80	-5.28	0.000
Pacific Ocean Region countries including Australia and New Zealand	0.10	-136.68	0.000
Other country	0.96	-0.68	0.499
Country not stated	0.74	-5.84	0.000

Characteristics	Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR)	z-value	p-Value
Level of education of absentee			
ECD	1		
Secondary	1.14	17.34	0.000
Higher	0.79	-19.47	0.000
Others	0.94	-2.51	0.012
Illiterate	0.82	-12.49	0.000
Sex of absentee			
Male	1		
Female	0.47	-110.39	0.000
Duration of stay at destination			
0-2 years	1		
3-5 years	0.95	-7.42	0.000
6-9 years	1.07	7.95	0.000
10-14 years	1.13	11.66	0.000
15-19 years	1.21	12.92	0.000
20+ years	1.47	27.85	0.000
Not Stated	0.57	-19.15	0.000
Caste/ethnicity of HH head			
Hill castes			
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	0.73	-22.90	0.000
Mountain/Hill Janajatis	1.28	36.70	0.000
Tarai Janajatis	0.96	-3.21	0.001
Hill Dalits	1.10	11.15	0.000
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	0.95	-1.96	0.050
Religious/Linguistic groups	0.96	-2.05	0.041
Others, Foreigners & Not stated	0.60	-11.29	0.000
Occupation of HH head			
Agriculture	1		
Non-Agriculture	0.81	-3.29	0.001
Types of industry of HH head			
Primary	1		
Secondary	1.21	3.00	0.003
Tertiary	1.14	2.02	0.044

Characteristics	Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR)	z-value	p-Value
Level of education of HH head			
ECD	1		
Basic (0-8)	1.16	2.32	0.020
Secondary (9-12)	1.02	0.24	0.809
Higher (bachelor+)	0.71	-5.22	0.000
Others	1.18	2.58	0.010
Size of family			
1-2 persons	1		
3-4 persons	1.01	1.56	0.119
5-6 persons	1.04	3.72	0.000
7-8 persons	1.04	3.06	0.002
9+ persons	1.03	1.69	0.091
House ownership			
Own	1		
Rented	1.28	22.19	0.000
Institutional	0.92	-1.56	0.118
Others	0.95	-1.43	0.154
Family structure			
Nuclear Family	1		
Extended Family	1.10	13.78	0.000
Wealth quintile			
Lowest	1		
Lower	1.09	10.03	0.000
Middle	1.11	11.15	0.000
Higher	1.08	7.46	0.000
Highest	0.87	-12.54	0.000