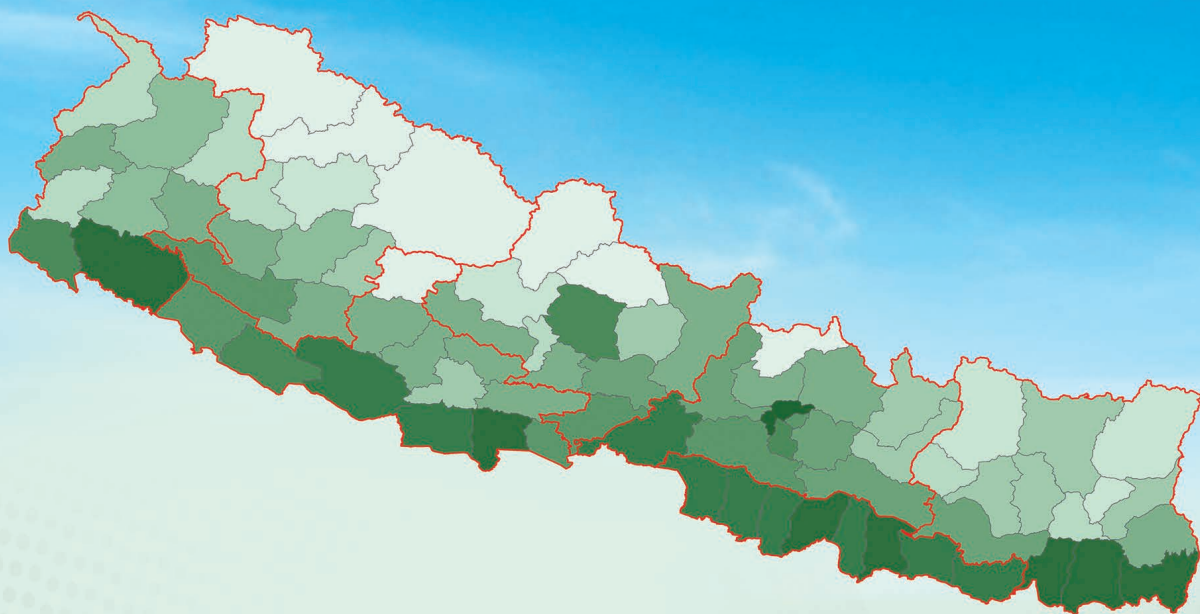
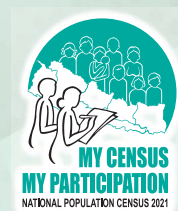


National Population and Housing Census 2021

Single Women in Nepal



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



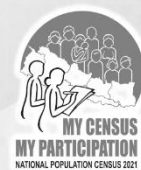
Thematic Report- III

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Chief Secretary

Kathmandu, Nepal

Foreword

For decades, the 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. The adoption of periodic planning in Nepal highlighted the necessity of a dedicated statistical authority to generate socio-economic data for policymaking and planning. In response, the Central Bureau of Statistics was established in 1959 and has since become a cornerstone institution of the Government of Nepal.

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. Moreover, such data is indispensable for Nepal to achieve its commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to graduate from the status of a least developed country (LDC) to a developing country by 2026.

I am pleased to announce the publication of a thematic report on *Single Women in Nepal* by the NSO. Empowering women to play a central role in all aspects of development is vital to achieving sustainable and inclusive progress. This report provides an in-depth analysis of the issues, challenges, and opportunities faced by single women in Nepal, offering valuable insights and actionable recommendations. I am confident that its findings will help shape policies and guide interventions in this critical area.

I thank as well as congratulate the NSO team and all contributors whose dedication and efforts have made this report possible.

November, 2024

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.

Foreword

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

It's been almost three years since the fieldwork for the Population and Housing Census (NPHC) 2021 was concluded. Since then, the NSO has released over thirty reports with statistical and analytical insights from the census. The NSO has gone to great lengths to publish detailed tables down to the smallest administrative units, like Wards. Responding to the demands of a large segment of our users, we have also provided brief explanations of the data in our reports. The NSO is focused not only on the production of official statistics but also on expanding the optimal use of these statistics in policy and planning processes.

The Constitution of Nepal and the Statistics Act 2022 explicitly mandate the NSO to uphold national standards and the quality of official data as the pivotal agency within the national statistical system (NSS). As such, the NSO is committed to being a central provider of quality statistics to inform decision-making, in accordance with its rights and responsibilities. Many of our users are aware that the NSO traditionally produced population monographs once all statistical results were publicly available. However, this time, the NSO has opted to publish 21 thematic reports covering various themes. I believe these themes address most of the critical sectors within the national development plan.

We have already published two thematic reports in the last Fiscal Year 2080/81. Now, we are releasing the third report titled 'Single Women in Nepal.' Given the ongoing changes within families, communities, and societies, every individual is living in unique circumstances, whether they reside with or without their family members. Data indicate that the number of single women has been steadily increasing in each successive population census. The issues, challenges, and needs of single women are diverse and call for a critical analysis of their situation and necessary government interventions.

It took us nearly six months to finalize this report. The tireless efforts of all staff in the Population Section, who generated the necessary data, provided guidance, and reviewed the entire report from the NSO's perspective, are commendable. I extend my sincere appreciation to them for their dedication. Special thanks go to the Central Department of Population Studies at Tribhuvan University, which took the lead in preparing this report. I would also like to acknowledge the financial support of Women for Human Rights (WHR) and Kurve Wustrow (Centre for Training and Networking in Nonviolent Action) in bringing this significant report to the public. The Head of the Social Statistics Division at NSO coordinated all related activities, and I greatly appreciate his invaluable contributions.

Lastly, I warmly welcome and encourage any constructive feedback and comments from our valued users to help enhance future editions of this report.

November, 2024


Madhu Sudan Burlakoti
Chief Statistician

List of Contributors

Contributors to the '*Single Women in Nepal*' thematic report

Name and Post	Institutions	Role
Dr. Hem Raj Regmi, Deputy Chief Statistician	National Statistics Office, Thapathali Kathmandu	Over all supervision
Mr. Dhundiraj Lamichhane, Director	National Statistics Office, Thapathali Kathmandu	Quality assurance and Data processing
Prof. Dr. Uddhab Sigdel	Central Department of Population Studies, TU	Lead-authors
Dr. Kamala Lamichhane Head of Department	Central Department of Labour Studies, TU	Co-authors
Dr. Yogendra Bahadur Gurung Head of Department	Central Department of Population Studies, TU	Reviewer
Dr. Padma Prasad Khatiwada	Central Department of Population Studies, TU	Reviewer
Mr. Rajan Silwal, Director	National Statistics Office, Thapathali, Kathmandu	Reviewer
Mr. Deenanath Lamsal, Statistics Officer	National Statistics Office, Thapathali, Kathmandu	Data management
Mr. Dol Narayan Shreshtha, Computer Officer	National Statistics Office, Thapathali, Kathmandu	Data and table production
Mr. Kapil Dhital, Statistics Officer	National Statistics Office, Thapathali, Kathmandu	Support
Mr. Ashok Neupane, Statistics Assistant	National Statistics Office, Thapathali, Kathmandu	Support

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संक्षिप्त विश्लेषण

यस विषयगत प्रतिवेदनमा नेपाल सरकार, राष्ट्रिय तथ्याङ्क कार्यालय (NSO) द्वारा नोभेम्बर २०२१ मा सम्पन्न गरेको जनगणनाको तथ्याङ्क प्रयोग गरी नेपालमा एकल महिलाको अवस्थालाई प्रस्तुत गरिएको छ । प्रतिवेदनले ३५ वर्ष वा सोभन्दा माथिका विवाह नगरेका महिला, विधवा, पारपाचुके र भिन्न बसेको महिलालाई एकल महिला भनी परिभाषित गरेको छ । यसमा समग्र एकल महिलाका साथै विधवा महिलाको समेत छुट्टाछुट्टै अवस्था विश्लेषण गरिएको छ । राष्ट्रिय तथ्याङ्क कार्यालय तथा त्रिभुवन विश्वविद्यालय जनसङ्ख्या अध्ययन केन्द्रीय विभाग (CDPS) का विज्ञहरूको समूहले वुमन फर ह्युमन राइट्स, एकल महिला समूह (WHR) सँगको सहकार्यमा तयार गरिएको यो प्रतिवेदन विगतका जनगणना र सर्वेक्षणहरूका साथै संयुक्त राष्ट्रसंघले तयार गरेको जनगणनासम्बन्धी विभिन्न सिफारिसलाई समेत मनन गरी तथ्याङ्कको तुलानात्मक विश्लेषणका आधारमा तयार गरिएको छ ।

एकल महिलाको घरपरिवार अवस्था विश्लेषण ६६,६०,८४१ गैरसंस्थागत घरपरिवारमा आधारित छ । कुल ६६,६०,८४१ गैरसंस्थागत घरपरिवारमध्ये ९,३६,०९८ घरपरिवारमा कम्तीमा एक एकल महिला (विधवा, सम्बन्ध विच्छेद, भिन्न बसेको र ३५ वर्ष वा सोभन्दा माथिका अविवाहित महिला) पाइएको छ । यी ७,९९,७४४ परिवारमा कम्तीमा एक विधवा महिला रहेको देखिन्छ । कुल घरपरिवार मध्ये, १४ प्रतिशत घरपरिवारमा एकल महिला रहेका छन् । एकल महिला रहेका १४ प्रतिशत घरपरिवार मध्ये १२ प्रतिशतमा विधवा र २ प्रतिशतमा अन्य एकल महिला (सम्बन्ध विच्छेद, भिन्न बसेको र ३५ वर्ष वा सोभन्दा माथिका अविवाहित महिला) रहेका छन् । विधवा र अन्य एकल महिला रहेक घरपरिवारका विशेषता एकै प्रकारको रहेकाले यसरी यस अध्ययनमा घरपरिवारसम्बन्धी विश्लेषण ७,९९,७४४ घरपरिवारमा आधारित छ । साथै यस प्रतिवेदनमा एकल महिला तथा विधवा महिला भएको घरपरिवार र पारिवारिक विशेषता जस्तै घरको संरचना, सेवा र सञ्चार अन्तर्गत छुट्टाछुट्टै विवेचना गरिएको छ ।

नेपालमा १२ प्रतिशत घरपरिवारमा कम्तीमा एकजना विधवा महिला छन् भने दुई प्रतिशत घरपरिवारमा विधवा बाहेकका एकल महिला छन् । कम्तीमा एक विधवा महिला भएका घरपरिवार कर्णाली प्रदेशमा ११ प्रतिशत छन् भने सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेशमा १४ प्रतिशत रहेको अध्ययनले देखाएको छ ।

आवास संरचना र घरायसी सेवा र सुविधामा पहुँच

सन् २०२१ को जनगणनामा घरपरिवारका विशेषताका बारेमा धेरै प्रश्नहरू सोधिएका थिए । यिनमा घरको स्वामित्व, घर संरचनाको प्रकार, गारो, छत र भुइँको निर्माण सामग्री, खाना पकाउने इन्धन, बत्तीको स्रोत, पिउने पानीको स्रोत, शौचालयको प्रकार लगायतका स्वास्थ्य जोखिममा प्रत्यक्ष प्रभाव पार्ने सुविधासम्बन्धी जानकारी सङ्कलन गरिएको थियो । यस्तै, यातायात र सञ्चारमा घरपरिवारको पहुँच बारेमा पनि जानकारी लिइएको थियो । आवाससम्बन्धी यी विशेषता र घरेलु सेवामा विशेष गरी महिलाको पहुँचले मानिसको समग्र जीवनलाई प्रभाव पार्दछ ।

घरको स्वामित्व: एकल महिलाको घरको स्वामित्वको अवस्था जस्तै कम्तीमा एक विधवा भएका ७,९९,७४४ घरपरिवारमध्ये ठुलो सङ्ख्या आफ्नै घरमा बस्दै आएको पाइयो । यीमध्ये पाँच प्रतिशत कम्तीमा एक जना विधवा महिला भएका घरपरिवारहरू भाडाको घरमा बस्ने गरेको देखियो । आफ्नै घरमा बस्ने घरपरिवारको उच्चतम मान कर्णाली (९८.१%) र मधेस (९७.८%) तथा सबैभन्दा कम बागमती (८७.४%) र गण्डकी (९१.९%) प्रदेशमा रहेको देखियो । कम्तीमा एक जना विधवा महिला भएका र भाडाको घरमा बस्ने परिवारको अधिकतम हिस्सा बागमती र गण्डकी प्रदेशमा देखियो । पहाडका कम्तीमा एक विधवा महिला भएका प्रायः सबै घरपरिवार (९८%) आफ्नै घरमा बस्ने गरेको पाइयो । भाडाको घरमा बस्ने घरपरिवारको प्रतिशत सबैभन्दा बढी पहाडी क्षेत्रमा देखियो ।

घरको जग: कम्तीमा एक एकल महिला र एक विधवा महिला भएका घरपरिवारको एक तिहाइभन्दा बढी (३७%) घरको जग मुख्यतया माटोजडित ईँटा वा ढुङ्गाले बनेको पाइयो भने करिब २८ प्रतिशत सिमेन्टजडित ईँटा वा ढुङ्गाले र अन्य २० प्रतिशत प्रबलित सिमेन्ट कङ्क्रीट (RCC) बाट बनेको पाइयो । भौगोलिक क्षेत्रअनुसार कम्तीमा एक विधवा महिला भएका तीन चौथाइ (७५.९%) आवासको जग माटोजडित ईँटा/ढुङ्गाले बनेको थियो भने तराईमा १५.२ प्रतिशत मात्र देखियो ।

बाहिरी गारो: विधवा महिला बसोबास गर्ने घरहरूको बाहिरी गारो सिमेन्टजडित ईँटा/ढुङ्गा र माटोजडित ईँटा/ढुङ्गा सबैभन्दा बढी प्रयोग हुने सामग्रीका रूपमा पाइएको छ । प्रदेशअनुसार, बागमतीका झण्डै तीन चौथाइ घरहरू (७०.२%) ले आफ्नो बाहिरी गारोका लागि सिमेन्टजडित ईँटा/ढुङ्गा प्रयोग गरेका छन् भने कर्णालीमा मात्र १३ प्रतिशत घरका बाहिरी गारो सिमेन्टजडित इट्टा/ढुङ्गाले बनेका छन् ।

छानो: विधवा महिला भएका घरहरूको छानो धेरैको जस्तापाता (४५.२%) र सिमेन्ट ढलान (३३.३%) ले बनेको पाइएको छ । कोशी प्रदेशमा विधवा महिलाहरू भएका अधिकांश (७१.६%) घरहरूले जस्तापाता प्रयोग गरेका थिए भने बागमती प्रदेशका आधा (५०.९%) घरहरूमा सिमेन्ट

ढलान गरिएका छाना थिए । कर्णाली प्रदेशका घरहरू मध्ये थोरैमा सिमेन्ट ढलानयुक्त छानो रहेको पाइयो । हिमाली र पहाडी क्षेत्रमा जस्तापाता धेरै नै चलनमा रहेको पाइयो भने तराईमा जस्तापाता र सिमेन्ट ढलान दुवै प्रचलनमा रहेको देखियो ।

घरको प्रकार: विधवा महिला भएका घरहरू मध्ये तीन चौथाइ (७६.४%) भन्दा बढी घरहरू पक्की थिए । त्यसै गरि ७७ प्रतिशत एकल महिला भएका घरहरू पनि पक्की संरचनाका छन् । प्रदेश अनुसार गण्डकीमा विधवा महिला भएका ९६.४ प्रतिशत घरपक्की थिए भने बागमतीमा ९३ प्रतिशत र लुम्बिनीमा ८६ प्रतिशत विधवा महिला भएका घर पक्की थिए । मधेसमा सबैभन्दा कम (४४%) विधवा महिला भएका घर पक्की थिए । समग्रमा ३२.५ प्रतिशत विधवा महिला भएका घर कच्ची रहेको पाइयो ।

पिउने पानीको स्रोत: कम्तीमा एक जना एकल महिला र एक जना विधवा भएका घरपरिवारका बीच पिउने पानीको मुख्य स्रोतमा कुनै भिन्नता देखिएको छैन । अधिकांश (प्रत्येकमा ९२.६%) एकल महिला र विधवा भएका घरपरिवारले सुधारिएको पिउने पानीका स्रोतहरू (जस्तै, जार/बोटल, धारो/पाइपलाइन, ट्युबवेल, र छोपिएका कुवा - जसमा प्रदूषणको सम्भावना कम हुन्छ र प्रायः उपभोगका लागि सुरक्षित हुन्छन्) मा पहुँच पाएका छन् । प्रदेश स्तरमा हेर्दा, कम्तीमा एकल महिला र विधवा भएका घरपरिवारले सुधारिएको पिउने पानीका स्रोतहरूमा पहुँच पुगेका मध्ये कोशी प्रदेशमा सबैभन्दा उच्च (क्रमशः ९५.८% र ९६.०%) पाइएको छ भने कर्णाली प्रदेशमा सबैभन्दा कम (क्रमशः ८१.६% र ८१.५%) पाइएको छ ।

खाना पकाउने इन्धन: कम्तीमा एक जना विधवा भएको घरपरिवारमध्ये करिब ५६ प्रतिशतले खाना पकाउने मुख्य इन्धनको रूपमा दाउरा प्रयोग गर्ने गरेको पाइयो भने दोस्रोमा लिक्विफाइड पेट्रोलियम ग्यास (एलपीजी) थियो जुन ३९.८ प्रतिशत घरपरिवारका लागि खाना पकाउने मुख्य इन्धनको स्रोत थियो । केवल ३ प्रतिशतले मात्र गुइँठा प्रयोग गर्ने गरेको पाइयो । मधेसका कम्तीमा एक विधवा महिला भएका ११ प्रतिशतभन्दा बढी घरपरिवारको खाना पकाउने इन्धनको मुख्य स्रोत गुइँठा थियो ।

बत्ती बाल्ने इन्धन: कम्तीमा एक जना विधवा महिला भएका घरपरिवारमध्ये ९२ प्रतिशतले बत्ती बाल्ने इन्धनको मुख्य स्रोतको रूपमा बिजुली प्रयोग गरेको पाइयो । त्यसैगरी कम्तीमा एक जना एकल महिला भएका घरपरिवारमा पनि सेही अवस्था रहेको छ । कोशी, मधेस, बागमती, गण्डकी र लुम्बिनी प्रदेशका ९४ प्रतिशतभन्दा बढी घरपरिवारमा बत्ती बाल्ने इन्धनको मुख्य स्रोत बिजुली थियो

भने कर्णालीमा यस्ता घरपरिवारमध्ये आधाभन्दा कमले विद्युतलाई मुख्य उज्यालोको स्रोतको रूपमा प्रयोग गरेका थिए। कर्णालीका अन्य आधा जति घरपरिवार सौर्य बत्तीमा निर्भर छन् ।

शौचालय सुविधा: कम्तीमा एक जना विधवा भएको ६४.३ प्रतिशत घरपरिवारमा सार्वजनिक ढल प्रणाली र सेप्टिक ट्याङ्कीमा जोडिएको फलस शौचालयको पहुँच छ। अन्य ३०.८ प्रतिशत विधवा भएका घरपरिवारमा खाल्डो शौचालय छ भने बाँकी ४.४ प्रतिशत घरपरिवारमा कुनै शौचालय सुविधा छैन । यसैगरी, कम्तीमा एक जना एकल महिला भएको ६५.३ प्रतिशत घरपरिवारमा पनि सार्वजनिक ढल प्रणाली र सेप्टिक ट्याङ्कीमा जोडिएको फलस शौचालयको पहुँच छ । एकल महिला भएका घरपरिवारमध्ये मनाङ जिल्लाका ९६ प्रतिशत घरपरिवारले फलस शौचालयको सुविधा पाएका छन् भने हुम्लाका केवल १३ प्रतिशत घरपरिवारमा मात्र फलस शौचालयको पहुँच छ। विधवा महिला भएका घरपरिवारका लागि पनि यस्तै नतिजा फेला परेको थियो ।

स्वास्थ्य जोखिम: कुल घरपरिवारमध्ये एक तिहाइभन्दा बढी घरपरिवारमा कुनै पनि स्वास्थ्य जोखिममा नभएको देखिएको छ । यो सङ्ख्या एकल महिलाको हकमा कम छ र विधवा महिला भएका घरपरिवारमा अझ कम छ । विधवा महिला भएका करिब ४० प्रतिशत घरपरिवारमा एक किसिमको मात्र स्वास्थ्य जोखिम रहेको छ । सहरी र ग्रामीण अवस्थालाई तुलना गर्दा सहरी क्षेत्रका करिब ६५ प्रतिशत घरपरिवारमा कुनै पनि स्वास्थ्य जोखिम नभएको पाइयो । त्यसको विपरीत ग्रामीण क्षेत्रमा १० प्रतिशतमा मात्र स्वास्थ्य जोखिम थिएन । प्रदेशअनुसार, विधवा महिला भएका घरपरिवारमा बागमतीका आधाभन्दा बढी घरपरिवारमा कुनै पनि स्वास्थ्य जोखिम छैन तर कर्णालीमा १० प्रतिशतभन्दा कममा मात्रै स्वास्थ्य जोखिम थिएन ।

घरायसी सुविधा: कम्तीमा एक जना विधवा भएका घरपरिवारहरूमा सञ्चार उपकरण र यातायातका साधनहरू (रेडियो ३४% र ३४.२%, स्मार्ट मोबाइल ६९.२% र ७३%, इन्टरनेट ३५.७% र ३८.१%, कार/जिप/भ्यान ३% र ३.१%, र मोटरसाइकल/स्कुटर २६.२% र २७.३%) को पहुँच राष्ट्रियस्तरको तुलनामा थोरै कम छ। सबैभन्दा कम रेडियो सुन्नेको अनुपात मधेश प्रदेशमा (२०.८%) छ भने सबैभन्दा कम टेलिभिजन प्रयोग कर्णाली प्रदेशमा (१७.२%) पाइएको छ । कम्तीमा एक जना विधवा भएका घरपरिवारमा स्मार्ट मोबाइल फोन (७४.७%) र इन्टरनेट प्रयोगकर्ताहरूको (५१.९%) सबैभन्दा बढी अनुपात बागमती प्रदेशमा छ । कम्तीमा एक जना एकल महिला भएका लगभग ७० प्रतिशत घरपरिवारमा स्मार्ट मोबाइल फोनको पहुँच छ। यस्ता घरपरिवारमा बागमती प्रदेश स्मार्टफोन प्रयोगमा सबैभन्दा अगाडि (७५.३%) छ, जबकि कर्णाली प्रदेशमा यो सबैभन्दा कम (५५.५%) छ (नक्शा ३.११; ३.१२)। कार-जिप-भ्यान र मोटरसाइकल/ स्कुटरको प्रयोगमा पनि

बागमती प्रदेश अगाडि छ (क्रमशः ६.७% र ३६.७%)। नेपालभर कम्तीमा एक जना विधवा भएका घरपरिवारमा करिब ६ प्रतिशतमा कुनै पनि सुविधा (जस्तै रेडियो, टेलिभिजन, ल्याण्डलाइन फोन, मोबाइल फोन, स्मार्ट मोबाइल, कम्प्युटर/ल्यापटप, इन्टरनेट, कार/जिप/भ्यान, मोटरसाइकल/स्कुटर, साइकल, बिजुली पंखा, फ्रिज, वासिड मेसिन, वा एसी) उपलब्ध छैन। यसरी कुनै पनि सुविधा नभएका घरपरिवारहरू प्रदेश र भौगोलिक स्थानअनुसार फरक छन्। कर्णाली प्रदेशमा कम्तीमा एक जना विधवा भएका ९.८% घरपरिवारहरूमा कुनै पनि सुविधा उपलब्ध थिएन जुन अन्य प्रदेशहरूको तुलनामा सबैभन्दा बढी हो। दोस्रोमा सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश (८.५%) रहेको छ।

घरायसी सुविधा: विधवा महिला भएको घरपरिवारसँग सञ्चार उपकरणहरू जस्तै रेडियो, टेलिभिजन, स्मार्ट मोबाइल, इन्टरनेट र यातायातका साधनहरू (कार/जिप/भ्यान, र मोटरसाइकल/स्कुटर) मा पहुँच हुने सम्भावना कम रहेको देखियो। रेडियो हुने विधवा महिला भएका घरपरिवारमध्ये सबैभन्दा थोरै (२०.८%) मध्येसमा थिए। टेलिभिजन हुनेमा सबैभन्दा कम (१७.२%) कर्णालीमा थिए। सबैभन्दा बढी स्मार्ट मोबाइल फोन (७४.७%) र इन्टरनेट हुने (५१.९%) बागमतीमा रहेको पाइयो। बागमती प्रदेशमा नै कार-जीप-भ्यान (६.७%) र मोटरसाइकल/स्कुटर (३६.७%) हुने विधवा महिला भएका घरपरिवार पाइए। यसरी नै झन्डै ६ प्रतिशत परिवारसँग मात्र रेडियो, टेलिभिजन, ल्याण्डलाइन फोन, मोबाइल फोन, स्मार्ट मोबाइल, कम्प्युटर/ल्यापटप, घरमा इन्टरनेट, कार/जिप/भ्यान, मोटरसाइकल/स्कुटर, साइकल, बिजुलीको पंखा, फ्रिज, वासिड मेसिन लगायतका सुविधा भएको पाइयो। गण्डकी प्रदेशको झण्डै आधा जति यस्ता घरपरिवारसँग त्यस्तो सुविधा पाइएन।

एकल महिलाको जनसाङ्ख्यिकीय गतिशीलता

दश वर्ष वा सोभन्दा माथिका कुल महिला जनसङ्ख्यामध्ये ८.२ प्रतिशत एकल महिला थिए।

तथ्याङ्कले विधुर (२.२%) भन्दा विधवा महिलाको सङ्ख्या धेरै (६.६%) रहेको देखाएको छ। सन् २००१ को जनगणनामा एकल महिला ३.७ प्रतिशत मात्र रहेकोमा सन् २०२१ मा झण्डै दोब्बरले वृद्धि भएको छ। त्यस्तै सन् २००१ मा १० वर्ष र सो माथिका विधवा महिला ३.९ प्रतिशत रहेकोमा २०२१ मा थप ३ प्रतिशतले बढी २०२१ मा ६.६ प्रतिशत पुग्यो। त्यसैगरी, विगत दुई दशकमा सम्बन्धविच्छेद र छुट्टिने दर पनि बढेको छ। पैंतिस वर्ष र माथिका अविवाहित महिलाको अनुपात सन् २००१ मा ०.५ प्रतिशत थियो भने २०२१ मा ०.७ प्रतिशत पुगेको छ।

विवाहको उमेर: विवाहित महिलामध्ये लगभग ८३ प्रतिशतले १५ देखि २४ वर्षको विचमा विवाह गरेका थिए। यो उमेर समूहमा ७१ प्रतिशत विधवा महिलाहरू पनि पर्दछन् जसमा धेरैजसोको कम

उमेरमा विवाह भएको देखिन्छ । यसबाहेक, उल्लेखनीय रूपले २३ प्रतिशत विधवा महिलाहरूको विवाह १५ वर्ष वा सोभन्दा कम उमेरमा भएको देखिन्छ ।

बाल जन्म : तथ्याङ्कले १५-४९ वर्ष उमेरका १७ प्रतिशत विधवा महिलाहरूको सन्तान नै नभएको देखाएको छ । यस्तै ३० प्रतिशतको एक मात्र सन्तान, २२ प्रतिशतका दुई सन्तान र १७ प्रतिशत विधवा महिलाका सोभन्दा बढी सन्तान भएको देखिन्छ । यस्तै ४ प्रतिशत विधवा महिलाहरूको ६ वा सोभन्दा बढी सन्तान रहेको पाइयो । प्रदेशअनुसार मधेसमा सन्तान नभएका विधवा महिलाहरूको अनुपात १३ प्रतिशत छ भने बागमतीमा ३६ प्रतिशत विधवा महिलाका दुई सन्तान छन् । यस्तै ६ वा सोभन्दा बढी सन्तान भएकामध्ये कर्णालीका विधवा महिलाहरूको अनुपात सबैभन्दा बढी (८.३%) पाइयो । अन्य प्रदेशको तुलनामा कर्णाली प्रदेशमा अधिकांश विधवा महिलाहरूको धेरै सन्तान रहेका छन् । सहरी क्षेत्रमा बस्ने करिब ३६ प्रतिशत विधवा महिलाका दुई सन्तान छन् ।

एकलै बस्ने एकल महिला

नेपालको सामाजिक तथा जनसाङ्ख्यिकीय परिप्रेक्ष्यसँग जोडेर हेर्दा एकलै बस्नु भनेको एकल महिलाहरूको जोखिममा पर्नु हो । सन् २००१ मा आधाभन्दा बढी (५३%) विवाहित महिलाहरू एकलै बस्दै आएका थिए जो २०११ मा ४९ प्रतिशत र २०२१ मा ३३ प्रतिशतमा घटेको देखिन्छ । नेपालका सबै भौगोलिक क्षेत्रमा यस्तै प्रवृत्तिहरू देखिएका छन् । सोही अवधिमा एकलै बस्ने एकल महिला र विधवा महिलाको अनुपात बढ्दै गएको छ । राष्ट्रियस्तरमा, २००१ मा ३८ प्रतिशत एकल महिलाहरू एकलै बस्ने गर्थे, जुन २०११ मा बढेर ४१ प्रतिशत र २०२१ मा बढेर ५५ प्रतिशतमा पुग्यो । बढ्दो दरका यी तथ्याङ्कले सबै भौगोलिक क्षेत्रमा एकल महिलाहरूको विस्तारित एकलोपनको प्रवृत्तिलाई उजागर गर्दछ ।

अपाङ्गता

नेपालमा कुल जनसङ्ख्याको २.२ प्रतिशत अपाङ्गता भएका छन् । कुल एकल महिलामध्ये, ७.३ प्रतिशतले कुनै न कुनै प्रकारको अपाङ्गताको सामना गरिरहेका छन्, त्यसपछि विधवा महिलाहरू (६.५%) र १.८ प्रतिशत विवाहित महिलाहरू छन् । यसले सङ्केत गर्छ कि विवाहित वा विधवा महिलाहरूको तुलनामा अपाङ्गताको विद्यमानतादर एकल महिलाहरूमा बढी छ । शारीरिक र कम दृष्टि भएका अपाङ्गता विवाहित महिला, विधवा महिला र एकल महिलाहरूमा अधिक रूपमा पाइन्छ ।

यद्यपि, बहुअपाङ्गताको अवस्थामा, एकल महिलाहरूले अपाङ्गता उच्च (८.७%) रहेको अनुभव गरेको पाइएको छ भने विधवा महिलाहरू र विवाहित महिलाहरूको क्रमशः ७.२ र ७.७ प्रतिशत छन् ।

एकल महिलाको सामाजिक संरचना

कुल पहाडी जाति समूहमध्ये ७.५ प्रतिशत विधवा महिला छन्, त्यसपछि पहाडी दलित ७.२ प्रतिशत र धार्मिक/भाषिक समूह ४.३ प्रतिशत छन् जुन जात/जाति समूहहरूमध्ये सबैभन्दा कम हो । पहाडी जातिमा ८.८ प्रतिशत एकल र ७.५ प्रतिशत विधवा महिला छन् । कुल मधेस/तराई जातिमध्ये करिब छ प्रतिशत महिला एकल र ५.४ प्रतिशत विधवा महिला छन् । पहाडी/पहाडी जनजातिहरूमध्ये तुलनात्मक रूपमा बढी महिलाहरू एकल (९.३%) र विधवा महिला (६.९%) छन् । त्यस्तै, पहाडी दलितमध्ये ८.६ प्रतिशत एकल र ७.२ प्रतिशत विधवा महिला छन् । कुल विधवा महिलामध्ये, एक तिहाइभन्दा बढी (३५.९%) पहाडी जाति समूह थिए, त्यसपछि हिमाली/पहाडी जनजाति लगभग समान अनुपातमा (२८.९%) र मधेस/तराई जाति १२ प्रतिशत थिए ।

धर्म: बहुसंख्यक विधवा महिलाहरू (८२.७%) हिन्दू धर्मका अनुयायी रहेको देखियो । त्यसपछि बौद्ध (८.६%) र किराँत (३.२%) रहेको पाइयो । प्रदेशअनुसार सुदूरपश्चिमका लगभग सबै विधवा महिलाहरू (९७.९%) हिन्दू थिए भने कोशीमा ७० प्रतिशतले हिन्दू धर्म मान्ने गरेको पाइयो । किराँत धर्म मान्नेहरू सबैभन्दा बढी कोशी प्रदेशमा (९६.९%) पाइए ।

साक्षरता: देशको १० वर्ष वा सोभन्दा माथिका कुल विधवा महिला जनसङ्ख्याको साक्षरतादर १८.९ प्रतिशत छ जुन महिला साक्षरताको राष्ट्रिय औसत (६७.९%) भन्दा निकै कम हो । प्रदेशअनुसार विधवा महिलाहरूको सबैभन्दा बढी साक्षरतादर बागमती (२३.९%) र सबैभन्दा कम मधेसमा (१०.६%) रहेको छ । त्यसैगरी सबैभन्दा बढी साक्षरतादर पहाड (२०.७%), त्यसपछि तराई (१८.३%) र हिमाल (११.६%) मा रहेको छ । एक तिहाइ (३५.४%) भन्दा बढीले प्राथमिक तह पूरा गरेका थिए भने यो प्रतिशत निम्न माध्यमिक तहमा १५.७ प्रतिशत र माध्यमिक तहमा ११.७ प्रतिशत रहेको छ । थोरै सङ्ख्यामा मात्र विधवा महिलाहरूले स्नातक वा सोभन्दा माथिको अध्ययन पूरा गरेका थिए ।

एकल महिलाको आर्थिक अवस्था

महिला परिवारमुलीको अवस्था: नेपालको जम्मा परिवारमध्ये झण्डै एक तिहाइ घरपरिवार (३१.५%) महिला परिवारमुली रहेकोमा सात प्रतिशत घरपरिवारमा एकल महिला तथा छ प्रतिशतमा विधवा

महिला घरमुली रहेको देखिन्छ । प्रदेशअनुसार गण्डकीमा एकल महिला मुली घरपरिवार (१०%) र विधवा महिला मुली परिवार (८.५%) सबैभन्दा बढी छ । महिला मुली परिवारमध्ये २२.३ प्रतिशत घरपरिवारको मुली एकल महिला र १९.२ प्रतिशत घरपरिवारको मुली विधवा महिला रहेको देखिन्छ । प्रदेशअनुसार कोशीमा सबैभन्दा बढी (२५%) एकल महिला मुली भएका घरपरिवार रहेको छ भने मधेसमा १८.६ प्रतिशत र कर्णालीमा १९ प्रतिशत रहेको छ । यो तथ्यले क्षेत्रअनुसार एकल महिला घरपरिवारको मुली रहेको पुष्टि हुन्छ । त्यसैगरी, गण्डकीमा सबैभन्दा बढी (२०.६%) घरपरिवारमा विधवा महिला र कर्णालीमा सबैभन्दा कम (१७%) परिवारमुली रहेको देखिन्छ ।

सम्पत्तिको स्वामित्व: विधवा महिला भएका घरपरिवारमध्ये २३.४ प्रतिशत घरपरिवारका घर र जमिन महिलाको स्वामित्वमा रहेको छ । प्रदेशअनुसार गण्डकी (३०.९%) र बागमतीमा (२६.२%) सबैभन्दा बढी घर र जमिन महिलाको स्वामित्वमा रहेको छ भने सुदूरपश्चिममा सबैभन्दा कम १२.३ प्रतिशत रहेको छ । त्यस्तै महिलाको स्वामित्वमा घर र जमिन क्षेत्रअनुसार तराइमा (२४.४%) र वासस्थानअनुसार सहरमा रहेको पुष्टि गर्छ ।

रोजगारी स्थिति: कुल दश वर्ष माथिका १,२४,३९,२४७ महिला जनसङ्ख्यामध्ये ७४,९३,२६९ आर्थिक रूपमा सक्रिय थिए जसमध्ये ४२,२७,३६० जनगणनापूर्व १२ महिनामा ६ वा सोभन्दा बढी आर्थिक उपार्जन हुने गतिविधिमा संलग्न भएकाले उनीहरूलाई सामान्यतया रोजगारीको रूपमा वर्गीकृत गरिएको छ । सामान्यतया सक्रिय महिला जनसङ्ख्यामध्ये, ८४.३ प्रतिशत विवाहित र ४.८ प्रतिशत विधवा महिला थिए । यसले विधवा महिलाहरूका लागि सीमित रोजगारीका अवसररहेको तथ्य उजागर गर्दछ ।

कुल ८,२६,१४७ विधवा महिलाहरूमध्ये ४७.२ प्रतिशत आर्थिक रूपमा सक्रिय थिए जसअनुसार आधाभन्दा बढी विधवा महिला जनसङ्ख्या श्रमशक्तिमा सहभागी नहुने देखाउँछ । यस्तै २१ प्रतिशत विधवा महिलाहरू सामान्यतया सक्रिय छैनन् । त्यसैगरी राष्ट्रियस्तरमा चारमध्ये एक जना विधवा महिलाले रोजगारी पाएका छन् भने मधेस प्रदेशमा यो अनुपात ६ मध्ये एक छ । अर्कोतर्फ, कर्णालीमा सामान्यतया रोजगारीमा रहेका विधवा महिलाहरूको अनुपात सबैभन्दा बढी (३०.५%) छ भने आर्थिक रूपमा सक्रिय नभएका विधवा महिलाहरू पनि कर्णालीमा सबैभन्दा कम (४३.९%) छन् ।

काम नगर्नुका कारण: जनगणनाले नेपालको श्रमशक्तिमा महिला सहभागिता नहुनुमा धेरै कारणहरू देखाएको छ । दश वर्ष वा सोभन्दा माथिका महिलाहरू आर्थिक काममा संलग्न नहुनुको प्रमुख कारणमा घरायसी काम (८९.४%) र घरको जिम्मेवारी (८९.३%) देखाएको छ । यसबाहेक, लगभग

आधा (४७.५%) विधवा महिलाहरूले आफ्नो उमेर वा हेरचाह आवश्यक पर्ने वृद्ध आश्रितहरूको उपस्थितिलाई आफ्नो काम नगर्ने मुख्य कारण मानेका छन् ।

साना गैरकृषि उद्यम: कम्तीमा एक विधवा महिला भएका ७,९९,७४४ घरपरिवारमध्ये लगभग नौ प्रतिशत कृषि क्षेत्रबाहिर साना उद्यमहरूमा संलग्न थिए । यी परिवारमध्ये मधेस प्रदेशमा सबैभन्दा बढी प्रतिशत रहेको छ । पहाडी र सहरी क्षेत्रमा गैरकृषि साना उद्यम भएका विधवा महिला परिवारको सङ्ख्या सबैभन्दा बढी देखिएको छ ।

सम्पन्नताको वर्गीकरण: जनगणना २०७८ को नतिजाको आधारमा परिवारहरूलाई सम्पन्नताको पाँच वर्गमा (न्यूनतम, निम्न, मध्यम, उच्च र उच्चतम) मा वर्गीकृत गरिएको छ । विधवा महिला जनसङ्ख्यामध्ये, ठूलो प्रतिशत (२२.५%) सबैभन्दा कम सम्पन्नता भएको वर्गमा र उच्चतमबाट सबैभन्दा कम (१९.७%) सम्पन्नताको वर्गमा देखिएको छ । अर्कोतर्फ, सम्बन्धविच्छेद भएका महिलामध्ये १४ प्रतिशत मात्रै सबैभन्दा न्यून सम्पन्नताको वर्गमा र २७ प्रतिशतभन्दा बढी उच्च सम्पन्नताको वर्गमा थिए । त्यसैगरी, ३५ वर्ष वा सोभन्दा माथिका कहिल्यै विवाह नगरेका अविवाहित महिलाहरूको उच्च अनुपात (३१.३%) उच्च सम्पन्नताको वर्गमा परेको थियो ।

एकल महिलाको सामाजिक-आर्थिक सहसम्बन्ध

लजिस्टिक रिग्रेसन विश्लेषणको आधारमा एकल महिलाको एकल हुने संभाव्यताको विश्लेषण गरिएको थियो । कम्तीमा एक एकल महिला भएको वा नभएको घरपरिवारले प्रतिनिधित्व गर्ने सामाजिक-आर्थिक कारकहरू भौगोलिक क्षेत्र, प्रदेश, ग्रामीण/सहरी बसोबास, घरको स्वामित्व, सम्पत्तिको सूचक, परिवारको प्रकार, घरपरिवारको लिङ्ग, जात/जाति र घरपरिवार प्रमुखको शैक्षिक उपलब्धि समावेश गर्ने नौओटा पारिवारिक स्तरका सूचकहरूका आधारमा यो विश्लेषण गरिएको थियो । तीमध्ये, परिवारको प्रकार (एकल वा विस्तारित) घरमा कम्तीमा एक एकल महिला हुनुमा सबैभन्दा अनुमानित कारक हो । मल्टिपल रिग्रेसन विश्लेषणले संयुक्त परिवारमा महिला एकल हुने अवस्था एकल परिवार संरचनाको तुलनामा ६.७ गुणा बढी सम्भावना हुन्छ भन्ने देखाएको छ । त्यसैगरी, महिलामुली भएको घरपरिवार पुरुषमुली भएको घरपरिवारको तुलनामा महिला एकल हुने सम्भावना ५.७ गुणा बढी हुन्छ ।

कम्तीमा एक एकल महिला भएका घरपरिवारमा भाडामा बसेको घरपरिवारको तुलनामा आफ्नै घरमा हुने सम्भावना झण्डै २ गुणा बढी भएको देखिन्छ । कम्तीमा एक महिला भएको घरपरिवारमा भौगोलिक क्षेत्र, बसोबास गर्ने स्थान, सम्पत्ति सूचकाङ्क, घरपरिवार प्रमुखको लिङ्ग र घरपरिवार प्रमुखको

शैक्षिक उपलब्धिले पनि महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव पारेको अध्ययनले देखाएको छ । सामाजिक, आर्थिक र जनसाङ्ख्यिकीय कारकहरू नेपालमा एकल महिला भएका वा नभएका परिवार भिन्नताका लागि महत्वपूर्ण कारक हुन् ।

त्यसैगरी, परिवारको प्रकार (एकल वा संयुक्त) घरपरिवारमा विधवा महिला हुने सबैभन्दा अनुमानित कारक भएको नतिजाले देखाउँछ । मल्टिपल रिग्रेसन विश्लेषणले संयुक्त परिवारमा एकल परिवार संरचनाको तुलनामा विधवा महिला ७ गुणा बढी हुने सम्भावना रहेको देखाउँछ । विधवा महिला हुने अवस्था भाडामा लिने घरपरिवारको तुलनामा आफ्नै घरमा हुने सम्भावना लगभग ३ गुणा बढी देखिन्छ । अन्य प्रकारका घरपरिवारमा भाडामा लिने घरपरिवारको तुलनामा विधवा महिलाहरूको सङ्ख्या बढी छ ।

अन्य चरहरू जस्तै, भौगोलिक क्षेत्र, बसोबासको प्रादेशिक स्थान, ग्रामीण बसोबासको स्थान, सम्पत्ति सूचकाङ्क, घरपरिवार प्रमुखको लिङ्ग र घरपरिवार प्रमुखको शैक्षिक उपलब्धिले पनि पारिवारिक स्तरमा विधवा महिलाहरूको सङ्ख्या निर्धारण गरेको छ जुन तथ्याङ्कीय रूपमा महत्वपूर्ण छ । नेपालका घरपरिवारमा विधवा महिलाहरूको बढ्दो सङ्ख्याका लागि सामाजिक, आर्थिक र जनसाङ्ख्यिकीय कारक महत्वपूर्ण रहेका छन् ।

एकल महिलाको औसत उमेर ६२.०३ वर्ष रहेको छ जब कि जीवन तालिकाबाट १५-१९ वर्ष उमेर समूहका एकल महिलाको अनुमानित औसत उमेर ४८.७६ वर्ष रहेको देखिन्छ । यसले हाल १५-१९ वर्ष उमेर समूहमा रहेका महिला आगामी ४९ वर्षसम्म एकल नभई बाँच्ने सङ्केत गर्छ । अर्को शब्दमा १५-१९ वर्ष उमेरकी महिला आफ्नो ६३ औं जन्मदिनमा एकल हुने अवस्थामा पुग्छिन् । त्यसैगरी, नेपाली विधवा महिलाको औसत आयु ६४.९७ वर्ष रहेको छ, जब कि जीवन-तालिका प्रविधिबाट विधवा महिलाहरूको अपेक्षित उमेर ५१.२० वर्ष हो अर्थात् १५ देखि १९ वर्ष उमेरका महिला विधवापनविना थप ५१.२ वर्ष बाँच्नेछन् ।

नीतिगत सुधारका पक्ष

नीति विश्लेषण र अध्ययनबाट प्राप्त निष्कर्षहरूको आधारमा निम्नलिखित नीतिगत सुझाव पेस गरिएको छ ।

स्वच्छ ऊर्जामा जोड दिनुपर्ने: विधवाहरू भएको ६० प्रतिशत घरपरिवारमध्ये, ५५.६ प्रतिशतले दाउरालाई प्रमुख खाना पकाउने इन्धनको रूपमा प्रयोग गरेका छन् भने थप २.८ प्रतिशतले गोबर प्रयोग गरेका छन् । खाना पकाउन दाउराको प्रयोग कम गर्न जलविद्युत, सौर्य ऊर्जा र अन्य

वातावरणमैत्री स्रोतको प्रयोग नै उत्तम विकल्प हो । साथै, सबै घरपरिवार र विशेषगरी एकल महिला र विधवा महिला भएका घरपरिवारका लागि विद्युत सेवामा पहुँच विस्तार गरी विद्युत् खपत बढाउन र ऊर्जाको थप प्रभावकारी उपयोग गर्ने नीतिहरू लागु गर्दै आवश्यक कार्ययोजना कार्यान्वयन गर्न आवश्यक छ ।

बालविवाह अन्त्यका लागि पैरवी र सचेतना कार्यक्रम: एकल/विधवा महिलाको कम उमेरमा विवाह हुने सम्भावनालाई मध्यनजर राखेर बालविवाहमा योगदान गर्ने सामाजिक र आर्थिक कारकहरूलाई सम्बोधन गर्ने नीति र कार्यक्रमको आवश्यकता देखिएको छ । यसले महिलाको जीवनमा प्रभाव पार्ने भएकाले पुरुष, महिला र विभिन्न समुदायका लागि प्रबोधिकरणका कार्यक्रमहरू सुरु गरेर र बालिका र महिलाविरुद्ध हुने भेदभाव अन्त्य गर्न महिलाहरूलाई सशक्तीकरण गरेर यो उद्देश्य हासिल गर्न सकिन्छ । यस प्रयासले समग्रमा मधेस, कर्णाली र सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेशमा बालविवाह रोक्न र जन्म, शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य र रोजगारीमा लैङ्गिक असमानता अन्त्य गर्न सहयोग पुग्छ ।

विधवा महिलाहरूको लागि साक्षरता कार्यक्रम: अध्ययनको नतिजाले एकल महिला लक्षित साक्षरता कार्यक्रम लागु गर्नुपर्ने सङ्केत गर्दछ । यसका साथै सचेतना कार्यक्रम, आयआर्जन कार्यक्रम (माइक्रो क्रेडिट), सहकारी र महिला समूहको माध्यमबाट एकल/विधवा महिलाका बालबालिकाका लागि विद्यालयमा विशेष कक्षा व्यवस्था गर्नु वाञ्छनीय हुन्छ ।

नीतिगत एकीकरणमार्फत एकल महिला/विधवा महिलाका लागि विशेष सामाजिक सुरक्षा योजना: जनगणनाका निष्कर्षहरूले विधवा महिलाले सामना गर्ने चुनौतीलाई सम्बोधन गर्न नीतिगत व्यवस्था र कार्यक्रमको आवश्यकतालाई झल्काउँछ ।

समाधानका उपायहरूमा सामाजिक सुरक्षा सुदृढ पार्नु, वृद्ध विधवा र एकल महिलाहरूका लागि स्वास्थ्य सेवा र सहयोग उपलब्ध गराउनु समावेश हुन सक्छ । असी वर्ष र सोभन्दा माथिका एकल महिला/विधवाहरूलाई निःशुल्क स्वास्थ्य सेवा, यात्रा भत्ता, र यस्तै सुविधा आवश्यक हुन्छ । काम गर्न सक्ने उमेर समूहका महिलाहरूका लागि, विशेष गरी ६० वर्षभन्दा कम उमेरकाहरूलाई घरेलु जिम्मेवारीसँग मेल खाने लचिलो वा आंशिक काममा संलग्न हुनका लागि अवसर सिर्जना गर्नु जरुरी छ । यी कार्यक्रमहरू हुन्:

सिप विकास: उच्च माग र नाफामूलक क्षेत्रहरूलाई लक्षित गरी व्यावसायिक तालिम कार्यक्रमहरू कार्यान्वयन गर्नु पर्ने देखिन्छ । एकल महिला र विधवाहरूलाई उमेर हद नलाग्ने गरी सिप विकास कार्यक्रम/तालिमहरूमा प्राथमिकता दिनुपर्छ, जस्तै “राष्ट्रपति महिला उत्थान कार्यक्रम ।”

बजार सञ्चालः सरकार र निजी क्षेत्रले एकल महिला र विधवाहरूले सञ्चालन गर्ने उद्यमहरूलाई देशभित्र र अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय रूपमा बजारसँग जोड्न प्लेटफर्महरू सिर्जना गर्नुपर्छ।

अनलाइन व्यापारः एकल महिला र विधवाहरूलाई अनलाइन व्यापारमा प्रोत्साहन र सहयोगका साथै अनलाइन व्यवसाय र साना उद्यमहरू स्थापना गर्नका लागि सिप र तालिम प्रदान गर्नु पर्ने।

स्रोत र कच्चा पदार्थः आवश्यक स्रोत र कच्चा पदार्थलाई अनुदानित दरमा पहुँचयोग्य बनाउनु पर्ने।

कानुनी सहायताः एकल महिला र विधवाहरूलाई व्यावसायिक नियमहरू बुझ्न र आफ्ना उद्यमहरूको संरक्षण गर्न कानुनी सहायता उपलब्ध गराउनु पर्ने।

सामाजिक सहयोग सञ्चालः समुदायमा सहयोगी समूहहरू निर्माण गरेर विधवा उद्यमीहरू बीच भावनात्मक र व्यावहारिक सहयोग प्रवर्द्धन गर्नुपर्ने, जसले उनीहरूको आत्मविश्वास र सहकार्य क्षमता बढाउँछ।

जनचेतना अभियानः एकल महिला र विधवाहरूको आर्थिक सम्भावना र क्षमताबारे जागरूकता बढाउन अभियान सञ्चालन गर्नुपर्ने, जसले सामाजिक अलगपन घटाउन र सामुदायिक समर्थन प्रोत्साहित गर्न मद्दत गर्छ।

शैक्षिक कार्यक्रमः

नियमित मूल्याङ्कनः लागु गरिएका नीतिहरूको प्रभावकारिता मापन गर्न र आवश्यक परिमार्जन गर्न नियमित रूपमा मूल्याङ्कन आवश्यक देखिन्छ।

अभिलेख व्यवस्थापन तथा तथ्याङ्क सङ्कलनः विधवाहरूको नेतृत्वमा सञ्चालन हुने उद्यमहरू, रोजगारी र घरपरिवारको अवस्थाबारे राम्रो बुझाइका अभिलेख व्यवस्थापन तथा तथ्याङ्क सङ्कलन आवश्यक देखिन्छ, जसले नीतिहरूलाई सान्दर्भिक र प्रभावकारी बनाइराख्न मद्दत गर्छ।

यी नीतिहरूको कार्यान्वयनले एकल महिला तथा विधवाहरूलाई आर्थिक रूपमा सबल बनाउनेछ, उनीहरूको जीविकोपार्जन सुधार्नेछ र समग्र आर्थिक वृद्धिमा योगदान पुऱ्याउनेछ।

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This thematic report presents the situation of single women using data from the 2021 Population and Housing Census. The report defines single women as never-married women aged 35 years and above, widows, divorced, and separated women. This ensures comparability with data reported from past censuses and surveys and with the United Nations recommendations. The analysis presented in this report was derived from processing micro-data jointly by experts in the NSO and Tribhuvan University's Central Department of Population Studies (CDPS) in collaboration with Women for Human Rights (WHR), a single women group organization.

The household-related analysis is based on 6,660,841 non-institutional households. Among the total 6,660,841 non-institutional households, 936,098 households have at least one category of single women (widow, divorced, separated, and never married women aged 35 years and above) and 799,744 households have at least one widow with or without other single women. Of the total households of Nepal, 14 percent of households with at least one single woman in Nepal. Among them, 12 percent have at least one widow, and only two percent have other categories of single women except for widows. Characteristics of households with at least one single woman hold almost similar patterns as those of households with widows. Therefore, household-related analysis is based on 799,744, the total number of non-institutional households with at least one widow. The study uses household characteristics such as housing structure, assets, amenities and services.

In Nepal, 12 percent of households have at least one widow, and two percent of households have at least one single woman except widows. At the province level, households with at least one widow comprise a significant proportion of all households, ranging from 10.8 percent in Karnali Province to 14.4 percent in Sudurpashchim Province.

Housing structures and access to household services and amenities

Information on housing structure is collected as housing ownership; type of housing structure; and construction materials used for the walls, roof, and floor. Information was also collected on amenities - cooking fuel, lighting, sources of drinking water, and type of toilet - that have a direct impact on health risks. In addition, information on household access to household assets, transport and communication devices is also analyzed. Housing characteristics and access to household services affect the lives of people, particularly women.

Housing ownership: Among the 799,744 households with at least one widow, an overwhelming majority were living in their own housing units; only five percent of households were living in rented housing units. The highest proportion of households living in their own housing units were in Karnali (98.1 %) and Madhesh (97.8%) and the least in Bagmati (87.4%) and Gandaki (91.9%). Bagmati and Gandaki were the provinces with the highest percentage of households with at least

one widow living in rented housing units. Almost all households (98.0%) from Mountain lived in their own housing unit and 91.8 percent in Hill households whereas the highest proportion of households live in rented housing units in the Hill. The housing ownership situation of single women also holds a similar pattern as that of widows.

Foundation of housing-unit: A little more than one-third (37%) of all the housing units' foundations with at least one widow and single women were mainly made of mud-bonded brick or stone while about 28 percent were made of cement-bonded brick or stone, and other 20 percent were made of reinforced cement concrete (RCC). By ecological zone, three-quarters (75.9%) of housing unit foundations with at least one widow were made of mud-bonded brick/stone in Mountain compared to only 15.2 percent in Tarai.

Outer wall: Cement-bonded brick/stone and mud-bonded brick/stone were the most used materials in the outer walls of housing units having widow. By province, almost three-quarters of housing units in Bagmati (70.2%) used cement-bonded brick/stone for their outer walls while in Karnali only 13 percent of housing unit's outer walls were made of cement-bonded brick/stone.

Roof: Galvanized iron (45.2%) and RCC (33.3%) were the most common roofing materials among the housing units with at least one widow. Most of the housing units with at least one widows in the Koshi Province had galvanized iron roof (71.6%) while majority housing units in Bagmati Province had RCC roofs (50.9%).

. Very few of the housing units from Karnali Province had RCC roofs. Galvanized iron was the most common roofing material in the Mountain and Hill zones while RCC and galvanized iron (39 % each) were the most common in Tarai.

Type of housing unit: More than three-quarters (76.4%) of Nepal's housing units with at least one widow were *pakki*. Similarly, 77 percent of the housing units with at least one single women were Pakki. By provinces, 96.4 percent of Gandaki households having widow were living in *pakki* housing units in 2021 followed by 93 percent of Bagmati households and Lumbini households (86%). Among the provinces Madhesh had the lowest proportion of *pakki* housing units (43.4%) with highest proportion of Kachchi housing units (32.5%). A similar pattern was observed in the case of single-women households across the provinces, ecological zones, and districts.

Main source of drinking water: There were no differences between households with at least one single women and widows in the main source of drinking water. An overwhelming majority (92.6% each) of the households with at least one single women and widows had access to improved sources of drinking water (e.g., jar/bottle, tap/piped, Tubewell, and covered wells - as they have a low probability of contamination and are usually safer to consume). Looking at province level households with at least one single woman and widows have access to improved sources of drinking water, Koshi Province had found highest rank (95.8% and 96.0% respectively) while Karnali had the lowest (81.6% and 81.5% respectively).

Cooking fuel: Nearly about 60 percent of the households with at least one widow (55.6%) used firewood as their main cooking fuel against 2.8 percent using the cow dung. The second most common fuel was liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) which was the main cooking fuel for 39.8 percent of households. About 87 percent of Karnali and 76 percent of Sudurpashchim households with at least one widow used firewood as the main source of cooking fuel while cow-dung was the main source of cooking fuel for about 11 percent of Madhesh households.

Lighting energy: Ninety-two percent of the households with at least one widow and almost same percent of households with at least one single women, used electricity as their main source of lighting. More than 94 percent of households in Koshi, Madhesh, Bagmati, Gandaki and Lumbini provinces had electricity as their main source of lighting, whereas less than half of such households in Karnali Province used electricity as their main source of lightning. About the other half of Karnali province depend on solar energy for lighting.

Toilet facilities: The 2021 census found that 64.3 percent of households with at least one widow had access to flush toilets connected with both public sewerage system and septic tanks Other 30.8 percent households with at least one widow had pit toilets and remaining 4.4 percent households had not any toilet facilities. Similarly 65.3 percent of the households with at least one single women had access to flush toilets connected with both public sewerage system and septic tanks. Of the total households with at least one single women, 96 percent households had access to flush toilet in Manang district and only 13 percent from Humla had access to flush toilet. A similar finding was obtained for households with at least one widow.

Health risk: Of the total households, more than one-third (34.2%) have none of the health risks. Whereas slightly less than one-third households with single women have no such risk which is further lower for households with at least one widow. About 40 percent of households with widows were exposed to only one health risk. While comparing as urban and rural situations, about 65 percent of households in urban areas with none of the health risk in stark contrast, only 10 percent in rural areas had no health risk. By province, among households with at least one widow, more than half of households in Bagmati had no health risk in comparison to only less than 10 percent in Karnali had no health risk.

Household amenities: Households with at least one widow are slightly less likely to have access to communication devices and transport assets such as a radio (34% vs 34.2%), a smart mobile (69.2% vs 73%), internet (35.7% vs 38.1%), car/jeep/van (3% vs 3.1%), and motorcycle/scooter (26.2% vs 27.3%) as compared to all households. The smallest proportion of radio listeners was in Madhesh (20.8%), while the least television use was in Karnali (17.2%). The highest proportion of smart mobile phones (74.7 %) and internet users (51.9%) were in Bagmati among households with at least one widow. About 70 percent of the households with at least one single have access to smart mobile phones. Among households with at least one single woman, Bagmati province had the highest rank (75.3%) for using smartphones whereas Karnali had the lowest (55.5) (Maps

3.11; 3.12). The highest level of car-jeep-van and motorcycle/scooter was in Bagmati (6.7% and 36.7%, respectively). Among households with at least one widow in Nepal, about 6 percent did not have any amenities/facilities like radio, television, landline phone, mobile phone, smart mobile, computer/laptop, internet, car/jeep/van, motorcycle/scooter, bicycle, electric fan, refrigerator, washing machine, air conditioning in their households. Households without any amenities/ facilities vary depending upon the administrative and geographical location. Almost one in ten (9.8%) households with at least one widow in Karnali province did not have any of such amenities which is the highest among provinces and the second highest proportion of such households is in Sudurpashchim province (8.5%).

Demographic dynamics of single women

Among the total female population aged 10 years and above, 8 percent were single women. The number of widows is much higher (6.6%) than widowers (2.2%). There were 71 percent married women in the census 1981 whereas this proportion is 64 percent in 2021. NPHC 2021 found a gradual increase in the number of single women since 2001. Among women aged 10 years and above, 6.6 percent were widows in 2021, which was increased from only 3.7 percent in 2001. The rates of divorce and separation have also increased over the past two decades. The proportion of unmarried single women aged 35 and above has increased from 0.5 percent in 2001 to 0.7 percent in 2021.

Age at first marriage: About 83 percent of all married women entered marriage between the ages of 15 and 24. This age group also accounts for 71 percent of the widows, indicating that a majority of widowed women were married at a young age. Furthermore, a notable 23 percent of widows were married at the age of 15 or below, underscoring the prevalence of child marriage among those who have lost their spouses.. The highest number (30.4%) of the widows in Sudurpashchim had their first marriage below the age of 15 years which is lowest in Karnali (17.4%).

Children ever born (CEB): Significant regional variations have been seen in the number of children ever born (CEB) to widows aged 15-49 years across in Nepal. Slightly over one in every 10 widows in 15-49 age group did not have any children whereas 17 percent had one child. Nearly one-third (30%) of them had two children. Moreover, a noteworthy 4 percent of widows have six or more children. By province, Madhesh had a higher proportion (13%) of widows without any children whereas 36 percent of widows in Bagmati had two children. Widows from Karnali had the highest proportion of those with six or more children (8.3%) indicating that a substantial number of widows in Karnali Province are bearing large number of children compared to other provinces.. Approximately 36 percent of widows residing in urban areas had two children.

Living alone single women: Living alone is a significant factor contributing to the vulnerability of single women in Nepal, linked to the country's social and demographic context. More than half (53 %) of the married women lived alone in 2001, decreasing to 49 percent in 2011 and 33 percent in 2021. Similar trends are observed across all ecological zones. The proportion of single women

and widows living alone has been increasing over time. At the national level, 38 percent of single women lived alone in 2001, which rose to 41 percent in 2011 and further increased to 55 percent in 2021. These rising figures highlight a clear trend of increasing loneliness among single women across all ecological zones.

Disability: Of the total single women, 7.3 percent are experiencing any forms of disability, followed by widows (6.5%) and 1.8 married women. This indicates that single women are disproportionately affected by disabilities compared to their married or widowed counterparts. When examining the types of disabilities, physical and low vision disabilities are found common among married women, widows, and single women. However, in cases of multiple disabilities, single women are more likely to experience higher levels (8.7%) of disability than both widows and married women (7.2% and 7.7%).

Social composition of single women

Caste/ethnicity: Out of the total Hill castes, 7.5 percent are widows followed by Hill Dalit (7.2%) and religious linguistic group (4.3%) which is the lowest among the caste/ethnic groups. The married women are much higher among Madhesh/Tarai Dalit (66.6%) and Tarai Janajati (66.2%) whereas it is much lower among Hill caste (64.3 %) and Religious/Linguistic groups (62.8 %), respectively.

Among the Hill castes, 8.8 percent are single women and 7.5 percent are widows. Of the total Madhesh/Tarai caste, near about six percent of women are single women and 5.4 percent are widows. Among the Mountain/Hill Janajati, relatively higher proportion of women are found single women (9.3%) and widow (6.9%). Likewise, 8.6 percent are single women and 7.2 percent are widows among the Hill Dalits. Of the total widows, more than one-third (35.1%) are Hill castes followed by Mountain/Hill Janajati (28.1%) and Madhesh/Tarai caste (12.0%).

Religion: A large majority of the widows (82.7%) were the followers of Hindu religion followed by Buddhist (8.6%) and Kirat (3.2%). By province, almost all the widows from Sudurpashchim were Hindu (97.9%) and in Koshi, 70 percent are followers of Hindu religion. Out of the total widows in Koshi, 16.1% followers of Kirat religion while 3.2 percent of total widows in Bagmati followers of the Christianity.

Literacy: The literacy rate of the country's total widow population aged 10 years and above was about 19 percent and remaining 80 percent were illiterate which is quite below the national average of women literacy (67.1 %). By province, highest literacy rate was found in Bagmati (23.9%) and lowest in Madhesh (10.6%). Similarly, the highest literacy rate was in Hill (20.7%), followed by Tarai (18.3%) and Mountain (11.6%). More than one-third (35.4%) had completed primary level followed by lower secondary (15.7%) and secondary (11.7%) level of education. Only a very small number (1%) of widows had completed a Bachelor and above.

Economic composition of single women

Nearly one-third (31.5%) were female headed households which is seven percent for single women headed and six percent widow headed households. By province, Gandaki has the highest proportion of single women-headed households (10%) as well as widow-headed households (8.5%).

Among the female headed households, 22.3 percent of households are headed by single women and 19.2 percent households are headed by only widow. By province, Koshi had the highest (25%) proportion of single women-headed households followed by 18.6 percent in Madhesh and 19 percent in Karnali. This finding explores the variation in household leadership by single women across different regions. Similarly, the highest proportion (20.6%) of households are headed by widows in Gandaki and lowest in Karnali (17%).

Property ownership: About two-fifths of the households (38.8%) having at least one widow had either land or house or both in the name of female members of their households which is quite higher than the national average (25.4%). By province, the highest proportion (45.6%) was in Gandaki and the lowest in Sudurpashchim (19.3%). Tarai (40.3%) and urban residence (45.9%) had the highest level of female ownership in land or house or both in the respective regions.

Employment status: Among total 12,439,247 of ten years and above female population, 7,493,269 were economically active of which 4,227,360 were engaged in some income generating activities for 6 or more months in the last 12 months and hence they are classified as 'usually employed'. Of the total married women, about 44.5 percent were usually employed. More half of the total divorced (53.6%) and separated (51.9%) women were usually employed while among widows only one-fourth (24.6%) were usually employed. Among the widows, more than half (52.5%) were fall in economically not active categories. Overall, these facts reveal the varying degrees of economic participation among women influenced by their marital status.

Among the total 826,147 widow, 47.2 percent were economically active and remaining 53 percent were not economically active indicating that more than half of the widowed population do not participate in the labour force. Additionally, 21 percent of widows are usually not active. Similarly, one in four widow is usually employed in the national level whereas this ratio is one in six in Madhesh province. On the other hand, the proportion of usually employed widow is highest (30.5%) in Karnali whereas the economically not active widows are also lowest (43.9%) in Karnali.

Reasons for not work: household work and household chores were the leading reasons for economic inactivity and short time involvement in economic activities among married women (51.0% and 14.1% respectively). Whereas age related factor appears as the main reason for economic inactivity and unable to full time involvement in economic activities among widows (50.8%).

Small-scale non-agricultural enterprises: About 9 percent of the 799,744 households with at least one widow were engaged in small-scale enterprises outside the agricultural sector. Madhesh Province had the highest (10.2%) of these households. The highest number of widow households with non-agricultural small-scale enterprises were found in Mountain and urban areas.

Wealth quintile: Among the widows, the highest (22.5%) share of widow population falls into the lowest quintile households followed by then the second and the third highest shares fall into the lower and the middle quintile households respectively with each about 20 percent, whereas about the same percentage (19.7%) of widow population belongs to the highest quintile. Only 14 percent of divorced women were in the lowest quintile households and more than 27 percent in the highest quintile. Higher proportion (31.3%) of never married single women aged 35 and above belongs to highest quintile. Among married women, almost similar share is observed across the five quintile categories having 18.8% in lowest, 20.3% in lower, 20.8% in middle, 19% in higher, and 21.1% in highest quintile households.

Socio-economic associates of singlehood among women

The multiple regression analysis depicts that singlehood is 6.7 times more likely to be found in an extended family than in a nuclear family structure. Similarly, female-headed households are 5.7 times more likely to have single woman than male-headed households.

Households residing in their own housing units were almost 2 times more likely to have at least one single woman as compared to households residing in rented housing units. The finding also suggests that ecological zone, provincial place of residence, urban place of residence, wealth index, sex of household head and educational attainment of household head also have significant effect on households having at least one single woman.

The result further shows that type of family (nuclear or extended) is the most predictable factor to have widows in the households as well. The multiple regression analysis depicts that widows are 7 times more likely to have in the extended family than in the nuclear family structure. Similarly, female headed households were 5.8 times more likely to have widows in the households than male headed households. Households residing in own households were almost 3 times more likely to have widows in the household as compared to those residing in the rented households. The other types of households too show greater chances of having widows as compared to the rented households. This indicates that the ownership of housing units significantly affects the chances of having widows in the households.

Other variables like, ecological zone, provincial place of residence, urban place of residence, wealth index, sex of household head and educational attainment of household head also determined the chances of having widows in the household which are statistically significant ($p < 0.01$).

Expected age of singlehood or widowhood

The observed mean age of single women is 62.03 years, whereas the expected length of age for single women from the life table is 48.76 years for beginning age groups 15-19 years. This indicates that women who are currently 15-19 years of would survive next 48.76 years without singlehood. In other words, a woman aged 15-19 years would reach to a singlehood in her 63rd birthday. Similarly, the observed mean age of widows for Nepali women is 64.97 years, while the expected age for widows from the life table method is 51.20 years, meaning that a woman aged between 15-19 years would survive another 51.2 years without widowhood (would reach to a widowhood in her 66th birthday). Additionally, the life table provides expected length of age of women before singlehood/widowhood for reach respective age groups.

Policy implications

On the basis of policy guidance and findings from this study, the following policy issues have been presented.

Focus on clean energy: As 60 percent of the households with widow (55.6%) used firewood as their main type of cooking fuel with a further 2.8 percent using the cow dung. Use of hydropower, solar energy and other environment-friendly sources is the best option to reduce the use of firewood for cooking. Policies need introducing and joint action plans to increase electricity consumption expanding access to electricity services for all households and specifically households with single women and widow.

Advocacy and awareness programme for ending child marriage: The high percentages of early marriages among single women/widow highlight the need for policies and interventions aimed at addressing the social and economic factors that contribute to early marriage and its subsequent impacts on women's lives. This can be achieved by introducing advocacy programs for men, women and the community and empowering women to end discrimination against girls and women. This effort aims to prevent child marriage and abolish gender disparity in birth, education, health and employment in the country and the regions such as Madhesh, Karnali, and Sudurpashchim provinces.

Literacy program for widow: The literacy rate of the country's total widow population aged 10 years and above was only 18.9 percent indicating the need of literary programme to educate single women through advocacy program, income generating program cooperatives and women's group. Promote literacy and continuous education programs for widows to enhance their business acumen and adaptability.

Special social security scheme for single women/widow through policy integration: Findings in this respect highlight the need for targeted interventions and support systems to address the unique challenges faced by widows/single women. Solutions could include enhancing social security measures, providing healthcare and assistance for the aged widow and single women. Single women/ widow aged 80 and above, need free health care service, travel allowance and the like.

For working aged women, specifically below age 60 creating opportunities to engage in flexible or part-time work that accommodates their household responsibilities. These programmes are:

Skill development: Implement vocational training programs tailored to sectors with high demand and profitability. Single women and widow should be given to preference in skill development programme/trainings irrespective of their age, such as “Rashtrapati Mahila Utthan Karyakram.”

Financial support (microfinance loan): Provide access to microfinance tailored to widows, ensuring low-interest rates and flexible repayment schedules.

Grants and subsidies: Offer grants or subsidies to start or expand small businesses, particularly in non-agricultural sectors given priority for widow and single women.

Market linkages: Government as well as private sector should create platforms to connect widow-led enterprises with larger markets, both domestic and international.

Online business: Encourage and assist single women and widows for the online business and provide skills and training in establishing an online businesses and small-scale entrepreneurship to reach broader audiences.

Resources and raw materials: Facilitate access to necessary resources and raw materials at subsidized rates.

Legal aid: Offer legal support to help widows navigate business regulations and protect their enterprises.

Social support networks: Build community support groups to offer emotional and practical support, enhancing resilience and collaboration among widow entrepreneurs.

Awareness campaigns: Run campaigns to raise awareness about the economic potential and capabilities of widows, reducing stigma and encouraging community support.

Educational programs:

Regular assessments: Conduct regular assessments of the implemented policies to gauge their effectiveness and make necessary adjustments.

Data collection: Improve data collection on widow-led enterprises, employment and household's condition to better understand their needs and challenges, ensuring policies remain relevant and impactful. Implementing these policies can empower widows economically, improving their livelihoods and contributing to overall economic growth and stability.

ABBREVIATIONS

CDPS	Central Department of Population Studies
COVID-19	Coronavirus 2019
HDI	Human Development Index
HH	Household
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
MPI	Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index
NDHS	Nepal Demographic and Health Survey
NPHC	National Population and Housing Census
NSO	National Statistics Office
RCC	Reinforced Cement Concrete
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WHR	Women for Human Rights
OR	Odds Ratio
RGLog	Rayleigh Generated Log Logistic Distribution
RC	Reference Categories

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Single Women: Meaning and Nepal context

The concept of being "single" varies according to the marital status of women in different contexts. A single woman is defined as one who is widowed, divorced, separated, or unmarried over the age of 35 (Dhungana, 2014; UN Women, 2014; Tiwari & Bhattarai, 2017). Feminist scholars contextually explain that a single woman can include those who are divorced, separated, deserted, have a missing husband, or are unmarried. For this analysis, the four categories of marital status; widowed, divorced, separated, and unmarried women over 35 years old; are considered as single women.

Widowhood/widowerhood refers to the status of an individual who was legally married to someone who has passed away and has not remarried. This state of life brings about unique social, emotional, and economic challenges for those experiencing it. According to the 2021 census, Nepal has a total of 1,081,155 widowed/widower individuals (NSO, 2023). Exploring deeper into the singlehood of population, the 2021 census revealed that among the female population aged 10 years and above, about seven percent (6.6%) are widows. In contrast, among the male population aged 10 years and above, only two (2.2%) percent are widowers. This significant disparity highlights the longer life expectancy among women and the social implications of widowhood in a patriarchal society. Furthermore, between 2011 and 2021, the number of widows in Nepal increased from 490,606 in 2011 to 826,147 in 2021. Actual difference is 335,541 in a decade.

Several factors explain the imbalanced gender ratio among the widowed. Firstly, women experience greater longevity than men. The life expectancy in Nepal has increased from 65.5 years for males and 67.9 years for females in 2011 to 68.2 years and 73.8 years respectively in 2021 (CBS, 2014; NSO, 2024). Secondly, wives are generally younger than their husbands, which is a social practice of our country, that fact increases the probability of surviving their spouses even without the differences in longevity.

The widows can be seen from the age-group perspective also. Of the total women aged 15-19 years, about 14 percent got married (NSO, 2023). The census data found that 912 women (0.1 percent) of the total women had become widow (below 20 years) even below the legal age of marriage in Nepal. It is indeed a matter of concern as there are still a significant number of adolescent widows despite the prohibition of child marriage by law in Nepal. Widows in different age groups face different issues and challenges such as access to employment, skill development, property rights, shelter, access to healthcare, etc.

In the context of divorced women, the census data shows that 80 percent of those who are divorced were married between the ages of 15 and 24. Similarly, among women who are separated from their spouses, 78 percent got married within the same age range. These facts indicate that the majority of marital disruptions, such as divorce and separation, occur among

women who got married in their young age. Overall, the census data portrays a picture of early marriage (23.2% of married women aged 10 years and above got married below the age of 20) being a common experience among women in Nepal, with significant implications for their marital stability and the likelihood of becoming widowed, divorced, or separated.

The status of women in Nepalese society has historically been subordinate to men, leading to discrimination, exploitation, and various forms of mental and physical abuse. Patriarchy dominates Nepalese society, resulting in significant oppression of women and exclusion from important societal roles. Traditional norms and values confine women to domestic and agricultural roles, discouraging their participation in public life. Widows face particularly adverse conditions, with societal attitudes often blaming them unfairly for their husband's death. Despite the universality of birth and death, single women are often stigmatized and excluded from societal and religious activities (Malik, 2013). The perpetuation of these oppressive norms highlights the society's failure to critically examine and challenge traditional values.

The attitude towards widowhood in Nepal is changing as the number of widows increases. While widows are increasingly participating in society by taking up jobs and attending functions, there are still areas where widowhood remains painful and humiliating due to societal discrimination and ritual sanctions (Weiss, 1999). Many widows face limited freedom to remarry, insecure property rights, social restrictions on living arrangements, restricted employment opportunities, and a lack of social support (Tiwari and Bhattarai, 2017). Understanding of their problems is limited, and general schemes are inadequate to address their specific needs. Additionally, there is a lack of data on their economic conditions, which hampers the identification of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups. Therefore, this thematic report, relies on census data, government schemes, and legislative interventions, address single women particularly widows' status and challenges.

Nepal has been adopting various policies and actions towards women empowerment in general and single women in particular. The revisions made to the Constitution of Nepal in 2015 aimed to ensure women's "right to equality," regarding inheritance. However, legal enforcement of these rights was only solidified in the latest amendment of the National Penal (Code) Act, 2017. Despite this, widows, ex-wives, divorcees, and rape victims continue to face obstacles in accessing their rightful inheritances. In response, the Nepalese government has initiated efforts to uphold constitutional promises, such as the latest revisions of National Penal (Code) Act, 2017. This Act grants widows unrestricted access to and control over their late husband's properties, removing previous age restrictions. Nevertheless, a notable limitation of the Act is that widows are required to return any remaining inheritance to their late husband's successors if they choose to remarry.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Beijing Conference, SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating the Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, seven of the nine core human rights conventions, including some important Protocols and seven of the eight core ILO conventions are the major international policy

prescriptions to empower and protect the rights of the single women (MoWCSC/UN Women, 2020). International conventions and treaties focused on the right to nationality, exclusion or

restriction, prevention of sanctions and guaranteeing equal rights irrespective of their marital status. Nepal has been developing the policies and programs to empower single women based on the international policy guidelines as a signatory party.

The Constitution of Nepal 2015 emphasizes economic equality, prosperity, and social justice, with social security as a key measure to achieve these goals. Article 43 of the Constitution enshrines social security as a fundamental right for poor and vulnerable citizens, including indigenous individuals, single women, people with disabilities, children, those unable to care for themselves, and endangered tribal groups. Various legislative measures have been enacted to uphold this right, including the Social Security Act 2018, the Contributory Social Security Act 2018, and the Local Government Operation Act 2017.

In some situations, single women may be less affected by social factors, more importantly household decision-making power. However, they are vulnerable to sexual harassment as they generally handle both internal and external responsibilities like men do in society. In a joint family, single women are often excluded from socio-religious activities and face discrimination in aspects such as food and clothing. About 62.5% of single women in joint families feel socially discriminated against and excluded. Among these, mostly single women report experiencing emotional distress, difficulty in accessing resources, and discrimination in household and community decision-making processes (Bista, 2019).

Regarding sexual harassment, about one fourth report not experiencing any kind of harassment because they do not need to work outside and/or have male protection. Single women in male-headed joint families feel more secure than those in female-headed nuclear families (Bista, 2019). The poverty vulnerability of single women is significantly high. Consequently, the extreme vulnerability of single women persists across both joint and nuclear families due to their social exclusion. Theoretical and empirical studies link this to inclusiveness, family structure, and women's empowerment, along with policy development and implementation, legal frameworks, and institutional reforms. Therefore, addressing the vulnerability of single women should be a priority in women's empowerment, development, and governance, from central to local governments, to achieve the SDG 2030 Goals: Gender Equality (Goal no.5).

1.2 Global context

Over the past few decades, most of the countries have witnessed an increase in the frequency of singlehood, both in terms of numbers and proportion of the population (UN Census Bureau, 2021; Kislev, 2019). In United States, the percentage of adults aged 25 to 54 not in relationships - neither married nor cohabiting - rose significantly from 20 percent in 1990 to 38 percent in 2019 (Fry & Parker, 2021). Eurostat data 2019 reveals that 35 percent of European households consist of a single person over two decades (EuroStat, 2021). In Germany, the number of single person households rose by 23 percent and two person households rose by 9 percent, whereas three or more member households declined by 10 percent over the past two decades (Umweltbundesamt, 2022). While rise in the proportion of single individuals is evident in Western nations, it's also observable in regions such as Asia, the Middle East, South America, and certain parts of Africa (Census of India, 2011; Dommaraju, 2015; Podshisita & Xenos, 2015).

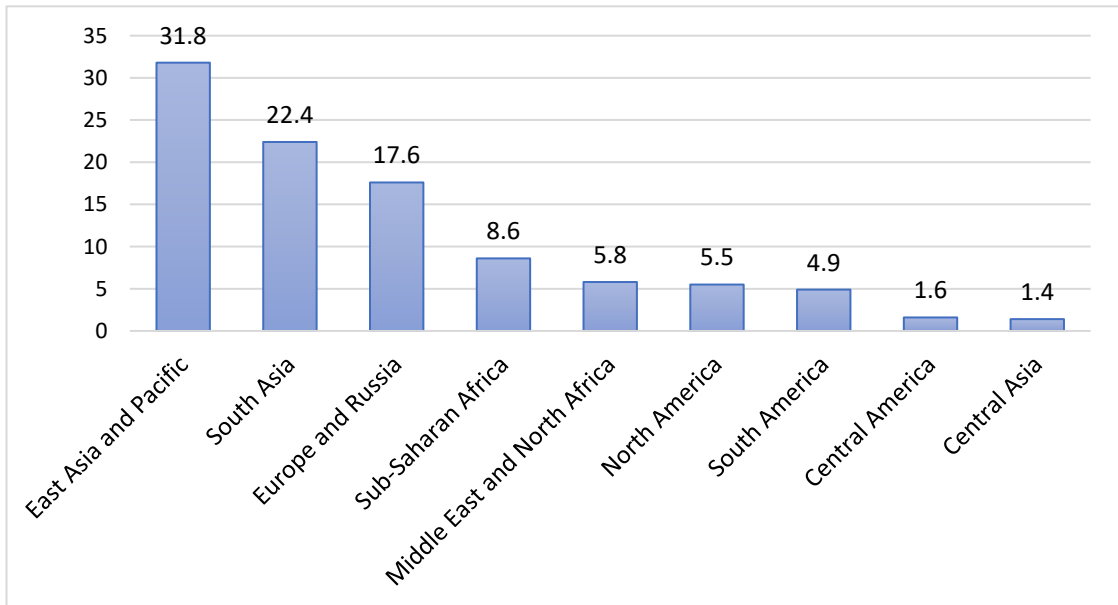
Table 1.1: Regional and global estimates of widows, 2015

Region	2010 Total	2015 Total	Increase in Number	% Change
Sub-Saharan Africa	20562647	22153905	1591258	7.7
East Asia and Pacific	72927868	82298356	9370488	12.8
Middle East and North Africa	12045467	14969643	2924176	24.3
Central Asia	3518319	3614152	95833	2.7
South Asia	54562110	57844083	3281973	6.0
North America	14209960	14280312	70352	0.5
Caribbean	865404	988860	123456	14.3
Central America	3624832	4159216	534384	14.7
South America	11309297	12774265	1464968	13.0
Europe and Russia	43487856	45398264	1910408	4.4
Total	237113760	258481056	21367296	9.0

Source: The Loomba Foundation, 2015

Global increase in the number of widows, totaling 258,481,056, marking a 9 percent rise from 2010 to 2015. This increase was observed across all regions worldwide. Particularly noteworthy was the Middle east and North Africa, which experienced the most substantial change with a 24.3 percent increase (Table 1.1). Conversely, North America saw the smallest change, with a mere 0.5 percent. The less developed regions of South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa demonstrated percentage changes approximately half of those in the Caribbean, Central America, South America, and East Asia and the Pacific. This difference is likely attributed to the continual improvement in women's life expectancy in these areas. In terms of regional distribution, East Asia and the Pacific had the highest number of widows, followed by South Asia and Europe/Russia. The remaining regions had considerably fewer widows compared to these three. South Asia's share is particularly significant due to the prevalent extreme poverty in the region, whereas Sub-Saharan Africa, despite having a higher proportion of extreme poverty, accounted for a much smaller global share of widows (The Loomba Foundation, 2015).

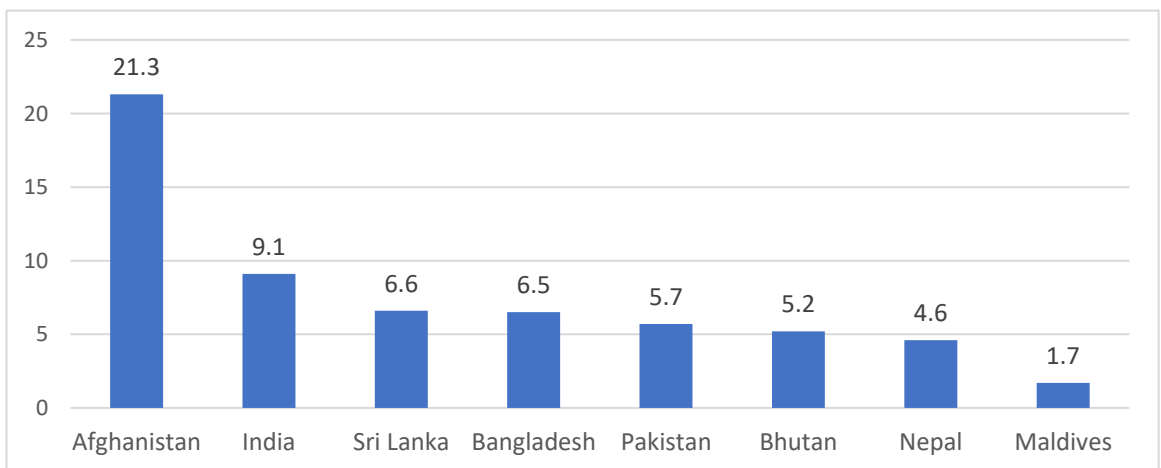
Figure 1.1: Regional distribution of widow as % of global, 2015



Source: The Loomba Foundation, 2015

In 2015, the proportion of widows across different regions globally remained consistent with the same three regions maintaining their highest shares in the same sequence. Specifically, East Asia and the Pacific comprised 31.8% of the total, South Asia accounted for 22.4%, and Europe and Russia represented 17.6%. These percentages exhibited slight declines compared to the revised 2010 data. Conversely, the Middle East and North Africa, Central America, and South America experienced slight increases in their global shares of widows. Meanwhile, the Caribbean's share remained unchanged.

Figure 1.2: Percentage of Widows in South Asian Countries, 2015



Source: The Loomba Foundation, 2015

Figure 1.2 shows that Afghanistan has the highest proportion of widows in South Asia, while Maldives has the lowest. Additionally, India also has a considerable number of widows. The primary factors contributing to premature male mortality in developing countries are increased poverty, preventable diseases, and war/armed conflicts, as explored by scholars like Lee (2004) and Chant (1997). These circumstances lead to a substantial population of widows who lack the necessary resources to deal with the financial challenges of widowhood.

In previous research, singlehood has been explored and various classifications have been proposed. One of the most notable classifications comes from Stein (1975), who distinguished between voluntary and involuntary singlehood based on an earlier investigation involving 20 individuals (Stein, 1975). Some participants in this study highlighted the concept of "choice" in describing how they came to be single. Stein later expanded this classification by introducing the dimension of stability versus instability, alongside the voluntary and involuntary distinction, although this addition has been less widely adopted in the literature (Tessler, 2023). Thus, Stein argued that singlehood generally fits into four primary categories: voluntary temporary, voluntary stable, involuntary temporary, and involuntary stable. However, the definition of these categories raised doubts among some researchers regarding the differentiation between voluntary and involuntary singlehood. Subsequent studies have revealed that the boundaries between voluntary and involuntary singlehood are not fixed.

In more recent times, scholars have returned to the term "choice," and a number of them have begun using the phrase "singles by choice" to differentiate from "singles by circumstances" (Council & Marsh, 2023). Those who are single by choice are individuals who have deliberately opted to remain single, either for an indefinite period or for a specific duration. On the other hand, individuals who are single by circumstances are those who are presently not in a romantic relationship but haven't actively made the decision to be single. For instance, Bernard-Allan (2016) depicted the negotiation of singlehood among women as dialectical. She proposed that women arrive at acceptance of singlehood through a process of improvisations. It means the singlehood as an identity which is change in time and context.

In the discourse surrounding the classification of singlehood, it is essential to address the concept of intersectionality (Girme et al., 2022). Indeed, it is crucial to take into account various identities when examining singlehood. Studies indicate that the intersection of multiple identities shapes individuals' experiences in intricate and multifaceted ways (Ramarajan, 2014).

When examining the identities of singles, it's crucial to consider gender differences. Negative stereotypes associated with singlehood are frequently directed more towards women than men. Single women, often contrasted with their male counterparts, are portrayed as leading lives bereft of sexual fulfilment, purpose, or significance, and are sometimes depicted as morally deficient or as challenging patriarchal norms (Lahad, 2017; Luke & Poulin, 2023). This phenomenon is culturally influenced, shaping perceptions of gender differences and particularly affecting how single women are perceived (Ochnik & Slonim, 2020).

Age is an additional factor to consider when exploring the experiences of singles as they navigate the complexities and adjustments of their identity (Ermer & Keenoy, 2023). Singles transition from an age where societal norms dictate that marriage or committed relationships should have

already occurred to an age where it may be deemed "too late." Gender and identity formation intersect in this context, particularly evident in research on single women (Lahad, 2017), who often struggle with embracing their single status in their late thirties due to heightened feelings of missed opportunities, particularly compared to men. Conversely, some studies (Hill Roy et al., 2022) have found that older age is associated with greater satisfaction with singlehood. These conflicting narratives could be elucidated by the framework proposed here concerning how singles perceive their single identity.

Race and ethnicity intersect with singlehood in significant ways. For instance, in one study (Pudrovska et al., 2006), it was identified that single Black women tended to have higher levels of satisfaction with their single status compared to both White singles and Black men. This heightened satisfaction is believed to restrict from societal expectations surrounding singlehood within Black communities, which are influenced by external social factors like elevated rates of Black male mortality and incarceration (Moorman, 2020). This implies that individuals socialized and/or living in environments where singlehood is normalized experience less conflict between their identity and societal norms (Hafford-Letchfield et al., 2016). Research indicates that singlehood has been on the rise due to various factors such as advancements in gender equality, shifts away from traditional family roles for women, and reduced social stigma surrounding singlehood for women (Reynolds, 2013). Improved educational and career opportunities for single women have also played a role in promoting singlehood (Blossfeld & De Rose, 1992), with some women prioritizing their careers over forming families.

However, women are more susceptible to negative stereotypes associated with singlehood compared to men (Lahad, 2017). Single women are often depicted as leading empty, meaningless lives and are frequently seen as morally deficient or directly challenging patriarchal norms. Conversely, men generally do not face as high levels of stereotyping and stigma because society assumes that they choose their singlehood and are content with it. Not only are single women and single men perceived differently by society (Moore & Radtke, 2015), but gender-specific social norms surrounding family formation also influence individual experiences (Bernard-Allan, 2016). Consequently, women are more inclined than men to perceive their singlehood negatively or view it as temporary (Simpson, 2016).

A Study indicates that economic factors frequently postpone marriage and contribute to singlehood, particularly as lower incomes pose challenges in supporting a family (Stone et al., 2011). The pursuit of financial stability often competes with the time and resources needed for romantic relationships, which can be further complicated by societal expectations of financial stability prior to marriage (Edin & Reed, 2005). Furthermore, singles are increasingly drawn to urban areas in search of better job opportunities, a trend that sometimes involves abandoning traditional values and deferring marriage (Niranjan et al., 2005).

Research attention should also be given to religious singles, as they constitute a distinct group warranting independent study (Farrell, 2011; Levitt, 2013; Mir-Hosseini, 2006). Evidence suggests that as the influence of religion diminishes in society or secularization increases, more individuals opt not to marry or have children (Wang & Parker, 2014). Data from the European Social Survey (Kislev, 2019) reveals variations in secular beliefs based on marital status: 12 percent of married

individuals, 23 percent of cohabiting individuals, 18 percent of never-married individuals, and 17% percent of divorced respondents identify as secular (scoring 0 on a 0–10 scale).

This phenomenon occurs globally, even in the most conservative societies. Iran, for instance, is witnessing unprecedented shifts in patterns of singlehood. Traditionally, relationship dynamics in Iran have been heavily influenced by religious and cultural norms, promoting early and lifelong marital commitments with low divorce rates (Asghari, 2019). However, young Iranians, particularly women, are resisting societal pressure by marrying later, divorcing more frequently, opting for fewer children, or choosing not to marry altogether (Erfani & McQuillan, 2008), trends that have been central to recent demonstrations in Iran (Molana et al., 2023).

The rise in the population of singles can be attributed to a combination of structural forces and individual behaviors (Marsh, 2023). Therefore, it's crucial to adopt a multilevel approach to understanding singlehood, which considers both individual choices and broader structural influences (Clarke, 2011). Even if one doesn't explicitly employ an intersectional perspective, it's important to recognize that many individuals experience singlehood through the lens of intersecting and marginalized identities (Moorman, 2020). These identities are often mistakenly seen as deficiencies, particularly among single women, or are viewed as a temporary phase associated with negative traits like passivity or laziness (Lahad, 2017). Such assumptions hinder a comprehensive understanding of how these intersecting identities contribute to the experiences of socially identified singles.

1.3 Global and Nepal policies

The shaping of global women's policies is influenced by a range of conventions and institutional frameworks aimed at advancing women's rights, enhancing their access to resources, and safeguarding them from all forms of discrimination. Among these efforts, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) stands out as one of the most crucial initiatives for securing women's rights, including those of single women. In the CEDAW document address the rights of single women in its introductory section, Articles 1, 11 and 16 as following:

- Introduction: Ensuring the Right to Nationality Regardless of Marital Status
- Article 1: Prohibition of Any Distinction, Exclusion, or Restriction Based on Marital Status
- Article 11: Prevention of Sanctions or Dismissals Based on Marital Status
- Article 16: Guaranteeing Equal Rights and Responsibilities for Parents, Regardless of Marital Status

Over the past two decades, several laws have been enacted to combat gender-based violence and discrimination, and to promote equality and women's empowerment, especially for marginalized and disadvantaged communities. Notably, the 11th amendment of the General Code in 2002, known as the Women's Bill, repealed many discriminatory provisions and granted significant rights to women. This amendment is considered a milestone in eliminating discrimination against women, giving them control over familial property, equal inheritance rights for unmarried daughters and sons, and rights to their husband's property and resources upon

divorce. The 12th amendment of the General Code in 2007 granted women the right to keep inherited property and use it without the consent of male members. It introduced liberal conditions for widows to use inherited property and eased divorce rights. The amendment also criminalized domestic and sexual violence and recognized marital rape as a crime.

The constitution of Nepal 2015 ensures the fundamental rights and free from any discrimination based on the gender, caste/ethnicity and others. In the preamble of the constitution focused on the resolving to build an egalitarian society founded on the proportional inclusive and participatory principles in order to ensure economic equality, prosperity and social justice, by eliminating discrimination.

Fundamental rights and duties, right to equality, rights of women, right to social justice: right to participate in the state bodies on the basis of inclusive principle. The fundamental rights of women provisioned in the constitution of Nepal are citizenship with identity of descent and gender, non-discriminatory, equal rights to ancestral property, equal rights without gender discriminations, rights to safe motherhood and reproductive health, right to obtain compensation in case of suffering from violence, right to positive discrimination, equal rights to property and family affairs and social security rights to those who cannot take care of themselves including helpless single women (Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen (MoWCSC), 2020).

The directive principles of the Constitution of Nepal 2015 has provisioned policies related to social justice and inclusion aiming for giving priority in employment, making vulnerable women and girls self-dependent, measuring and valuing the unpaid household and care work. Rights and access to resources of single women link to directive principles of constitution indirectly. As per the constitutional provisions, major legal instruments developed and practice in reality to empower women and girls including single women.

The National Civil Code of 2017 bans discrimination on any grounds in public places and the use of public services and utilities. It prohibits wage and social security discrimination based on gender, ensures equal inheritance rights for daughters and sons, and grants equal property rights to spouses. It also provides for alimony for women before divorce. The Sexual Harassment at Workplace Prevention Act of 2015 safeguards every individual's right to work in a safe environment. In case of violence, the Domestic Violence (Offence and Punishment) Act of 2009 describes domestic violence as a criminal offense punishable by law. The act emphasizes the sensitivity towards victims by allowing closed-door hearings through a summary procedure. It acknowledges domestic violence as a public health emergency and mandates that the perpetrator cover the cost of the victim's medical treatment.

The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act of 2018 firmly secures sexual and reproductive rights for all women and girls. It grants 98 days of paid leave to women employed by the government, NGOs, or private sector, and requires workplaces to provide breastfeeding facilities for two years. Article 15 of the Act allows women to have a safe abortion with their consent up to 12 weeks of pregnancy, and up to 28 weeks in cases of rape or incest.

Widows in Nepal began receiving an allowance from the Social Security Fund in 2011 irrespective of age. Referred to as a social security allowance, this monthly payment of Nepalese Rupees (NPR) 500 (approximately USD 7) is provided to all widows. In case of the other category of never-married single women, must be age over 40 years and fulfill the other conditions provisioned in the social security implementation guidelines of the government. Additionally, the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction offers a one-time compensation of NPR 300,000 (around USD 3541) to the closest relatives of those who were killed or disappeared during the conflict. Furthermore, an extra one-time sum of NPR 25,000 (approximately USD 294) is allocated for the education of the widow's children. Policies of the Nepal regarding women did not address the issues of single women particularly widows separately which indicates the policy gaps in the national initiatives. The only social security allowances to widows and women aged never married aged 40 years above is addressed but not the other social and economic security of single women in Nepal. Therefore, there is need to detail understanding the single women from the intersectionality perspectives as evidences from the NPHC 2021.

1.4 Objectives

This report provides valuable information for evaluating indicators concerning single women in Nepal. Overall objective of this thematic report is to assess their social, economic and demographic status at household and individual level. The specific objectives are as follows:

- i. To describe demographic, social and economic status of single women and widow;
- ii. To assess methodological contexts and policy issues related to single women; and
- iii. To examine the issues and gaps in policies on single women in Nepal and suggest potential policy interventions.

1.5 Rationale of the study

Advocating for single women, particularly widow-responsive census analysis aligns with the human rights-based approach and assists nations in meeting their human rights obligations. By prioritizing the collection and analysis of single women-disaggregated data during census exercises, countries can gain deeper insights into the specific needs, challenges, and disparities faced by different marital categories of women within their populations. This approach not only enhances the accuracy and effectiveness of policy formulation and implementation but also fosters greater inclusivity and equality. Furthermore, it empowers policymakers, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to design targeted interventions and allocate resources more effectively, thereby promoting sustainable development and social justice.

In traditional societal norms, marriage is often presented as a predetermined path for women. In Nepali culture particularly, it holds enormous sanctity and is considered a crucial milestone in a woman's life, expected to occur at a specific time determined by societal norms. It is frequently perceived as the primary validation of a woman's worth. Clark et al. (2010) emphasize the therapeutic aspect of marriage, focusing on the provision of care. For women, marriage serves as the primary avenue for societal integration, and those who remain unmarried are often

stigmatized as societal rejects. Kareem (2013) argues that in South Asian society, marriage acts as a normative standard, leading to the exclusion and labeling of women who don't conform as "outcasts."

Marriage is frequently employed as a mechanism to subject women to differential treatment, depriving them of their rights while imposing upon them specific duties. Conforming to idealized norms within marriage was commonly accepted (Clark et al., 2010). Gender inequalities rooted in prevalent socio-cultural beliefs have perpetuated varying treatments and customs observable in contemporary society (Dahal et al., 2015). Traditionally, women's status and roles in Indian society have been regarded as inferior to those of men, with only married women deemed as whole individuals. Unmarried women past a certain age face scrutiny from relatives and societal disdain (Beauvoir et al., 2011). However, choosing to remain single is increasingly accepted in today's society. Salve (2015) highlights a significant surge in the number of single women in India, as reported by the Census of India 2011, indicating a 39 percent increase from 2001 to 2011, with the count rising from 51.2 million to 71.4 million, according to census data. This trend can be interpreted as a reaction against the constraints outlined earlier. The national organization of widow rights, Women for Human Rights (WHR), points out prejudice and patriarchy are the key factors contributing to the rise of single women in Nepal (WHR, 2010). However, the scholars of single women identified that the 10 years Maoist movement, foreign labour migration and its impact, difference in life expectancy and natural deaths (Bista, 2019; The Loomba Foundation, 2015) are causes of increasing widows in Nepal.

In recent decades, there have been shifts in laws, societal attitudes, and cultural norms impacting the status, roles, and progress of women in Nepali society particularly the popular democratic movement of post 2006. Consequently, married women have moved beyond traditional roles as wives or mothers and have pursued employment and careers outside their households. These shifts are evident in the economic and social advancement of the country. The rapid evolution of societal norms has brought about substantial changes in the careers and family dynamics of both married and single women, leading to significant shifts in their perceptions regarding work and family. Scholars emphasize that the intricate interplay between a woman's objective responsibilities and her personal attitudes toward these roles profoundly influences her overall life satisfaction and sense of identity within society (Phillips & Imhoff, 1997).

According to Matlin (2011), unmarried women are more persuaded than married women to pursue employment outside of their homes. Many single women choose to delay marriage or remain unmarried altogether due to their focus on their careers. These individuals often cite the flexibility of working hours and geographical mobility as advantages of being single. Conversely, married women may encounter challenges balancing work and family responsibilities. Klermer (1954) suggests that differences between single and married women can manifest across various aspects including personality, family background, circumstances, interests, behavior, and physical appearance. Investigating the dynamics between married and single women in contemporary society holds heightened relevance due to evolving societal attitudes. This includes shifts in values, increased female literacy rates, greater female participation in politics, the economy, and social movements. The study aims to examine overall demographic and socio-economic dimensions of single women in Nepal. In the first time of census history of Nepal, single women

thematic report is developed which contributes to formulating policies and programmatic approach to empower the single women in Nepal.

1.6 Organization of the report

This report has eight chapters. Chapter one is an introduction of the thematic report which includes meaning and Nepal context of the single women, global context, global and Nepal policy, objectives and rational of the study. Chapter Two presents the methodology of the study. Chapter Three gives an account of the characteristics of single women households, households having persons with disabilities and households having small scale enterprises. Chapter Four sketches demographic dynamics of single women which includes size and distribution of single women and its trends. Chapter Five covers information on social composition of single women and chapter Six covers the economic aspects of single women. Chapter seven covers the life table and socioeconomic correlates of single women and widow. Finally, conclusions and the policy implications are discussed in Chapter eight.

2. METHODOLOGY

The Nepal Population and Housing Census (NPHC) 2021 data serves as a foundational resource for assessing the demographic landscape, particularly concerning the analysis of single women, at national, regional, and district levels. This analysis centers on the female population aged 10 years and above who has been asked of marital questions in census allowing for a comprehensive understanding of the size and distribution of single women across various socioeconomic and demographic measures. Moreover, the census data enables a comprehensive examination of single women in combination with housing conditions and diverse socio-demographic characteristics, with particular attention paid to widows and single women.

In general, the enumeration of single women and widows in the 2021 census comprises actual counts rather than extrapolations based on contextual factors. This means that the raw census data, providing the most up-to-date and reliable counts in the country, is readily accessible and utilized. Consequently, for the first time, the wide-ranging scale of this issue is shown with details at both the national and sub-national levels within the country. This comprehensive approach to data collection and analysis offers a more accurate depiction of the demographic landscape, shedding light on the magnitude of the challenges faced by single women and widows across various socio-economic, demographic and geographical contexts.

2.1 Definition

In this analysis, the term "single women" encompasses several specific categories of women. These categories include widows, who have lost their spouses; divorced women, who have legally dissolved their marriages; separated women, who are living apart from their spouses due to estrangement or legal separation; and never married women aged 35 years and above. The aggregation of these groups constitutes the total number of single women in this analysis.

It is important to note that this definition is specifically tailored for the purposes of this analysis. Other marital status categories remain consistent with the definitions provided in the NPHC 2021. This ensures clarity and consistency in understanding the demographic data as per the established national standards, while also allowing for a focused examination of the particular cohort of single women aged 35 and above.

Table 2.1: Definitions and categories of marital status in various censuses in Nepal

1952/54-1971	1981	1991	2001-2011	2021
1. Never married: A person who has not lived as husband and wife even once is known as a never married.	1. Never married: A person who is not married in any way (legally, religiously or socially), or who has not lived as husband or wife even once at the time of the census is known as a person who has never married.	1. Never married: Same as 1981 census 2. Married: Same as	1. Never married: Same as 1981 census 2. Single married:	1. Never married: Same as 1981 census 2. Married: Same as

1952/54-1971	1981	1991	2001-2011	2021
<p>2. Married: A person who has lived as husband and wife after being married religiously or socially is defined as married.</p> <p>3. Widower/ widow: A man who has lost his wife due to death and has not re-married is defined as a widower. On the other hand, if a woman has lost her husband on account of death and has not re-married, she is known as a widow.</p> <p>4. Divorced/ separated: A married person who has broken up the marital relationship is classified as divorced. Even if, the wife has chosen another husband but the husband has not yet re-married, he is considered to be divorced.</p>	<p>2. Married: No matter how one is married, one who has lived once as a husband or wife in the community at the time of census enumeration and has continued to do so is known as a married person, even though, living in a separate place. This includes polygamy and re marriage cases.</p> <p>3. Widowed: If the wife is dead at the time of the census, the person is known as a widower. If the wife loses her husband on account of his death she is known as a widow. In the case of such persons, if they have not re-married at the time of the census they are known as widower or widow. But if they are re-married, they are considered to have been married again.</p> <p>4. Divorced/separated: A married person who has broken the marital status legally or by any means is known as divorced. If the husband and wife continue to live separately for ever, they are considered to be divorced. If the wife has chosen another husband but if the husband has not yet re-married at the time of the census, the husband is considered divorced. But once the husband and wife have divorced and lived separately and after some time both remarry other people, they are considered to be married. A person who has not broken the marital union legally or by any means but is living separately from his/her husband or wife without any relationship to each other is considered separated.</p>	<p>1981 census</p> <p>3. Widowed: Same as 1981 census</p> <p>4. Divorced: Same as 1981 census</p> <p>5. Separated: Same as 1981 census</p>	<p>New categories in 2001, followed same in 2011 (details please see below)</p> <p>3. Multiple married: New categories in 2001, followed same in 2011 (details please see below)</p> <p>4. Re-married: New categories in 2001, followed same in 2011</p> <p>5. Widowed : Same as 1981 census</p> <p>6. Divorced: Same as 1981 census</p> <p>7. Separated: Same as 1981 census</p>	<p>1981 census</p> <p>3. Widowed : Same as 1981 census</p> <p>4. Divorced: Same as 1981 census</p> <p>5. Separated: Same as 1981 census</p>

Source: CBS, 2014, NSO, 2021

The NPHC 2021 and 2011 varies from the 2001 census regarding marital status data collection. Unlike the 2001 census, which collected marital status information from only about 21 percent of households using a specific form limited to sampled households, the 2011 census collected marital status details from all individuals aged 10 and above in every household. This shift involved moving the marital status review from Form 2 (utilized solely in sampled households) to Form 1 (employed in complete enumeration), ensuring a comprehensive coverage of marital status data. And 2021 census collected marital status details from all individuals aged 10 and above in every household.

There has been minimal variation in the operational definitions of marital status categories across different census periods. However, notable exceptions include further clarifications and elaborations that have been introduced since 1981. These refinements were implemented to enhance the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the data collected. The consistent definitions ensure comparability over time, while the updates address emerging social and demographic trends.

To provide a clear and systematic overview, the operational definitions of marital status categories used in various censuses have been compiled and presented in Table 2.1. This table serves as a reference point, detailing the specific criteria and descriptions employed in each census, highlighting both the stability and the evolution of these definitions over time. The questions of marital status were inquired in Nepal censuses 1952-54 to 2021.

Table 2.2: Marriage related questions in census schedules, census years 1952/54-2021

Marital status	1952/54	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021
Never married	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Married	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	√
Married living with a single spouse	X	X	X	X	X	√	√	X
Married living with multiple spouses	X	X	X	X	X	√	√	X
Remarried	X	X	X	X	X	√	√	X
Widowed	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Divorced/ Separated	√	√	√	√	X	X	X	X
Divorced	X	X	X	X	√	√	√	√
Separated	X	X	X	X	√	√	√	√

Source: NSO, 2023a

2.2 Method of computation

The number of women in a particular marital status category and age group is divided by the total number of women in that age group (women aged 10 years and above). The result is expressed in percentage terms.

Single Women= (Widow+Divorce+Sepatated+ Unmarried women aged 35 years and above)/
Number of women 10 and above*100

2.2.1 Construction of life table

The distribution pattern of single women and widows shows a left-skewed curve, deviating from normality. To describe this skewed data, different models can be used. In this case, a modified Log-Logistic distribution, termed the Rayleigh Generated Log-Logistic (RGLog) distribution, is proposed and applied. Empirical results from fitting this probability model to the data are used to construct life tables for single women and widows. The procedures for creating these life tables follow the concepts of mortality life tables. Life tables have been constructed from survival probabilities obtained from different data, such as age at menarche (Aryal, 2005), age at menopause (Aryal, 2005; Gaire et al., 2023), and age at first marriage (Gaire et al., 2024). Similarly, the ages at being single and at widowhood of Nepali women are used to construct the life table in this study.

After fitting the RGLog distribution, suppose F_x is the empirical result of the proportion of women who are single and widow at age x year or less and S_x is the proportion survived or did not single/widow at age x where ($S_x = 1 - F_x$). From the concept of the mortality life table technique, let l_0 is the hypothetical cohort of women life table. Then, $l_x = l_0 S_x$. The probability of being single/widow between x and $x + t$ year of age is obtained by using the expression as

$$q_x = \frac{F_{x+t} - F_x}{1 - F_x} \quad (1)$$

Other symbols such as L_x is the person-year being single by the cohort of women at age x , T_x is the total person-year being single/widow by the cohort of women after age x , and e_x is the average number of years expected to being single/widow at age x have been computed by using the following formula as in the mortality life table

$$L_x = \frac{k(l_x + l_{x+k})}{2}, T_x = \sum_x^n L_x + L_{x+1} + \dots + L_{x+n} \quad (2)$$

Where k is the number of years between years n to $n + k$

$$T_{x+1} = T_x - L_x \text{ and } e_x = \frac{T_x}{l_x}$$

Rayleigh Generated Log-Logistic Distribution

The density and distribution function of Rayleigh Generated Log-Logistic distribution proposed and studied by Gaire and Gurung (2024) as

$$f_3(x) = \frac{2\alpha\theta}{\beta\{1-\exp(-\theta)\}} \frac{\left(\frac{x-\gamma}{\beta}\right)^{2\alpha-1} \exp\left(-\theta \frac{\left(\frac{x-\gamma}{\beta}\right)^{2\alpha}}{\left(1+\left(\frac{x-\gamma}{\beta}\right)^\alpha\right)^2}\right)}{\left(1+\left(\frac{x-\gamma}{\beta}\right)^\alpha\right)^3} \quad (3)$$

$$F_3(x) = \frac{1}{\{1-\exp(-\theta)\}} \left[1 - \exp\left(-\theta \frac{\left(\frac{x-\gamma}{\beta}\right)^{2\alpha}}{\left(1+\left(\frac{x-\gamma}{\beta}\right)^\alpha\right)^2}\right) \right] \quad (4)$$

2.2.2 Health risk index

Exposure to health risk is calculated as the composite index of the four households level service availability variables of access to drinking water, main source of cooking fuel, main source of lighting and type of toilets (Table 2.3). The categorical codes assigned to households in the census for these variables were recoded to reproduce the expected health risk in the households.

Table 2.3: Health risk index based on NPHC 2021 data

Questions asked in the census and response options			
Main source of drinking water	Cooking fuel	Source of lighting	Types of toilets
1. Tap water within house 2. Tap water outside house 3. Tubewell/Hand-pump/ 4. Covered- Well/Kuwa 5. Uncovered -Well/Kuwa 6. Spout 7. River/Stream 8. Jaar/bottle 9. Others	1. Wood/firewood 2. LP Gas 3. Electricity 4. Cow-dung 5. Biogas 6. Kerosene 7. Other	1. Electricity 2. Solar 3. Kerosene 4. Biogas 5. Others	1. Flush to public sewerage 2. Flush to septic tank 3. Ordinary toilet 4. Public toilet 5. No toilet
Recoding of the response for the construction of health risk index			
Used unimproved sources of drinking water (5,6,7,9) =1	Used solid fuels for cooking (1,4,6,7) =1	Used fuel-based lighting (3,5) =1	Used unimproved sanitation (3,4,5) =1
Used Improved sources of drinking water (1,2,3,4,8) =0	Do not use of solid fuels for cooking (2,3,5) =0	Do not use fuel-based lighting (1,2,4) =0	Used improved sanitation (1,2) =0
0=No risk 1= Having risk	0=No risk 1= Having risk	0=No risk 1= Having risk	0=No risk 1= Having risk
Risk ranking			
The responses to the Census questions for these variables were recoded then assigned scores that were consolidated for every household. The consolidated scores were then aggregated and ranked as 0= No risk; 1= Low risk; 2-Medium risk; 3=High risk; 4=Full risk			

The index is simply the number of these health risks that are present for each woman, with a score ranging from 0 indicating no health risks present to 4, representing having all four health risks.

2.3 Regression model

Regression analysis is a statistical technique used to study the relationship between two or more variables, enabling the prediction or explanation of one variable based on the others. This method

examines how categorical or continuous independent variables relate to a single dichotomous dependent variable (Hosmer & Lemeshow, 1989). Multivariate logistic regression is represented by the equation:

$$\log (p/1-p) =\beta_0+ \beta_1X_1+ \beta_2X_2+.....+ \beta_nX_n$$

where p is the probability of outcome variable, β_0 is the odds of intercept, $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_n$ are the coefficients associated with the reference group, and X_1, \dots, X_n are the independent variables

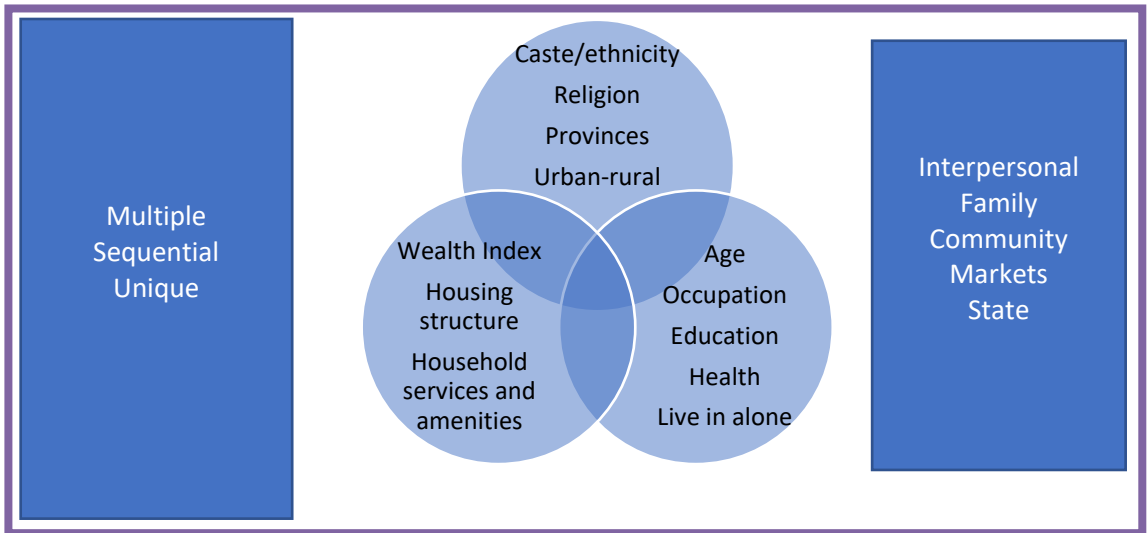
In this study, the probability of having single women or widow in households are determined by various household characteristics. In this regards, logistic regression model is performed for both single women and widow households as dependent variables. For single women households, assign 0 for without single women and 1 for having at least one single women of all categories (0= households with out single women and 1= households with single women). In case of widows, assign 0 for households without women and 1 for having at least one widow in a household (0= households without widow and 1= households with at least one widow). The logistic regression model compares the odds of households having at least one single women/widows with those without single women/widows.

2.4 Analytical framework

The information presented in this report is organized and displayed in various formats, adapted to the specific areas of focus. Typically, percentages, proportions, and rates derived from actual population figures are utilized to illustrate the presence or absence of disparities within selected socio-demographic and socioeconomic domains. This method is particularly effective in bringing attention to relevant single women issues. In instances where it is relevant, these population figures and proportions are further analyzed to compute ratios or gaps.

This additional computation aids in indicative disparities and identifying potential areas of single women inequality within the context of a given thematic area. Additionally, for certain indicators, the report directly employs rates and ratios obtained from pre-compiled thematic reports, ensuring consistency and accuracy in the representation of data. This multifaceted approach not only enhances the comprehensiveness of the analysis but also ensures that critical gender issues are effectively highlighted and addressed.

Figure 2.1: Intersectionality of single women analysis



The indicators of analysis and estimation draw heavily from previous reports by the National Statistics Office (NSO), such as "Population Composition of Nepal: The Changing Demography and Its Implications" (Thematic Report I) and "Housing and Household Dynamics" (Thematic Report II). These documents serve as crucial references for further analysis, providing a comprehensive understanding of the demographic trends and housing conditions in Nepal. Additionally, the analysis incorporates data on the marital status of women aged 10 years and above, as enumerated in the National Population and Housing Census (NPHC) 2021. This single women information is essential for understanding social dynamics and formulating future policies.

3. HOUSING STRUCTURES AND ACCESS TO HOUSEHOLD SERVICES AND AMENITIES

This chapter presents the housing characteristics of single women based on Nepal Population and Housing Census (NPHC) conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO), Government of Nepal. The 2021 Nepal population and housing census asked several questions about the characteristics of households. This included housing ownership, the type of structure, and the construction materials of the walls, roof and floor. Information was also collected on amenities - cooking fuel, lighting, sources of drinking water, and type of toilet - that have a direct impact on risks to health. In addition, there is information on household's access to transport and communication assets. Housing characteristics and access to household services affect lives of people particularly women. It refers to, and builds on, the data reported in the 2021 Census thematic report on Housing and household dynamics in Nepal (NSO, 2024).

Household related analysis is based on 6,660,841 non-institutional households. Among the total 6,660,841 non-institutional households, 936,098 households have at least one categories of single women (widow, divorced, separated, and never married women aged 35 years and above) and 799,744 households have at least one widow with or without other single women. Therefore, household related analysis is based on 799,744 which is the total number of non-institutional households with at least one widow. The household characteristics such as housing structure, amenities and facilities, etc. of households with single women and widow are discussed separately in this report.

3.1 Distribution of households

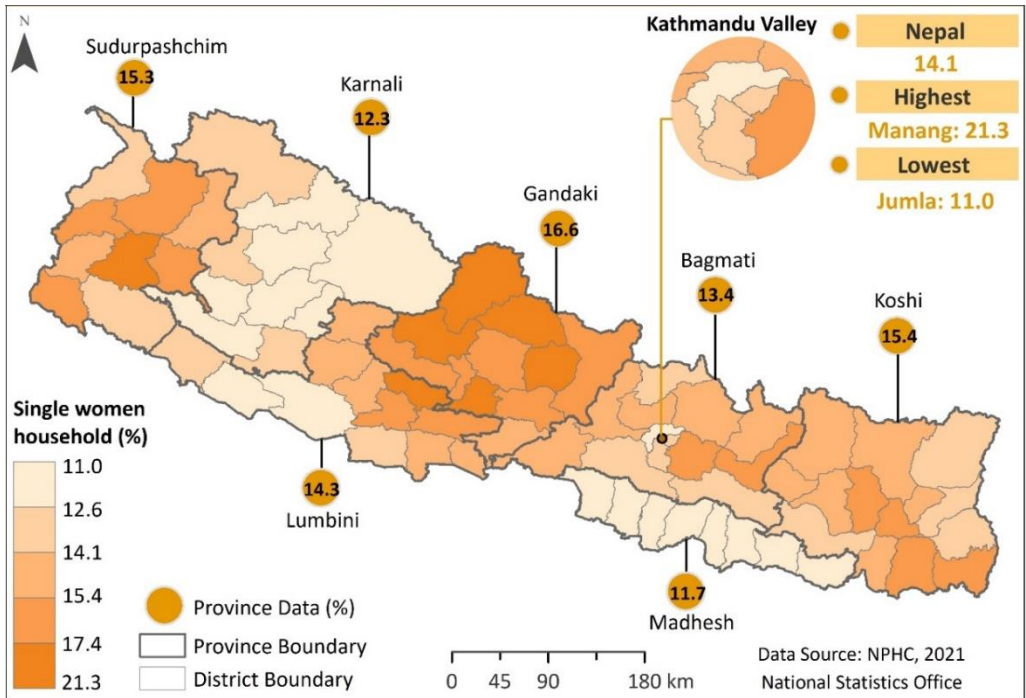
In Nepal, 12 percent of the households have at least one widow and two percent households have other categories of single women except widow. Households with at least one widow comprise a significant proportion of all households ranging from 10.8 percent in Karnali province to 14.4 percent in Sudurpashchim. Households with at least one single women, lowest 11.7 percent was found in Madhesh and highest 16.6 percent found in Gandaki province.

Table 3.1: Distribution of households, NPHC 2021

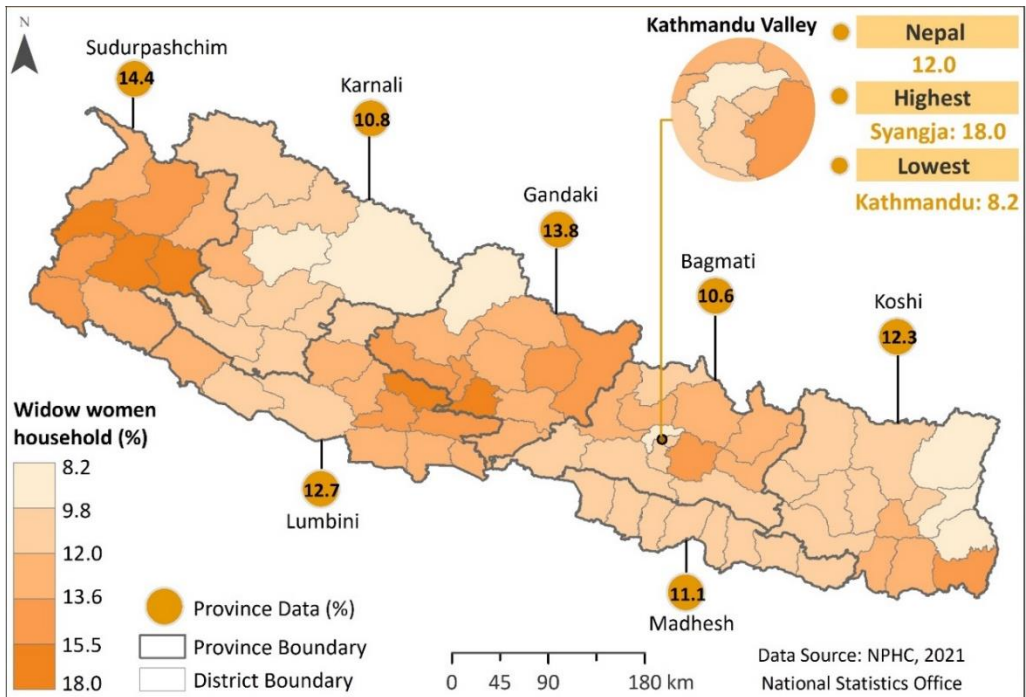
Areas	All Household	Households without single women		Household with single women					
		N	%	Widow		Divorce, separated, and unmarried 35+		Total	
				N	%	N	%	N	%
Nepal	6,660,841	5493730	85.9	799744	12.0	136354	2.0	936098	14.1
Provinces									
Koshi	1,190,755	1007160	84.6	145898	12.3	37697	3.2	183595	15.4
Madhesh	1,156,383	1020559	88.3	128154	11.1	7670	0.7	135824	11.7
Bagmati	1,567,917	1358278	86.6	166217	10.6	43422	2.8	209639	13.4
Gandaki	661,632	551573	83.4	91447	13.8	18612	2.8	110059	16.6
Lumbini	1,141,345	977689	85.7	145184	12.7	18472	1.6	163656	14.3
Karnali	366,037	321017	87.7	39676	10.8	5344	1.5	45020	12.3
Sudurpashchim	576,772	488467	84.7	83168	14.4	5137	0.9	88305	15.3
Ecological Zones									
Mountain	409,260	334056	85.8	49213	12.0	7934	2.2	57147	14.2
Hill	2,945,030	2391058	85.5	350283	11.9	65794	2.6	416077	14.5
Tarai	3,306,551	2785887	86.3	400248	12.1	45355	1.6	445603	13.7
Urban/Rural residence									
Urban	1939,001	1583412	87.2	198994	10.3	42490	2.6	241484	12.8
Peri-urban	2,432,079	2050931	86.0	303136	12.5	32474	1.5	335610	14.0
Rural	2,289,761	1876658	84.8	297614	13.0	44119	2.2	341733	15.2

The NPHC 2021 depicts that 14.1 percent of the households have at least one single women. By districts, 21 percent of households have at least one single women in Manang which is the highest among 77 districts, whereas it is the lowest in Jumla (11%) (Map 3.1). In case of widows, Syangja district has the highest (21%) and the Kathmandu has the lowest (11%) (Map 3.2).

Map 3.1: Distribution of households with at least one single women by districts, NPHC 2021



Map 3.2: Distribution of households with at least one widow, NPHC 2021

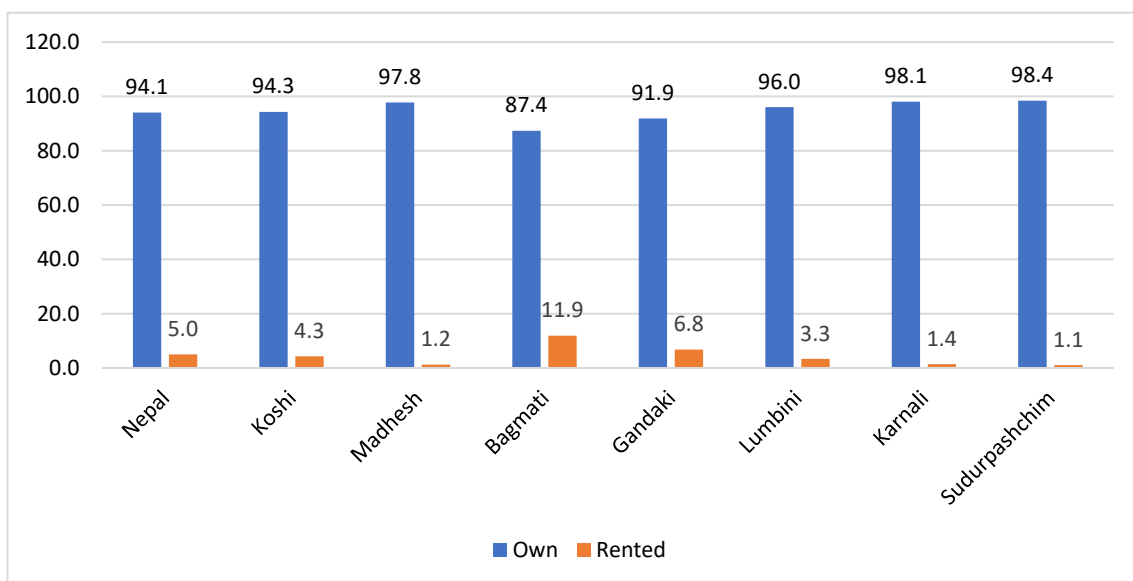


3.2 Housing ownership

The 2021 population and housing census documented four types of ownership of housing units, that is owned, rented, institutional, and others. As recorded by the 2021 census, among 799,744 households with at least one widow, an overwhelming majority were living in their own housing unit, whereas five percent were living in rented housing unit (Annex 2).

The vast majority of households with at least one widow were living in their own housing unit in all provinces. It is highest in Karnali (98.1%) followed by Madhesh (97.8%) and the least in Bagmati (87.4%) and Gandaki (91.9). Bagmati and Gandaki were the provinces with the highest percentage of households with at least one widow living in rented housing unit. It is due to the majority of the migrated people residing in these areas – mainly in capital city Kathmandu and Pokhara (Figure 3.1; Annex 2).

Figure 3.1: Proportion of households with at least one widow by type of housing ownership



By ecological zone, almost all households (98.0%) with at least one widow in Mountain lived in their own housing unit and 91.8 percent in Hill (Annex 1), whereas those living in rented housing unit is highest in Hill. Eighty four percent households with at least one widow lived in their own housing unit in urban areas, which is lower than peri-urban (96.8%) and rural (98.2%) (Please see Annex 2 for district level data).

3.3 Housing structure

Of the total households of Nepal, 14 percent of households with at least one single woman in Nepal. Among them, 12 percent have at least one widow, and only two percent have other categories of single women except for widows. Therefore housing structure characteristics with at least one single woman hold almost similar patterns as those of households with widows.

3.3.1 Foundation materials

A little more than one-third (37%) of all the housing units' foundations with at least one widow were mainly made of mud-bonded brick or stone while about 28 percent were made of cement-bonded brick or stone and other 20 percent were made of reinforced cement concrete (RCC). Three quarters (75.9%) of house with at least one widow were made of mud-bonded brick/stone in the Mountain, which is only 15.2 percent in Tarai (Annex 3.1). Slightly more than one-third (36.0%) of the housing units in the Tarai had foundations made by cement bonded brick/stone and 22.7 percent were RCC pillars foundation. More housing units in the urban residence had cement bonded brick/stone and RCC pillar foundation housing units as compared to rural residence.

3.3.2 Outer wall materials

NPHC 2021 found that cement bonded brick/stone and mud-bonded brick/stone were the most used materials in the outer walls of housing units having widow. Almost three-quarters of housing units in Bagmati (70.2%) used cement bonded brick/stone for their outer walls while in Karnali only 13 percent of housing unit outer walls were made of cement bonded brick/stone (Figure 3.2; Annex 3.3).

Mud bonded brick/stone was the most common materials used in outer walls in the Mountain (72.3%) while in Tarai cement bonded brick/stone was most common (57.3%). The outer wall of housing units in urban and Peri-urban areas were mostly made of cement bonded brick/stone (77.5% & 55.0% respectively) while mud bonded brick/stone was most common in the rural areas (67.9 %) (Annex 3.3). District-wise information is presented in Annex 3.4.

3.3.3 Roof of the housing unit

According to NPHC 2021, galvanized iron (45.2%) and RCC (33.3%) were the common roofing materials among the housing unit with at least one widow (Figure 3.2; Annex 3.5). Most of the housing units with at least one widows in the Koshi Province had galvanized iron roof (71.6%) while majority housing units in Bagmati Province had RCC roofs (50.9%). In Madhesh, 38.2 percent roofs of housing units had Khapada/Jhingati (tiles /shingles) and very few housing units in Karkali (8.6%) had RCC roofs. Galvanized iron was the most common roofing material in the Mountain (52.8%) and Hill (50.6%) while RCC and galvanized iron (39 % each) were the most common in the Tarai (Annex 3.5) among households with at least one widow.

Figure 3.2: Distribution of households with at least one widow by durable types of housing construction materials used in foundation, wall, and roof by areas of residence.

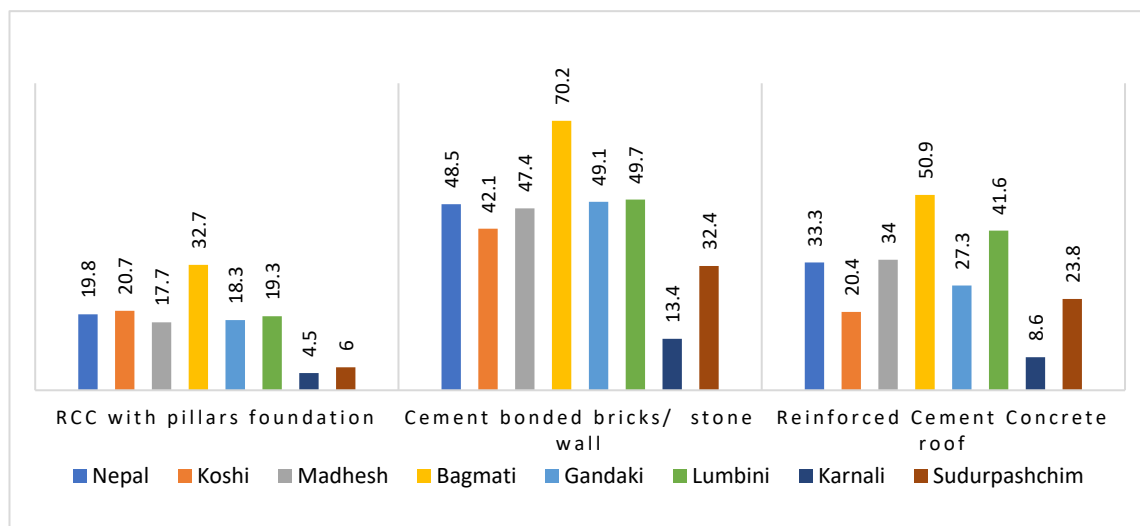


Table 3.2: Distribution of households with at least one widow by durable types of housing construction materials used in foundation, wall, and roof by areas of residence.

Areas	Housing structure construction materials		
	Foundation	Wall	Roof
	Reinforced Cement Concrete with pillars	Cement bonded bricks/ stone	Reinforced Cement Concrete
Nepal	19.8	48.5	33.3
Provinces			
Koshi	20.7	42.1	20.4
Madhesh	17.7	47.4	34.0
Bagmati	32.7	70.2	50.9
Gandaki	18.3	49.1	27.3
Lumbini	19.3	49.7	41.6
Karnali	4.5	13.4	8.6
Sudurpashchim	6.0	32.4	23.8
Ecological zone			
Mountain	4.7	23.6	10.3
Hill	18.7	42.0	30.0
Tarai	22.7	57.3	39.1
Urban rural residence			
Urban	41.5	77.5	64.3
Peri urban	20.0	55.0	35.8
Rural	5.1	22.6	10.0

3.3.4 Types of houses

Housing units based on NPHC 2021 is classified in the thematic report of Housing and Household Dynamics in Nepal (NSO, 2024). Accordingly,

- Pakki (permanent) housing units had both walls and roofs made of the durable construction materials of cement, brick, stone, slate, tiles and/or galvanized sheets.
- Ardha Pakki (semi-permanent) housing units had either their walls or roofs mainly made of durable materials, with the other structure made with temporary materials.
- Kachchi (temporary) housing units had their walls and roofs mainly made of the non-durable materials of wood, bamboo, straw/thatch, mud, and/or raw bricks.
- The 'other' category refers to very temporary housing units made with the non-durable materials of plastic sheets, bamboo, and/or straw/thatch.

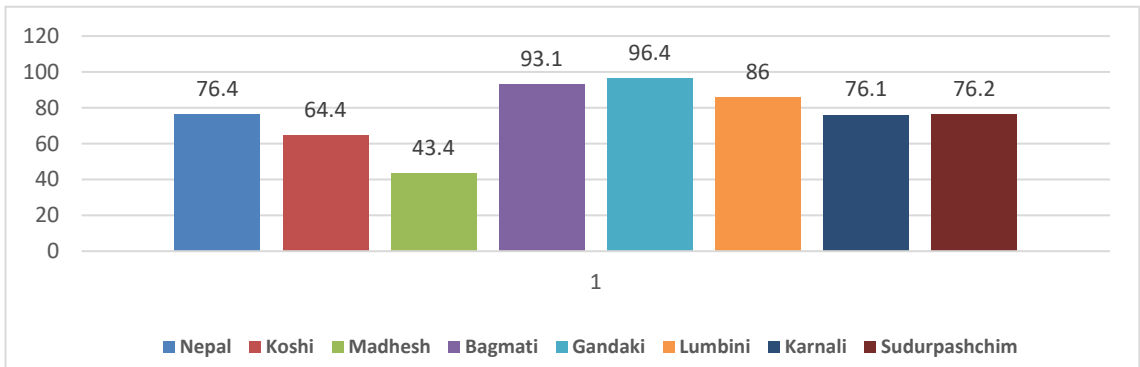
A little more than three-fourth (76.4%) of the Nepal's housing units with at least one widow were Pakki. Similarly, 77 percent of the housing units with at least one single women were Pakki. Almost all (96.4%) households from Gandaki with at least one widow were living in Pakki housing units followed by Bagmati (93%) and Lumbini (86%). Among the provinces Madhesh had the lowest proportion of pakki housing units (43.4%) with highest proportion of Kachchi housing units (32.5%) (Table 3.3). Pakki households with at least one widow was found highest in Kaski (98.7%) whereas it was only 15 percent in Humla. A similar finding was obtained for single women in these districts (Map 3.3; 3.4). A similar pattern holds for in the case of single women households across the provinces, ecological zones and districts.

Table 3.3: Percent distribution of housing units with at least one widow by types according to provinces, ecological zones urban-rural residence and municipalities, NPHC 2021

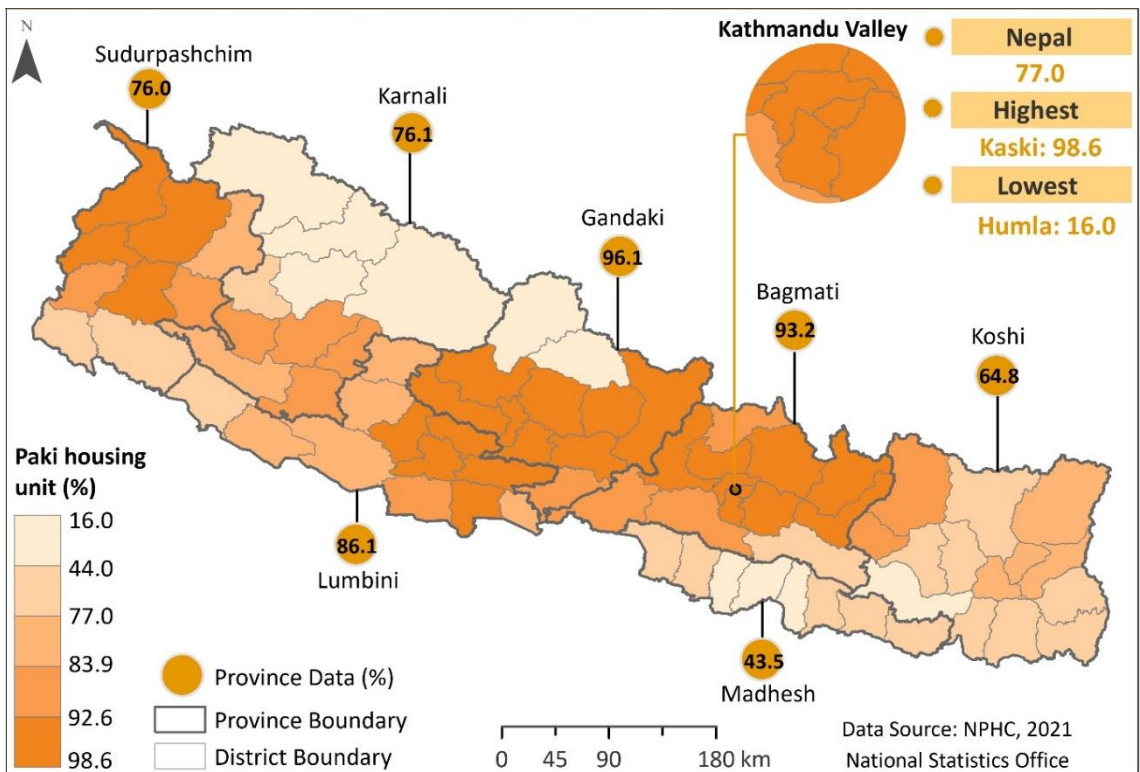
Areas	Types of housing unit				Total housing unit with at least one widow
	Pakki	Semi- Pakki	Kachchi	Other	
Nepal	76.4	16.1	7.5	0.0	799744
Provinces					
Koshi	64.4	33.0	2.6	0.0	145898
Madhesh	43.4	24.0	32.5	0.1	128154
Bagmati	93.1	5.8	1.1	0.0	166217
Gandaki	96.4	3.4	0.2	0.0	91447
Lumbini	86.0	10.5	3.5	0.0	145184
Karnali	76.1	22.8	1.1	0.0	39676
Sudurpashchim	76.2	15.4	8.3	0.0	83168
Ecological Zones					
Mountain	80.5	18.4	1.1	0.0	49213
Hill	90.5	8.4	1.0	0.0	350283
Tarai	63.5	22.5	13.9	0.0	400248

Areas	Types of housing unit				Total housing unit with at least one widow
	Pakki	Semi- Pakki	Kachchi	Other	
Urban/Rural residence					
Urban	88.4	8.3	3.3	0.0	198994
Peri Urban	63.4	22.7	13.9	0.0	303136
Rural	81.7	14.6	3.7	0.0	297614

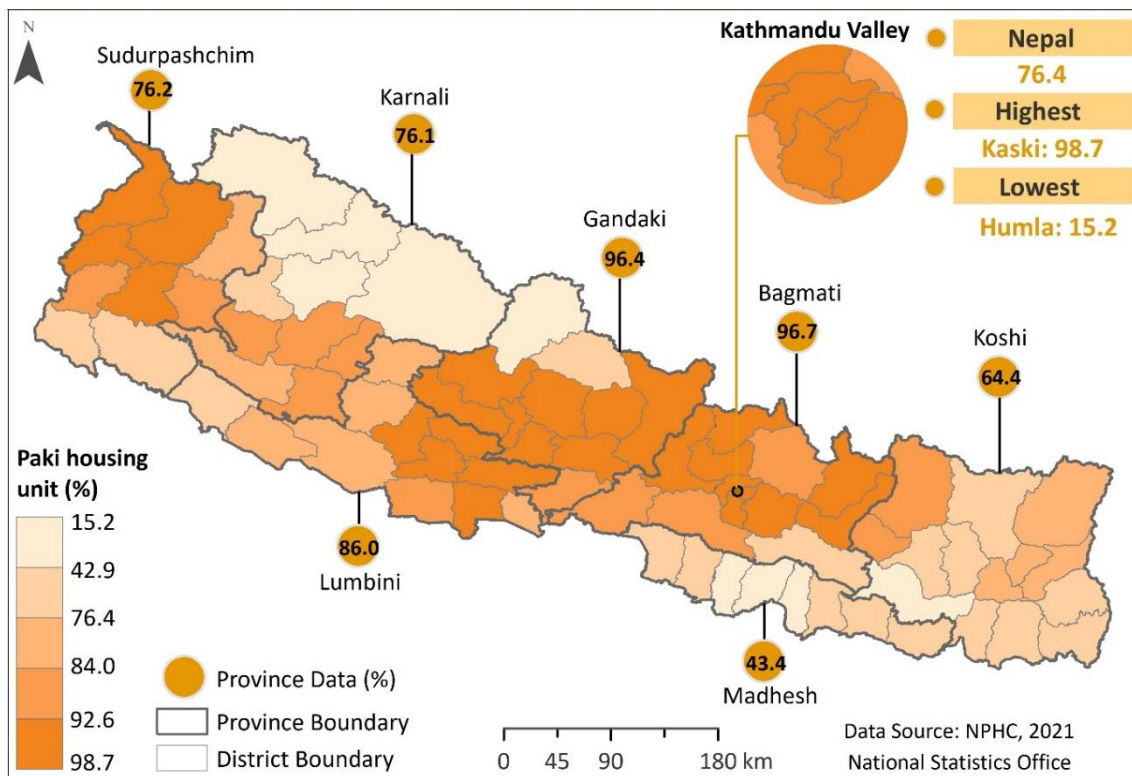
Figure 3.3: Households with at least one widow residing in Pakki housing units, NPHC 2021



Map 3.3: Distribution of households with at least one single woman residing in Pakki housing unit by districts, NPHC 2021



Map 3.4: Distribution of households with at least one widow residing in Pakki housing unit by districts, NPHC 2021



3.4 Access to household facilities and amenities

A person's living condition declares a lot about who they are and how they experience life. The inferior position of households with single women/widow means that they have less access to certain service and amenities. This may have a negative impact on their living conditions and quality of life. Quality of household facilities like source of drinking water, the fuel used for cooking, the energy source for lighting, and the type of toilet have a profound effect on health, especially to women who spend more time inside home and who are particularly susceptible to diseases from contaminated water, exposure to human excrement and indoor air pollution (Bradley & Putnick, 2012). NPHC 2021 collected service and amenities related information from non-institutional households.

3.4.1 Main source of drinking water

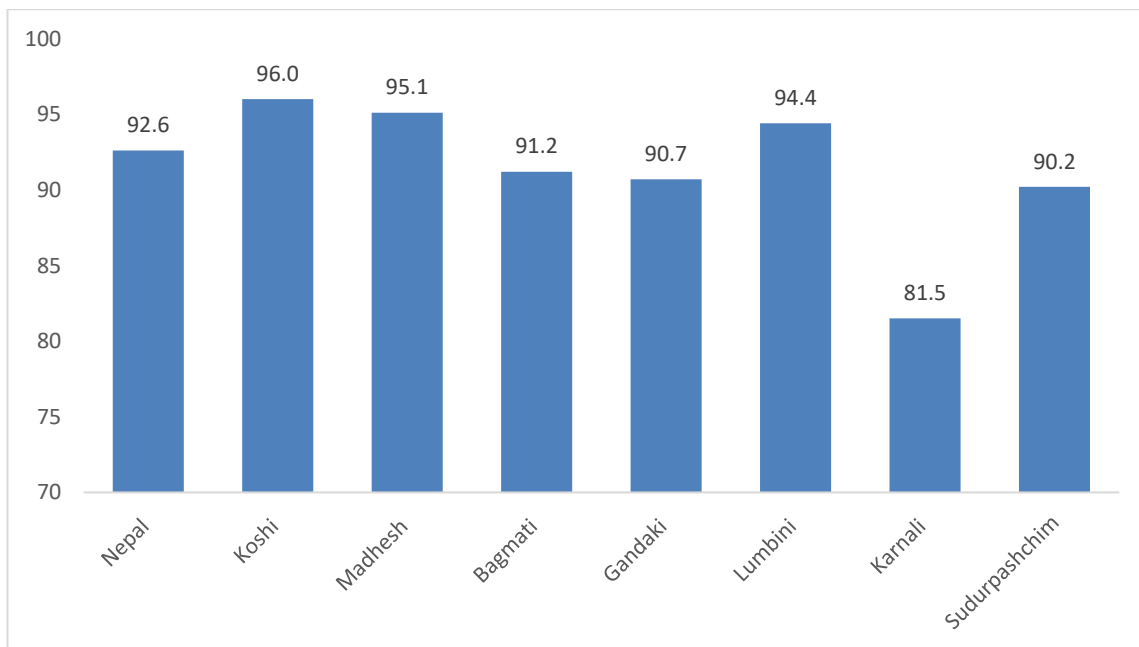
According to NPHC 2021, there were no differences between households with at least one single women and widows in the main source of drinking water. However, there is considerable variation in the main sources of drinking water in the both types of households (with at least one single woman and widows) at national and sub-national levels. An overwhelming majority (92.6% each) of the households with at least one single women and widows had access to improved

sources of drinking water (e.g., jar/bottle, tap/piped, Tubewell, and covered wells - as they have a low probability of contamination and are usually safer to consume) (Figure 3.4; Map 3.5 and 3.6). At the province level, households with at least one single woman and widows have access to improved sources of drinking water, Koshi province had found highest rank (95.8% and 96.0% respectively) while Karnali Province had the lowest (81.6% and 81.5% respectively).

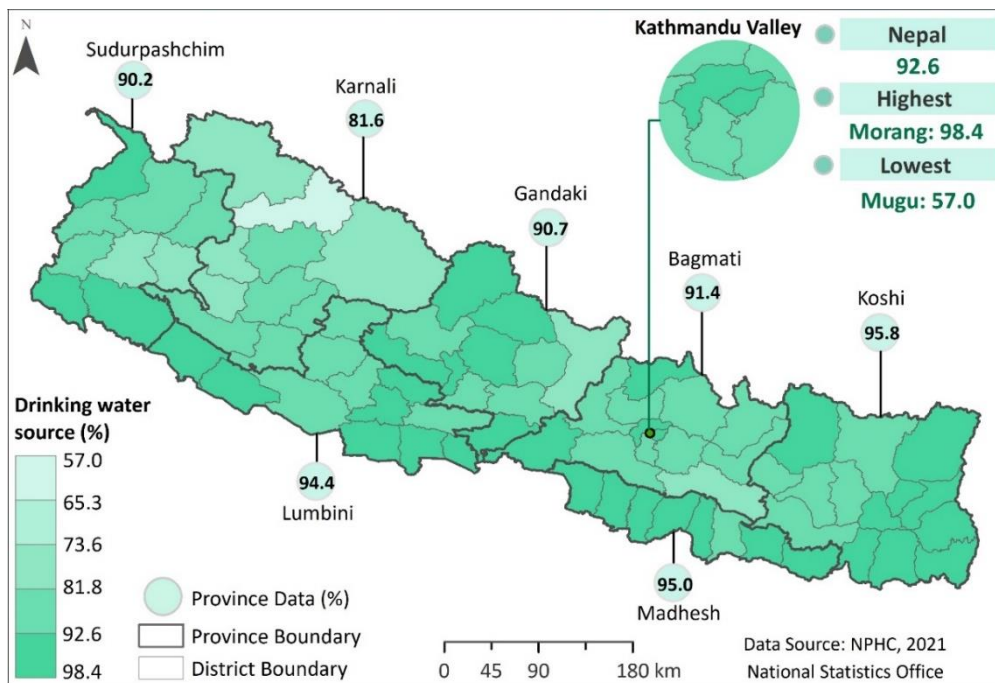
Looking at different sources, the households from Gandaki Province had the highest access to tap/piped water (86%) followed by Karnali (79.4%) while the households of Madhesh province (22.1%) had the lowest (Annex 5.1). By ecological zone, the Mountain zone had the highest level of access to tap/piped water (86.3 %) compared to Tarai households where only 36 percent of households used tap/piped water as the main source of drinking water. Surprisingly, more households from rural areas (80.1%) used tap/piped water as the main source of drinking water (both within and outside the compound) than the urban residents (61.5%). Detailed information on the source of drinking water is shown in Annex 5.1.

The districts distribution of households at least one single women and widows having access to improved source of drinking water, Morang district have been found highest rank (98% each) while Mugu district have lowest (57% each). The variation is observed in households with at least one single woman and widow having access to improved drinking water (Map 3.5; 3.6; Annex 5.2).

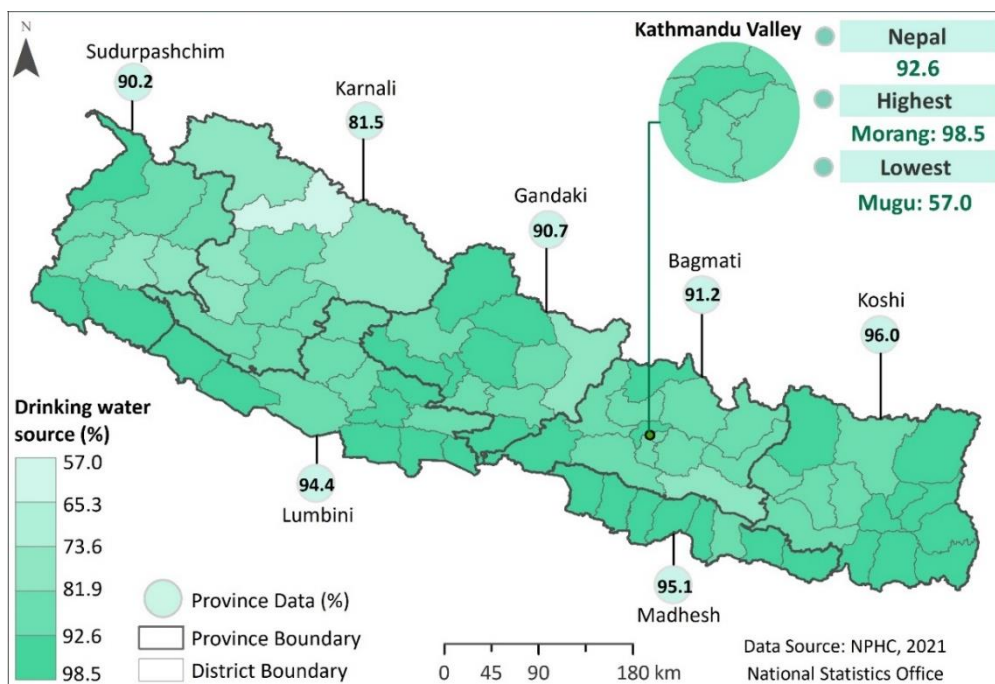
Figure 3.4: Access to improved source of drinking water among households with at least one widow.



Map 3.5: Distribution of households with at least one single woman having access to improved source of drinking water by districts, NPHC 2021



Map 3.6: Distribution of households with at least one widow having access to improved source of drinking water by districts, NPHC 2021



3.4.2 Cooking fuel

A population's access to sustainable energy is fundamental in ensuring a balance between economic development and tackling the impact of climate change. SDG 7 seeks to: "Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all" (United Nations, 2015). Some of the energy sources used in households may be harmful to health, for example, fossil fuels (such as kerosene and coal), as well as biomass fuels (charcoal and fuel wood). NPHC 2021 collected two questions on main source of energy/fuel used by households for the purposes of lighting and cooking.

About three-fifths (55.6%) of households with at least one widow used firewood as their main type of cooking fuel and 2.8 percent used cow dung (Table 3.4). These fuel sources cause indoor air pollution that has detrimental health effects. The harvesting of firewood can contribute to deforestation. The second most common fuel was liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) (39.8%).

A large majority of households in Karnali (86.7%) and Sudurpashchim (75.5%) depend on firewood as their main cooking fuel (Table 3.4). The widow households in Bagmati mostly used LPG gas (63.6%) and least the firewood (35%). Cow-dung was the main source of cooking fuel for over 11 percent of Madhesh households. District-wise distribution of households by usual source of fuel used for cooking is shown in Annex 5.3.

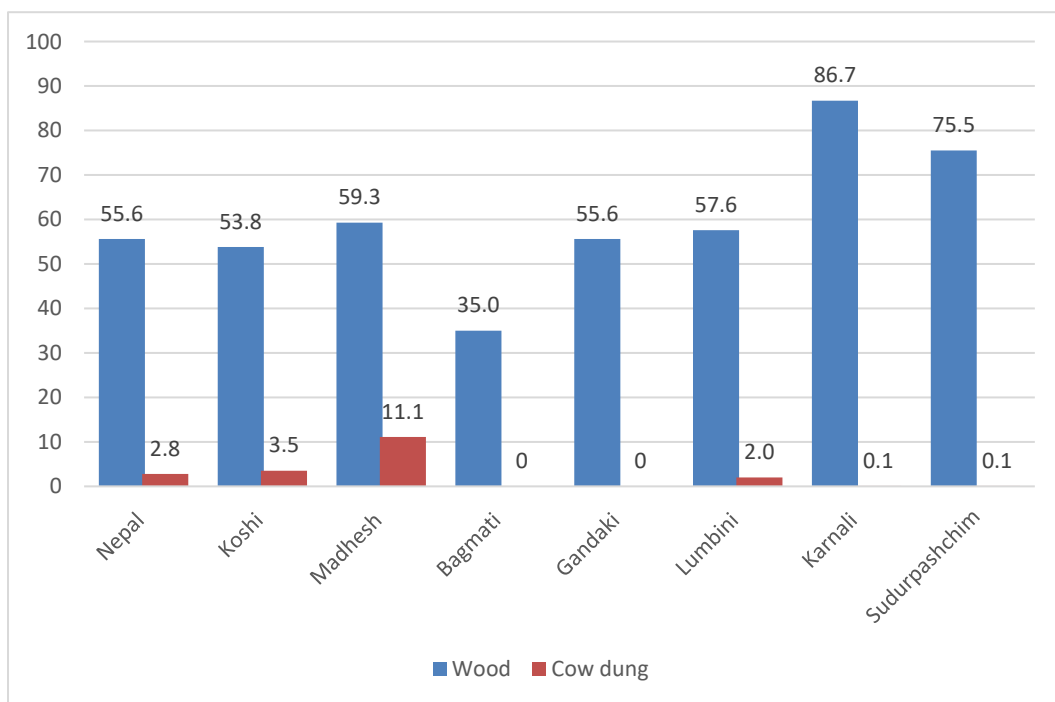
Table 3.4: Percent distribution of households with at least one widow by main types of cooking fuel, NPHC 2021

Area	Wood	Liquefied Petroleum Gas	Electricity	Cow dung	Biogas	Kerosene	Other	Household with widow (with/without other single women)
Nepal	55.6	39.8	0.4	2.8	1.3	0.0	0.1	799744
Province								
Koshi	53.8	40.5	0.5	3.5	1.5	0.0	0.2	145898
Madhesh	59.3	28.0	0.7	11.1	0.7	0.0	0.2	128154
Bagmati	35.0	63.6	0.5	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	166217
Gandaki	55.6	43.1	0.2	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	91447
Lumbini	57.6	38.4	0.4	2.0	1.5	0.1	0.1	145184
Karnali	86.7	12.6	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.0	39676
Sudurpashchim	75.5	20.8	0.2	0.1	3.4	0.0	0.0	83168
Ecological zone								
Mountain	89.9	9.4	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	49213
Hill	60.6	38.5	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.1	0.0	350283
Tarai	47.0	44.6	0.6	5.6	2.1	0.0	0.2	400248
Urban/Rural residence								
Urban	20.1	77.6	0.6	1.0	0.6	0.0	0.1	198994
Peri Urban	49.4	40.9	0.6	6.6	2.2	0.0	0.2	303136
Rural	85.5	13.3	0.2	0.1	0.8	0.1	0.0	297614

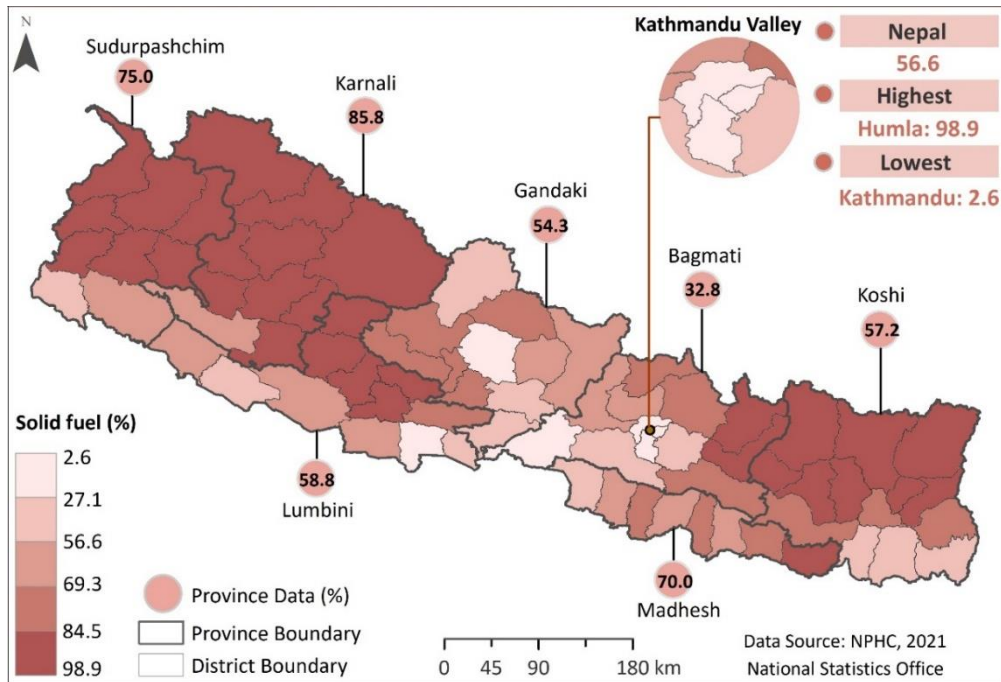
Indoor air pollution is mostly caused by burning biomass fuels (wood, crop waste or dung) in badly ventilated kitchens and rooms for cooking or heating purposes. That increased the risk of respiratory illnesses, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cardiovascular disease, and lung cancer among women because they spend a substantial time of the day inside the house preparing food and performing other household chores (Bradley & Putnick, 2012).

Slightly over 55 per cent of households with at least one widow used firewood and 2.8 percent used cow dung for cooking (Figure 3.5). By districts, almost all households from Humla with at least one single woman as well as widow used solid fuel for cooking whereas in Kathmandu only three percent used solid fuel (Map 3.7; 3.8).

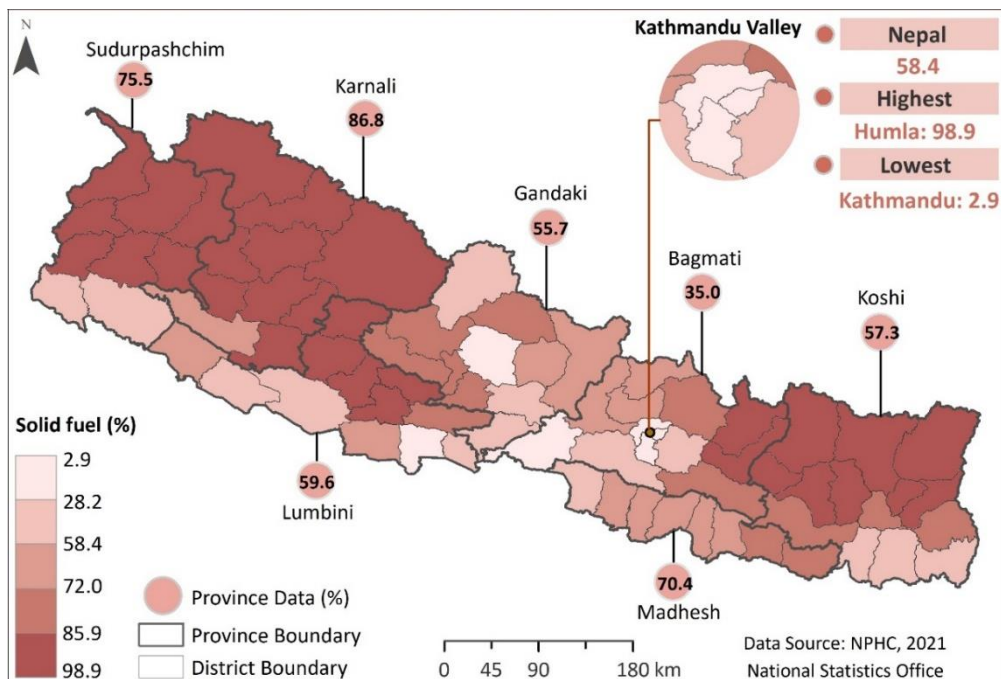
Figure 3.5: Proportion of household with at least one widow that uses wood and cow dung for cooking, NPHC 2021



Map 3.7: Distribution of households with at least one single woman using solid fuel for cooking by districts, NPHC 2021



Map 3.8: Distribution of households with at least one widow using solid fuel for cooking by districts, NPHC 2021



3.4.3 Energy for lighting

More than 92 percent of the households with at least one widow used electricity as their main source of lighting (Table 3.5). By province, more than 94 percent of households in Koshi, Madhesh, Bagmati, Gandaki and Lumbini were having electricity as their main source of lighting, whereas less than half of Karnali households had this facility. Nearly half (48.3%) of Karnali households depend on solar lighting. More households had electricity as their main source of lighting in Hill and urban place of residence. Households' usual source of lighting by districts is presented in Annex 5.4.

Table 3.5: Households' usual source of lighting, by province, ecological zone and municipality, NPHC 2021

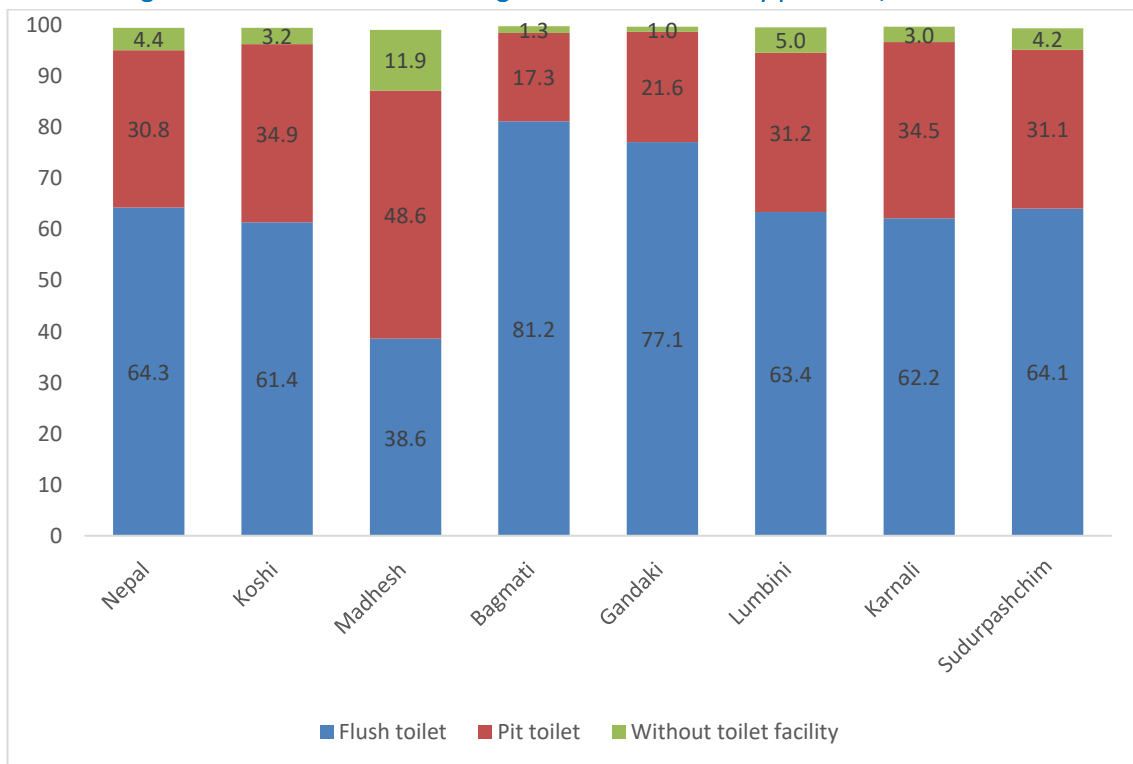
Areas	Electricity	Solar	Kerosene	Biogas	Other	Household with Widow (with/without other single women)
Nepal	92.2	6.3	0.7	0.0	0.8	799744
Provinces						
Koshi	94.2	4.3	1.1	0.0	0.4	145898
Madhesh	97.8	0.6	1.2	0.1	0.3	128154
Bagmati	97.5	2.1	0.2	0.0	0.2	166217
Gandaki	97.7	1.7	0.3	0.0	0.2	91447
Lumbini	94.3	3.8	1.0	0.0	0.8	145184
Karnali	48.6	48.3	0.6	0.0	2.5	39676
Sudurpashchim	80.9	16.0	0.3	0.0	2.7	83168
Ecological Zones						
Mountain	77.8	20.3	0.4	0.0	1.5	49213
Hill	89.0	9.7	0.4	0.0	0.9	350283
Tarai	96.9	1.5	1.1	0.0	0.5	400248
Urban/Rural residence						
Urban	98.1	1.4	0.3	0.0	0.2	198994
Peri Urban	97.5	0.8	1.2	0.0	0.5	303136
Rural	83.0	15.1	0.5	0.0	1.4	297614

3.4.4 Toilet facilities

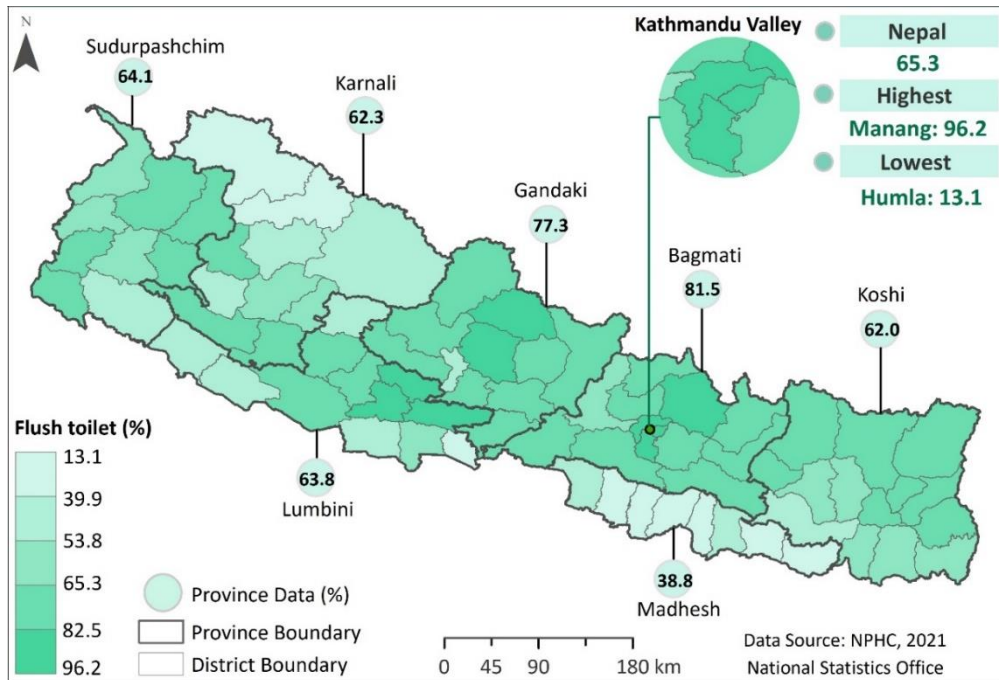
The 2021 census found that 64.3 percent of households with at least one widow had access to flush toilets connected with both public sewerage system and septic tanks. Other 30.8 percent households with at least one widow had pit toilets and remaining 4.4 percent households had not any toilet facilities. Similarly 65.3 percent of the households with at least one single women had access to flush toilets connected with both public sewerage system and septic tanks (Figure 3.6; Map 3.9; 3.10).

Nearly two-fifths (38.7%) households with at least one widow in Madhesh had access to a flush toilet in their housing units, which was very much lower than in all six other provinces (Figure 3.6). A large proportion of households have flush toilets connected to a public sewage system (26.9%) only in Bagmati compared to only 2–4 percent of households in all other provinces (Annex 5.5). Of the total households with at least one single women, 96 percent households had access to flush toilet in Manang district and only 13 percent from Humla had access to flush toilet. A similar finding was obtained for households with at least one widow (Maps 3.9; 3.10).

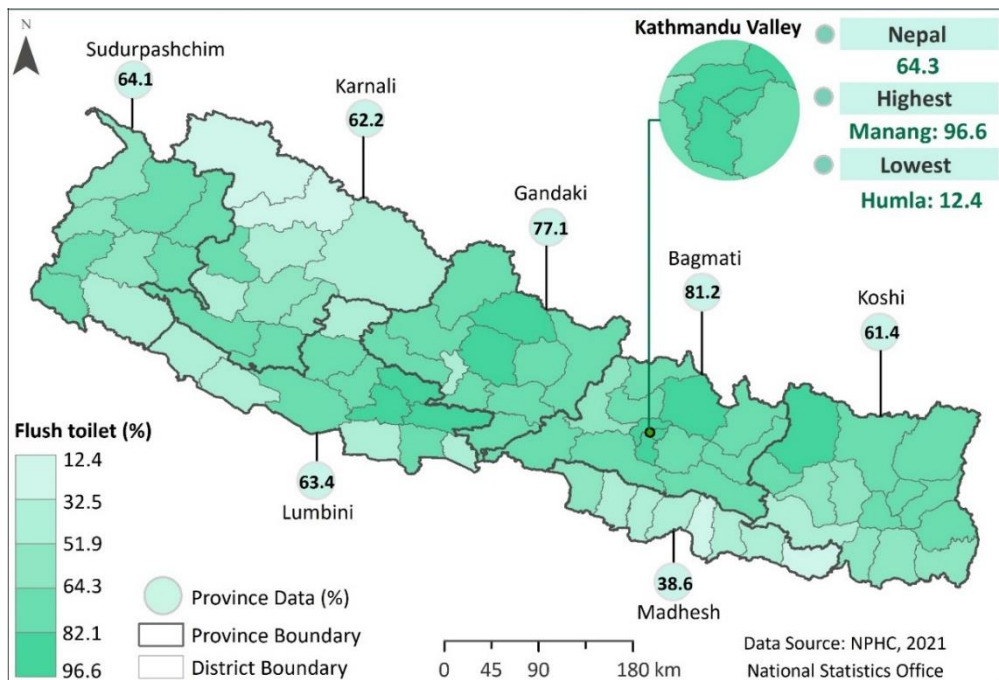
Figure 3.6: Toilet facilities among widow households by province, NPHC 2021



Map 3.9: Distribution of households with at least one single woman having access to flush toilet by districts, NPHC 2021



Map 3.10: Distribution of households with at least one widow having access to flush toilet by districts, NPHC 2021



3.4.5 Health risk

The authors of this report have created a health risk index for the 2021 Nepal census data based on some of the census findings that are reported in Chapters 2 of this report. The index comprises: the four service availability variables of access to drinking water, main source of cooking fuel, main source of lighting and type of toilets (as shown in Table 2.3). The health risk related information collected in NPHC 2021 is classified as unimproved sources of drinking water, unimproved sanitation, use of solid fuels for cooking, and fuel-based lighting with a score ranging from 0-4 indicating no health risk to high health risks.

More than one-third (34.2%) of households with at least one woman were living in a household with none of the health risks. This figure is lower for single women and further lower for households with at least one widow (Figure 3.7). About 40 percent households with widow were exposed to only one health risk. By urban and rural difference, among households with at least one widow, about 65 percent of households in urban areas with none of the health risk as compared to rural area (9.9%) (Figure 3.8). Among households with at least one widow, more than half of households in Bagmati with none of the health risk in contrast, only less than 10 percent in Karnali had no health risk (Annex 3.7).

Figure 3.7: Percentage of household's categories by exposure to health risks, NPHC 2021

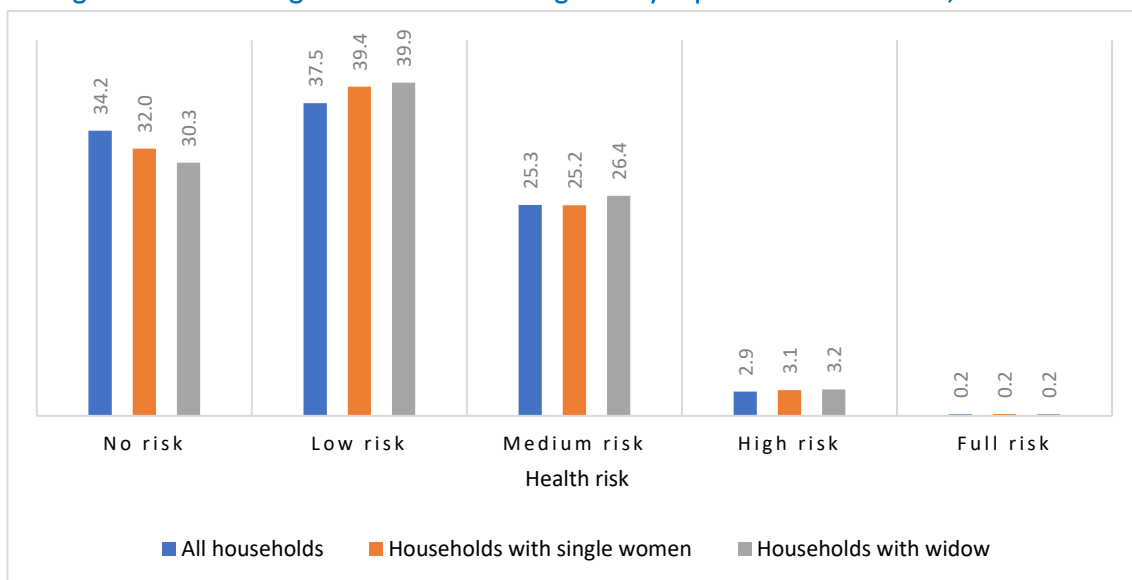
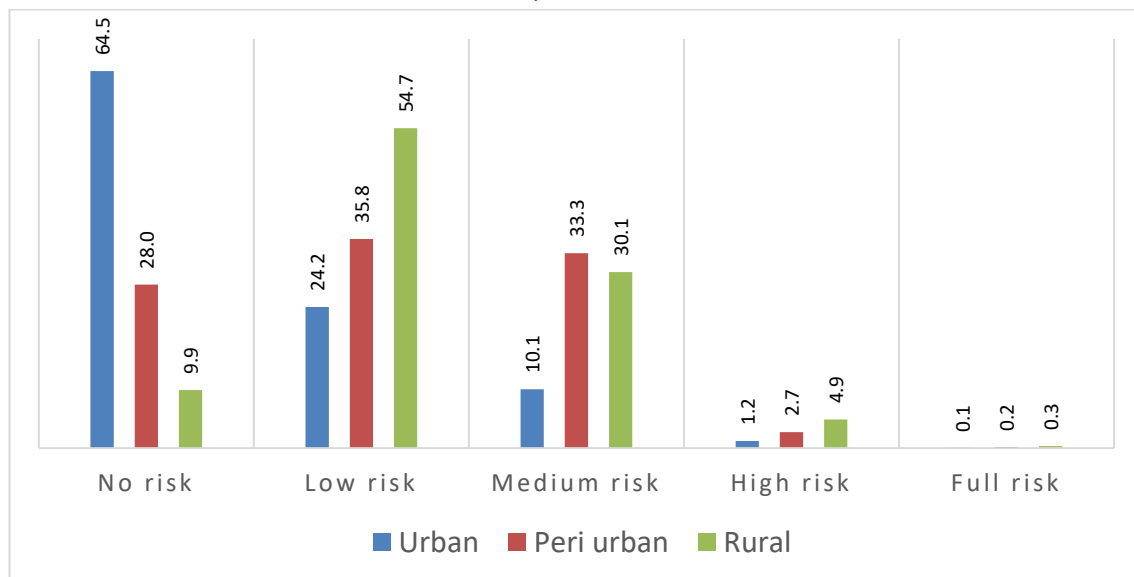


Figure 3.8: Percentage of households with widow by exposure to health risks, urban and rural areas, NPHC 2021



3.5 Access to amenities/facilities

Households with at least one widow are slightly less likely to have access to communication devices and transport assets such as a radio (34% vs 34.2%, a smart mobile (69.2% vs 73%), internet (35.7% vs 38.1%), car/jeep/van (3% vs 3.1%), and motorcycle/scooter (26.2% vs 27.3%) as compared to all households. The smallest proportion of radio listeners among households with at least one widow were in Madhesh (20.8%) while the least television viewers were in Karnali (17.2%). The highest proportion of smart mobile phone (74.7 %) and internet users (51.9%) were in Bagmati. The highest level of car/jeep/van and motorcycle/scooter were in Bagmati, 6.7% and 36.7% respectively (Table 3.6; Figure 3.9). About 6 percent of the households with at least one widow did not have any of the 14 amenities/facilities as indicated in Table 3.6. Households with at least one widow in Karnali (9.8%) and Sudurpashchim (8.5%) did not have any such amenities (Table 3.6).

District level data related to the full set of household amenities are presented in Annex 5.8. Among households with at least one single women, Kathmandu had the highest rank (91.9%) to use smart phone whereas Dolpa had the lowest (36.9%) (Maps 3.11; 3.12).

Figure 3.9: Number of households with at least one widow by selected household amenities/facilities used for provinces, NPHC 2021

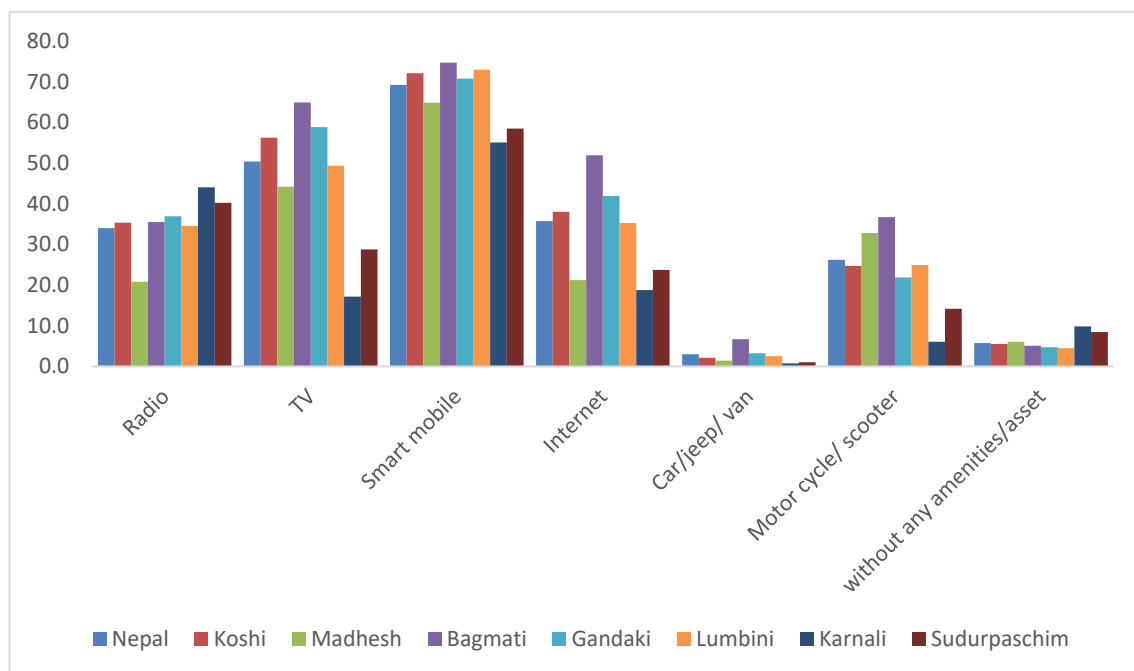
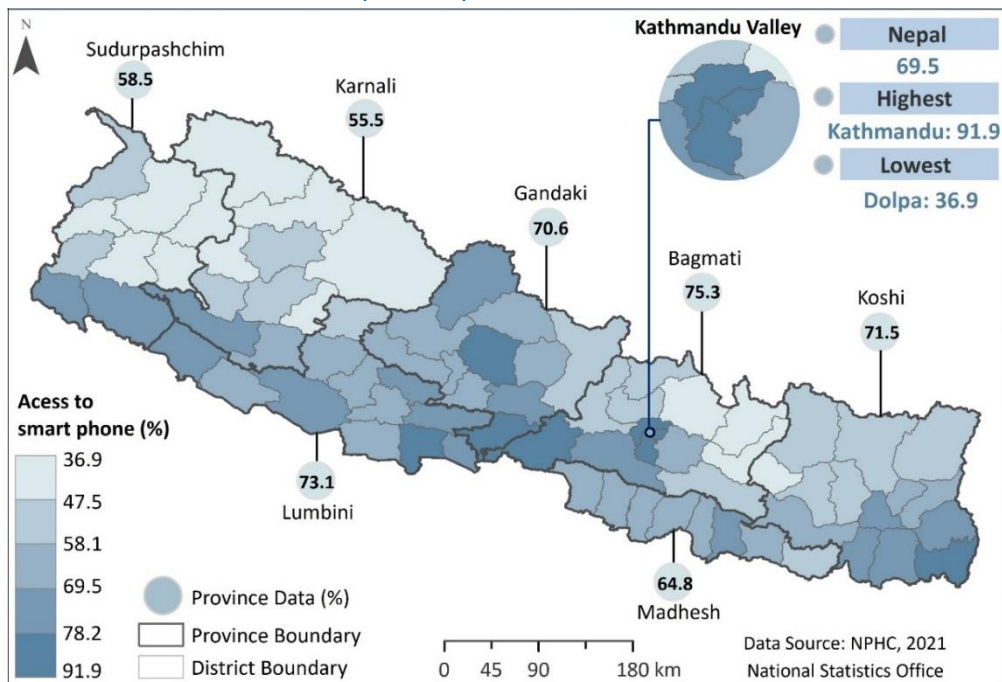


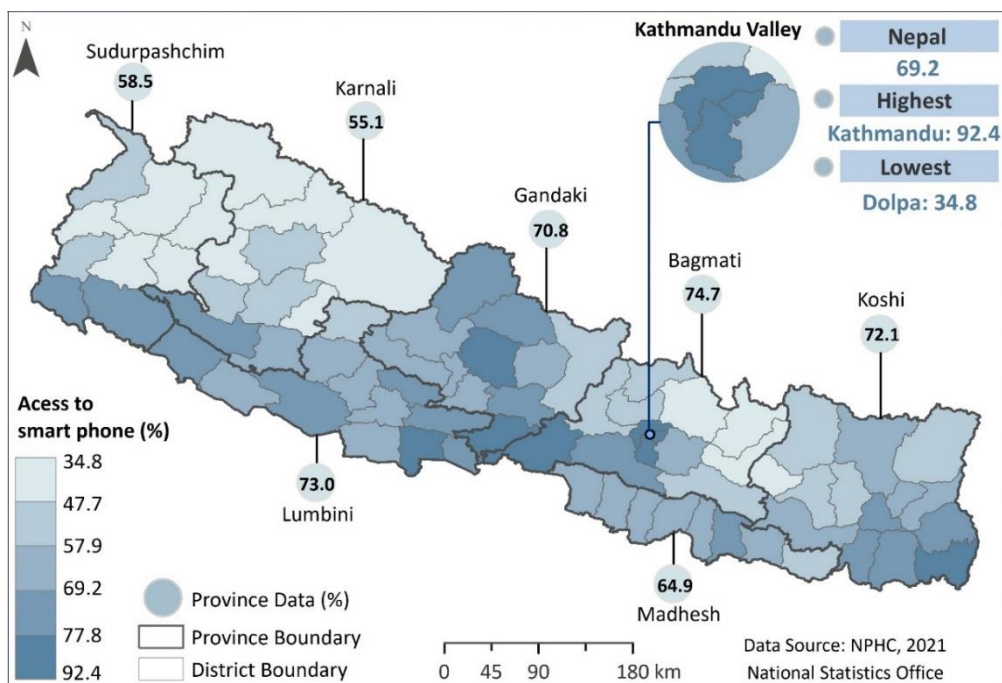
Table 3.6: Number of widow households by household amenities/facilities used for various geographical areas, NPHC 2021

Areas	Radio	Television	Land line telephone	Mobile phone (ordinary)	Mobile phone (smart)	Any Mobile phone	Computer/ Laptop	Internet	Car/jeep/ van	Motorcycle/ scooter	Bicycle	Electric fan	Refrigerator	Washing machine	Air conditioner	At least one amenity/ asset	Without any amenities/ assets	Household with Widow (with/ without other single women)
Nepal	34.0	50.4	5.0	74.4	69.2	91.0	13.9	35.7	3.0	26.2	33.4	52.5	25.0	4.6	0.9	94.2	5.8	799744
Provinces																		
Koshi	35.3	56.3	3.5	72.2	72.1	91.5	11.6	38.0	2.1	24.7	41.2	58.3	28.1	2.8	0.9	94.5	5.5	145898
Madhesh	20.8	44.2	1.5	73.8	64.9	88.8	7.7	21.2	1.4	32.8	62.7	78.1	11.7	1.3	0.5	93.9	6.1	128154
Bagmati	35.5	64.9	12.6	71.2	74.7	92.6	29.6	51.9	6.7	36.7	16.1	44.2	41.0	13.2	1.7	94.9	5.1	166217
Gandaki	36.9	58.9	5.2	75.9	70.8	93.4	14.2	41.9	3.2	21.9	11.6	39.2	29.9	4.6	0.5	95.3	4.7	91447
Lumbini	34.6	49.4	3.2	76.2	73.0	92.0	10.6	35.3	2.5	25.0	42.2	57.4	25.4	2.9	1.2	95.5	4.5	145184
Karnali	44.1	17.2	1.7	81.4	55.1	87.2	4.8	18.8	0.7	6.1	1.6	10.9	4.6	0.3	0.1	90.2	9.8	39676
Sudurpashchim	40.2	28.8	2.0	77.4	58.5	87.9	5.6	23.7	1.0	14.2	33.2	45.5	11.6	0.4	0.3	91.5	8.5	83168
Ecological Zones																		
Mountain	48.4	25.0	1.7	79.5	47.8	84.2	3.8	15.2	0.7	4.4	0.7	3.7	3.1	0.3	0.1	87.9	12.1	49213
Hill	39.9	50.3	7.6	75.9	68.1	91.2	17.5	38.8	4.0	22.3	6.8	28.1	24.1	6.6	0.7	93.6	6.4	350283
Tarai	27.1	53.5	3.1	72.4	72.9	91.7	11.9	35.6	2.4	32.3	60.8	79.9	28.5	3.3	1.1	95.6	4.4	400248
Urban/Rural residence																		
Urban	34.6	71.7	15.2	68.3	83.8	95.4	33.2	60.8	7.4	43.6	30.4	68.3	50.8	14.6	2.7	97.5	2.5	198994
Peri Urban	26.6	52.4	2.1	73.1	71.5	91.2	10.5	34.1	2.1	31.6	59.4	75.8	25.2	2.2	0.5	95.3	4.7	303136
Rural	41.3	34.1	1.1	79.8	57.2	87.9	4.4	20.7	1.0	9.1	9.0	18.3	7.5	0.3	0.1	91.0	9.0	297614

Map 3.11: Distribution of households with at least one single woman with access to smartphone by districts, NPHC 2021



Map 3.12: Distribution of households with at least one widow with access smart phone by districts, NPHC 2021



4. DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS OF SINGLE WOMEN

This chapter outlines the demographic dynamics (size, distribution and intercensal change) of single women based on the Nepal Population and Housing Census (NPHC) 2021. The level of analysis is a national, provincial, ecological zone, urban-rural place of residence, and district with six categories of marital status. Among the total 6,666,937 households including both of institutional and non-institutional type, 12,439,247 women aged 10 years and above are analyzed according to the growth, size and distribution.

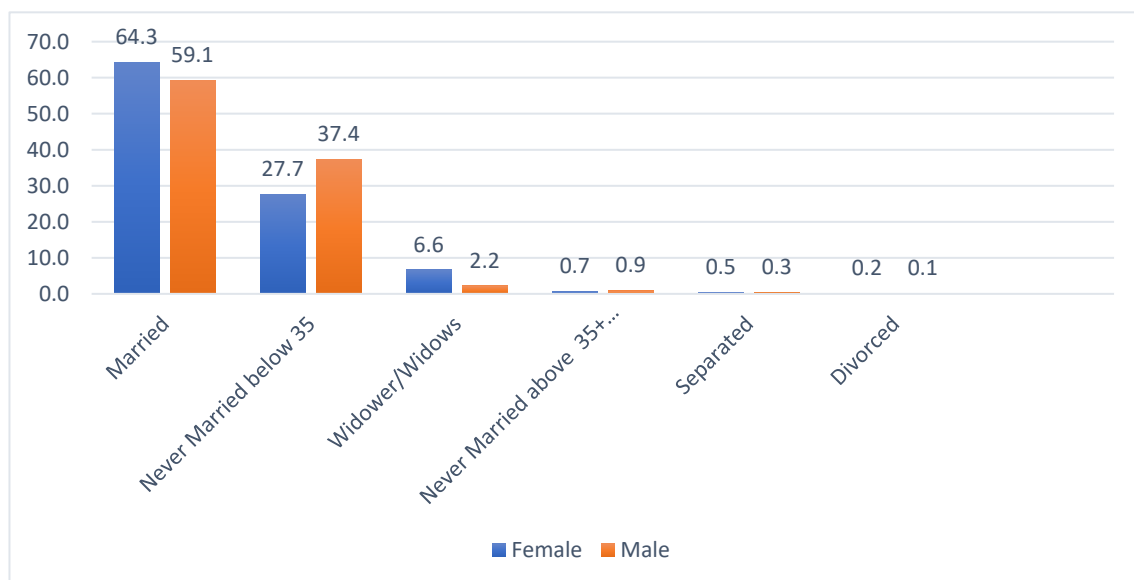
4.1 Singlehood population by sex

Table 4.1 shows the total singlehood population of Nepal enumerated in census 2021 by sex. According to the NPHC 2021, the total population aged 10 years and above are 23,958,868 in number. Among the total female population aged 10 years and above, 8 percent were single women (widows, divorced, separated, and never married women aged 35 years and above). The national census found that the number of widows are much higher than widowers.

Table 4.1: Distribution of population aged 10 years and above by marital status and sex, NPHC 2021

Gender	Married		Widow/ Widower		Divorced		Separated		Never Married below age 35		Never Married above age 35 years		Total population 10 year and above
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Male	6810042	59.1	255008	2.2	15852	0.1	35757	0.3	4303752	37.4	99210	0.9	11519621
Female	7999252	64.3	826147	6.6	21287	0.2	59525	0.5	3442333	27.7	90703	0.7	12439247
Total	14809294	61.8	1081155	4.5	37139	0.2	95282	0.4	7746085	32.3	189913	0.8	23958868

Figure 4.1: Proportion of marital/singlehood population by sex, NPHC 2021



4.2 Trends of single women population

The distribution of women aged 10 years and above by marital status is presented since 1961 census. Table 4.2 reveals that there was no linear increase as well as decrease in proportion of single women since the 1961. The proportion of widows were highest (14.3%) in 1961 and reached to 7 percent in 1991. It is noted that 2001 census shows that widows were only 3.7 percent in 2001 which was increased almost twice (6.6%) in 2021.

Table 4.2: Percent distribution of women aged 10 years and above by marital status, 1961-2021
Nepal censuses

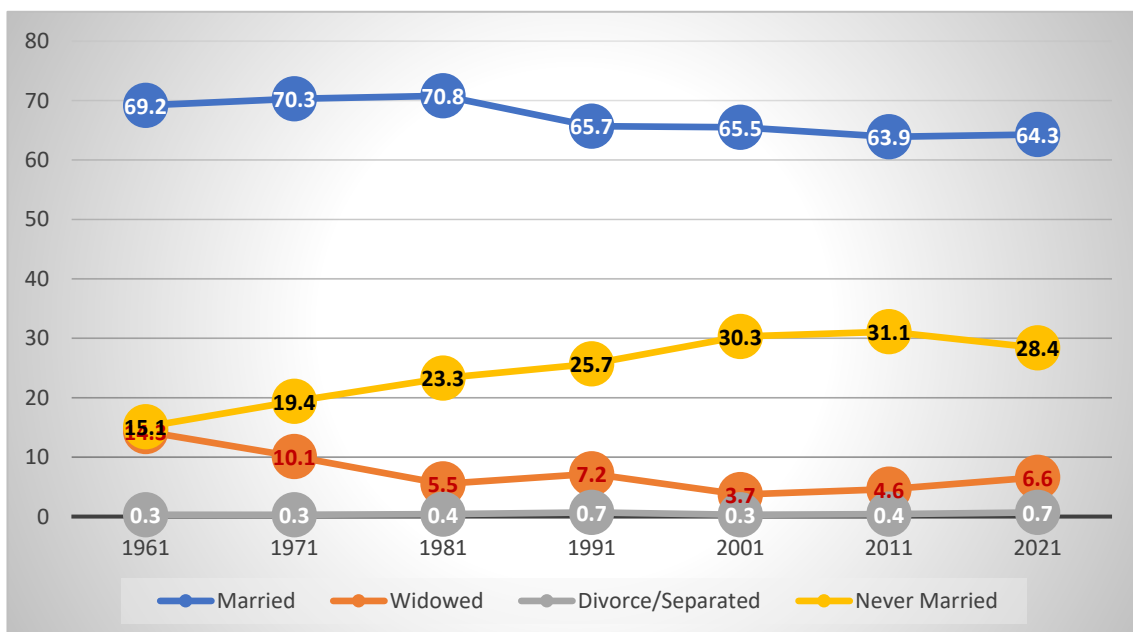
Marital/ Single women status	Nepal Censuses, 1961-2021						
	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021
Married	69.2	70.3	70.8	65.7	65.5	63.9	64.3
Widowed	14.3	10.1	5.5	7.2	3.7	4.6	6.6
Divorce/Separated	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.7
Never Married	15.1	19.4	23.3	25.7	30.3	31.1	28.4

Source: CBS, 1968 Vol. III, Part VI, Table 7, CBS, 1975 Vol. II, Part II, Table 15, CBS, 1984 Vol. II, Part Table 15, CBS, 1993 Vol. I, Part XI, Table 34, CBS, 2002 National, Report Vol. II, Table 17, CBS, 2012 National Report Vol. I, Table 19, CBS, 2014 Population Monograph Vol. I, Table 4.5, Table Annex:4.1, Table Annex:4.2, Table Annex:4.3,, NSO, 2023 Nepal Population and Housing Census 2021(National Report), Table 21.

The NPHC 2021 found that the trend of married women status decreased in percent from 1981 to 2021. There were almost 71 percent of married women in 1981 whereas 64 percent in the 2021. The facts indicates that there are increased trends in the single women as well as never

married below age 35 years. The changes in size and proportion of single women in the total 10 years and above women are found in the six decades of the censuses.

Figure 4.2: Trends of marital/single status among women aged 10 years and above, Nepal censuses 1961-2021



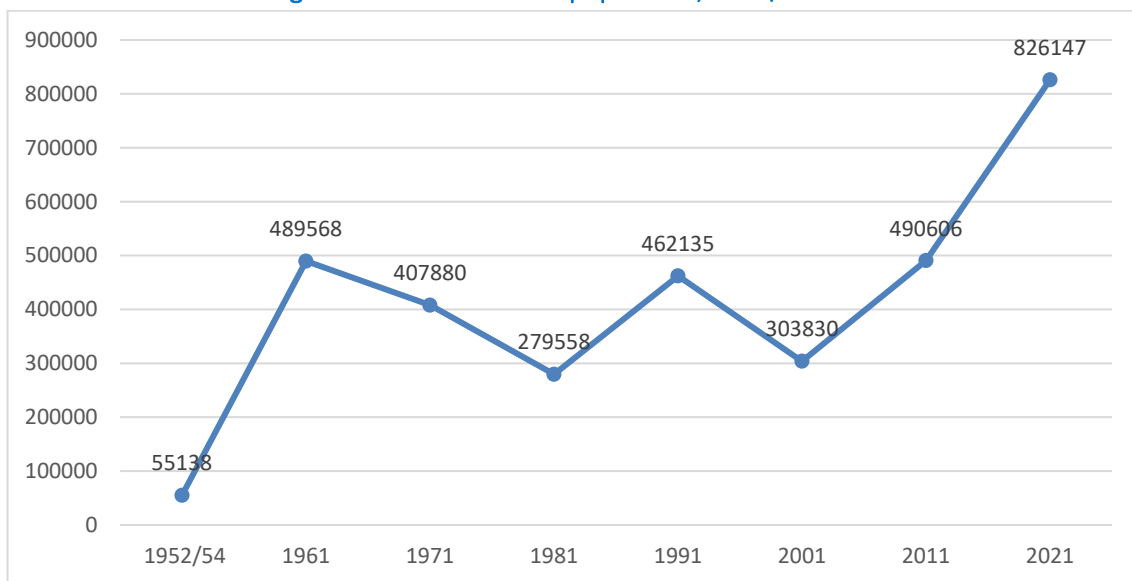
The NPHC 2021 has found a gradual increase in the number of single women since 2001. Among women aged 10 years and above, 6.6 percent were widows in 2021, which was increased from 3.7 percent in 2001. Similarly, the rates of divorce and separation have also increased over the past two decades. The proportion of unmarried single women aged 35 and above has increased from 0.5 percent in 2001 to 0.7 percent in 2021 (Figure 4.2; Table 4.3).

Table 4.3: Population trend of single women, NPHC 2001-2021

Single status	Census years		
	2001	2011	2021
Widows	3.7	4.6	6.6
Divorced	0.1	0.1	0.2
Separated	0.2	0.2	0.5
Unmarried 35+ years	0.5	0.6	0.7
Total female 10+ years	8439703*	10822774	12439247

*Enumerated

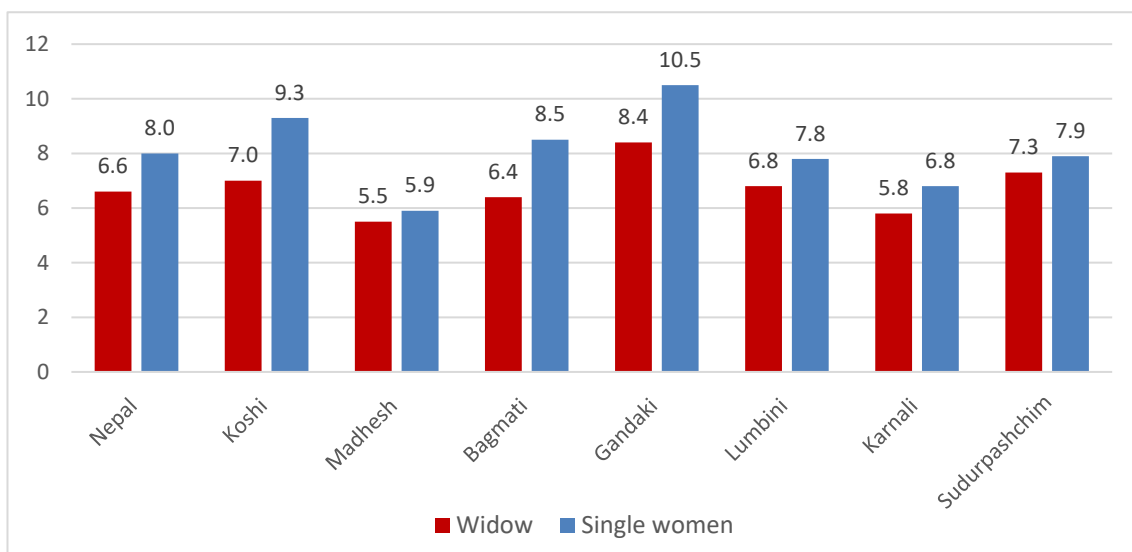
Figure 4.3: Size of widow population, 1952/54-2021



4.3 Spatial distribution of single women

The NPHC 2021 is found that Lumbini had highest (8.4%) widows followed by Sudurpashchim (7.3%), Koshi (7%) and Madhesh with 5.5 percent of the total 10 years and above women provincial population. It is also found that the 10.5 percent of the women are single women status in the Gandaki province which is highest among the single women status among the provinces (Figure 4.4). Madhesh had lowest (5.9%) single women among the provinces.

Figure 4.4: Percent distribution of single women and widows by provinces, NPHC 2021



According to ecological zone, Tarai has higher (65.2%) proportion of married women with compared to Hill and Mountain (63.5% and 62.1% respectively). As examining the women status, nearly 63 percent of women got married in urban areas which is less than peri-urban and rural areas (65.6% and 64.2% respectively). Similarly, NPHC 2021 shows that widows are mostly concentrated in the rural (7.3%) and peri-urban place of residence (6.5%) than urban (6%) areas. However, divorce and separate proportion are comparatively high (0.3% and 0.6% respectively) in urban place of residence than the rural and peri-urban place of residence (Table 4.4).

Of the total provincial aged 10 years and above women population, almost 67 percent were married women in Madhesh, followed by Gandaki (65.1%) and 61.7 percent in Sudurpashchim. In cases of divorce and separated population, Madhesh has lowest (0.0% and 0.2% respectively) with compared the other provinces.

Table 4.4: Percent distribution of women by marital status according to provinces, ecological zone and place of residence, NPHC, 2021

Areas	Marital status						Total women 10 year and above
	Married	Widow	Divorce	Separated	Never married women age 35+ years	Never married women below 35 years.	
Nepal	64.3	6.6	0.2	0.5	0.7	27.7	12439247
Provinces							
Koshi	64.2	7.0	0.2	0.8	1.2	26.5	2139959
Madhesh	66.7	5.5	0.0	0.1	0.2	27.4	2414905
Bagmati	63.3	6.4	0.2	0.6	1.2	28.2	2665603
Gandaki	65.1	8.4	0.3	0.7	1.1	24.4	1122075
Lumbini	64.3	6.8	0.2	0.4	0.5	27.9	2220519
Karnali	64.2	5.8	0.2	0.4	0.4	30.0	696035
Sudurpashchim	61.7	7.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	30.4	1180151
Ecological Zone							
Mountain	62.1	6.9	0.1	0.4	1.0	29.6	737394
Hill	63.5	7.0	0.2	0.6	1.1	27.6	5146389
Tarai	65.2	6.3	0.1	0.4	0.4	27.5	6555464
Urban-rural residence							
Urban	62.7	6.0	0.3	0.6	0.1	30.4	3415283
Peri-urban	65.6	6.5	0.1	0.4	0.4	27.0	4840273
Rural	64.2	7.3	0.1	0.5	0.8	27.0	4183691

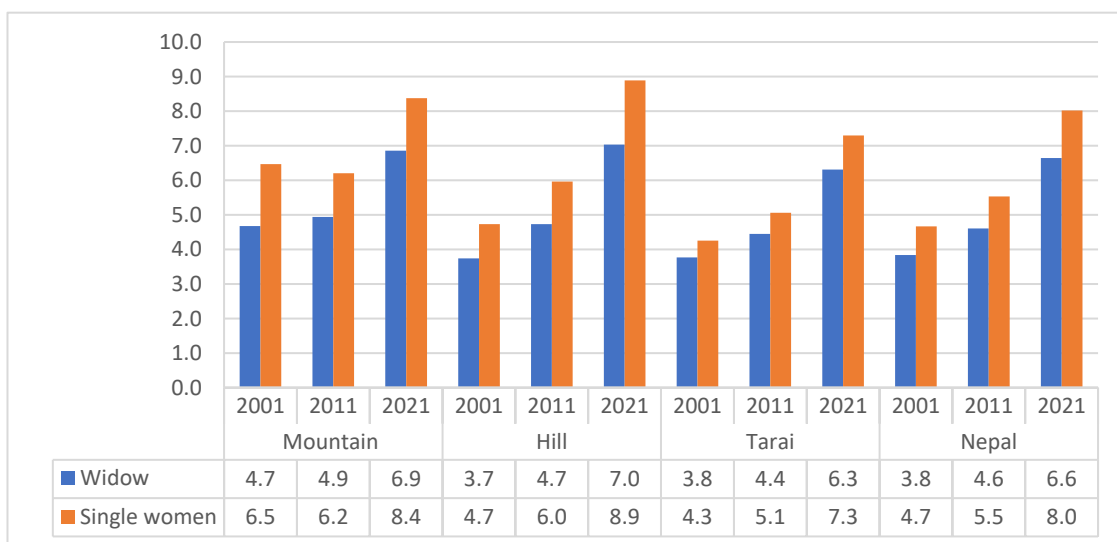
By examining trends of women's marital status across different ecological zones, it is evident that the proportion of married women has slightly decreased over the past two decades in all ecological zones. In the Mountain, the percentage of married women declined from 63.5 percent in 2001 to 62.1 percent in 2021. Similarly in the Hill, the proportion decreased slightly from 63.7 percent in 2001 to 63.5 percent in 2021 (Table 4.5). In Tarai region, married women decreased from 68 percent in 2001 to 65.2 percent in 2021. These decreasing trends among married women indicate a significant rise in the number of single women including widows.

Table 4.5: Trends of marital status of women by Ecological zones (10 + female population)

Ecological zones	Married	Widow	Divorced	Separated	Unmarried above 35	Unmarried below 35	All Single women	Total number of women
2001								
Mountain	63.5	4.7	0.3	0.4	1.1	29.8	6.5	89,432
Hill	63.7	3.7	0.1	0.2	0.6	31.3	4.7	425,366
Tarai	68.0	3.8	0.1	0.2	0.2	27.4	4.3	454,805
Nepal	65.7	3.8	0.1	0.2	0.5	29.3	4.7	969,603
2011								
Mountain	62.0	4.9	0.1	0.2	0.9	31.8	6.2	701,784
Hill	62.2	4.7	0.1	0.3	0.8	31.9	6.0	4,810,403
Tarai	65.7	4.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	29.2	5.1	5,310,587
Nepal	63.9	4.6	0.1	0.2	0.6	30.6	5.5	10,822,774
2021								
Mountain	62.1	6.9	0.1	0.4	1.0	29.6	8.4	737,394
Hill	63.5	7.0	0.2	0.6	1.1	27.6	8.9	5,146,389
Tarai	65.2	6.3	0.1	0.4	0.4	27.5	7.3	6,555,464
Nepal	64.3	6.6	0.2	0.5	0.7	27.7	8.0	12,439,247

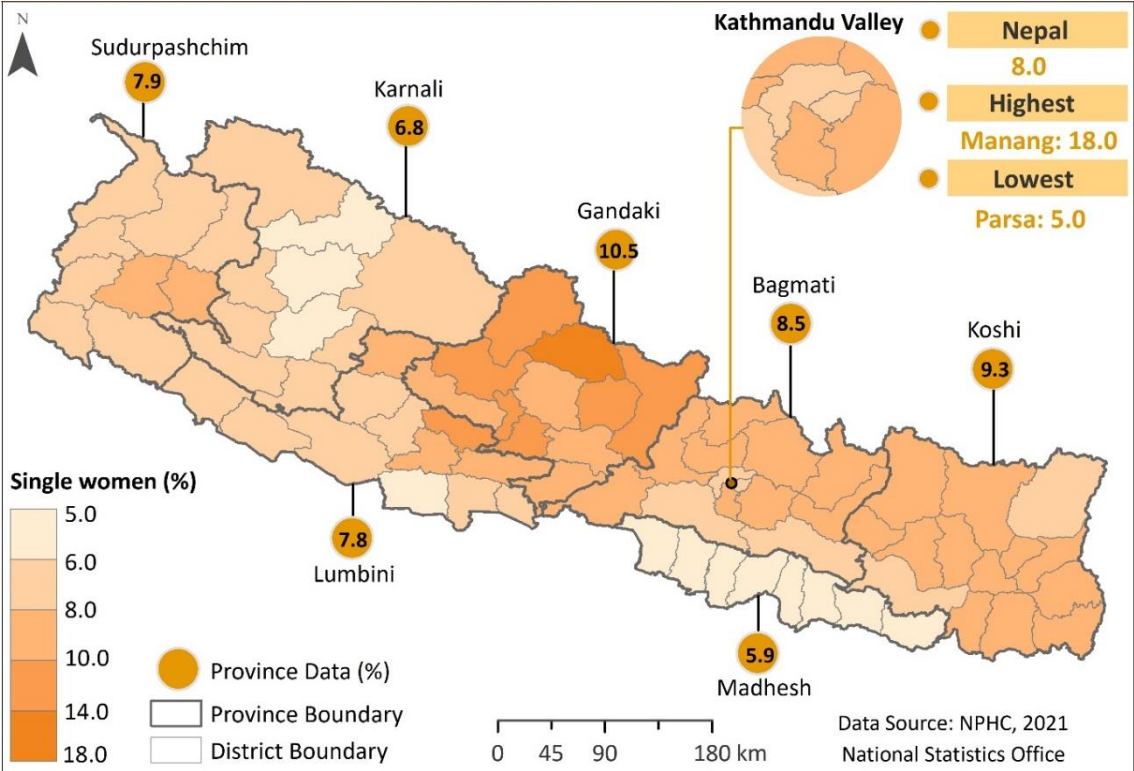
While examining the trends in single women including widows across different ecological zones, all categories of single women have seen an increase over the past two decades in all geographic regions. In the Mountain, the proportion of single women rose from 6.5 percent in 2001 to 8 percent in 2021. Similarly, in the Hill, the percentage increased from 4.7 percent in 2001 to 8.9 percent in 2021 (Figure 4.5; Table 4.5). This rise in the number of single women in Nepal bears a significant challenge to development planning in general and social protection efforts in particular.

Figure 4.5: Distribution of Single women and widow by ecological zones, Nepal census 2001-2021

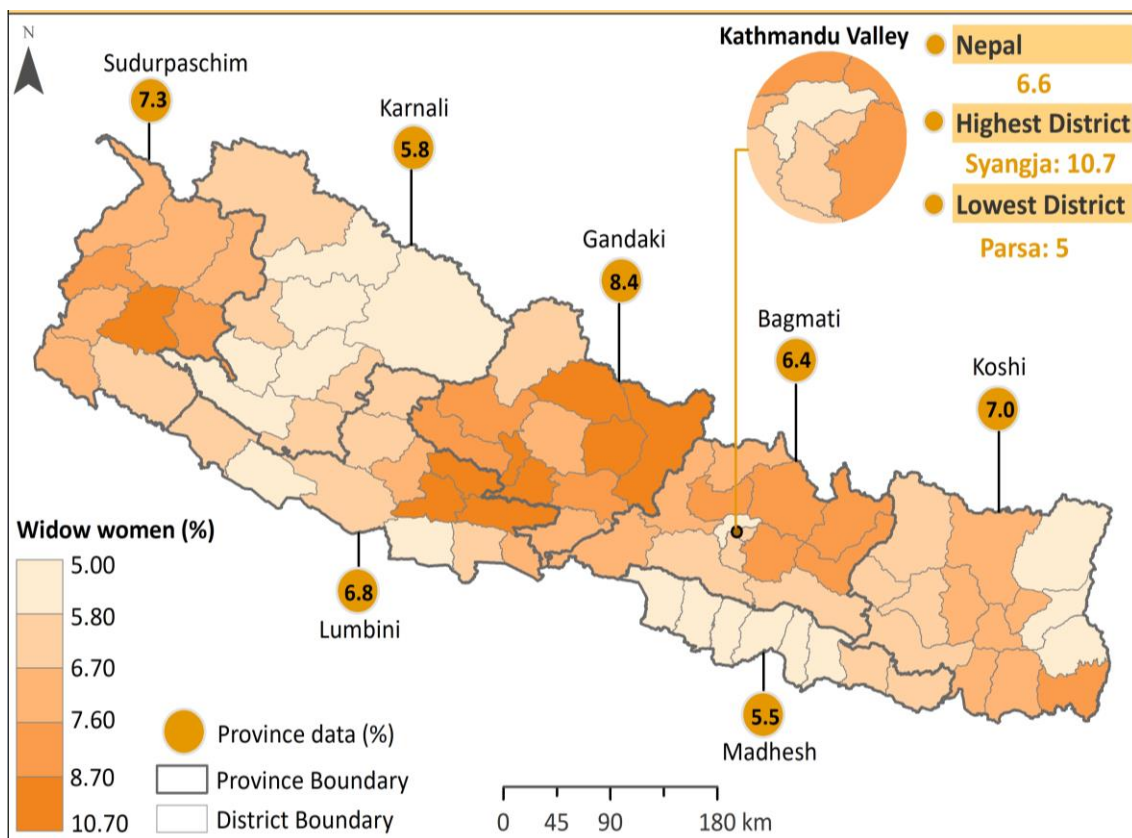


Of the total aged 10 and above years of district wise women population, 18 percent of single women are in the Manang whereas only 5 percent in the Parsa. In case of widows, Syangja district had almost 11 percent of widows whereas only 5 percent in Parsa. This indicates that Tarai districts having lower proportion of single women and widows than Hill and Mountain district (Map 4.1, 4.2).

Map 4.1: Percent distribution of single women by districts, NPHC 2021



Map 4.2: Percent distribution of widow by districts, NPHC 2021



4.4 Age distribution of single women

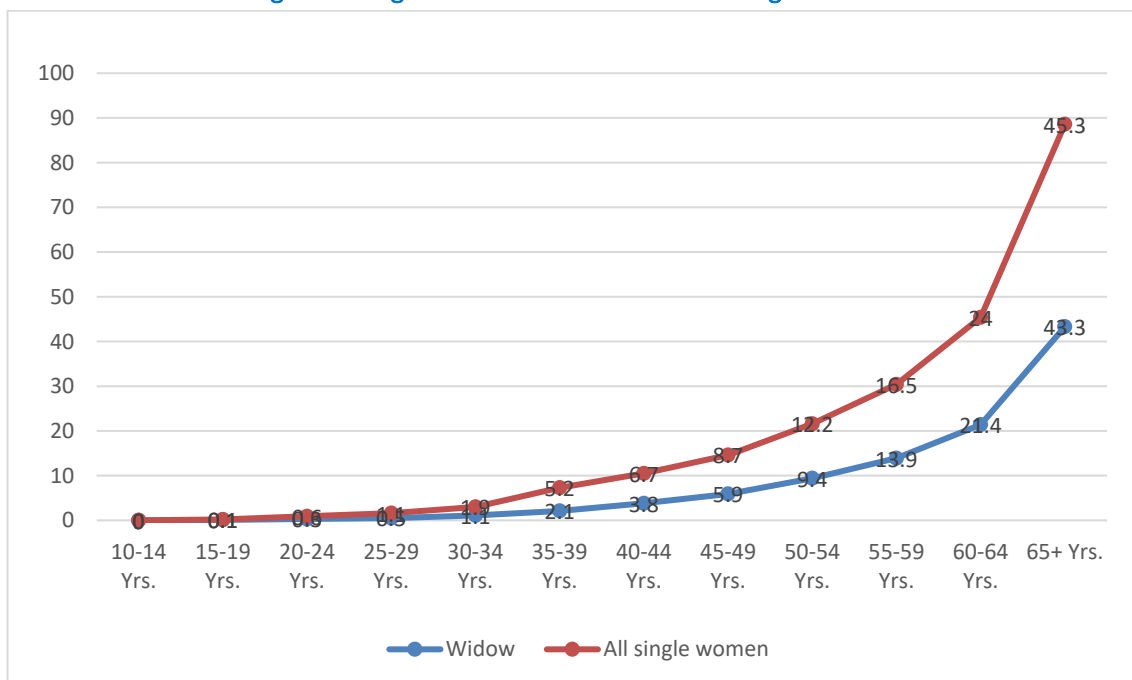
According to NPHC 2021, out of the total women aged 10 years above years, almost 95 percent of women got married in age 35-39 years, followed by 2.1 percent are widows, 0.3 percent are divorced, and 0.6 percent are separated. NPHC 2021 has found that 14.4 percent of women were married age 15-19 years while 0.5 percent married age less than 10 years. It is also found that 0.1 percent of women became widows before the age of 20 years.

Table 4.6 reveals that about 43 percent of widow are concentrated in the age group 65 years and above. Almost 1 percent women are separated in the age groups 40-44 and 45-49 years (0.8% and 0.9% respectively) whereas divorce proportion is higher in the age groups 30-34, 35-39, 40-44 and 45-49 (0.3% in each age group). About two percent are never married single women in the age group 65 and above. It is also found that 2 percent of single women concentrated in the age group 35-39 years which is higher than other age groups of the never married single women aged 35 and above years. Almost 1 percent (0.7%) of women are separated in the age 65 years also above.

Table 4.6: Percent distribution of women aged 10+ years by age and marital status, NPHC, 2021

Age group	Marital status						Total women 10 year and above
	Married	Widow	Divorced	Separated	Never married 35+ years	Never Married below 35 years	
Nepal	64.3	6.6	0.2	0.5	0.7	27.7	12439247
10-14 Yrs.	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	99.5	1413911
15-19 Yrs.	14.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	-	85.5	1471881
20-24 Yrs.	61.6	0.3	0.1	0.2	Na	37.9	1482042
25-29 Yrs.	86.4	0.5	0.2	0.4	Na	12.5	1337107
30-34 Yrs.	94.0	1.1	0.3	0.5	Na	4.2	1168736
35-39 Yrs.	94.8	2.1	0.3	0.6	2.2	na	1104561
40-44 Yrs.	93.4	3.8	0.3	0.8	1.8	na	919339
45-49 Yrs.	91.4	5.9	0.3	0.9	1.6	na	748515
50-54 Yrs.	87.8	9.4	0.2	1.0	1.6	na	721358
55-59 Yrs.	83.5	13.9	0.2	1.0	1.4	na	538386
60-64 Yrs.	76.1	21.4	0.2	1.0	1.4	na	489642
65+ Yrs.	54.7	43.3	0.1	0.7	1.2	na	1043769

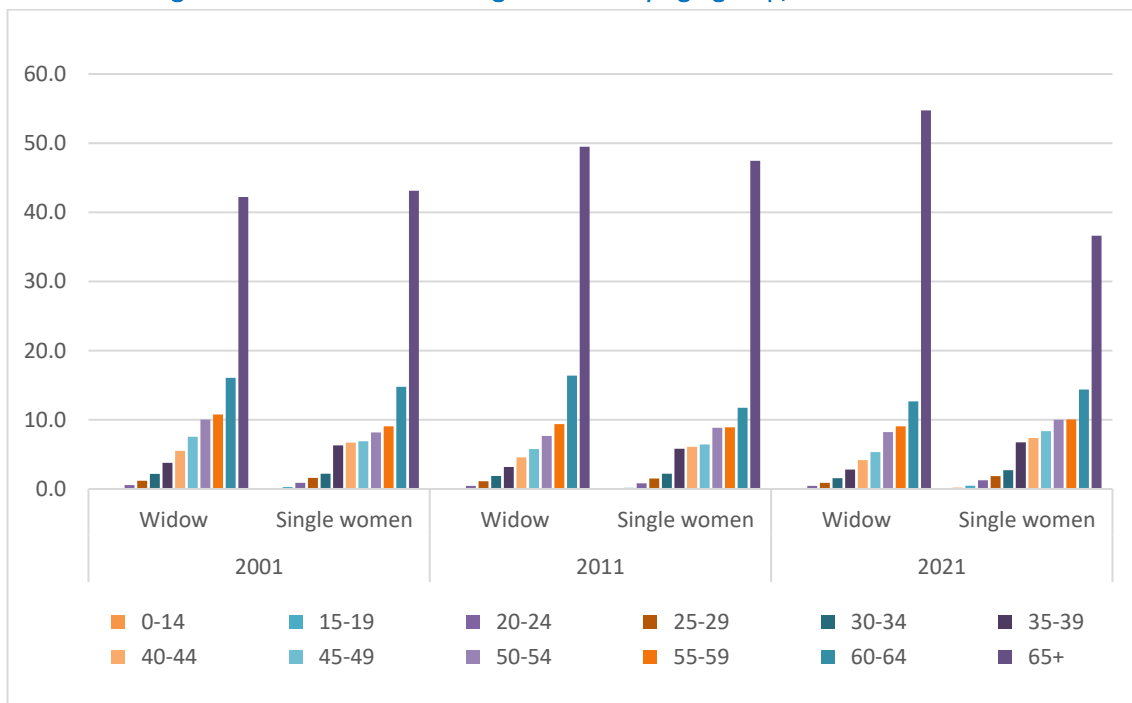
Figure 4.6 Age distribution of widow and single women



NPHC 2001-2021 results also reveal a decrease in the proportion of unmarried women before age 20 years over the past two decades. Among women aged 35 and below, 88 percent were unmarried in 2001, compared to 77 percent in 2021. These findings indicate that the trend of late age at marriage is significantly associated with the age structure of women.

Divorce and separation rates are most prevalent among women aged 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, and 40-44, as consistently shown in the past censuses. In 2001, 14 percent of women in both age group 20-24 and 25-29 were divorced, while in 2011, this figure was 14.4 percent. In 2021, 16 percent of women in the 30-34 and 35-39 age groups were divorced. These census findings indicate an increasing divorce rate among women, shifting from younger to older age groups over the last three census periods (Annex 10; figure 4.7).

Figure 4.7: Distribution of single women by age group, NPHC 2001-2021



4.5 Age at first marriage of women

The census data provides a detailed overview of the marital patterns among women in Nepal, highlighting significant trends regarding the age at which women get married. The data revealed that a substantial 83 percent of all married women entered into marriage between the ages of 15 and 24. This age group also accounts for 71 percent of the widows, indicating that a majority of widows were married in young age. Furthermore, a notable 23 percent of widows were married at the age of 15 or below (Table 4.7), highlighting the prevalence of child marriage among those who have lost their spouses. This figure points to the enduring impact of early marriage on women's lives, contributing to the challenges faced by widows in Nepal.

In the context of divorced women, NPHC 2021 shows that 80 percent of those who are divorced were married between the ages of 15 and 24. Similarly, among women who are separated from their spouses, 78 percent got married within the same age range (Table 4.7). These facts indicate that the majority of marital disruptions, such as divorce and separation, occur among women who married young. Overall, the census data paints a picture of early marriage being a common

experience among women in Nepal, with significant implications for their marital stability and the likelihood of becoming widowed, divorced, or separated.

Table 4.7: Distribution of women aged 10 years and above by marital status and age at first marriage, NPHC 2021

Age at first marriage	Marital Status				Number of women 10+ year
	Married	Widow	Divorced	Separated	
Below 15 yrs.	9.5	23.1	9.7	12.7	956,712
15-24 yrs.	82.9	70.9	80.2	78.4	7,281,646
25-34 yrs.	7.1	4.9	8.8	7.8	617,774
35-44 yrs.	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.5	29,091
45-54 yrs.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2,033
55-64 yrs.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	264
65+ yrs.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	38
Not stated	0.1	0.8	0.7	0.5	18653
Total	64.3	6.6	0.2	0.5	12439247

4.6 Age at first marriage of widow

According to the table 4.8, a significant proportion (30.4%) of widows in Sudurpashchim were married at the age of 15 years or below. This high percentage explores the persistence of child marriage in the province. In comparison, 17 percent of widows from Karnali province were also married at the age of 15 years or below. While this percentage is lower than that of Sudurpashchim, it still indicates a notable occurrence of child marriage in Karnali. Additionally, Table 4.8 reveals that in both Madhesh and Karnali provinces, 74 percent of widows were married between the ages of 15 and 24. It is also found that highest number (30.4%) of the widows in Sudurpashchim had their first marriage below the age of 15 years which is lowest in Karnali (17.4%). This data suggests that a large majority of widows in these provinces entered into marriage at a young age, further highlighting the pattern of early marriage, Table 4.8 indicates the significant impact of early marriage on the lives of women in these regions, contributing to a high prevalence of widowhood among those who married young.

When considering the urban-rural place of residence, the census data provides significant insights into the marital patterns of widows. It is observed that widows from urban areas are less likely to have been married at a young age compared to their counterparts in peri-urban and rural areas. It is found that more than 70 percent of widows got marriage at age 15-24 years from urban, peri-urban and rural place of residence.

Table 4.8: Age of first marriage of widow by province, ecological zones, urban-rural residence and municipality, NPHC 2021

Areas	Age of first marriage (years)							Total number of widows
	Below 15 years	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+	Not stated	
Nepal	23.1	70.9	4.9	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.8	826147
Provinces								
Koshi	20.7	72.4	6.0	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.3	150676
Madhesh	22.6	73.8	2.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.7	131995
Bagmati	23.3	70.7	5.3	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.3	171825
Gandaki	23.5	67.7	6.8	0.4	0.0	0.0	1.6	94567
Lumbini	22.9	71.1	4.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	1.2	149965
Karnali	17.4	74.1	6.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	2.1	40681
Sudurpashchim	30.4	65.6	3.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.8	86438
Ecological zones								
Mountain	19.8	72.5	6.3	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.9	50563
Hill	23.2	69.9	5.6	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.8	361871
Tarai	23.4	71.5	4.1	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.8	413713
Urban and Rural residence								
Urban	22.0	71.1	5.8	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.7	206096
Peri-urban	23.9	71.2	3.9	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.8	313171
Rural	23.0	70.4	5.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.9	306880

4.7 Children ever born

Children ever born (CEB) is a crucial indicator of the widows and social composition of single women in Nepal. According to NPHC, the CEB was specifically used to enumerate women aged 15-49 years. This data provides important insights into the reproductive histories and familial circumstances of widowed women within this age group. In the social context of Nepal, it is common for widows to live with their sons plus daughter-in-law and grandsons rather than their married daughters after the death of their husbands. This cultural practice highlights the reliance of widows on their male offspring for support and sustenance. The data also reveals that remarriage among widows is a rare occurrence in Nepal. The limited practice of remarriage further emphasizes the social and economic vulnerabilities faced by widows.

Table 4.9 provides a detailed breakdown of the number of children ever born (CEB) to widows aged 15-49 years in Nepal, revealing significant insights into their reproductive patterns and family structures. According to NPHC 2021, 10.7 percent of widows do not have any children. Additionally, the Table 4.9 indicates that 16.8 percent of widows have one child. NPHC 2021 also show that 30.4 percent of widows have two children. Moreover, a noteworthy 3.9 percent of widows have six or more children.

Significant regional variations have been seen in the number of children ever born (CEB) to widows aged 15-49 years across different provinces in Nepal. Table 5.8 shows that Madhesh has a higher proportion of widows (12.9%) without any children. In addition, Table 5.8 indicates that

35.8 percent of widows in Bagmati have two children. Moreover, the data highlights that widows from Karnali have the highest proportion of those with six or more children, at 8.3 percent. This is the highest percentage across all provinces, indicating that a substantial number of widows in Karnali are managing very large families.

The 2021 census data provides a comprehensive assessment at the family dynamics of widows in Nepal, highlighting a prevalent norm of having two children in sub regional level, including urban-rural and ecological zones. The data reveals that approximately 36 percent of widows residing in urban areas have two children. This figure suggests that in urban settings, there is a strong tendency for widows to have families with two children, reflecting broader social and economic factors that influence family size in these areas. It is also found that 6 percent of widows from rural areas have six and more children, followed by peri-urban (3.4%) and urban (2.1%).

Table 4.9: Proportion of widow 15-49 years of age by number of children ever born, NPHC 2021

Areas	Total number of children							Total number of widows aged 15-49 (reproductive age)
	No Children	1	2	3	4	5	6 +	
Nepal	10.7	16.8	30.4	21.6	11.5	5.2	3.9	126498
Koshi								
Koshi	10.2	20.3	32.6	20.5	9.2	4.3	3.0	22265
Madhesh								
Madhesh	12.9	13.2	25.3	24.4	13.9	6.1	4.2	21245
Bagmati								
Bagmati	10.6	21.6	35.8	17.9	8.1	3.4	2.5	23336
Gandaki								
Gandaki	10.8	17.8	34.7	21.1	9.4	3.8	2.3	12127
Lumbini								
Lumbini	10.4	15.2	30.6	22.6	12.0	5.1	4.1	25598
Karnali								
Karnali	8.7	11.9	23.5	22.8	15.8	9.0	8.3	7428
Sudurpashchim								
Sudurpashchim	9.6	13.1	25.1	23.5	15.2	7.5	6.0	14499
Ecological zones								
Mountain								
Mountain	10.7	12.8	24.0	21.2	15.5	8.1	7.8	7337
Hill								
Hill	10.3	17.9	31.2	20.5	11.0	5.3	4.0	50129
Tarai								
Tarai	10.9	16.4	30.5	22.5	11.4	4.9	3.4	69032
Urban-rural residence								
Urban								
Urban	10.2	21.5	35.7	18.8	8.4	3.3	2.1	33664
Peri-urban								
Peri-urban	10.9	16.2	30.4	23.0	11.3	4.8	3.4	50407
Rural								
Rural	10.8	13.7	26.1	22.3	14.0	7.2	6.0	42427

4.8 Living alone

In this report living alone is defined as those who are living alone in the households or only one member residing in the household. Living alone is a significant factor contributing to the vulnerability of single women in Nepal, linked to the country's social and demographic context. When comparing marital status trends and lonely living among living alone women, about 53 percent of married women lived alone in 2001, decreasing to 49 percent in 2011 and 33 percent in 2021. Similar trends are observed across all ecological zones of Nepal.

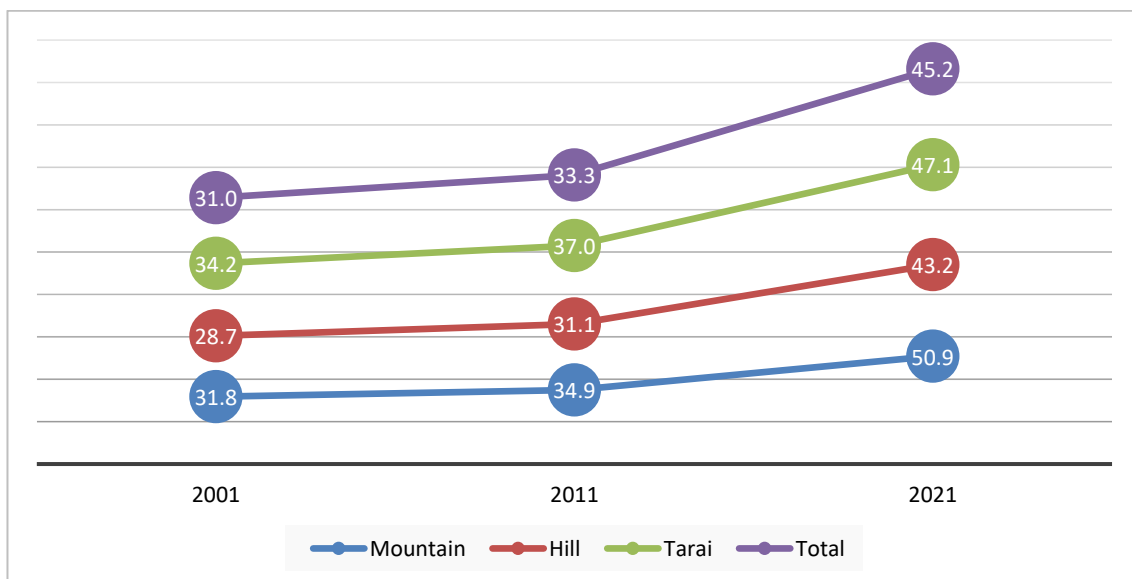
Examining the trend of single women living alone in households reveals a significant increase over the years. In the national level, 37.9 percent of single women lived alone in 2001, which rose to 41 percent in 2011 and further increased to 55 percent in 2021. These rising figures highlight a clear trend of increasing loneliness among single women across all ecological zones (Table 4.10). Similar types of increasing trends of living alone is also found among widows.

Table 4.10: Proportion of single women and widow among women living alone in the households by ecological zones, NPHC 2001-2021

Areas	2001				2011				2021			
	Married	Single women	Widow	Women living alone in the household	Married	Single women	Widow	Women living alone in the household	Married	Single women	Widow	Women living alone in the household
Mountain	48.6	45.5	31.8	1907	41.6	45.9	34.9	12594	40.4	62.4	50.9	18735
Hill	55.0	35.9	28.7	8981	44.5	39.7	31.1	82420	43.5	54.3	43.2	122293
Tarai	27.3	38.7	34.2	5729	49.7	42.5	37.0	44644	23.5	55.1	47.1	71522
Nepal	53.2	37.9	31.0	16617	49.4	41.2	33.3	139658	45.1	55.3	45.2	212550

The census results over the past two decades reveal a significant increase in the number of widows living alone. In 2001, about 31 percent of widows lived alone in their households. This figure rose to 33 percent in 2011 and significantly increased to 45 percent in 2021. This upward trend of widows living alone is observed across all ecological regions of Nepal (Table 4.10).

Figure 4.8: Proportion of widow living alone in the households by ecological zones, NPHC 2001-2021



When examining the living arrangements of women aged 10 years and above, a significant trend emerges among older widows. About three-fourths (75.2%) of them are living alone. This trend

is particularly evident among elderly widows, highlighting the increasing isolation they face as age. In contrast, a notable proportion (58.4%) of married women aged 35-49 years are also living alone, highlighting a different but equally significant demographic analysis.

The figure 4.9 indicates a clear relationship between increasing age and the likelihood of widows living alone. As women grow older, the probability of them living alone rises, with a substantial majority of older widows experiencing this sole living arrangement. This trend reveals a critical and growing need to address the unique challenges faced by these women.

Figure 4.9: Distribution of living alone women in the households by age, NPHC 2021

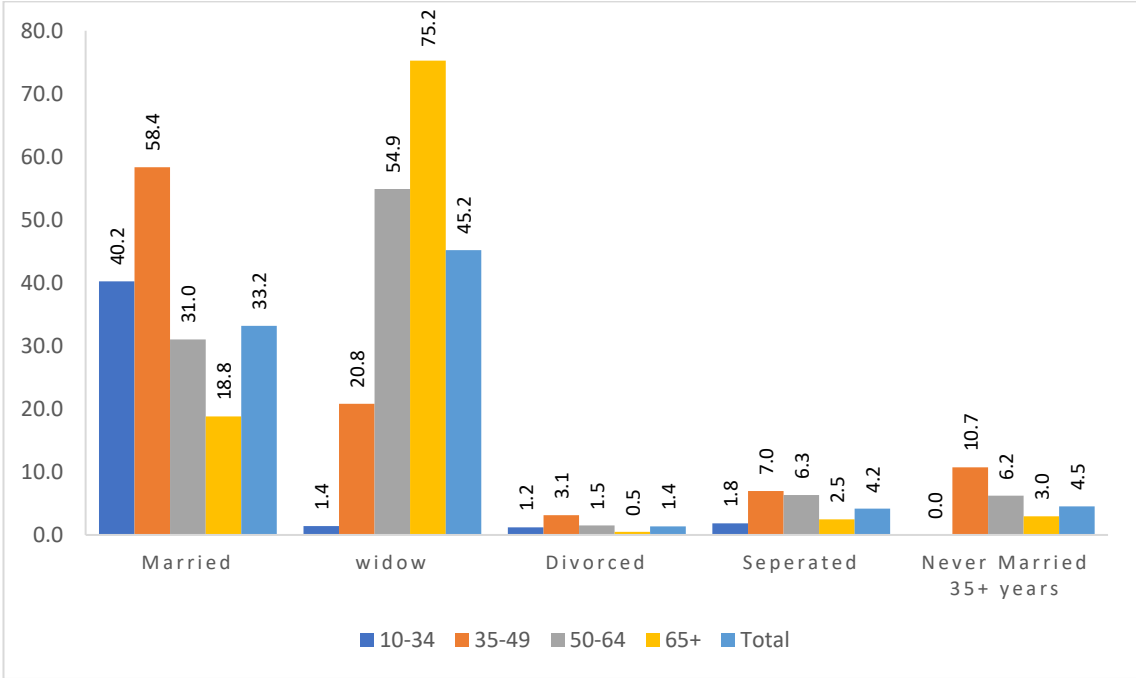
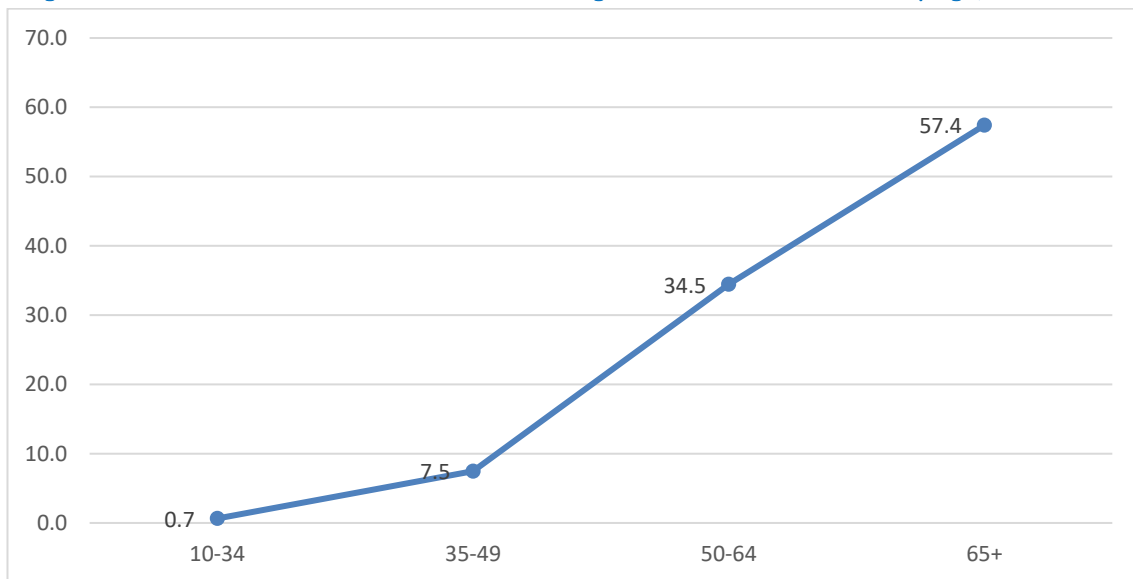


Figure 4.10 reveals a significant trend as the age of widows increases, so does the living alone. The 2021 census provides convincing evidence of this pattern, revealing that 57 percent of widows aged 65 and above live alone. This fact explores a crucial reality: a substantial portion of widows beyond reproductive age are increasingly finding themselves in independent living arrangements.

Figure 4.10: Percent distribution of widows living alone in the households by age, NPHC 2021



4.9 Disability of single women

The National Population and Housing Census of 2021 explores disability statistics comprehensively. Of the total population, 2.2 percent experiences any form of disability. By gender, male having more disability than female (2.5% vs 2.0%) (NSO, 2023). Of the total single women, 7.3 percent are experiencing any forms of disability, followed by widows (6.5%) and 1.8 married women (Table 4.11). This indicates that single women are disproportionately affected by disabilities compared to their married or widowed counterparts.

Table 4.11 shows that among the married disabled women, 33 percent are physically disable, followed by 23 percent low vision and autism (0.8%). Similarly, among the widow, low vision is highest (28.7%) proportion, followed by physical disability (25%) and lowest proportion is autism (0.4%). Of the total single women, almost 26 percent were physical disability, followed by low vision (23.1%) and hemophilia (0.4%).

When examining the types of disabilities, physical and low vision disabilities are found common among married women, widows, and single women. However, in cases of multiple disabilities, single women are more likely to experience higher levels (8.7%) of disability than both widows and married women (7.2% and 7.7%). Additionally, speech, intellectual and mental disability problems are notably prevalent among single women than widows and married women.

Table 4.11: Percent distribution of single women by forms of disability, NPHC 2021

Disability	Married	Widow	All single women
Nepal	1.8	6.5	7.3
Physical disability	33.4	25.0	25.7
Low vision	23.2	28.7	23.1
Blind	5.0	3.6	3.5
Deaf	8.7	11.7	10.7
Hard of hearing	9.4	13.5	11.8
Deaf and Blind	1.5	2.4	2.1
Speech problem	4.8	3.8	6.9
Mental or MANOSAMAJIK	3.2	2.3	4.7
Intellectual disability	1.0	0.9	1.9
Hemophilia	1.3	0.5	0.4
Autism	0.8	0.4	0.5
Multiple disability	7.7	7.2	8.7
Total Disables	141204	53947	73022

5. SOCIAL COMPOSITION OF SINGLE WOMEN

This chapter analyses the social composition of single women aged 10 years and above based on NPHC 2021. The social composition of these women contains several key factors, including caste/ethnicity, religion, literacy, educational attainment, and age at marriage. These elements collectively influence and differentiate the experiences and challenges faced by single women based on their marital status. Understanding the caste and ethnicity of single women is crucial, as these social categories play a significant role in determining access to resources, social mobility, and community support.

The intersection of position of single women with other social factors adds another layer of complexity to their status in society. Literacy and educational attainment are critical determinants of a single women's socio-economic status. Higher levels of education and literacy can lead to better employment opportunities, greater economic independence, and improved health and well-being. Age at marriage is another important aspect of social composition. Early marriage can have long-lasting impacts on a women's education, health, and economic opportunities, often leading to higher rates of widowhood and divorce at younger ages.

5.1 Caste/ethnic composition

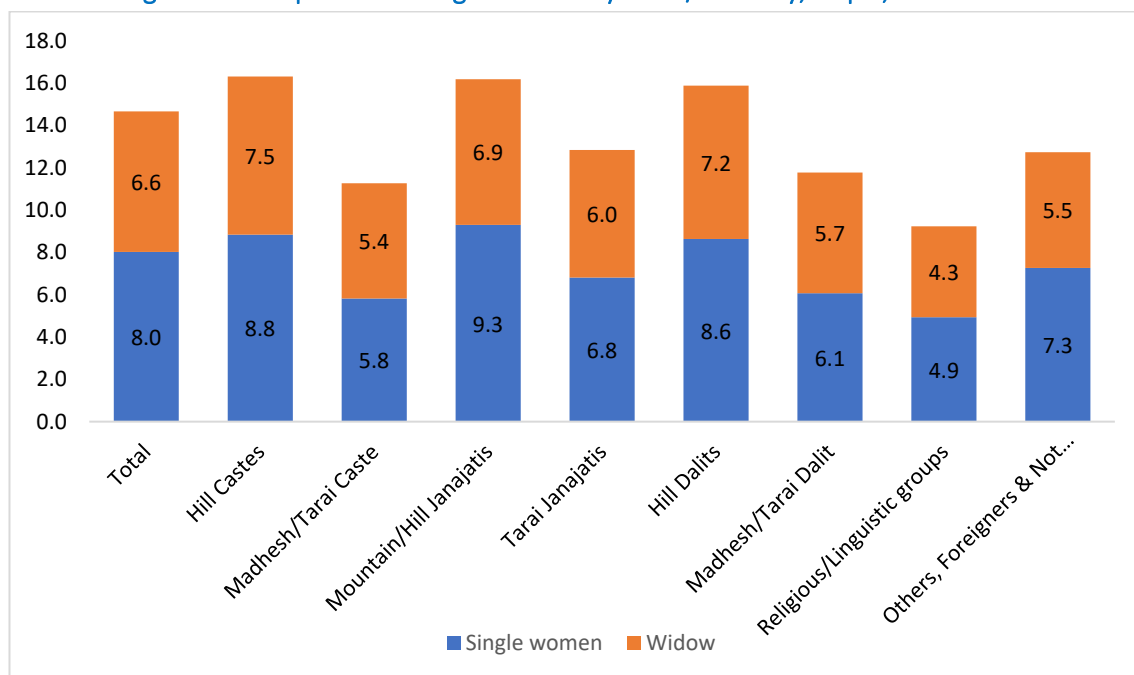
Caste/ethnicity is one of the most influential social indicators which explore the position of women in the social, economic and demographic context of Nepal. Table 5.1 shows that of the total Hill castes, 7.5 percent are widows, followed by Hill Dalit (7.2%) and religious/linguistic groups (4.3%). The table 5.1 also reveals that Mountain Hill/Janajati have higher level of divorced and separated proportion (0.3% and 0.7% respectively) compared to Madhesh/Tarai Dalit (0.1% and 0.2% respectively). The NPHC 2021 depicts that almost two-thirds (64.3%) are married among Hill caste groups. The married women are much higher among others, foreigners & not stated group (76.1%), followed by Madhesh/Tarai Dalit (66.6%) and Tarai Janajati (66.2%), whereas it is much lower among Hill Dalits.

Mountain/Hill Janajati have comparatively high (1.5%) never married women aged 35 years and above than Madhesh/Tarai Dalit (0.1%). Similarly, others, foreigners & not stated group of women have higher (1.5%) of single states than women from Madhesh/Tarai caste (0.2%). In case all single women including widow, Mountain/Hill Janajati (9%) have higher level single women status whereas only 5 percent of linguistic/religious have such type of single status (Figure 5.1).

Table 5.1: Percent distribution of women aged 10 years and above by caste/ethnicity and marital status, Nepal, NPHC 2021

Caste/ethnicity	Marital women status						Total number of women 10 years and above
	Married	Widow	Divorced	Separated	Never married 35+ years	Never Married below 35 years	
Nepal	64.3	6.6	0.2	0.5	0.7	27.7	12439247
Hill Castes	64.3	7.5	0.2	0.5	0.6	26.9	3883717
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	65.9	5.5	0.1	0.2	0.2	28.3	1820625
Mountain/Hill Janajati	63.2	6.9	0.3	0.7	1.5	27.5	3375156
Tarai Janajati	66.2	6.0	0.1	0.3	0.3	27.0	1137991
Hill Dalits	62.4	7.2	0.2	0.7	0.5	28.9	1083784
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	66.6	5.7	0.1	0.2	0.1	27.3	535159
Religious/Linguistic groups	62.8	4.3	0.1	0.3	0.3	32.3	543875
Others, Foreigners & Not stated	76.1	5.5	0.1	0.2	1.5	16.6	58940

Figure 5.1: Proportion of single women by caste/ethnicity, Nepal, NPHC 2021



5.1.1 Caste/ethnicity of single women by urban-rural residence and

Table 5.2 shows that marital status of women by their place of residence and caste/ethnicity. NPHC 2021 shows that nearly two-thirds women (62.7%) are married in urban areas. The never married women aged below 35 years are 29.4 percent in urban areas. The proportion of married women are much higher among Other, foreigners & not stated group (69%), followed by

Madhesi/ Tarai Dalit (65.0%), Tarai Janajati (63.9%), Madhesh/Tarai Caste (63.6%), and Hill Dalits (61.3%).

Table 5.2 also explores that one-third (33.3%) of unmarried women from religious/linguistic groups below age 35 years are found in the urban. A significant proportion of Mountain/Hill Janajati single women aged 35 years and above are in all three areas of residence. Of the total Mountain/Hill Janajati from urban areas, only 2 percent are never married women below age 35 years, and they are only 1 percent in peri-urban and rural areas. The proportion (1.3%) of divorce and separated among Hill Dalits in urban areas is higher than peri-urban (1.0%) and rural (0.7%) areas.

In rural area, of the total women, 7.3 percent were widows. This proportion is 7.9 percent for Hill castes, followed by Hill Dalits (7.2%) and least from the religious/linguistic groups (4.5%). Similar proportion of widows are found in peri-urban that they are 8.2 percent for Hill caste, 7.9 percent for Hill Dalits and 4.2 percent for religious/linguistic groups. However, in urban areas, widows are almost same among Hill Dalits (6.5%) than Hill caste women (6.4%).

Table 5.2: Percent distribution of women by caste/ethnicity and place of residence, NPHC 2021

Place of Residence (Rural/Urban) and Caste/ethnicity	Marital Status						Total women aged 10 years and above
	Married	Widow	Divorced	Separated	Never married 35+ years	Never Married below 35 years	
Urban	62.7	6.0	0.3	0.6	1.0	29.4	3415283
Hill Castes	63.4	6.4	0.3	0.6	0.8	28.6	1259102
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	63.6	5.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	30.6	422869
Mountain/Hill Janajati	61.4	6.2	0.4	0.7	1.9	29.4	1110643
Tarai Janajati	63.9	5.3	0.1	0.5	0.5	29.8	156931
Hill Dalits	61.3	6.5	0.3	1.0	0.6	30.3	205753
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	65.0	6.0	0.1	0.3	0.2	28.5	74012
Religious/Linguistic groups	61.4	4.5	0.2	0.3	0.3	33.3	156460
Others, Foreigners & Not stated	69.0	4.1	0.1	0.2	2.0	24.5	29513
Peri-Urban	65.6	6.5	0.1	0.4	0.4	27.0	4840273
Hill Castes	65.3	8.2	0.2	0.6	0.6	25.1	1001128
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	66.6	5.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	27.6	1344565
Mountain/Hill Janajati	63.6	7.4	0.3	0.8	1.2	26.8	608193
Tarai Janajati	66.5	6.3	0.1	0.3	0.3	26.5	793644
Hill Dalits	62.6	7.9	0.2	0.8	0.5	28.0	257006
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	66.8	5.7	0.1	0.2	0.1	27.2	443285
Religious/Linguistic groups	63.2	4.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	32.0	366298
Others, Foreigners & Not stated	85.0	6.9	0.1	0.1	0.5	7.5	26154
Rural	64.2	7.3	0.1	0.5	0.8	27.0	4183691
Hill Castes	64.3	7.9	0.1	0.5	0.5	26.8	1623487
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	66.5	5.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	27.7	53191

Place of Residence (Rural/Urban) and Caste/ethnicity	Marital Status						Total women aged 10 years and above
	Married	Widow	Divorced	Separated	Never married 35+ years	Never Married below 35 years	
Mountain/Hill Janajati	64.2	7.1	0.2	0.6	1.4	26.6	1656320
Tarai Janajati	66.7	5.6	0.1	0.2	0.3	27.1	187416
Hill Dalits	62.8	7.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	28.9	621025
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	67.5	5.8	0.1	0.2	0.2	26.2	17862
Religious/Linguistic groups	65.0	4.5	0.2	0.4	0.3	29.6	21117
Others, Foreigners & Not stated	69.1	6.0	0.3	0.5	5.2	18.9	3273

5.1.2 The caste/ethnic composition of single women by ecological zone

The caste/ethnic composition of single women by ecological zone is assessed from NPHC 2021 data. Table 5.4 shows that 10.3 percent of widows are from Madhesh/Tarai Dalit in the mountain region, followed by religious/linguistic group (8.3%) and Madhesh/Tarai caste (4.4%). It is also found that a significant proportion of Hill castes and Mountain/Hill Janajati (6.9% each) are widows in the Mountain. While assessing the single women, 14 percent of Madhesh/Tarai Dalits were single women, followed by religious/linguistic group (10.8%) and Mahesh Tarai caste 95.3%).

In Hill zone, the highest proportion of widows are found among Hill castes groups (7.5%) and Hill Dalits (7.1%) which are above average of Hill zone (7%). Other groups have quite a low proportion of windows. This indicates that within the Hill region, widows are more commonly found among Hill caste and Hill Dalits compared to other groups, indicating a notable pattern of widow women. Single women is found to be the highest among Mountain/Hill Janajati (9.2%), followed by Hill castes (8.9%) and Madhesh Tarai caste (4.5%).

In the Tarai, proportion of widows are found be highest among Hill Dalits (7.7%) and Hill castes (7.7%), followed by other, Mountain/Hill Janajati (7.1%) and religious/linguistic groups (4.3%). Whereas single women is highest among Mountain/Hill Janajati (9.4%), followed by Hill Dalits (9.2%) and Madhesh/Tarai caste (5.9%).

Table 5.3: Proportion of single women by caste/ethnicity and ecological zones, NPHC 2021

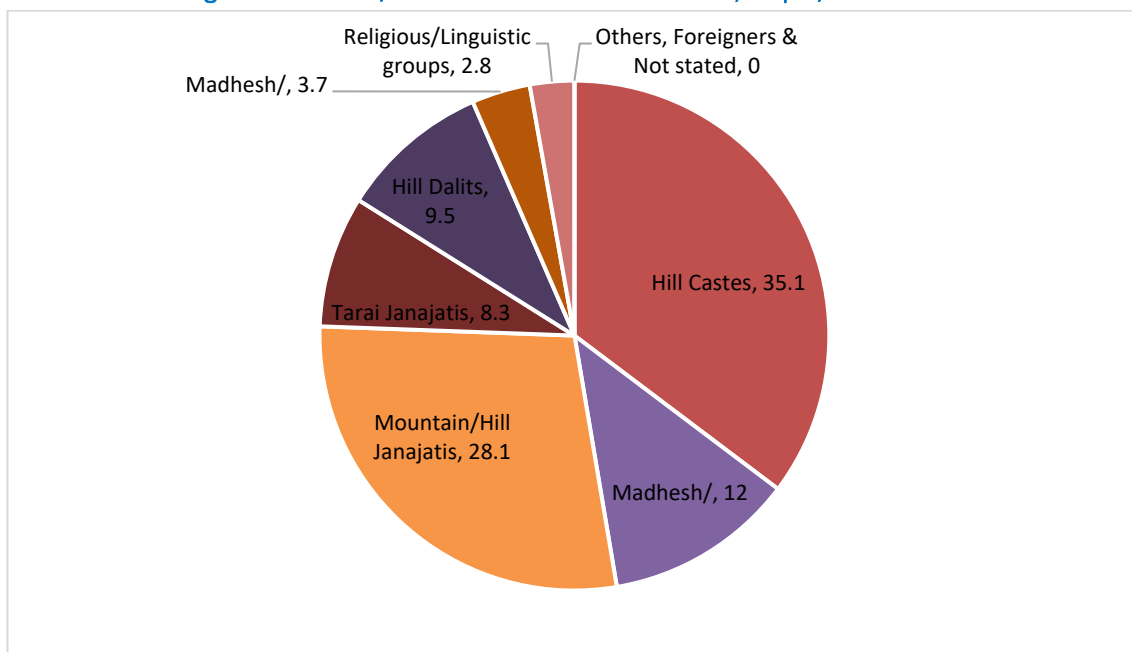
Ecological zones/ Caste/Ethnicity	Widow	All single women	Total women aged 10 + years
Mountain	6.9	8.4	737394
Hill Castes	6.9	7.8	377893
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	4.4	5.3	1226
Mountain/Hill Janajati	6.9	9.5	258553
Tarai Janajati	5.8	8.0	2001
Hill Dalits	6.6	7.5	96894
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	10.3	14.0	107

Ecological zones/ Caste/Ethnicity	Widow	All single women	Total women aged 10 + years
Religious/Linguistic groups	8.3	10.8	120
Others, Foreigners & Not stated	6.8	33.8	600
Hill	7.0	8.9	5146389
Hill Castes	7.5	8.9	2088098
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	3.5	4.5	47944
Mountain/Hill Janajati	6.8	9.2	2261879
Tarai Janajati	4.5	5.7	53422
Hill Dalits	7.1	8.5	654664
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	5.2	6.3	5557
Religious/Linguistic groups	4.5	6.2	18726
Others, Foreigners & Not stated	3.1	6.7	16099
Tarai	6.3	7.3	6555464
Hill Castes	7.7	9.1	1417726
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	5.5	5.9	1771455
Mountain/Hill Janajati	7.1	9.4	854724
Tarai Janajati	6.1	6.9	1082568
Hill Dalits	7.7	9.2	332226
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	5.7	6.1	529495
Religious/Linguistic groups	4.3	4.9	525029
Others, Foreigners & Not stated	6.4	7.1	42241

5.1.3 Caste/ethnic composition of widow

This study classified 142 caste/ethnic groups into eight broader social groups namely Hill Castes, Madhesh/Tarai Caste, Mountain/Hill Janajati, Tarai Janajati, Hill Dalits, Madhesh/Tarai Dalit, Religious/Linguistic groups, Others, Foreigners & Not stated. Of the total widows, more than one-third of (35.1%) were from Hill castes, followed by Mountain/Hill Janajati with nearly similar proportion (28.1%), and then Madhesh/Tarai caste (12.0%) but with far below (Figure 5.2).

Figure 5.2: Caste/ethnic distribution of widows, Nepal, NPHC 2021



The caste/ethnic composition of widows across different provinces indicates a strong interrelation between the Hill caste group and the Karnali and Sudurpashchim. In these two provinces, over 60 percent of the widows belong to the Hill caste group. Furthermore, Mountain/Hill Janajati groups have the highest proportion of widows in Bagmati (52%), followed by Gandaki (40.8%). For Madhesi caste groups, it is highest in Madhesh (50.6%) with more than half of the total Madhesi widows live in Madhesh Province (Table 5.4). This clearly indicates that the presence of Hill caste group widows in Karnali and Sudurpashchim provinces, the predominance of Mountain/Hill Janajati widows in Bagmati, and Madhesi widows are predominant in Madhesh Province.

Table 5.4: Caste/ethnic composition of widow by province, ecological zones, urban-rural residence and municipality, NPHC 2021

Areas	Caste/Ethnicity								Total number of widows
	Hill Castes	Madhesh/Tarai Caste	Mountain/Hill Janajati	Tarai Janajati	Hill Dalits	Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	Religious/Linguistic groups	Others, Foreigners & Not stated	
Nepal	35.1	12.0	28.1	8.3	9.5	3.7	2.8	0.4	826147
Provinces									
Koshi	30.0	7.2	36.6	13.9	6.2	3.0	2.7	0.3	150676
Madhesh	5.5	50.6	6.2	10.7	1.0	15.3	9.5	1.2	131995
Bagmati	39.4	0.8	51.7	1.7	5.9	0.1	0.2	0.3	171825
Gandaki	41.3	0.4	40.8	1.3	15.7	0.0	0.4	0.1	94567
Lumbini	34.1	12.6	22.1	12.4	10.9	3.7	4.0	0.3	149965

Areas	Caste/Ethnicity								Total number of widows
	Hill Castes	Madhesh/Tarai Caste	Mountain /Hill Janajati	Tarai Janajati	Hill Dalits	Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	Religious/Linguistic groups	Others, Foreigners & Not stated	
Karnali	61.1	0.2	15.1	0.4	23.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	40681
Sudurpashchim	63.9	0.9	2.9	12.4	19.7	0.0	0.1	0.1	86438
Ecological zones									
Mountain	51.8	0.1	35.2	0.2	12.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	50563
Hill	43.0	0.5	42.5	0.7	12.9	0.1	0.2	0.1	361871
Tarai	26.2	23.5	14.7	16.0	6.2	7.3	5.4	0.7	413713
Urban-rural residence									
Urban	38.9	10.8	33.6	4.0	6.5	2.2	3.4	0.6	206096
Peri-urban	26.1	23.6	14.4	15.9	6.4	8.0	4.9	0.6	313171
Rural	41.9	0.9	38.4	3.4	14.6	0.3	0.3	0.1	306880

5.2 Religious composition of widow

Religion powerfully determines the attitudes and behavioral pattern of individuals. Religion is known as the base of norms, values and cultural pattern of any society and family. Different religious groups have their own norms, values and cultural pattern. Nepal census 2021 found 10 different religions of Nepalese people with overwhelming majority of Hindus. With the same pattern, a large majority of the widows were Hindus (82.7%), followed by Buddhist (8.6%) and Kirat (3.2%) (Table 5.5). By province, almost all of the widows from Sudurpashchim were Hindu (97.9%) and in Koshi 70 percent of widows are Hindu. Among Kirat religion, a highest proportion of widows are found in Koshi Province (16.1%).

Table 5.5: Religious composition (in percent) of widows by province, NPHC 2021

Religion	Nepal	Koshi	Madhesh	Bagmati	Gandaki	Lumbini	Karnali	Sudurpashchim
Hindu	82.7	70.1	87.0	73.5	82.0	90.7	94.3	97.9
Buddha	8.6	8.3	2.9	21.8	12.3	2.7	3.5	0.7
Islam	2.9	2.5	9.8	0.2	0.4	4.1	0.1	0.1
Kirat	3.2	16.1	0.1	1.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Christian	1.9	2.5	0.2	3.2	2.0	1.4	1.9	1.1
Prakriti	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.7	1.0	0.2	0.1
Bon	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	2.5	0.1	0.0	0.0
Jain	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bahai	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sheikh	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total widow	826147	150676	131995	171825	94567	149965	40681	86438

5.3 Literacy and educational attainment

Literacy and educational attainment are crucial factors influencing the well-being and social status of single women in Nepal. The 2021 Census collected detailed data on the literacy and educational levels of the population aged 5 years and above, shedding light on the educational disparities among single women, including widows and divorced individuals.

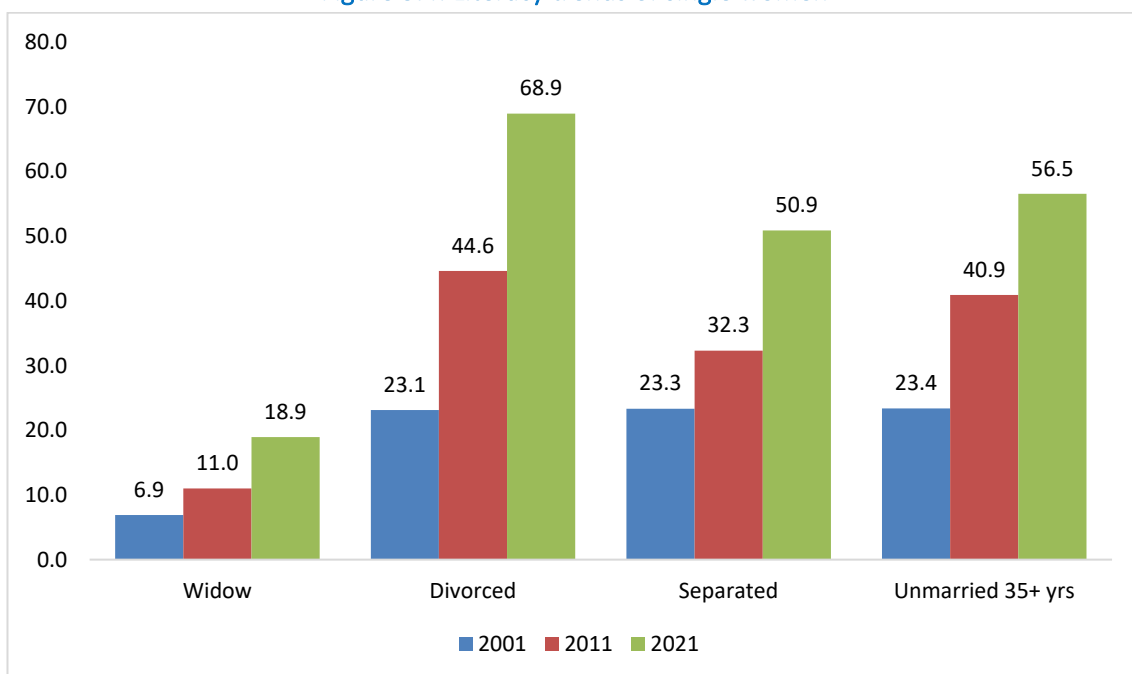
5.3.1 Literacy by marital status

Of the total women aged 10 years and above, 67.1 percent are literate (read and write), which is far below the national average (80%). This low illiteracy among widows indicates a significant barrier to their social and economic empowerment. The lack of education among widows explores the urgent need for targeted educational programs and literacy initiatives to support this vulnerable group. In contrast, the census found that 48 percent of separated, and 30 percent of divorced single women are illiterate (Table 5.6).

Table 5.6: Distribution of women by literacy and marital status, NPHC 2021

Marital status	Literacy				Total Women
	Read and write	Read only	Not read and write	Not stated	
Total	67.1	0.5	32.4	0.0	12439247
Married	59.9	0.6	39.5	0.0	7999252
Widow	18.9	0.9	80.1	0.1	826147
Divorced	68.9	0.7	30.3	0.1	21287
Separated	50.9	1.0	48.0	0.0	59525
Unmarried 35+ yrs.	56.5	0.6	42.7	0.2	90703
Unmarried below 35 yrs.	96.1	0.1	3.8	0.0	3442333

Figure 5.4: Literacy trends of single women

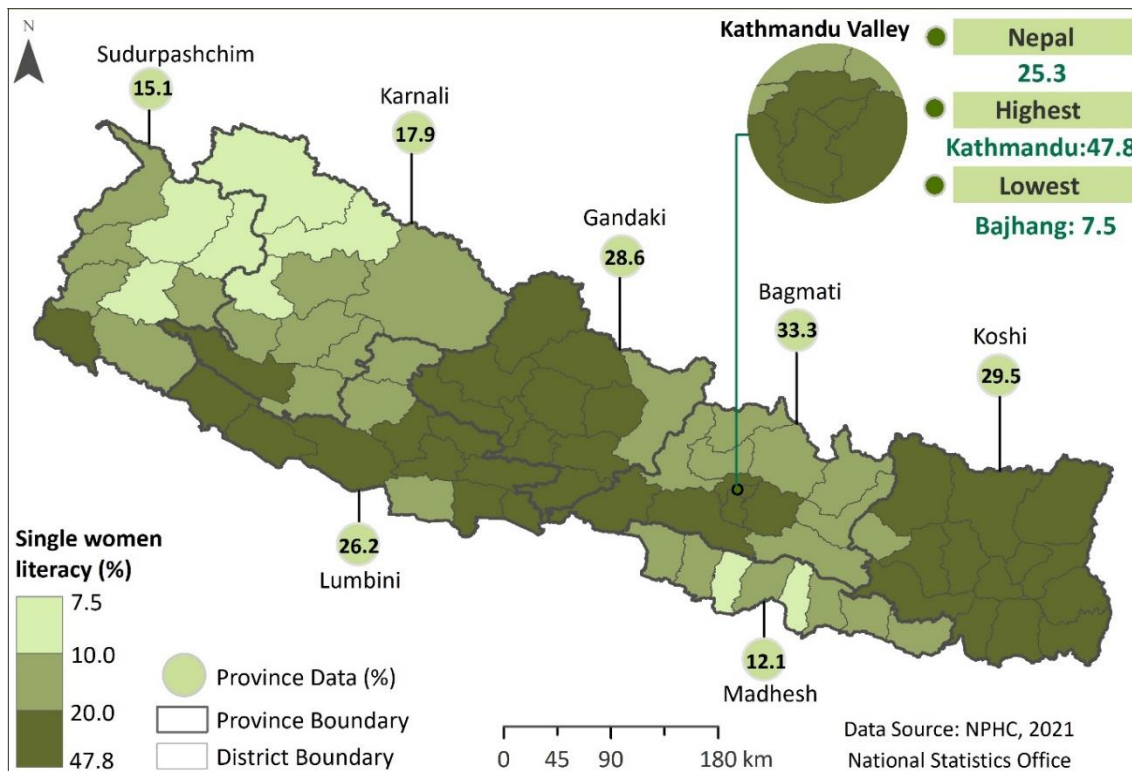


An increasing trend of literacy has been observed for all marital categories of single women over the past two decades. It is found that the literacy rate of divorce women is 68.9 percent that was 23 percent in 2001. Similarly, separated women were 23 percent literate in 2001 and increased

to 51 percent in 2021. While discussing the widows, literacy rate was 7 percent in 20021 and 19 percent in 2021 (Figure 5.4).

By districts, single women from Kathmandu district have the highest percent literacy rate (48%) whereas it is lowest in Bajhang district (7.5%) (Map 5.1).

Map 5.1: Literacy of single women by districts, NPHC 2021



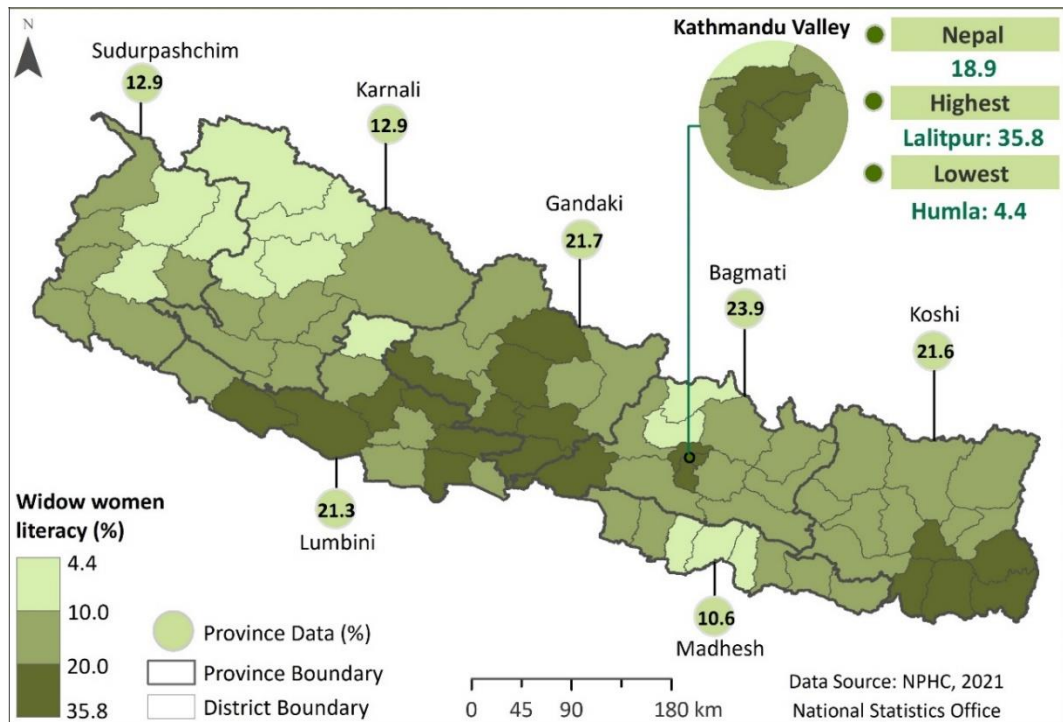
5.3.2 Literacy status of widow

Education is one of the basic needs that helps to broaden human knowledge, thus making them wiser and more rational. The people who can both read and write are termed as literate. The literacy rate of the country's total widow population aged 10 years and above was 18.9 percent in 2021 census in contrast to all women literacy rate of aged 10 years and above (67.1 %). By province, highest literacy rate was found in Bagmati (23.9%) and lowest in Madhesh (10.6%) (Table 5.7). By district, 36 percent of widows had literacy rate in Lalitpur whereas only 4.4 percent in Humla. There are variations in literacy rate among the districts of single women and widows (Map 5.2).

Table 5.7: Literacy status of widow by province, ecological zones, urban-rural residence, NPHC 2021

Areas	Literacy status				Total number of widows
	Read and write	Read only	Not read and write	Not stated	
Nepal	18.9	0.9	80.1	0.1	826147
Provinces					
Koshi	21.6	0.5	77.8	0.0	150676
Madhesh	10.6	0.2	89.2	0.0	131995
Bagmati	23.9	1.0	75.1	0.0	171825
Gandaki	21.7	1.8	76.2	0.3	94567
Lumbini	21.3	1.1	77.6	0.1	149965
Karnali	12.9	0.9	86.1	0.1	40681
Sudurpashchim	12.9	0.8	86.2	0.0	86438
Ecological zones					
Mountain	11.6	0.5	87.8	0.0	50563
Hill	20.7	1.2	78.0	0.1	361871
Tarai	18.3	0.6	81.0	0.0	413713
Urban-rural residence					
Urban	29.9	1.2	68.9	0.1	206096
Peri-urban	16.1	0.6	83.2	0.1	313171
Rural	14.5	0.9	84.5	0.1	306880

Map 5.2: Literacy of widow by districts, NPHC 2021



5.3.3 Educational attainment of widow

Educational attainment of widow was classified into primary, secondary, higher secondary, and intermediate, and graduate and above. Of the total widow, the highest proportion of widows have primary level (35.4%), followed by lower secondary level (15.7%), upper secondary level (11.7%), and only a very few widows completed Bachelor and above (Table 5.8). Around one-third of the widows in all provinces have primary level education.

By province, 2 percent of widows have post-graduate and above in Bagmati, whereas none of the other provinces have widows having one percent with postgraduate and above education. Similar types of facts also found in the urban-rural place of residence.

Table 5.8: Educational attainment of widow by province, ecological zones, urban-rural residence, NPHC 2021

Areas	Level of education											Total number of widows
	Pre-primary (ECE)	Primary (Class 1-5)	Lower secondary (Class 6-8)	Upper secondary (Class 9-10)	SLC/SEE & equiv.	Intermediate & equiv.	Graduate & equiv.	Postgraduate, & above	Others	No Level	Level not stated	
Nepal	0.59	35.4	15.7	11.7	6.3	5.7	2.1	1.0	0.6	15.8	5.1	826147
Provinces												
Koshi	0.5	39.0	16.9	14.6	6.8	4.9	1.3	0.5	0.5	11.9	3.1	150676
Madhesh	0.5	40.7	21.3	14.9	6.6	6.6	2.0	0.7	0.1	4.2	2.2	131995
Bagmati	0.4	30.9	14.1	11.1	9.6	7.7	4.2	2.2	0.7	15.6	3.3	171825
Gandaki	0.9	34.2	14.7	9.9	4.2	3.8	1.1	0.5	0.9	18.4	11.2	94567
Lumbini	0.6	36.4	15.7	10.3	4.6	4.7	1.2	0.6	0.7	19.3	5.7	149965
Karnali	0.7	33.8	12.9	10.6	4.2	7.2	1.3	0.5	0.4	20.8	7.4	40681
Sudurpashchim	0.7	34.9	13.6	9.4	2.7	5.3	1.4	0.5	0.8	24.4	6.0	86438
Ecological zones												
Mountain	0.7	39.0	11.5	8.7	3.2	5.4	1.1	0.5	0.7	23.7	5.5	50563
Hill	0.6	33.7	13.8	10.4	6.7	6.0	2.6	1.4	0.7	18.2	6.0	361871
Tarai	0.6	36.8	17.8	13.2	6.1	5.5	1.6	0.6	0.6	12.9	4.2	413713
Urban-rural residence												
Urban	0.5	31.0	16.6	13.5	9.9	7.9	3.9	1.9	0.5	10.5	3.8	206096
Peri-urban	0.6	37.7	17.3	12.2	4.9	4.8	1.1	0.5	0.8	15.1	5.1	313171
Rural	0.8	38.8	12.6	8.7	2.9	3.8	0.7	0.3	0.7	23.8	6.8	306880

6. ECONOMIC COMPOSITION OF SINGLE WOMEN

This chapter discusses the economic composition of single women aged 10 years and above based on NPHC 2021 data. Economic composition of single women provides valuable understandings into their position and status within the family and society as well.

6.1 Single women headed households

This section presents a profile of female headed households, single women and widow headed households at national and province level. Particular attention is given to widow-headed households, especially as they are more likely to be vulnerable than other married female headed households. Among the total households, about one-third (31.5%) of households are headed by female, seven percent households are headed by single women and six percent households are headed by widow in Nepal (Table 6.1). By province, highest percentage of female headed households are found in Gandaki province (41.0%) and lowest in Madhesh province (21.7%). Similar pattern is observed in the case of single women and widow, but the proportion is considerably lower than female headed. Among the total households of Gandaki province, 10 percent of households are headed by single women and 8.5 percent are headed by widow.

Table 6.1 Distribution of single women-headed households by provinces

Areas	Total households	All female headed households		Single women headed households as % of total households		Widow headed households as % of total households	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Nepal	6660841	2103278	31.5	468461	7.0	402991	6.1
Provinces							
Koshi	1190755	367834	30.9	91838	7.7	74357	6.2
Madhesh	1156383	251258	21.7	46665	4.0	44288	3.8
Bagmati	1567917	488263	31.1	111907	7.1	89665	5.7
Gandaki	661632	271506	41.0	66324	10.0	56002	8.5
Lumbini	1141345	405604	35.5	86555	7.6	78072	6.8
Karnali	366037	117472	32.1	22316	6.1	19996	5.5
Sudurpashchim	576772	201341	34.9	42856	7.4	40611	7.0

Table 6.2 presents the percent distribution of single women and widow headed households by provinces. Among the total 2,103,278 female headed households, 19 percent of households are headed by single women in Nepal. It is evident that the highest percentage of single women-headed households (20.6%) are found in Gandaki province and the lowest in Karnali (17%). Additionally, the highest percent of widow headed households are found in Koshi province (25%) and the lowest in Madhesh province (18.6%).

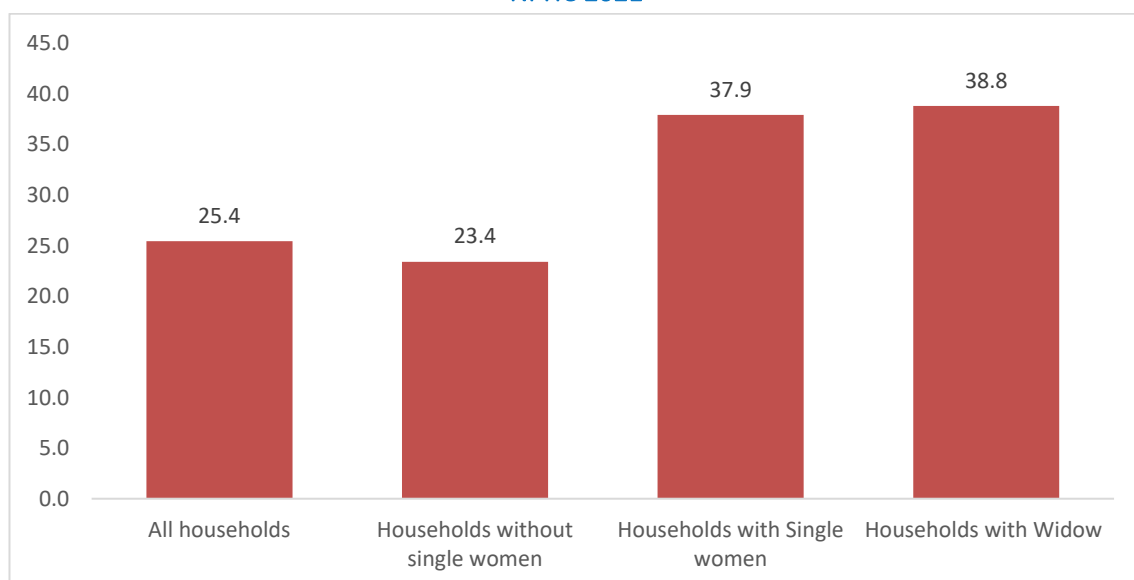
Table 6.2: Percent of single women and widow headed households by province, NPHC 2021

Areas	Widow headed households	Single women headed households	Total number of females headed households
Nepal	19.2	22.3	2103278
Provinces			
Koshi	20.2	25.0	367834
Madhesh	17.6	18.6	251258
Bagmati	18.4	22.9	488263
Gandaki	20.6	24.4	271506
Lumbini	19.2	21.3	405604
Karnali	17.0	19.0	117472
Sudurpashchim	20.2	21.3	201341

6.1 Property ownership (house or land or both)

Ownership of land and house is an important economic aspect of an individual and a family. In the context of Nepal, holding of ownership of land and house determines the social as well as economic status of an individual. Generally speaking, widow had own land property due to the legal provision after the death of husband. This study depicted that 38 percent of households with at least one single women and 39 percent of households with least one widow had either land or house or both on the name of female members (Figure 6.1).

Figure 6.1: Proportion of female ownership of land or housing units or both in households, NPHC 2021



The female ownership of land, housing unit or both varied by province, ecological zone and urban–rural residence (Table 6.3). By province, of the total households with at least one widow, the highest proportion of female ownership of properties (house or land or both) is found in

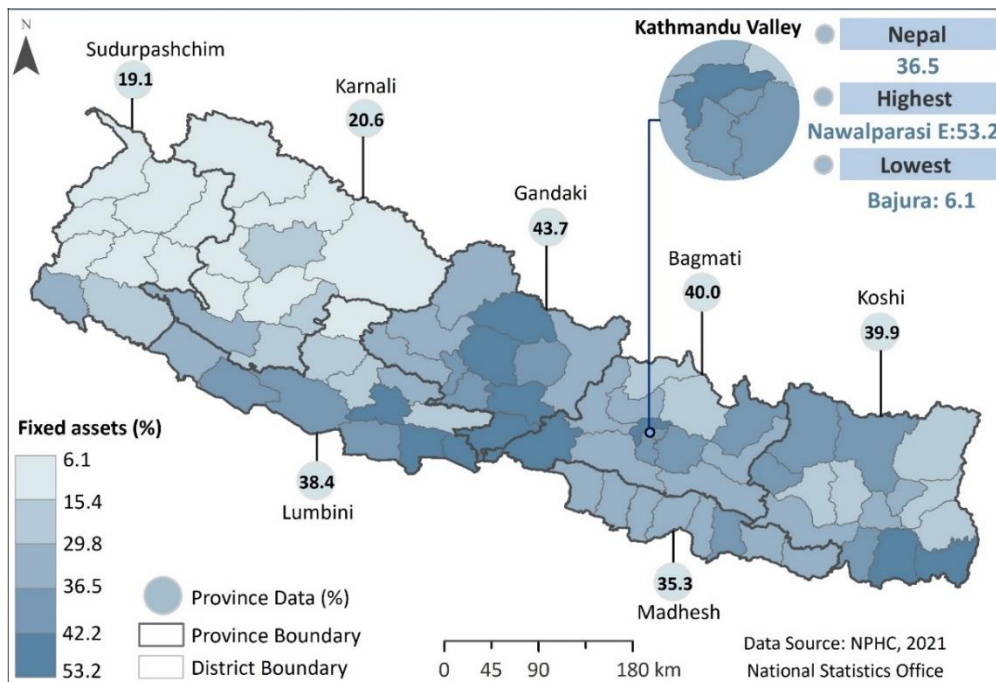
Gandaki (45.6%), while it is the lowest in Sudurpashchim (19%). Tarai (40.3%) and urban (45.9%) has the highest percent of female ownership of land or house or both.

By districts, 53 percent of households with at least one single women and 55 percent of households with at least one widow has either land or house or both in female ownership in Nawalparasi (East) whereas it is only 6 percent in Bajura (Maps 6.1; 6.2).

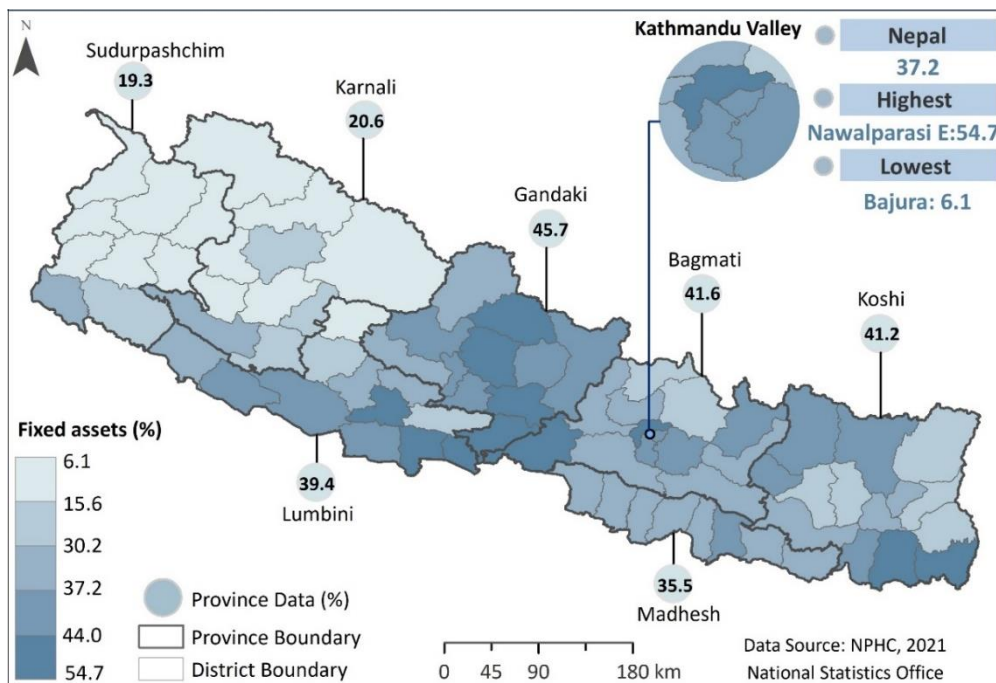
Table 6.3: Proportion of female ownership of land or housing units or both in households with at least one widow, by province, ecological zone, place of residence, NPHC 2021

Areas	Housing unit only	Land only	Both (housing unit & land)	Neither housing unit nor land	Not stated	Households with At least one Widow
Nepal	3.2	10.6	23.4	61.2	1.5	799744
Provinces						
Koshi	2.1	13.5	25.6	57.9	0.9	145898
Madhesh	3.4	12.3	19.8	62.9	1.6	128154
Bagmati	4.9	10.5	26.2	57.5	0.9	166217
Gandaki	4.1	10.6	30.9	51.4	2.9	91447
Lumbini	3.7	10.1	25.6	59.1	1.6	145184
Karnali	1.1	6.3	13.3	76.7	2.6	39676
Sudurpashchim	0.9	6.1	12.3	78.9	1.9	83168
Ecological Zones						
Mountain	1.2	5.8	15.6	75.5	2.0	49213
Hill	3.5	9.0	23.3	62.5	1.7	350283
Tarai	3.3	12.6	24.4	58.4	1.4	400248
Urban/Rural residence						
Urban	6.8	11.6	27.5	53.0	1.1	198994
Peri Urban	2.8	12.9	24.9	58.0	1.4	303136
Rural	1.3	7.6	19.1	70.0	2.0	297614

Map 6.1: Proportion of female ownership of fixed assets (land or housing unit or both) in households with at least one single women by districts, NPHC 2021



Map 6.2: Proportion of female ownership of fixed assets (land or housing unit or both) in households with at least one widow by districts, NPHC 2021



6.2 Economic activities of women

The NPHC 2021 found that among the total of 12,439,247 female population aged 10 years and above, about 60 percent were economically active (usually employed, usually unemployed and not usually active), of which 34 percent were 'usually employed' (Table 6.3). They are engaged in activities to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit – defined as having had a job for six months or more or had worked three to five months during the last 12 months. Of the total married women, about 44.5 percent were usually employed. More than half of the total divorced (53.6%) and separated (51.9%) women were usually employed while among widows only one-fourth (24.6%) were usually employed. Among the widows, more than half (52.5%) were economically not active. Overall, these facts reveal that the economic participation varies with their marital status.

Table 6.3: Proportion of women 10 years and above by marital status and economic activity status, NPHC 2021

Economic activity status	Marital status						Total women
	Married	Widow	Divorced	Separated	Never married 35+ years	Never Married below 35 years	
Usually Employed	44.5	24.6	53.6	51.9	41.7	11.1	34.0
Usually, Unemployed	3.1	1.3	4.8	3.5	3.0	3.1	2.9
Not Usually Active	22.8	21.3	17.4	19.0	18.4	25.2	23.3
Not Economically Active	29.3	52.5	23.8	25.2	36.5	60.5	39.5
Economic activity not stated	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3
Total female population	7999252	826147	21287	59525	90703	3442333	12439247

6.3 Economic activities of widows

Among the total 826,147 widows, 47.2 percent were economically active and remaining 53 percent were not economically active indicating that more than half of the widowed population does not participate in the labour force. Additionally, 21 percent of widows were usually not active, which means they do not regularly engage in any economic activities. When considering the entire population of widows aged 10 years and above, the census data shows that one-fourth of these widows are employed. However, only a small proportion, 1.3 percent, of widows were unemployed but actively seeking work.

Across the seven provinces, Karnali had the highest percentage of economically active (usually active and usually not active) widow (55.8%), followed by Koshi (50.9%), with the lowest proportion in Madhesh (39%) (Table 6.4).

Table 6.4: Economically active and not active widow population 10 years of age and above by province, ecological zones, urban-rural residence, NPHC 2021

Areas	Economic activity performed					Total number of widow 10 years and above
	Economically active			Economically not active	Economic activity not stated	
	Usually active		Usually not active			
	Employed	Unemployed				
Nepal	24.6	1.3	21.3	52.5	0.3	826147
Provinces						
Koshi	28.7	1.1	21.1	49.0	0.1	150676
Madhesh	17.5	1.6	19.9	60.9	0.1	131995
Bagmati	24.0	1.1	19.3	55.6	0.1	171825
Gandaki	24.6	1.1	21.3	51.6	1.4	94567
Lumbini	24.5	1.5	22.7	51.1	0.2	149965
Karnali	30.5	1.9	23.4	43.9	0.4	40681
Sudurpashchim	26.8	1.8	24.4	46.9	0.2	86438
Ecological zones						
Mountain	33.0	1.5	23.7	41.6	0.2	50563
Hill	26.9	1.2	21.6	49.9	0.4	361871
Tarai	21.5	1.4	20.7	56.1	0.2	413713
Urban-rural residence						
Urban	17.8	1.4	18.4	62.2	0.3	206096
Peri-urban	22.4	1.4	21.0	54.9	0.3	313171
Rural	31.4	1.3	23.5	43.5	0.3	306880

6.4 Occupational composition

Table 6.5 presents occupational composition of women aged 10 years and above, categorized by their marital status. Among the employed women, more than three-fourth (76%) were married, indicating that married women have higher workforce participation compared to other groups of women. Following married women, 17 percent of the employed women are unmarried aged below 35 years. This indicates a notable presence of young, unmarried women in the workforce. Widows constitutes only 5 percent in employment which is still a significant proportion.

Among the various occupation categories, the largest number of women are employed in the agriculture, forestry, and fishery sector, with a total of 4,043,438 women working in this field. Of these women, vast majorities were married (81%), indicating a dominant presence of married women in these occupations. In contrast, only 5 percent of women in this sector are widows, reflecting a smaller representation of widowed women in agriculture, forestry, and fishery work. The armed forces, the participation of widows is notably low (0.4%).

Table 6.5: Proportion of women 10 years of age and above who performed any economic activity in the last 12 months preceding the census by marital status and major occupation, NPHC 2021

Occupation	Marital status						Total number of women
	Married	Widow	Divorced	Separated	Never married 35+ years	Never Married below 35 years	
Nepal	75.9	5.3	0.2	0.6	0.8	17.2	7106988
Armed forces	64.0	0.4	0.1	0.1	1.1	34.2	8865
Managers	85.4	4.6	0.6	1.0	1.4	7.0	248800
Professionals	77.8	1.7	0.3	0.5	2.0	17.7	226698
Technicians and associate professional	63.6	2.0	0.4	0.5	1.6	31.9	98697
Office assistance	65.0	3.1	0.5	0.8	1.6	29.1	84233
Service & sale workers	79.5	3.6	0.4	0.9	1.1	14.4	309944
Skilled agri.,forestry & fishery workers	80.8	5.3	0.1	0.5	0.6	12.6	4043438
Craft and related trades workers	80.1	3.3	0.5	1.2	1.2	13.6	152403
Plant & machine operators & assemblers	82.9	3.5	0.5	0.9	1.0	11.2	20108
Elementary occupations	75.9	5.3	0.2	0.6	0.8	17.2	1908435
Occupation not stated	64.0	0.4	0.1	0.1	1.1	34.2	5367

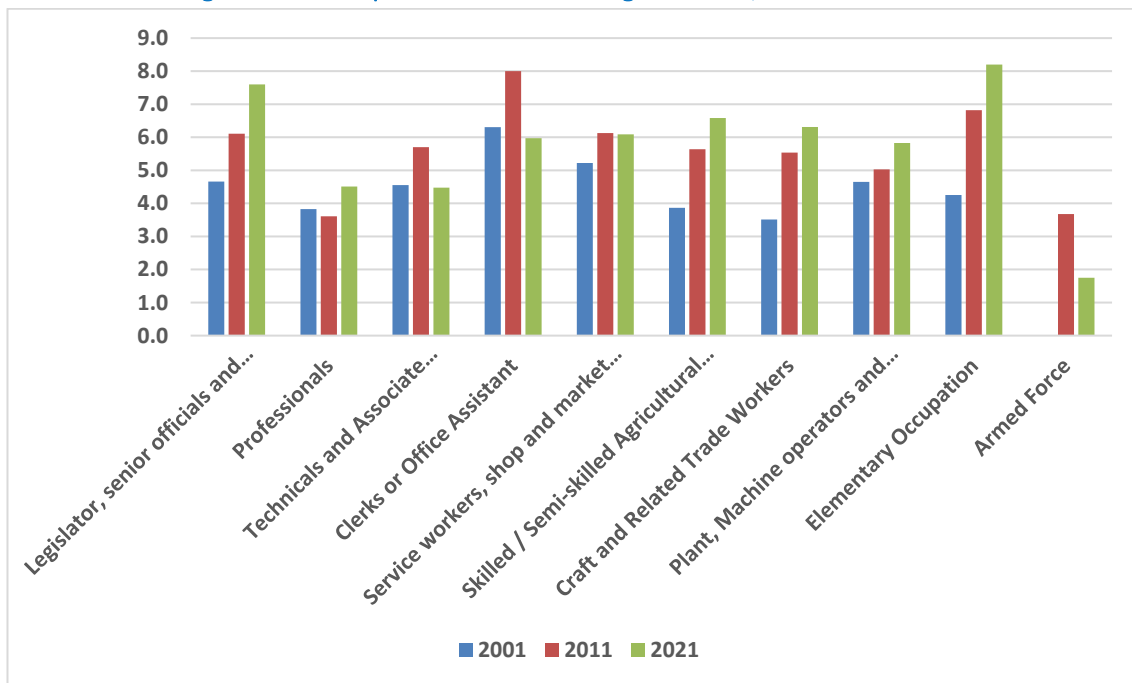
Over the past two decades, the occupational trends for women aged 10 years and above in Nepal have shown significant variation across the three censuses conducted from 2001 to 2021 (Figure 6.2; Annex 13). A notable increase has been observed in the occupational category encompassing legislators, senior officials, and managers across all marital categories of women. In 2001, of the total women in this occupational category, 83 percent were married and only 2.1 percent were widows. By 2021, these figures increased to 85 percent for married women and 4.6 percent for widows. This shift indicates not only an overall increase in women occupying high-ranking positions but also showing the broader societal changes towards inclusivity and empowerment of women in Nepal.

Over the past two decades, the proportion of married women in elementary occupations has been observed fluctuating, showing both increases and decreases. However, there is a clear upward trend in the participation of single women as well as widows in this category. In 2001, within the total number of women engaged in this category of work, 70 percent were married, and 3.3 percent were widows. In 2011, these figures increased to 79 percent for married women and 5.3 percent for widows. But in the 2021 census, it decreased to 64.2 percent among married and about 7 percent among widows.

There is a significant increase in the number of single women occupying roles as legislators, senior officials, and managers. This trend focused a shift on the occupational landscape for single women, indicating their rising incidence and influence in these high-level positions. In the clerical and office assistant sectors, the percentage of single women increased from 6.3 percent in 2001 to 8 percent in 2011. It is even more decline in the representation of single women in this

occupation in 2021 (6.0%). Despite this, the overall proportion of single women in various occupational categories has increased, with the exception of the armed forces, where their manifestation has not seen a significant rise. When comparing the occupational distribution of single women to that of married women, it is evident that single women are underrepresented in the workforce (Annex 13).

Figure 6.2: Occupational trends of single women, NPHC 2001-2021



6.5 Major occupations of widows

The analysis of major occupation reveals that the skilled agriculture, forestry, and fishery work category is the predominant occupation for widows, as highlighted in Table 6.6. This sector emerges as the main area of employment for widow, with more than half of them engaged in these activities (56.4%). It is followed by elementary occupation (34%). This job typically requires less formal education and training, indicating a substantial portion of widowed women are employed in basic, often labor-intensive roles. This suggests that elementary occupation serves as a crucial source of employment for widows, providing essential income and economic stability.

Skilled agriculture, forestry, and fishery category was the main occupation of widow in all the provinces except Madhesh and elementary occupation was found as the second most common type of employment. In Madhesh, 52 percent of the widow were engaged in elementary occupation. In urban area also, it is found to be the main form of employment for widows (Table 6.6).

Table 6.6: Major occupation of widow 10 years of age and above who performed any economic activity in the last 12 months preceding the census by province, ecological zones, urban-rural residence, NPHC 2021

Areas	Major occupations of widow											Total number of working widows
	Armed forces	Managers	Professionals	Technicians and Associate professional	Office assistance	Service & sale workers	Agri., forestry & fishery skilled workers	Craft and related trades workers	Plant & machine operators & assemblers	Elementary occupations	Occupation not stated	
Nepal	0.0	3.0	1.0	0.5	0.7	3.0	56.4	1.3	0.2	33.8	0.1	379278
Provinces												
Koshi	0.0	3.8	0.9	0.5	0.6	3.7	54.7	1.5	0.3	33.9	0.1	74987
Madhesh	0.0	1.8	0.9	0.4	0.4	3.1	39.9	1.1	0.2	52.1	0.1	48665
Bagmati	0.0	4.1	1.4	0.8	1.3	4.4	51.0	2.0	0.2	34.6	0.1	74238
Gandaki	0.0	3.6	1.0	0.4	0.7	2.2	60.8	1.2	0.1	29.7	0.2	43861
Lumbini	0.0	2.8	1.1	0.5	0.6	2.4	59.2	1.2	0.1	32.0	0.1	70817
Karnali	0.0	2.0	0.9	0.4	0.5	1.7	72.2	0.7	0.0	21.6	0.0	22084
Sudur-pashchim	0.0	1.3	0.8	0.4	0.3	1.4	69.7	0.8	0.1	25.1	0.0	44626
Ecological zones												
Mountain	0.0	1.6	0.7	0.3	0.3	1.3	77.1	0.5	0.0	18.2	0.0	28879
Hill	0.0	3.0	1.1	0.5	0.8	2.7	63.1	1.3	0.1	27.2	0.1	176450
Tarai	0.0	3.3	1.1	0.5	0.6	3.5	46.1	1.5	0.3	43.0	0.1	173949
Urban-rural residence												
Urban	0.0	7.1	2.3	1.2	1.9	6.9	25.2	3.3	0.4	51.4	0.1	74161
Peri-urban	0.0	2.6	0.9	0.4	0.5	2.9	50.1	1.3	0.2	41.0	0.1	135550
Rural	0.0	1.5	0.6	0.3	0.3	1.3	75.1	0.5	0.1	20.3	0.1	169567

6.6 Reasons for not working

Persons who are recorded as not performing any economic activity (economically not active) and doing economic activities for less than six months (not usually active) as per the census definition during the reference period were asked to indicate the reason for why they were not doing so. A majority of the working age female population are economically inactive for different reasons. There are multiple factors contributing to no involvement and less than prescribed time (6 months).

As presented in Table 6.7, household work (51.0%) and household chores (14.1%) were the leading reasons for economic inactivity and short time involvement in economic activities among married women. Whereas age related factor appears as the main reason for economic inactivity and unable to full time involvement in economic activities among widows (50.8%). Moreover, factors such as dependence on pensions or other forms of income and issues related to disability or sickness are also significant contributors to the non-working status among widows.

Table 6.7: Proportion of women aged 10 years and above who did not do any economic work and doing economic work less than 6 months in the last 12 months preceding the census by main reasons, NPHC 2021

Reasons for not working	Marital status					
	Married	Widow	Divorced	Separated	Never married 35+ years	Never Married below 35 years
Student	2.1	0.1	2.2	1.1	1.9	73.7
Household work	51.0	14.9	38.9	35.8	24.7	5.2
Household chore	14.1	4.9	11.6	10.2	8.3	1.2
Aged	7.4	50.8	8.6	16.3	12.8	0.0
Disable/sickness	1.7	4.2	5.6	7.5	17.8	0.5
Pension / income	0.7	5.1	1.5	1.5	2.0	0.0
Social work/volunteer	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.5	1.5	0.0
Others	22.3	19.5	30.1	26.4	30.3	19.1
Not Stated	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.3
Total number	4628711	632047	10288	29745	54027	3101267

In addition, the reasons for widows aged 10 years and above not engaging in economic activities over the past 12 months were also examined according to province. Table 6.8 shows that 51 percent of non-working status was due to age-related issues, which is mainly because of the challenges associated with aging. Additionally, 15 percent of widows cited household work as the reason for their lack of economic activity.

The impact of aging on the economic inactivity of widows is a consistent finding across all provinces, regardless of ecological factors, urban or rural residence. This tendency emphasizes the widespread nature of age-related barriers to employment among widows throughout the country. Besides age, other prominent reasons for not engaging in economic work include household chores and various other personal or situational causes. These findings shed light on the complex interplay of familial responsibilities, societal expectations, and personal circumstances that influence women's participation in the labor force among women, particularly widow individuals.

Table 6.8: Proportion of widows aged 10 years and above who did not do any economic work in the last 12 months preceding the census by main reasons, NPHC 2021

Areas	Reasons for not working									Total number of widows
	Student	Household work	Household chore	Aged	Disable/sickness	Pension/income	Social work/volunteer	Others	Not Stated	
Nepal	0.1	14.9	4.9	50.8	4.2	5.1	0.1	19.5	0.3	632047
Provinces										
Koshi	0.1	14.0	4.8	52.3	5.8	3.9	0.1	18.8	0.2	108714
Madhesh	0.1	14.8	6.7	45.5	2.9	8.6	0.1	21.0	0.2	109947
Bagmati	0.1	14.9	4.6	53.0	4.0	3.3	0.1	19.9	0.2	131581
Gandaki	0.1	12.8	2.9	52.3	4.3	8.3	0.2	18.5	0.6	72178

Areas	Reasons for not working								Not Stated	Total number of widows
	Student	Household work	Household chore	Aged	Disable/sickness	Pension/income	Social work/volunteer	Others		
Lumbini	0.1	16.2	5.0	49.3	3.9	4.8	0.2	20.1	0.5	115220
Karnali	0.2	15.6	4.5	52.6	4.7	3.3	0.2	18.3	0.6	29274
Sudurpashchim	0.1	16.6	5.2	53.1	4.0	2.7	0.1	17.9	0.4	65133
Ecological zones										
Mountain	0.1	15.6	4.3	56.2	4.1	3.0	0.1	16.3	0.4	34870
Hill	0.1	14.9	4.1	53.0	4.3	4.7	0.1	18.5	0.3	268714
Tarai	0.1	14.9	5.7	48.5	4.1	5.7	0.1	20.6	0.3	328463
Urban-rural residence										
Urban	0.1	15.0	5.8	48.0	3.8	5.0	0.2	21.9	0.3	170349
Peri-urban	0.1	14.6	5.4	49.2	4.2	6.0	0.1	20.1	0.3	246081
Rural	0.1	15.3	3.8	54.9	4.4	4.1	0.1	16.9	0.4	215617

6.7 Households with non-agricultural small-scale enterprises

More than 90 percent of the 799,744 households with at least one widow was not operating small scale enterprises¹ in sectors other than agriculture and only 9 percent of households operating such types of enterprises. By province, highest proportion widow households (10.2%) was found to be engaged in some small-scale enterprises in Madhesh (Table 6.9). More households from Mountain (8.9%) were engaged in small-scale enterprises than the Tarai households (6.6%). In addition, more households from urban area (9.9%) had small-scale enterprises than rural (6.3%).

Table 6.9: proportion of households with widows with small scale enterprise other than agriculture by province, ecological zone, place of residence, NPHC 2021

Areas	Number of households without any small-scale enterprise	Cottage industry	Trade/business	Transportation	Service	Other	Not stated	Households with at least one Widow
Nepal	91.1	1.9	4.3	0.4	0.9	1.0	0.3	799744
Provinces								
Koshi	90.7	2.2	4.7	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.2	145898
Madhesh	89.5	2.2	4.9	0.6	1.0	1.5	0.3	128154
Bagmati	91.2	1.9	4.6	0.3	0.9	0.9	0.2	166217
Gandaki	91.3	2.0	3.9	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.9	91447
Lumbini	92.0	1.7	3.8	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.3	145184
Karnali	92.0	1.5	3.8	0.3	1.0	1.0	0.4	39676
Sudurpashchim	92.0	1.6	3.8	0.4	0.9	0.9	0.3	83168
Ecological Zones								
Mountain	90.8	2.9	3.4	0.3	1.0	1.3	0.2	49213
Hill	90.9	2.0	4.4	0.4	1.0	0.9	0.4	350283
Tarai	92.9	1.0	2.8	0.3	1.4	1.1	0.5	400248

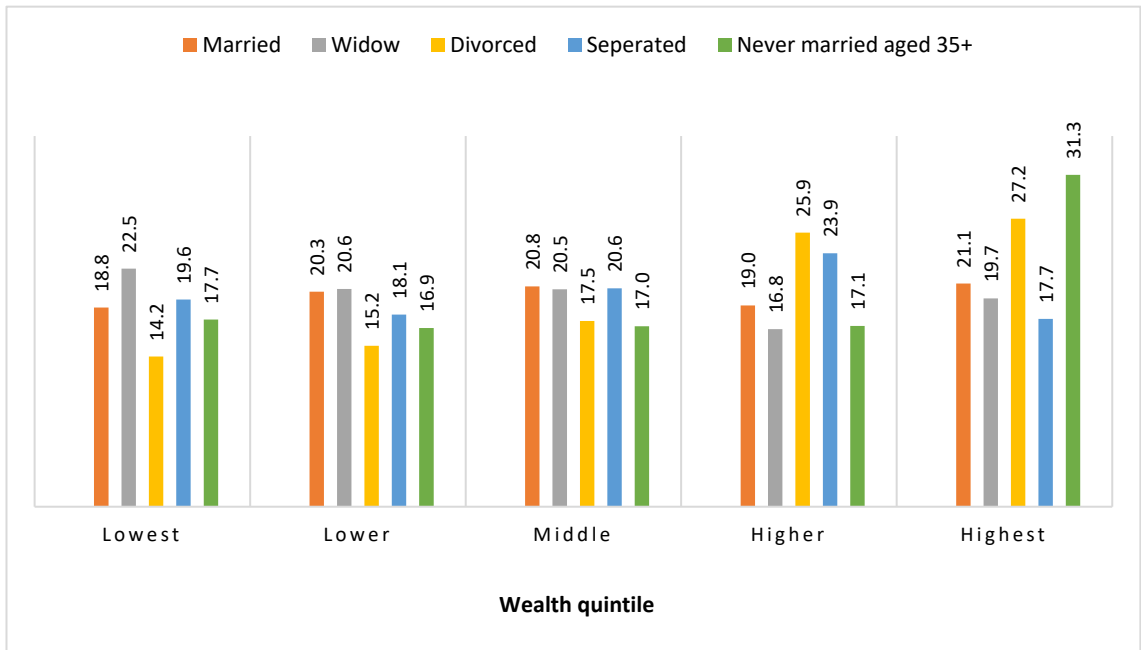
¹ Small-scale enterprises mean households operating small-scale non-agricultural enterprises or businesses run by one or more family members without other regular or salaried workers.

Areas	Number of households without any small-scale enterprise	Cottage industry	Trade/business	Transportation	Service	Other	Not stated	Households with at least one Widow
Urban/Rural residence								
Urban	89.8	1.8	5.6	0.4	1.0	1.1	0.3	198994
Peri Urban	90.1	2.0	4.7	0.6	1.0	1.2	0.4	303136
Rural	93.1	1.0	2.8	0.4	1.1	1.0	0.7	297614

6.8 Single women and wealth quintile

The NPHC 2021 classified households into five wealth quintiles (lowest, low, middle, higher and highest quintiles). Figure 6.3 shows that the largest percentage of widows belong to the lowest quintile households (22.5%) and the lowest percentage belong to highest quintile (19.7%). On the other hand, only 14 percent of divorced women were in the lowest quintile households and more than 27 percent in the highest quintile. Similarly, higher proportion (31.3%) of never married single women aged 35 and above belonged to highest quintile. In the situation of married women, almost similar pattern is observed across the quintile categories having 19 percent in the lowest, 20 percent in lower and 21 percent in the highest quintile households.

Figure 6.3: Marital status of women by wealth quintile, NPHC 2021



7. SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSOCIATES OF SINGLEHOOD AMONG WOMEN

Association of socio-economic and demographic factors explaining the singlehood and widowhood among women at the household level. Singlehood is dealt with single women as a whole and then widow separately. This chapter explores socio-economic factors associated with singlehood among women in Nepal based on the National Population and Housing Census 2021 data. The intersectionality of women is important in terms of socio-economic and demographic context of single women. Finally, the chapter deals with survivorship of women without singlehood and widowhood, length of life of women before singlehood and widowhood by assessing the life table.

7.1 Factors associated with singlehood among women

In order to examine the socio-economic factors associated with singlehood among women, logistic regression analysis was carried out. Singlehood as a dependent variable is represented by households with at least one single woman. Socio-economic factors include nine household level indicators that include ecological zone, province, rural/urban residence, ownership of house, wealth quintile index, type of family, sex of household head, caste/ethnicity and educational attainment of household head. The finding shows that there are significant association between the socio-economic contexts and households with single women.

Table 7.1 shows that all nine household level variables have significant effect on the singlehood of women. Among them, type of family (nuclear or extended) is the most predictable factor in having at least one single woman in the household. The multiple logistic regression analysis depicts that singlehood is 6.7 times more likely to be found in an extended family than in a nuclear family structure. Similarly, female-headed households are 5.7 times more likely to have single woman than male-headed households.

The finding indicates that type of ownership of house has an effect on having or not having member of single women in the households. Households having at least one single woman are almost 2 times more likely to have in the own households than the rented households. The other types and institutional households having greater number of single women than the rented households. The finding also suggests that ecological zone, provincial, rural residence, wealth index, sex of household head and educational attainment of household head also have significant effect on households having at least one single woman. The social, economic and demographic factors are critical for differential in households with or without single woman in Nepal.

Table 7.1: Logistic regression of singlehood against socio-economic characteristics, NPHC 2021

Explanatory variables		Odds ratio (OR)	95% CI	
			Lower	Upper
Ecological Zone	Mountain	1.08***	1.06	1.09
	Hill	1.02***	1.01	1.03
	Tarai (Ref.)	1.00		
Urban-rural place of residence	Urban	1.17***	1.16	1.18
	Peri Urban	1.11***	1.10	1.12
	Rural (Ref.)	1.00		
Province	Koshi	1.37***	1.36	1.39
	Madhesh (Ref.)	1.00		
	Bagmati	1.36***	1.34	1.37
	Gandaki	1.44***	1.42	1.45
	Lumbini	1.12***	1.11	1.13
	Karnali	0.82***	0.81	0.83
	Sudurpashchim	1.00	0.99	1.01
Ownership of house	Own	2.18***	2.16	2.20
	Rented (Ref.)	1.00		
	Institutional	1.59***	1.53	1.65
	Others	2.44***	2.36	2.51
Wealth index	Poorest	1.51***	1.49	1.52
	Poorer	1.15***	1.14	1.16
	Middle	1.12***	1.11	1.13
	Richer	0.97***	0.97	0.98
	Richest (Ref.)	1.00		
Type of Family	Nuclear (Ref.)	1.00		
	Extended Family	6.74***	6.70	6.77
Sex of household head	Male (Ref.)	1.00		
	Female	5.75***	5.72	5.78
Caste/ethnicity of household head	Hill Castes	1.15***	1.14	1.17
	Madhesh/Tarai Caste (Ref.)	1.00		
	Mountain/Hill Janajati	1.05***	1.04	1.06
	Tarai Janajati	0.93***	0.92	0.94
	Hill Dalits	0.90***	0.89	0.92
	Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	0.78***	0.77	0.79
	Religious/Linguistic groups	0.71***	0.70	0.72
	Others, Foreigners & Not stated	0.78***	0.74	0.81
Educational attainment of household head	Illiterate	1.07***	1.06	1.09
	Basic (0-5)	0.76***	0.75	0.77
	Secondary (6-inter)	0.83***	0.82	0.84
	Graduate and above (Ref.)	1.00		
	Leve Not Stated/Never attending	0.86***	0.85	0.88
	Literacy not stated	1.07***	0.86	1.33

*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05 and *p<0.10

Note: Ref. is reference category.

Over recent decades, many countries worldwide have experienced a rise in the frequency of singlehood, both in numbers and as a proportion of the population (UN Census Bureau, 2021; Kislev, 2019). In United States, the percentage of adults aged 25 to 54 who are not in relationships—neither married nor cohabiting—increased significantly from 20 percent in 1990 to 38 percent in 2019 (Fry & Parker, 2021). Eurostat's 2019 data reveals that 35 percent of European households consist of a single person, a trend that has persisted for over two decades (EuroStat, 2021). In Germany, the number of single-person households increased by 23 percent over the past twenty years, now making up the predominant household type in the country, compared to a 9 percent rise in two-person households and a decline of over 10 percent in households with three or more members (Umweltbundesamt, 2022). While the rise in the proportion of single individuals is evident in Western nations, it is also observable in regions such as Asia, the Middle East, South America, and certain parts of Africa (Census of India, 2011; Dommaraju, 2015; Podshisita & Xenos, 2015). In more recent times, scholars have returned to the term "choice," and a number of them have begun using the phrase "singles by choice" to differentiate from "singles by circumstances" (Council & Marsh, 2023). Those who are singles by choice are individuals who have deliberately opted to remain single, either for an indefinite period or for a specific duration. On the other hand, individuals who are single by circumstances are those who are presently not in a romantic relationship but haven't actively made the decision to be single.

7.2 Factors associated with widowhood among women

In this analysis, there are nine socio-economic and demographic variables to explain households with or without widow. All nine variables are introduced in the logistic regression equation and calculated the net effect on widowhood (Table 7.2). The result shows that type of family (nuclear or extended) is the most predictable factor to have widows in the households. The multiple regression analysis depicts that extended family is 7 times more likely to have widows than nuclear family structure. Similarly, female headed households are 5.8 times more likely to have widows in the households than male headed households. It is to note that Afghanistan has the highest proportion of widows in South Asia, while the Maldives has the lowest. Moreover, India also has a significant number of widows. Key factors contributing to early male mortality in developing countries include poverty and increased preventable diseases and war/armed conflicts, as noted by scholars like Lee (2004) and Chant (1997). These conditions result in a large population of widows who lack the necessary resources to cope with the financial challenges of widowhood and structure of families (The Loomba Foundation, 2015).

Table 7.2: Logistic regression of widowhood with socio-economic characteristics, NPHC 2021

Explanatory Variables		Odds ratio (OR)	95% CI	
			Lower	Upper
Ecological Zone	Mountain	1.06***	1.04	1.07
	Hill	1.01***	1.00	1.02
	Tarai (RC)	1.00		
Urban-rural place of residence	Urban	1.10***	1.09	1.11
	Peri Urban	1.09***	1.08	1.10
	Rural (RC)	1.00		
Province	Koshi	1.18***	1.17	1.20
	Madhesh (RC)	1.00		
	Bagmati	1.27***	1.25	1.28
	Gandaki	1.36***	1.34	1.37
	Lumbini	1.10***	1.09	1.11
	Karnali	0.81***	0.79	0.82
	Sudurpashchim	1.05***	1.04	1.07
Ownership house	Own	2.75***	2.72	2.78
	Rented (RC)	1.00		
	Institutional	1.55***	1.48	1.63
	Others	2.57***	2.48	2.65
Wealth Index	Poorest	1.50***	1.49	1.52
	Poorer	1.15***	1.14	1.16
	Middle	1.12***	1.11	1.13
	Richer	0.96***	0.95	0.97
	Richest (RC)	1.00		
Type of Family	Nuclear (RC)	1.00		
	Extended Family	7.16***	7.12	7.20
Sex of household head	Male (RC)	1.00		
	Female	5.81***	5.78	5.84
Caste/ethnicity of household head	Hill Castes	1.05***	1.04	1.07
	Madhesh/Tarai Caste (RC)	1.00		
	Mountain/Hill Janajati	0.86***	0.85	0.87
	Tarai Janajati	0.89***	0.88	0.90
	Hill Dalits	0.80***	0.79	0.81
	Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	0.79***	0.78	0.80
	Religious/Linguistic groups	0.67***	0.66	0.68
	Others, Foreigners & Not stated	0.72***	0.68	0.75
Educational attainment of household head	Illiterate	1.07***	1.06	1.09
	Basic (0-5)	0.74***	0.73	0.75
	Secondary (6-intermediate)	0.85***	0.84	0.87
	Graduate and above (RC)	1.00		
	Level/Leve Not Stated/Never attending	0.81***	0.80	0.83
	Literacy not stated	1.00***	0.79	1.26

*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05 and *p<0.10

Note: RC is Reference category.

The finding further indicates that the ownership of household has an effect on having or not having widow in member of the households. Widows are almost 3 times more likely to be in the own households than the rented households. The other types of households having greater number of widows than the rented households. Finally, ecological zone, province, rural residence, wealth index, sex of household head and educational attainment of household head also determine the number of widows in the household which are statistically significant ($p < 0.01$). The social, economic and demographic factors are critical factors for having widows in the households in Nepal.

7.3 Length of life of women before singlehood and widowhood

The distributional pattern of the single women and number of widows exhibits a left-skewed curve, deviating from the normality (Figure 7.1 and 7.2). To better describe the distributional pattern of such skewed data different model can be used. Here the modified version of Log-Logistic distribution as the Rayleigh Generated Log-Logistic Distribution (RGLog) distribution has been proposed. Empirical results from this probability model fitting of these data have been utilized to construct the single women and widow life tables. All the procedures of life table technique are adopted from the concept of mortality lifetable. Construction of life table from the survival probability taken form distribution fitting of different data were used for different data, such as for age at menarche of girls (see Aryal, 2005), age at menopause of women (see Aryal, 2005; Gaire et al., 2023), for age at first marriage (see Gaire et al., 2024). In the same line, age at single and age at widow of Nepali women have been used for construction of life table. Expectation of life represented by e_x indicates that the average length of life of a woman before singlehood/widowhood assuming that current age structure of singlehood/widowhood applies (see annexes 15 and 16 for detail).

The observed mean age of single women is 62.03 years, whereas the expected length of age for single women from the life table is 48.76 years for beginning age groups 15-19 years (Table 7.3). This indicates that women who are currently 15-19 years of age would survive next 48.76 years without singlehood. In other words, a woman aged 15-19 years would reach to a singlehood in her 63rd birthday. Similarly, the observed mean age of widows for Nepali women is 64.97 years, while the expected age for widows from the life table technique is 51.20 years, meaning that a woman aged between 15-19 years would survive another 51.2 years without widowhood (would reach to a widowhood in her 66th birthday). Additionally, the life table provides expected length of age of women before singlehood/widowhood for reach respective age groups.

Expanding on this, the life table is a powerful tool that allows for a detailed analysis of the age-specific probabilities of different life events, such as remaining single or becoming a widow. By examining the survivorship probabilities across various age groups, researchers can identify trends and patterns in marital status changes over time. These tables are constructed using empirical data and sophisticated probability models, such as the RGLog distribution, to ensure accurate predictions.

The life table approach borrows the concepts of mortality tables traditionally used in demography to study survival rates. By adapting these techniques to analyze marital status, researchers can provide valuable insights into the socio-demographic dynamics affecting women in Nepal. This method allows for a more nuanced understanding of how age and other factors influence the likelihood of remaining single or becoming a widow, offering a comprehensive picture of women's life courses in this context.

In summary, the observed and expected ages of single women and widows, along with the detailed survivorship probabilities, provide critical insights into the marital status transitions of Nepali women. The use of advanced probability models and life table techniques ensures that these analyses are both accurate and comprehensive, contributing significantly to the understanding of demographic patterns in Nepal (see Annex 15 and 16 for detail calculation process).

Table 7.3: Expectation of life of women before singlehood/widowhood in Nepal, NPHC 2021

Age of Women	Expectation of life before singlehood, e_x	Expectation of life before widowhood, e_x
15-19	48.76	51.20
20-24	43.99	46.24
25-29	39.13	41.32
30-34	34.55	36.50
35-39	30.22	31.85
40-44	26.20	27.44
45-49	22.52	23.32
50-54	19.21	19.57
55-59	16.26	16.23
60-64	13.66	13.31
65-69	11.37	10.79
70-74	9.31	8.63
75-79	7.36	6.73
80-84	5.27	4.88
85+	2.50	2.50

Source: Annex 15 and 16.

Figure 7.1: Observed and expected number of single women by age groups, NPHC 2021

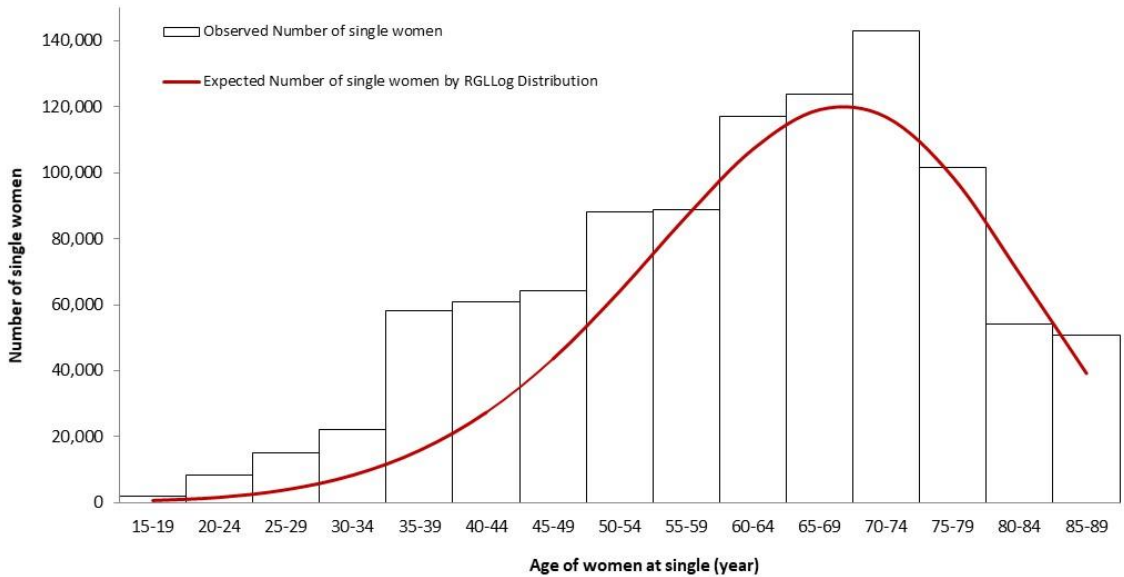
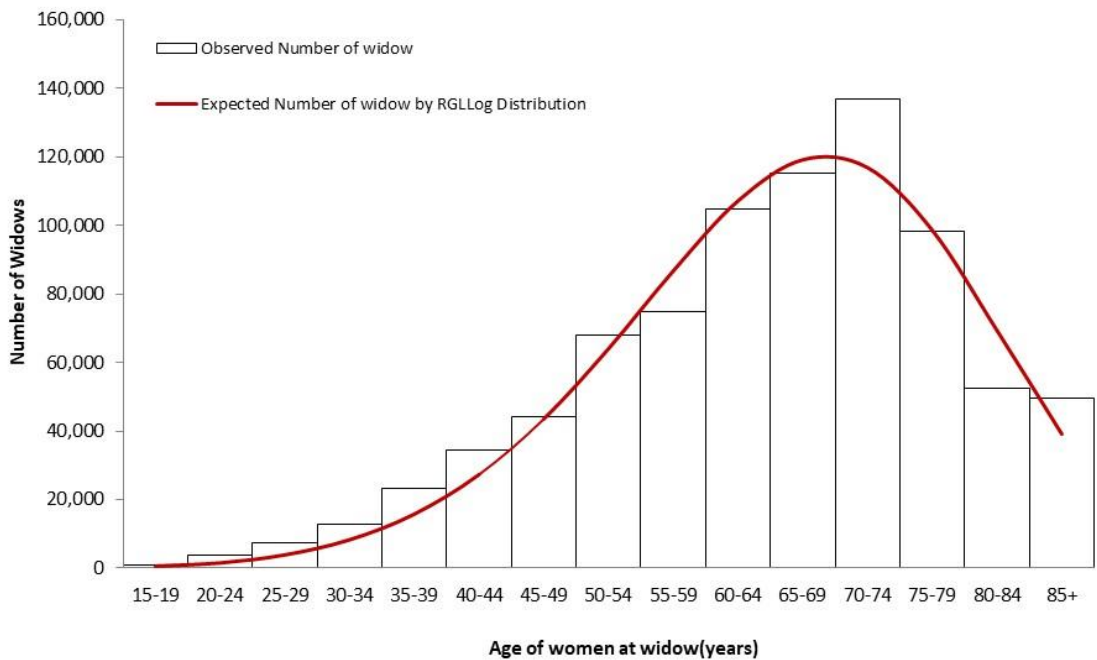


Figure 7.2: Observed and expected number of widows by age groups, NPHC 2021



8. CONCLUSIONS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Findings and conclusions

The census has the enormous advantage of enumerating every single household and individual in a country, thereby making it possible to provide more robust and disaggregated detail on particular geographic areas and social groups than almost any other data source. This thematic report presents the census's findings on the situation of single women in general and particularly focusing on widow in Nepal. The conclusions are made based on the main results following the relevant policy recommendations.

In Nepal, 12 percent of the households had at least one widow and two percent households with single women but not widow. Among the 799,744 households with at least one widow, an overwhelming majority were living in their own housing units and five percent of households living in rented housing units. The highest proportion of households living in the own housing units were in Karnali (98.1 %) and Madhesh (97.8%) with the least in Bagmati (87.4%) and Gandaki (91.9%). Bagmati and Gandaki were the provinces with the highest percentage of households with at least one widow living in rented housing units. Almost all households (98.0%) from Mountain lived in their own housing unit and 91.8 percent in Hill households. Whereas the highest proportion of households were living in rented housing unit in the Hill.

More than one-third (37%) of all the housing units' foundations of households with widow were mainly made of mud-bonded brick or stone while about 28 percent were made of cement-bonded brick or stone and other 20 percent were made of reinforced cement concrete (RCC). By ecological zone, three quarters (75.9%) of housing unit foundations of households with at least one widow were made of mud-bonded brick/stone in the Mountain zone compared to only 15.2 percent in Tarai.

The 2021 census found that cement bonded brick/stone and mud-bonded brick/stone were the most used materials in the outer walls of housing units having widow. By province, almost three-quarters of housing units in Bagmati (70.2%) used cement bonded brick/stone for their outer walls while in Karnali only 13 percent of housing unit outer walls were made of cement bonded brick/stone.

Galvanized iron (45.2%) and RCC (33.3%) were the most common roofing materials among the housing unit with at least one widow. Most of the housing units with widow in Koshi (71.6%) used galvanized iron while most Bagmati housing units had RCC roofs (50.9%). A very few housing units had RCC roofs in Karnali. Galvanized iron was the most common roofing materials in Mountain and Hill zones while RCC and galvanized iron (39 % each) were the most common in Tarai.

More than three-fourth of the Nepal's housing units with at least one widow were Pakki. By provinces, 96.4 percent of Gandaki households having widow were living in Pakki housing units in 2021 followed by Bagmati (93%) and Lumbini (86%). Madhesh had the lowest proportion of Pakki housing units (44%) with 32.5 percent of housing units of Kachchhi.

Fifty-eight percent of all households with at least one widow had access to water supplied from a tap or pipe, followed by Tubewell or hand pump (30%) and jars or bottles (2.8%). The households in Gandaki province had the highest level of access to tap/piped water (86%) followed by Karnali (79.4%) while it is the lowest in Madhesh (22.1%).

About three-fifths of all widow households used firewood as their main ~~type of~~ cooking fuel (55.6%). The second most common fuel was liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) which was the main cooking fuel for 39.8 percent of widow households. Cow-dung was the main source of cooking fuel for over 11 percent of widows households in Madhesh.

Ninety two percent of the widow households used electricity as their main source of lighting. More than 94 percent of widow households in Koshi, Madhesh, Bagmati, Gandaki and Lumbini were having electricity as their main source of lighting, whereas less than half in Karnali had electricity as their main source of lightning. Most of the other Karnali households depend on solar for lighting.

A growing number of single women presents a substantial challenge for government providing care and support in the future. This trend points out to broader social and demographic shifts, necessitating a comprehensive approach to mitigate the associated vulnerabilities and improve their overall dignified of life. It underlines the need for targeted social and policy interventions to address unique needs of single women, ensuring and adequate support and care in the coming years.

The growing trends of widows living in aloneness indicates a pressing issue that extends beyond mere statistics. It points out a demographic shift that poses significant challenges for providing adequate care and support to widows. As more widows live alone, the need for targeted social services and financial support systems becomes increasingly urgent. This trend underscores the importance of developing comprehensive strategies to ensure that widows receive the necessary emotional, financial, and social support to lead dignified lives.

Addressing this issue requires a multi-faceted approach involving government policies, community support networks, and non-governmental organizations working together to create a safety net for widows. Ensuring access to healthcare, financial aid, social activities, and mental health services is crucial in addressing the challenges faced by widows living alone. As the number of loneliness among widows continues to rise, it is imperative to recognize and act upon these challenges to improve their quality of life and well-being in Nepal.

The increasing trends of elderly widows living alone brings to light an urgent necessity for targeted care and support programs. These programs should focus on providing comprehensive assistance that addresses the physical, emotional, and social needs of widows. Such initiatives might include community support groups, healthcare services tailored to older women, financial aid, and social activities designed to reduce loneliness and isolation.

NPHC 2021 provides convincing evidence of this pattern, revealing that 57 percent of widows aged 65 and above live alone. This fact underscores a crucial reality – a substantial portion of widows beyond reproductive age are increasingly finding themselves in independent living arrangements. This trend indicates a critical need to provide targeted support and care for elderly widows in the country as women’s age and transition into widowhood, they encounter unique challenges that can intensify feelings of isolation and vulnerability. It further indicates that the majority of older widows are living without an immediate support of family or companions, which can have a significant impact on their quality of life.

To address this issue, it is imperative to develop comprehensive support programs specifically designed for elderly widows. These programs should encompass a wide range of services, including healthcare, financial assistance, social engagement opportunities, and mental health support. By creating an enabling environment, we can help mitigate the adverse effects of living alone and ensure that elderly widows receive required care and attention.

Policymakers and social service organizations must prioritize the development and implementation of these support systems. As the population of elderly widows continues to grow, so does the urgency to address their needs and improve their living conditions. Through concerted efforts, we can create a more inclusive and supportive environment that respects and upholds the dignity of elderly widows, ensuring they do not face the challenges of aging and widowhood alone.

The data revealed that 83 percent of all married women entered into marriage between the ages of 15 and 24. This age group also accounts for 71 percent of the widows, indicating that a majority of widowed women were married young. Furthermore, a notable 23 percent of widows were married at the age of 15 or below, underscoring the prevalence of child marriage among those who have lost their spouses. This figure points out the enduring impact of early marriage on women's lives, contributing to possibility of increased widows in the country.

In the context of divorced women, the census data shows that 80 percent of those who are divorced were married between the ages of 15 and 24. Similarly, among women who are separated from their spouses, 78 percent got married within the same age range. These facts indicate that the majority of marital disruptions, such as divorce and separation, occur among women who married young. Overall, the census data points out a picture of early marriage being a common experience among women in Nepal, with significant implications for their marital stability and the likelihood of becoming widowed, divorced, or separated.

A significant proportion of widows in Sudurpashchim (30%) were married at the age of 15 years or below. This finding underscores a persistence of child marriage in this region. In comparison, 17 percent of widows from Karnali province were also married at the age of 15 years or below. While this percentage is lower than that of Sudurpashchim, but still indicates a notable occurrence of child marriage in Karnali.

The census results also show that near about one-fifth (17%) of widows aged 15-49 years do not have any children. This lack of offspring can contribute to increased vulnerability and economic insecurity for these women, as they may have limited familial support. Additionally, the result

indicates that 30 percent of widows have one child. Having only one child may still pose challenges, particularly if a widow relies heavily on that child for support and assistance. Twenty-two percent of the widows have two children. This group may experience relatively more support compared to those with no or one child, but they still face significant challenges, particularly if their children are young or unable to provide adequate support. Moreover, a noteworthy 17 percent of widows have six or more children. While having a larger number of children might suggest greater potential support, it can also indicate substantial economic and caregiving burdens for the widow.

The literacy rate of the country's total widow population aged 10 years and above was 18.9 percent in 2021 census, which is far less than female literacy rate (67.1 %) of this age group. By province, highest literacy rate was found in Bagmati and lowest in Madhesh. It reveals that 19 percent of all households are headed by single women. When examining the data by province, it is evident that Gandaki province has the highest proportion of single women-headed households (21%). This figure exceeds the proportions in other provinces, indicating a notable concentration in Gandaki. Additionally, 17 percent of households in Karnali province are headed by single women. This fact underscores the variation in household headship by single women across different regions, with Gandaki leading in this demographic aspect and Karnali also having a substantial representation.

The female ownership of land, housing unit or both varied by province, ecological zone and urban/rural municipalities. By province, the highest proportion of female ownership across the three categories was in Gandaki (45.6%), while the lowest was in Sudurpashchim (19%). Tarai zone (40.3%) and urban residence (45.9%) had the highest levels of female ownership in land or house, or both compared to their counterparts.

About 9 percent of the 799,744 households with at least one widow stated having small scale enterprises in sectors other than agriculture. By province, highest percent of widow households was found to engage in small scale enterprises in Madhesh. The Mountain zone and urban residence had the highest number of widow households with non-agricultural small-scale enterprises compared to their counterparts.

The logistic regression indicates nine household level socio-economic factors have significant association with households with or without single women and widow. The socio-economic factors include ecological zone, province, rural/urban residence, ownership of house, wealth index, type of family, sex of household head, caste/ethnicity and educational attainment of household head.

8.2 Policy recommendations

In the view that the Constitution of Nepal guarantees the right to equality, participation and social justice as a fundamental right which includes right to appropriate housing, right to live with dignity, and special measures to enable different groups of people including women, Dalits, Madhesi, Indigenous peoples including Tharu and small farmers, to live a life with dignity and equality (Nepal Law Commission, 2015), the following policy implications are provided here:

Focus on clean energy: The 2021 census found that near about three-fifths of all households with widow (55.6%) used firewood as their main ~~type of~~ cooking fuel with a further 2.8 percent using the cow dung. These fuel sources cause indoor air pollution that has detrimental health effects. The harvesting of firewood can contribute to deforestation. Therefore, use of hydropower, solar energy and other environment-friendly sources is the best option to reduce the use firewood for cooking. Also, policies need introducing and associated action plans implemented to increase electricity consumption and the more efficient use of energy by expanding access to electricity services for all households and specifically households with single women and widow.

Advocacy and awareness programme for ending child marriage: The high percentages of early marriages among single women/widow indicate the need for policies and interventions aimed at addressing the social and economic factors that contribute to reducing early marriage and its subsequent impacts on women's lives. This can be achieved by introducing advocacy programs for men, women and the community and empowering women to end discrimination against girls and women. This effort aims to prevent child marriage and abolish gender disparity in birth, education, health and employment in the country and the regions such as Madhesh, Karnali, and Sudurpashchim provinces.

Literacy program for widow: The literacy rate of the country's total widow population aged 10 years and above was only 18.9 percent and remaining 80 percent were illiterate in 2021 census in contract to all female literacy rate (69.4 %). Literary programs should be mesmerized to educate single women through advocacy program, income generating program, cooperatives and women's group. Special provision in school for single women children. Promote literacy and continuous education programs for widows to enhance their business acumen and adaptability.

Special social security scheme for single women/widow through policy integration: Special consideration for widow in broader gender equality and social welfare policies. Findings of the 2021 census indicate the need for targeted interventions and support systems to address the unique challenges faced by widows/single women. Solutions could include enhancing social security measures, providing healthcare and assistance for the aged widow and single women. Single women/ widow aged 80 years and above, need to provide free health care service, travel allowance.

For working aged women, specifically for below age of 60 years, opportunities should be created to engage them in flexible or part-time work that accommodates their household responsibilities. These programmes should include:

- Skill development: Implement vocational training programs tailored to sectors with high demand and profitability. Single women and widow should be given to preference in skill development programme/trainings irrespective of their age, such as "Rashtrapati Mahila Utthan Karyakram."
- Financial support: Provide access to microfinance tailored to widows, ensuring low-interest rates and flexible repayment schedules.

- Grants and subsidies: Offer grants or subsidies to start or expand small businesses, particularly in non-agricultural sectors given priority for widow and single women.
- *Market linkages*: Government as well as private sector should create platforms to connect widow-led enterprises with larger markets, both domestic and international.
- *Online business*: Encourage and assist single women and widows for the online business and provide skills and training in establishing an online businesses and small-scale entrepreneurship to reach broader audiences.
- Resources and raw materials: Facilitate access to necessary resources and raw materials at subsidized rates.
- Legal aid: Offer legal support to help widows navigate business regulations and protect their enterprises.
- Social support networks: Build community support groups to offer emotional and practical support, enhancing resilience and collaboration among widow entrepreneurs.
- Awareness campaigns: Run campaigns to raise awareness about the economic potential and capabilities of widows, reducing stigma and encouraging community support.
- Regular assessments: Conduct regular assessments of the implemented policies to gauge their effectiveness and make necessary adjustments.
- Data collection: Improve data collection on widow-led enterprises to better understand their needs and challenges, ensuring policies remain relevant and impactful. Implementing these policies can empower widows economically, improving their livelihoods and contributing to overall economic growth and stability.

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ANNEXES

Annex 1: Percent distribution of households with at least one widow by type of household ownership by province, ecological zone, urban- rural residence, and urban- rural municipality

Areas	Households Ownership				Total housing unit with at least one widow
	Own	Rented	Institutional	Others	
Nepal	94.1	5.0	0.3	0.6	799744
Provinces					
Koshi	94.3	4.3	0.4	1.0	145898
Madhesh	97.8	1.2	0.3	0.7	128154
Bagmati	87.4	11.9	0.3	0.4	166217
Gandaki	91.9	6.8	0.4	1.0	91447
Lumbini	96.0	3.3	0.2	0.4	145184
Karnali	98.1	1.4	0.1	0.4	39676
Sudurpashchim	98.4	1.1	0.1	0.4	83168
Ecological zones					
Mountain	98.0	1.6	0.1	0.4	49213
Hill	91.8	8.0	0.3	0.6	350283
Tarai	95.6	3.6	0.3	0.7	400248
Urban/rural residence					
Urban	83.7	15.2	0.4	0.6	198994
Peri urban	96.8	2.2	0.3	0.7	303136
Rural	98.2	1.1	0.2	0.5	297614
Municipality					
Urban Municipality	91.9	7.1	0.3	0.7	525979
Rural Municipality	98.3	1.0	0.2	0.5	273765

Annex 2: Number of households by type of ownership according to districts, NPHC 2021

Districts	Own	Rented	Institutional	Others	Household with Widow (with/without other single women)
NEPAL	752355	40133	2272	4984	799744
KOSHI	137616	6299	590	1393	145898
Taplejung	2387	116	2	21	2526
Sankhuwasabha	4176	111	6	43	4336
Solukhumbu	2629	86	4	16	2735
Okhaldhunga	3985	22	1	5	4013
Khotang	4365	37	2	14	4418
Bhojpur	4374	57	7	47	4485
Dhankuta	4520	130	15	19	4684
Terhathum	2376	71	6	46	2499
Panchthar	3907	136	10	45	4098
Ilam	6518	149	23	25	6715
Jhapa	31461	1852	251	381	33945
Morang	34347	1654	139	333	36473
Sunsari	23976	1733	104	342	26155
Udayapur	8595	145	20	56	8816
MADHESH	125297	1596	407	854	128154
Saptari	16575	106	52	126	16859
Siraha	17198	117	79	171	17565
Dhanusha	18701	423	90	99	19313
Mahottari	14721	96	34	124	14975
Sarlahi	17335	136	34	94	17599
Rautahat	14869	118	48	91	15126
Bara	14332	159	11	102	14604
Parsa	11566	441	59	47	12113
BAGMATI	145196	19742	542	737	166217
Dolakha	6098	83	7	11	6199
Sindhupalchok	8852	60	8	14	8934
Rasuwa	1316	8	5	9	1338
Dhading	10165	172	15	30	10382
Nuwakot	8946	84	20	39	9089

Districts	Own	Rented	Institutional	Others	Household with Widow (with/without other single women)
Kathmandu	31385	12546	214	252	44397
Bhaktapur	9651	1699	38	58	11446
Lalitpur	12150	2645	86	120	15001
Kavrepalanchok	12170	404	24	27	12625
Ramechhap	6105	36	4	5	6150
Sindhuli	7460	95	5	14	7574
Makwanpur	11766	436	36	44	12282
Chitwan	19132	1474	80	114	20800
GANDAKI	84022	6203	333	889	91447
Gorkha	9966	179	4	32	10181
Manang	172	21	1	11	205
Mustang	286	53	4	4	347
Myagdi	3634	197	13	80	3924
Kaski	15809	3186	114	294	19403
Lamjung	6074	277	5	45	6401
Tanahu	11143	578	98	135	11954
Nawalparasi (East)	11321	670	52	80	12123
Syangja	11889	405	13	84	12391
Parbat	5236	254	10	53	5553
Baglung	8492	383	19	71	8965
LUMBINI	139437	4837	258	652	145184
Rukum (East)	1493	17	1	11	1522
Rolpa	6359	82	2	14	6457
Pyuthan	7334	58	10	24	7426
Gulmi	10878	197	22	53	11150
Arghakhanchi	7348	133	8	33	7522
Palpa	9514	308	11	39	9872
Nawalparasi (West)	10641	311	30	74	11056
Rupandehi	27846	2136	62	132	30176
Kapilbastu	14819	244	19	56	15138
Dang	17102	649	40	63	17854
Banke	13350	613	31	55	14049
Bardiya	12753	89	22	98	12962

Districts	Own	Rented	Institutional	Others	Household with Widow (with/without other single women)
KARNALI	38914	565	47	150	39676
Dolpa	828	20	0	5	853
Mugu	1343	23	0	4	1370
Humla	1227	11	0	0	1238
Jumla	2350	40	2	5	2397
Kalikot	3449	34	1	12	3496
Dailekh	5888	54	7	37	5986
Jajarkot	3830	37	1	8	3876
Rukum (West)	3915	51	9	15	3990
Salyan	6342	44	6	16	6408
Surkhet	9742	251	21	48	10062
SUDURPASHCHIM	81873	891	95	309	83168
Bajura	3725	36	2	3	3766
Bajhang	5674	25	3	16	5718
Darchula	3698	44	3	10	3755
Baitadi	8079	29	3	19	8130
Dadeldhura	4442	34	4	16	4496
Doti	7790	53	9	36	7888
Achham	7977	48	3	24	8052
Kailali	24629	412	25	104	25170
Kanchanpur	15859	210	43	81	16193

Annex 3: Housing unit construction materials

Annex 3.1: Percent distribution of households with at least one widow by construction materials used in foundation of housing unit according to province, ecological zone, urban-rural residence, NPHC 2021

Areas	Construction materials used in foundation of housing unit					Total housing unit with at least one widow
	Mud bonded bricks/ stone	Cement bonded bricks/ stone	Reinforced Cement Concrete with pillars	Wooden pillars	Other	
Nepal	36.8	28.4	19.8	14.3	0.5	799744
Provinces						
Koshi	29.8	25.2	20.7	23.5	0.8	145898
Madhesh	10.4	32.2	17.7	39.2	0.6	128154
Bagmati	26.9	36.1	32.7	4.0	0.4	166217
Gandaki	52.4	27.9	18.3	1.3	0.1	91447
Lumbini	45.4	28.5	19.3	6.0	0.7	145184
Karnali	86.8	6.0	4.5	2.6	0.1	39676
Sudurpashchim	54.0	24.1	6.0	15.3	0.6	83168
Ecological Zones						
Mountain	75.9	16.8	4.7	2.3	0.2	49213
Hill	56.1	21.3	18.7	3.7	0.2	350283
Tarai	15.2	36.0	22.7	25.2	0.9	400248
Urban/Rural residence						
Urban	15.7	35.8	41.5	6.5	0.5	198994
Peri Urban	17.2	36.3	20.0	25.6	0.9	303136
Rural	71.0	15.5	5.1	8.1	0.2	297614

Annex 3.2: Number of households with widow by main type of foundation of housing units, by districts, NPHC 2021

Areas	Mud bonded bricks/ stone	Cement bonded bricks/ stone	Reinforced cement concrete with pillars	Wooden pillars	Other	Total households with widow (with/without other single women)
NEPAL	294635	227319	158686	114759	4345	799744
KOSHI	43483	36787	30132	34311	1185	145898
Taplejung	2328	102	27	68	1	2526
Sankhuwasabha	3513	136	77	580	30	4336
Solukhumbu	2520	126	14	69	6	2735
Okhaldhunga	3762	172	48	26	5	4013
Khotang	4172	116	27	98	5	4418
Bhojpur	4241	73	11	151	9	4485
Dhankuta	3634	457	193	385	15	4684
Terhathum	2354	53	34	57	1	2499
Panchthar	3618	187	103	179	11	4098
Ilam	3679	1118	508	1392	18	6715
Jhapa	1697	12073	11558	8372	245	33945
Morang	3129	11873	9039	12010	422	36473
Sunsari	2508	8133	7575	7551	388	26155
Udayapur	2328	2168	918	3373	29	8816
MADHESH	13340	41223	22632	50239	720	128154
Saptari	1838	4673	2937	7311	100	16859
Siraha	1549	5801	3254	6829	132	17565
Dhanusha	1703	6152	4231	7131	96	19313
Mahottari	1149	4681	2591	6500	54	14975
Sarlahi	1960	5719	2570	7196	154	17599
Rautahat	2340	4813	1984	5915	74	15126
Bara	1986	5230	2485	4847	56	14604
Parsa	815	4154	2580	4510	54	12113
BAGMATI	44642	59941	54292	6598	744	166217
Dolakha	3337	2239	491	111	21	6199
Sindhupalchok	3696	3793	1205	201	39	8934
Rasuwa	515	567	199	47	10	1338
Dhading	4579	4373	1222	185	23	10382

Areas	Mud bonded bricks/ stone	Cement bonded bricks/ stone	Reinforced cement concrete with pillars	Wooden pillars	Other	Total households with widow (with/without other single women)
Nuwakot	3521	4012	1438	92	26	9089
Kathmandu	3073	16116	24265	735	208	44397
Bhaktapur	1849	2555	6655	287	100	11446
Lalitpur	2328	5304	6970	334	65	15001
Kavrepalanchok	6006	3643	2673	226	77	12625
Ramechhap	5022	892	189	41	6	6150
Sindhuli	2803	1753	796	2201	21	7574
Makwanpur	4567	4943	1568	1139	65	12282
Chitwan	3346	9751	6621	999	83	20800
GANDAKI	47875	25549	16772	1148	103	91447
Gorkha	4633	4233	1170	137	8	10181
Manang	178	11	5	11	0	205
Mustang	313	23	10	1	0	347
Myagdi	3434	271	209	8	2	3924
Kaski	4848	7184	7306	38	27	19403
Lamjung	4141	1503	700	53	4	6401
Tanahu	6186	3378	2298	82	10	11954
Nawalparasi (East)	2450	5909	3010	711	43	12123
Syangja	9138	1966	1235	47	5	12391
Parbat	4621	539	370	20	3	5553
Baglung	7933	532	459	40	1	8965
LUMBINI	65920	41403	28091	8708	1062	145184
Rukum (East)	1469	34	9	7	3	1522
Rolpa	6222	127	49	52	7	6457
Pyuthan	6711	422	238	52	3	7426
Gulmi	9907	770	411	60	2	11150
Arghakhanchi	6796	392	223	108	3	7522
Palpa	7537	1338	920	72	5	9872
Nawalparasi (West)	1138	4687	3615	1547	69	11056
Rupandehi	3466	13454	12291	825	140	30176
Kapilbastu	4296	6930	2518	1217	177	15138
Dang	10075	3612	3225	913	29	17854

Areas	Mud bonded bricks/ stone	Cement bonded bricks/ stone	Reinforced cement concrete with pillars	Wooden pillars	Other	Total households with widow (with/without other single women)
Banke	4261	5448	3019	899	422	14049
Bardiya	4042	4189	1573	2956	202	12962
KARNALI	34456	2364	1788	1030	38	39676
Dolpa	835	14	0	4	0	853
Mugu	1336	22	6	5	1	1370
Humla	1236	1	0	1	0	1238
Jumla	2280	77	32	6	2	2397
Kalikot	3387	73	31	4	1	3496
Dailekh	5696	155	111	21	3	5986
Jajarkot	3770	62	33	8	3	3876
Rukum (West)	3796	114	69	8	3	3990
Salyan	6059	211	116	19	3	6408
Surkhet	6061	1635	1390	954	22	10062
SUDURPASHCHIM	44919	20052	4979	12725	493	83168
Bajura	3635	92	20	14	5	3766
Bajhang	5234	407	65	10	2	5718
Darchula	3009	608	134	3	1	3755
Baitadi	7245	773	103	8	1	8130
Dadeldhura	3614	549	162	166	5	4496
Doti	7200	523	79	75	11	7888
Achham	7802	138	83	24	5	8052
Kailali	4803	8571	2918	8498	380	25170
Kanchanpur	2377	8391	1415	3927	83	16193

Annex 3.3: Percent distribution of households with at least one widow by type of materials used for outer walls of housing unit, NPHC 2021

Areas	Mud bonded bricks/stone	Cement bonded bricks/stone	Wood / planks	Bamboo	Unbaked bricks	Galvanized sheet	Prefabricated sheet	Other	Total housing unit having at least one widow
Nepal	34.4	48.5	3.3	11.8	0.4	0.9	0.0	0.6	799744
Provinces									
Koshi	27.1	42.1	5.5	22.1	0.2	2.5	0.0	0.4	145898
Madhesh	9.3	47.4	3.6	38.7	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.7	128154
Bagmati	24.9	70.2	1.6	1.0	0.2	1.8	0.1	0.3	166217
Gandaki	49.0	49.1	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.2	91447
Lumbini	42.2	49.7	1.4	4.1	1.3	0.1	0.0	1.0	145184
Karnali	84.1	13.4	1.9	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	39676
Sudurpashchim	51.1	32.4	8.6	5.6	0.7	0.2	0.0	1.4	83168
Ecological Zones									
Mountain	72.3	23.6	1.1	1.4	0.1	1.2	0.0	0.1	49213
Hill	53.2	42.0	1.6	1.6	0.2	1.1	0.0	0.2	350283
Tarai	13.2	57.3	5.0	22.0	0.7	0.7	0.0	1.1	400248
Urban/Rural residence									
Urban	13.9	77.5	1.5	5.1	0.3	1.4	0.0	0.4	198994
Peri Urban	14.9	55.0	3.8	23.8	0.6	0.7	0.0	1.1	303136
Rural	67.9	22.6	3.9	4.1	0.3	0.8	0.0	0.3	297614
Municipality									
Urban Municipality	24.3	58.5	3.5	11.6	0.5	1.1	0.0	0.6	525979
Rural Municipality	53.8	29.4	2.9	12.2	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.6	273765

Annex 3.4: Number of households with widow by main type of materials used for outer walls of housing units, by districts, NPHC 2021

Areas	Mud bonded bricks/ stone	Cement bonded bricks/ stone	Wood / planks	Bamboo	Unbaked bricks	Galvanized sheet	Prefabricated sheet	Other	Households with widow (with/without other single women)
NEPAL	274898	388140	26041	94602	3462	7472	227	4902	799744
KOSHI	39588	61471	8088	32295	240	3633	27	556	145898
Taplejung	2253	124	57	66	1	22	1	2	2526
Sankhuwasabha	3275	224	151	570	5	98	0	13	4336
Solukhumbu	2448	156	50	41	3	36	0	1	2735
Okhaldhunga	3731	225	8	15	15	19	0	0	4013
Khotang	4148	134	31	78	1	26	0	0	4418
Bhojpur	4144	84	28	187	6	31	0	5	4485
Dhankuta	3452	669	76	281	18	181	0	7	4684
Terhathum	2328	81	11	51	0	28	0	0	2499
Panchthar	3419	282	90	186	2	115	0	4	4098
Ilam	3067	1449	933	663	11	584	0	8	6715
Jhapa	1299	21558	1906	7918	55	1020	4	185	33945
Morang	2246	19310	2572	11463	58	656	12	156	36473
Sunsari	1743	14236	1069	8190	53	708	10	146	26155
Udayapur	2035	2939	1106	2586	12	109	0	29	8816
MADHESH	11861	60697	4621	49563	213	212	27	960	128154
Saptari	1415	7065	398	7780	27	76	17	81	16859
Siraha	1465	8625	530	6727	24	31	2	161	17565
Dhanusha	1589	10055	589	6855	21	15	1	188	19313
Mahottari	1071	6858	537	6331	14	16	0	148	14975
Sarlahi	1609	7534	771	7536	24	10	0	115	17599
Rautahat	2142	6479	700	5663	29	10	3	100	15126
Bara	1744	7447	693	4546	43	33	4	94	14604
Parsa	826	6634	403	4125	31	21	0	73	12113
BAGMATI	41407	116653	2659	1620	275	2969	107	527	166217
Dolakha	3131	2869	83	8	0	101	2	5	6199
Sindhupalchok	3472	5125	74	16	5	227	2	13	8934
Rasuwa	483	723	74	1	1	50	1	5	1338
Dhading	4442	5590	84	21	8	204	2	31	10382
Nuwakot	3246	5674	26	9	6	109	4	15	9089
Kathmandu	2620	40354	101	112	66	997	49	98	44397
Bhaktapur	1700	9228	38	30	25	398	9	18	11446

Areas	Mud bonded bricks/ stone	Cement bonded bricks/ stone	Wood / planks	Bamboo	Unbaked bricks	Galvanized sheet	Prefabricated sheet	Other	Households with widow (with/without other single women)
Lalitpur	2069	12365	54	53	15	404	13	28	15001
Kavrepalanchok	5955	6238	43	22	40	265	12	50	12625
Ramechhap	5129	956	22	17	7	16	1	2	6150
Sindhuli	3117	2978	631	782	12	15	1	38	7574
Makwanpur	3574	7508	872	90	26	116	3	93	12282
Chitwan	2469	17045	557	459	64	67	8	131	20800
GANDAKI	44834	44914	713	365	158	267	20	176	91447
Gorkha	4214	5725	88	23	12	111	1	7	10181
Manang	151	32	22	0	0	0	0	0	205
Mustang	291	53	2	0	0	0	1	0	347
Myagdi	3381	498	17	3	13	4	0	8	3924
Kaski	4389	14850	36	11	29	35	1	52	19403
Lamjung	3780	2500	31	18	3	63	1	5	6401
Tanahu	5705	6071	79	43	13	16	4	23	11954
Nawalparasi (East)	2207	9189	373	224	54	18	10	48	12123
Syangja	8474	3832	21	22	7	7	0	28	12391
Parbat	4493	1017	13	6	14	6	1	3	5553
Baglung	7749	1147	31	15	13	7	1	2	8965
LUMBINI	61323	72105	2082	6005	1935	206	19	1509	145184
Rukum (East)	1446	54	5	1	6	6	0	4	1522
Rolpa	6106	250	38	29	21	12	0	1	6457
Pyuthan	6447	866	56	43	9	5	0	0	7426
Gulmi	9357	1647	37	57	39	12	0	1	11150
Arghakhanchi	6562	826	77	36	13	4	1	3	7522
Palpa	7211	2554	11	60	24	5	0	7	9872
Nawalparasi (West)	1142	8245	194	1259	54	31	5	126	11056
Rupandehi	3067	26053	263	356	133	46	6	252	30176
Kapilbastu	3874	9822	409	717	77	44	0	195	15138
Dang	8760	7264	416	523	861	9	4	17	17854
Banke	3833	8642	356	475	269	23	1	450	14049
Bardiya	3518	5882	220	2449	429	9	2	453	12962
KARNALI	33349	5332	740	85	72	42	15	41	39676
Dolpa	814	28	8	0	0	1	2	0	853
Mugu	1325	33	7	0	0	2	2	1	1370

Areas	Mud bonded bricks/ stone	Cement bonded bricks/ stone	Wood / planks	Bamboo	Unbaked bricks	Galvanized sheet	Prefabricated sheet	Other	Households with widow (with/without other single women)
Humla	1232	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	1238
Jumla	2221	156	5	0	0	4	7	4	2397
Kalikot	3302	176	7	0	2	8	0	1	3496
Dailekh	5621	321	15	9	14	4	0	2	5986
Jajarkot	3710	139	1	5	16	4	0	1	3876
Rukum (West)	3578	385	5	4	10	7	1	0	3990
Salyan	5921	448	14	3	4	1	1	16	6408
Surkhet	5625	3643	676	64	26	11	1	16	10062
SUDURPASHCHIM	42536	26968	7138	4669	569	143	12	1133	83168
Bajura	3592	145	2	2	7	18	0	0	3766
Bajhang	4887	789	8	2	15	11	0	6	5718
Darchula	2715	1002	2	2	20	4	1	9	3755
Baitadi	6548	1520	2	4	51	2	0	3	8130
Dadeldhura	3315	993	158	10	9	10	0	1	4496
Doti	6950	823	40	6	19	46	1	3	7888
Achham	7762	232	10	6	16	20	0	6	8052
Kailali	4485	11675	4645	3103	379	21	7	855	25170
Kanchanpur	2282	9789	2271	1534	53	11	3	250	16193

Annex 3.5: Type of materials used for roof of the housing unit, NPHC 2021

Areas	Galvanized sheet	Reinforced Cement Concrete	Thatch / straw	Tile	Stone/ slate	Wood / planks	Mud	Other	Total housing unit having at least one widow
Nepal	45.2	33.3	3.9	9.1	7.4	0.3	0.7	0.1	799744
Provinces									
Koshi	71.6	20.4	5.5	1.6	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.1	145898
Madhesh	19.9	34.0	7.0	38.2	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.2	128154
Bagmati	45.1	50.9	0.6	2.3	1.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	166217
Gandaki	58.3	27.3	1.2	0.3	12.4	0.1	0.4	0.0	91447
Lumbini	43.5	41.6	4.1	4.9	5.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	145184
Karnali	44.6	8.6	7.7	2.0	24.3	1.1	11.6	0.1	39676
Sudurpashchim	27.0	23.8	3.3	11.6	33.4	0.2	0.5	0.1	83168
Ecological Zones									
Mountain	52.8	10.3	5.0	0.4	20.3	1.2	9.8	0.2	49213
Hill	50.6	30.0	3.4	1.9	13.7	0.2	0.2	0.1	350283
Tarai	39.6	39.1	4.1	16.5	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.1	400248
Urban/Rural residence									
Urban	26.7	64.3	1.2	4.7	2.6	0.2	0.1	0.1	198994
Peri Urban	42.8	35.8	3.9	16.3	0.9	0.2	0.0	0.1	303136
Rural	60.1	10.0	5.6	4.8	17.4	0.3	1.8	0.1	297614
Municipality									
Urban Municipality	39.9	41.8	2.9	10.3	4.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	525979
Rural Municipality	55.3	16.9	5.8	6.9	13.0	0.3	1.5	0.1	273765

Annex 3.6: Number of households by main type of materials used in the roof of housing unit, by district, NPHC 2021

Areas	Galvanized sheet	Reinforced Cement Concrete	Thatch / straw	Tile	Stone/ slate	Wood / planks	Mud	Other	Households with Widow (with/without other single women)
NEPAL	361543	266495	30889	72983	59496	2061	5524	753	799744
KOSHI	104535	29713	8063	2344	763	334	0	146	145898
Taplejung	2090	55	342	13	3	13	0	10	2526
Sankhuwasabha	3113	127	1008	28	3	35	0	22	4336
Solukhumbu	2387	25	133	8	100	61	0	21	2735
Okhaldhunga	3279	93	335	6	290	6	0	4	4013
Khotang	2987	86	1119	188	22	6	0	10	4418
Bhojpur	3026	40	1323	75	3	6	0	12	4485
Dhankuta	3858	297	505	7	8	7	0	2	4684
Terhathum	2041	60	373	17	4	0	0	4	2499
Panchthar	3506	138	420	16	2	8	0	8	4098
Ilam	6116	486	51	6	28	21	0	7	6715
Jhapa	24003	9503	201	88	77	68	0	5	33945
Morang	25640	9414	925	370	60	44	0	20	36473
Sunsari	17074	8326	404	168	118	47	0	18	26155
Udayapur	5415	1063	924	1354	45	12	0	3	8816
MADHESH	25447	43539	8948	48957	500	516	0	247	128154
Saptari	10448	4435	1088	760	47	36	0	45	16859
Siraha	6779	5897	1427	3286	48	72	0	56	17565
Dhanusha	2285	7953	732	8166	61	82	0	34	19313
Mahottari	833	5017	748	8168	51	138	0	20	14975
Sarlahi	1043	4413	1292	10721	45	51	0	34	17599
Rautahat	1040	4669	1436	7824	85	46	0	26	15126
Bara	1727	5574	1164	5990	87	45	0	17	14604
Parsa	1292	5581	1061	4042	76	46	0	15	12113
BAGMATI	74901	84589	1019	3791	1600	224	0	93	166217
Dolakha	5358	767	6	4	60	3	0	1	6199
Sindhupalchok	6516	2324	13	9	63	8	0	1	8934
Rasuwa	1004	303	4	1	4	20	0	2	1338
Dhading	7572	2320	26	8	439	13	0	4	10382
Nuwakot	6686	2277	9	7	106	4	0	0	9089

Areas	Galvanized sheet	Reinforced Cement Concrete	Thatch / straw	Tile	Stone/ slate	Wood / planks	Mud	Other	Households with Widow (with/without other single women)
Kathmandu	6047	37962	61	119	98	69	0	41	44397
Bhaktapur	2618	8593	22	130	45	25	0	13	11446
Lalitpur	3036	11759	36	74	65	25	0	6	15001
Kavrepalanchok	7594	4742	41	171	62	11	0	4	12625
Ramechhap	5214	407	78	191	254	6	0	0	6150
Sindhuli	3646	1160	190	2444	124	5	0	5	7574
Makwanpur	7962	3530	220	467	88	11	0	4	12282
Chitwan	11648	8445	313	166	192	24	0	12	20800
GANDAKI	53315	24965	1070	293	11328	116	341	19	91447
Gorkha	7869	1936	39	15	291	31	0	0	10181
Manang	108	7	0	0	0	11	79	0	205
Mustang	53	20	0	1	5	4	262	2	347
Myagdi	993	280	37	3	2609	2	0	0	3924
Kaski	8458	10102	48	30	741	15	0	9	19403
Lamjung	4999	1146	36	4	214	0	0	2	6401
Tanahu	7275	3400	220	13	1031	12	0	3	11954
Nawalparasi (East)	7439	4301	148	163	59	11	0	2	12123
Syangja	9410	2480	225	16	248	11	0	1	12391
Parbat	3827	550	70	5	1101	0	0	0	5553
Baglung	2884	743	247	43	5029	19	0	0	8965
LUMBINI	63187	60440	5972	7135	7857	312	155	126	145184
Rukum (East)	648	25	54	2	627	10	155	1	1522
Rolpa	2850	130	881	9	2457	126	0	4	6457
Pyuthan	5530	521	268	119	984	4	0	0	7426
Gulmi	7796	825	153	26	2343	6	0	1	11150
Arghakhanchi	5858	479	197	14	968	4	0	2	7522
Palpa	7879	1813	119	8	52	1	0	0	9872
Nawalparasi (West)	3190	6371	252	1134	50	39	0	20	11056
Rupandehi	5643	23119	593	646	105	41	0	29	30176
Kapilbastu	2323	11171	1118	358	89	48	0	31	15138
Dang	10412	5623	1245	468	96	4	0	6	17854
Banke	4355	7403	576	1627	40	25	0	23	14049
Bardiya	6703	2960	516	2724	46	4	0	9	12962

Areas	Galvanized sheet	Reinforced Cement Concrete	Thatch / straw	Tile	Stone/ slate	Wood / planks	Mud	Other	Households with Widow (with/without other single women)
KARNALI	17685	3427	3069	813	9630	420	4587	45	39676
Dolpa	204	8	6	0	1	20	613	1	853
Mugu	378	17	26	3	35	123	787	1	1370
Humla	189	0	14	0	0	47	988	0	1238
Jumla	845	52	2	1	2	69	1425	1	2397
Kalikot	1364	101	305	11	1218	120	369	8	3496
Dailekh	2530	273	348	73	2458	14	281	9	5986
Jajarkot	623	76	250	8	2883	7	26	3	3876
Rukum (West)	1742	146	322	5	1767	3	5	0	3990
Salyan	4276	227	653	35	1114	6	81	16	6408
Surkhet	5534	2527	1143	677	152	11	12	6	10062
SUDURPASHCHIM	22473	19822	2748	9650	27818	139	441	77	83168
Bajura	964	95	276	87	2014	29	293	8	3766
Bajhang	996	432	294	18	3964	4	2	8	5718
Darchula	434	723	35	34	2516	7	3	3	3755
Baitadi	465	857	47	103	6612	6	37	3	8130
Dadeldhura	1251	668	69	172	2284	5	44	3	4496
Doti	1641	655	247	84	5220	16	22	3	7888
Achham	2174	199	640	28	4959	5	40	7	8052
Kailali	11011	7922	687	5301	187	46	0	16	25170
Kanchanpur	3537	8271	453	3823	62	21	0	26	16193

Annex 4: Number of households with widow in the types of housing units, by district, NPHC 2021

Areas	Pakki	Semi Pakki	Kachchi	Other	Household with widow (with/without other single women)
NEPAL	611038	128723	59786	197	799744
KOSHI	94010	48077	3790	21	145898
Taplejung	2055	416	55	0	2526
Sankhuwasabha	2792	1158	384	2	4336
Solukhumbu	2436	244	54	1	2735
Okhaldhunga	3616	386	11	0	4013
Khotang	3017	1343	58	0	4418
Bhojpur	2919	1459	106	1	4485
Dhankuta	3696	892	96	0	4684
Terhathum	2035	444	20	0	2499
Panchthar	3305	737	54	2	4098
Ilam	4483	2180	50	2	6715
Jhapa	22752	10940	250	3	33945
Morang	21265	14152	1049	7	36473
Sunsari	15857	9793	503	2	26155
Udayapur	3782	3933	1100	1	8816
MADHESH	55627	30817	41640	70	128154
Saptari	8229	6969	1650	11	16859
Siraha	8941	4934	3679	11	17565
Dhanusha	9095	3754	6451	13	19313
Mahottari	5491	2848	6628	8	14975
Sarlahi	5162	4320	8105	12	17599
Rautahat	5451	3516	6156	3	15126
Bara	6847	2889	4864	4	14604
Parsa	6411	1587	4107	8	12113
BAGMATI	5992	203	3	1	166217
Dolakha	8576	350	8	0	6199
Sindhupalchok	1193	132	11	2	8934
Rasuwa	10001	363	16	2	1338
Dhading	8907	179	3	0	10382
Nuwakot	42786	1558	45	8	9089

Areas	Pakki	Semi Pakki	Kachchi	Other	Household with widow (with/without other single women)
Kathmandu	10760	673	12	1	44397
Bhaktapur	14321	665	14	1	11446
Lalitpur	14321	665	14	1	15001
Kavrepalanchok	11996	611	17	1	12625
Ramechhap	5821	319	10	0	6150
Sindhuli	4563	1900	1108	3	7574
Makwanpur	10641	1383	258	0	12282
Chitwan	19270	1267	260	3	20800
GANDAKI	88123	3130	189	5	91447
Gorkha	9869	298	14	0	10181
Manang	93	112	0	0	205
Mustang	76	271	0	0	347
Myagdi	3843	75	6	0	3924
Kaski	19150	241	9	3	19403
Lamjung	6240	160	1	0	6401
Tanahu	11559	368	25	2	11954
Nawalparasi (East)	11194	817	112	0	12123
Syangja	12061	322	8	0	12391
Parbat	5437	115	1	0	5553
Baglung	8601	351	13	0	8965
LUMBINI	124851	15229	5062	42	145184
Rukum (East)	1279	242	0	1	1522
Rolpa	5371	1051	35	0	6457
Pyuthan	6938	472	16	0	7426
Gulmi	10827	314	8	1	11150
Arghakhanchi	7206	282	33	1	7522
Palpa	9648	213	11	0	9872
Nawalparasi (West)	8811	1381	861	3	11056
Rupandehi	28347	1299	523	7	30176
Kapilbastu	13078	1123	925	12	15138
Dang	14947	2265	639	3	17854
Banke	11066	2142	830	11	14049
Bardiya	7333	4445	1181	3	12962

Areas	Pakki	Semi Pakki	Kachchi	Other	Household with widow (with/without other single women)
KARNALI	30203	9032	422	19	39676
Dolpa	208	641	4	0	853
Mugu	423	944	2	1	1370
Humla	188	1049	1	0	1238
Jumla	890	1503	3	1	2397
Kalikot	2668	825	2	1	3496
Dailekh	5227	749	8	2	5986
Jajarkot	3559	313	3	1	3876
Rukum (West)	3633	353	4	0	3990
Salyan	5601	785	10	12	6408
Surkhet	7806	1870	385	1	10062
SUDURPASHCHIM	63397	12835	6918	18	83168
Bajura	3046	718	2	0	3766
Bajhang	5354	360	3	1	5718
Darchula	3639	113	3	0	3755
Baitadi	7876	250	4	0	8130
Dadeldhura	4052	407	37	0	4496
Doti	7424	442	22	0	7888
Achham	7292	742	17	1	8052
Kailali	13971	7345	3844	10	25170
Kanchanpur	10743	2458	2986	6	16193

Annex 5: Access to household's facilities and amenities

Annex 5.1: Percent of housing unit with at least one widow by main source of drinking water, NPHC 2021

Areas	Tap/piped water (within compound)	Tap/piped water (outside compound)	Tube well/hand pump	Covered well/Kuwa	Uncovered well/Kuwa	Spout water*	River/stream	Jar/bottle	Other	Total housing unit having at least one widow
Nepal	34.0	23.9	30.4	1.5	2.1	4.2	0.4	2.8	0.7	799744
Provinces										
Koshi	32.4	18.5	43.9	0.9	1.5	2.1	0.2	0.4	0.3	145898
Madhesh	14.8	7.3	72.2	0.7	2.4	1.2	0.0	0.2	1.3	128154
Bagmati	45.0	27.5	5.1	2.3	2.9	4.6	0.3	11.2	1.1	166217
Gandaki	50.5	35.5	1.5	1.1	1.6	7.1	0.4	2.1	0.2	91447
Lumbini	37.8	21.2	32.1	2.3	2.0	2.7	0.4	0.9	0.6	145184
Karnali	34.1	45.3	0.4	1.7	2.4	14.6	1.2	0.0	0.3	39676
Sudurpashchim	19.3	33.9	36.0	0.8	1.6	6.8	1.1	0.2	0.3	83168
Ecological Zones										
Mountain	33.9	52.4	0.0	0.6	1.2	11.0	0.7	0.0	0.2	49213
Hill	43.7	36.2	1.8	1.8	2.7	6.7	0.6	5.9	0.6	350283
Tarai	25.5	9.7	59.1	1.3	1.7	1.2	0.1	0.6	0.8	400248
Urban/Rural residence										
Urban	48.5	13.0	20.3	1.7	1.3	3.1	0.2	10.6	1.2	198994
Peri Urban	22.6	11.2	59.9	1.5	1.8	1.7	0.1	0.5	0.8	303136
Rural	35.9	44.2	7.1	1.3	2.9	7.5	0.8	0.1	0.2	297614

Annex 5.2: Number of households with widow by their main source of drinking water, by district, NPHC 2021

Areas	Tap/piped water (within compound)	Tap/piped water (outside compound)	Tubewell / hand pump	Covered well/Kuwa	Uncovered well/Kuwa	Spout water*	River /stream	Jar / bottle	Other	Household with Widow (with/without other single women)
NEPAL	271708	191441	243059	11778	16714	33895	3016	22783	5350	799744
KOSHI	47288	26960	63994	1272	2170	2999	258	537	420	145898
Taplejung	1289	1161	0	4	16	43	5	3	5	2526
Sankhuwasabha	1750	1701	0	115	98	630	30	6	6	4336
Solukhumbu	1604	961	0	11	25	123	5	3	3	2735
Okhaldhunga	1383	2264	0	22	83	204	48	6	3	4013
Khotang	1911	2074	0	49	109	243	12	13	7	4418
Bhojpur	2295	1627	0	69	129	343	14	2	6	4485
Dhankuta	2371	1954	0	54	113	163	15	1	13	4684
Terhathum	1556	770	0	13	35	118	4	0	3	2499
Panchthar	1759	2132	5	18	69	97	11	1	6	4098
Ilam	3039	2741	388	66	223	207	28	9	14	6715
Jhapa	9871	2984	20049	397	362	166	9	32	75	33945
Morang	7038	2198	26168	104	162	214	12	410	167	36473
Sunsari	8862	2159	14486	76	163	251	35	39	84	26155
Udayapur	2560	2234	2898	274	583	197	30	12	28	8816
MADHESH	18941	9302	92479	862	3111	1478	37	244	1700	128154
Saptari	546	234	15710	48	167	27	3	19	105	16859
Siraha	1639	1018	13811	192	543	92	13	44	213	17565
Dhanusha	2050	733	14552	219	1360	140	4	45	210	19313
Mahottari	3016	1520	9531	79	235	188	1	13	392	14975
Sarlahi	3193	1443	11866	179	505	146	8	44	215	17599
Rautahat	2833	1052	10592	71	78	221	3	31	245	15126
Bara	3264	1876	8825	55	119	277	1	11	176	14604
Parsa	2400	1426	7592	19	104	387	4	37	144	12113
BAGMATI	74776	45729	8548	3906	4772	7631	431	18589	1835	166217
Dolakha	2370	3308	0	21	104	365	18	0	13	6199
Sindhupalchok	2837	5059	3	21	149	831	20	5	9	8934
Rasuwa	533	716	0	1	9	73	3	0	3	1338
Dhading	3676	5152	42	46	220	1159	58	16	13	10382
Nuwakot	3103	4846	0	121	209	761	32	8	9	9089

Areas	Tap/piped water (within compound)	Tap/piped water (outside compound)	Tubewell / hand pump	Covered well/Kuwa	Uncovered well/Kuwa	Spout water*	River /stream	Jar / bottle	Other	Household with Widow (with/without other single women)
Kathmandu	22197	4585	1264	1166	597	1156	0	12572	860	44397
Bhaktapur	6268	1572	191	560	284	380	0	2010	181	11446
Lalitpur	7395	1839	93	481	405	425	0	3735	628	15001
Kavrepalanchok	5554	4602	32	568	537	1075	73	150	34	12625
Ramechhap	2370	3132	0	82	204	292	64	2	4	6150
Sindhuli	2539	2797	333	351	1028	438	49	27	12	7574
Makwanpur	5479	4764	615	179	666	475	67	9	28	12282
Chitwan	10455	3357	5975	309	360	201	47	55	41	20800
GANDAKI	46225	32434	1344	1025	1487	6473	357	1906	196	91447
Gorkha	4170	3727	0	96	186	1950	40	1	11	10181
Manang	127	75	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	205
Mustang	198	123	0	2	2	10	12	0	0	347
Myagdi	1283	2264	0	5	16	338	11	2	5	3924
Kaski	12981	3218	23	78	182	1044	49	1748	80	19403
Lamjung	4173	1657	0	10	75	405	57	14	10	6401
Tanahu	5782	4377	0	338	456	846	65	67	23	11954
Nawalparasi (East)	7486	2339	1279	389	268	284	26	14	38	12123
Syangja	4933	6319	35	90	148	812	33	4	17	12391
Parbat	2662	2516	0	9	79	275	4	1	7	5553
Baglung	2430	5819	7	8	75	506	60	55	5	8965
LUMBINI	54938	30840	46561	3370	2896	3856	528	1363	832	145184
Rukum (East)	699	649	0	2	6	158	5	0	3	1522
Rolpa	3067	2704	0	19	121	482	34	0	30	6457
Pyuthan	2850	3784	41	122	159	424	36	1	9	7426
Gulmi	6069	4565	0	52	114	291	42	3	14	11150
Arghakhanchi	3642	3220	61	84	114	315	63	17	6	7522
Palpa	5229	3643	137	58	215	562	14	3	11	9872
Nawalparasi (West)	3369	1379	5786	44	59	178	0	185	56	11056
Rupandehi	13931	3773	11851	25	71	264	3	123	135	30176
Kapilbastu	3262	1518	9829	27	73	80	6	116	227	15138
Dang	6961	2944	2317	2875	1786	501	311	28	131	17854
Banke	3595	1380	7416	43	109	520	5	815	166	14049
Bardiya	2264	1281	9123	19	69	81	9	72	44	12962
KARNALI	13512	17982	161	677	947	5800	476	19	102	39676

Areas	Tap/piped water (within compound)	Tap/piped water (outside compound)	Tubewell / hand pump	Covered well/Kuwa	Uncovered well/Kuwa	Spout water*	River /stream	Jar / bottle	Other	Household with Widow (with/without other single women)
Dolpa	254	393	0	1	3	173	27	0	2	853
Mugu	188	592	0	1	3	537	48	0	1	1370
Humla	177	835	0	0	0	186	16	0	24	1238
Jumla	838	1120	0	4	3	393	34	0	5	2397
Kalikot	776	1797	0	8	31	858	22	0	4	3496
Dailekh	2025	2662	0	84	153	1035	23	2	2	5986
Jajarkot	1280	1890	0	8	33	613	43	0	9	3876
Rukum (West)	1530	2118	0	0	22	301	13	3	3	3990
Salyan	2348	3031	0	65	219	669	64	2	10	6408
Surkhet	4096	3544	161	506	480	1035	186	12	42	10062
SUDURPASHCHIM	16028	28194	29972	666	1331	5658	929	125	265	83168
Bajura	608	2703	0	7	15	409	20	1	3	3766
Bajhang	1406	3492	0	82	85	593	50	0	10	5718
Darchula	1707	1775	0	29	39	175	23	1	6	3755
Baitadi	1691	4944	0	114	379	829	158	4	11	8130
Dadeldhura	1771	1974	33	155	82	390	83	1	7	4496
Doti	1802	4178	0	117	324	1048	407	3	9	7888
Achham	1144	4966	36	90	197	1486	119	4	10	8052
Kailali	4090	3050	16928	48	155	592	65	103	139	25170
Kanchanpur	1809	1112	12975	24	55	136	4	8	70	16193

Annex 5.3: Number of households by usual source of cooking fuel, by district, NPHC 2021

Areas	Wood	Liquefied Petroleum Gas	Electricity	Cow dung	Biogas	Kerosene	Other	Household with Widow (with/without other single women)
NEPAL	271708	444431	318169	3500	22280	10215	373	799744
KOSHI	47288	78492	59098	759	5048	2150	44	145898
Taplejung	1289	2381	139	1	0	1	2	2526
Sankhuwasabha	1750	3863	439	11	0	17	6	4336
Solukhumbu	1604	2381	258	86	0	5	5	2735
Okhaldhunga	1383	3749	249	3	0	9	3	4013
Khotang	1911	4184	210	6	1	9	6	4418
Bhojpur	2295	4282	191	5	1	2	3	4485
Dhankuta	2371	3691	970	5	0	18	0	4684
Terhathum	1556	2278	211	0	0	8	2	2499
Panchthar	1759	3698	380	2	0	15	2	4098
Ilam	3039	5321	1287	10	1	93	0	6715
Jhapa	9871	12462	19735	164	514	1031	2	33945
Morang	7038	14390	18995	213	1961	697	6	36473
Sunsari	8862	9369	13792	188	2567	190	3	26155
Udayapur	2560	6443	2242	65	3	55	4	8816
MADHESH	18941	75983	35843	896	14262	863	30	128154
Saptari	546	9488	2163	119	4999	68	2	16859
Siraha	1639	10339	3855	103	3189	61	3	17565
Dhanusha	2050	10109	6622	101	2357	52	0	19313
Mahottari	3016	9715	3952	64	1062	137	3	14975
Sarlahi	3193	11515	5050	122	649	215	1	17599
Rautahat	2833	9347	3979	157	1392	179	8	15126
Bara	3264	8809	5003	148	513	113	5	14604
Parsa	2400	6661	5219	82	101	38	8	12113
BAGMATI	74776	58228	105775	904	26	1165	79	166217
Dolakha	2370	5454	715	0	0	27	2	6199
Sindhupalchok	2837	7493	1388	9	0	33	10	8934
Rasuwa	533	963	370	3	0	1	1	1338
Dhading	3676	6907	3278	20	1	158	12	10382
Nuwakot	3103	6254	2771	6	6	52	0	9089

Areas	Wood	Liquefied Petroleum Gas	Electricity	Cow dung	Biogas	Kerosene	Other	Household with Widow (with/without other single women)
Kathmandu	22197	1285	42640	416	3	17	17	44397
Bhaktapur	6268	905	10410	88	0	36	1	11446
Lalitpur	7395	1631	13061	165	0	139	4	15001
Kavrepalanchok	5554	6621	5867	27	2	98	10	12625
Ramechhap	2370	5633	498	6	0	10	3	6150
Sindhuli	2539	5632	1880	10	1	46	4	7574
Makwanpur	5479	5669	6498	19	1	80	14	12282
Chitwan	10455	3781	16399	135	12	468	1	20800
GANDAKI	46225	50887	39430	145	19	924	28	91447
Gorkha	4170	7047	2966	14	4	136	14	10181
Manang	127	158	44	0	0	3	0	205
Mustang	198	136	171	0	1	39	0	347
Myagdi	1283	3202	696	3	0	21	1	3924
Kaski	12981	4427	14825	43	1	101	2	19403
Lamjung	4173	3876	2390	16	0	116	0	6401
Tanahu	5782	6245	5521	18	3	161	3	11954
Nawalparasi (East)	7486	4385	7487	30	9	207	2	12123
Syangja	4933	9250	3004	10	1	124	2	12391
Parbat	2662	4511	1031	2	0	9	0	5553
Baglung	2430	7650	1295	9	0	7	4	8965
LUMBINI	54938	83665	55759	550	2844	2195	82	145184
Rukum (East)	699	1443	73	0	0	3	3	1522
Rolpa	3067	6174	247	8	0	16	8	6457
Pyuthan	2850	6803	595	6	2	13	6	7426
Gulmi	6069	10247	866	5	1	20	10	11150
Arghakhanchi	3642	7044	462	4	0	8	2	7522
Palpa	5229	7274	2471	19	5	86	15	9872
Nawalparasi (West)	3369	4585	6212	57	53	133	3	11056
Rupandehi	13931	7117	21202	107	1396	329	5	30176
Kapilbastu	3262	7972	5493	109	1234	303	4	15138
Dang	6961	10193	7042	62	119	407	16	17854
Banke	3595	6488	7283	65	22	179	6	14049
Bardiya	2264	8325	3813	108	12	698	4	12962

Areas	Wood	Liquefied Petroleum Gas	Electricity	Cow dung	Biogas	Kerosene	Other	Household with Widow (with/without other single women)
KARNALI	13512	34416	4997	40	21	105	88	39676
Dolpa	254	786	44	1	17	4	1	853
Mugu	188	1297	65	0	0	0	8	1370
Humla	177	1224	12	0	0	0	2	1238
Jumla	838	2278	114	0	0	1	3	2397
Kalikot	776	3267	204	2	0	4	17	3496
Dailekh	2025	5472	449	17	2	21	25	5986
Jajarkot	1280	3609	240	5	0	7	13	3876
Rukum (West)	1530	3756	217	7	0	6	4	3990
Salyan	2348	5969	422	3	0	7	7	6408
Surkhet	4096	6758	3230	5	2	55	8	10062
SUDURPASHCHIM	16028	62760	17267	206	60	2813	22	83168
Bajura	608	3623	128	2	0	11	1	3766
Bajhang	1406	5510	195	1	0	10	0	5718
Darchula	1707	3422	322	1	0	7	3	3755
Baitadi	1691	7848	272	3	1	6	0	8130
Dadeldhura	1771	4216	272	4	1	3	0	4496
Doti	1802	7400	462	3	2	13	7	7888
Achham	1144	7801	224	3	0	12	8	8052
Kailali	4090	14484	8983	124	37	1517	1	25170
Kanchanpur	1809	8456	6409	65	19	1234	2	16193

Annex 5.4: Number of households with widow by main source of lighting, by district, NPHC 2021

Areas	Electricity	Solar	Kerosene	Biogas	Other	Households with Widow (with/without other single women)
NEPAL	737655	50148	5679	256	6006	799744
KOSHI	137448	6233	1559	41	617	145898
Taplejung	2195	283	26	0	22	2526
Sankhuwasabha	3871	365	49	2	49	4336
Solukhumbu	2584	103	15	2	31	2735
Okhaldhunga	3149	805	23	0	36	4013
Khotang	3695	582	65	1	75	4418
Bhojpur	3033	1305	47	0	100	4485
Dhankuta	4537	83	47	0	17	4684
Terhathum	2380	87	25	0	7	2499
Panchthar	3573	462	44	2	17	4098
Ilam	6402	230	58	0	25	6715
Jhapa	33299	262	331	4	49	33945
Morang	35481	356	538	18	80	36473
Sunsari	25708	158	243	10	36	26155
Udayapur	7541	1152	48	2	73	8816
MADHESH	125306	817	1518	70	443	128154
Saptari	16523	86	202	7	41	16859
Siraha	17290	79	133	9	54	17565
Dhanusha	19044	57	157	7	48	19313
Mahottari	14667	33	198	10	67	14975
Sarlahi	17044	164	301	12	78	17599
Rautahat	14707	93	232	10	84	15126
Bara	14214	176	161	10	43	14604
Parsa	11817	129	134	5	28	12113
BAGMATI	162056	3530	296	16	319	166217
Dolakha	6075	97	13	0	14	6199
Sindhupalchok	8747	152	22	0	13	8934
Rasuwa	1306	19	3	2	8	1338
Dhading	9999	299	30	3	51	10382
Nuwakot	8943	95	37	1	13	9089
Kathmandu	44291	85	11	1	9	44397

Areas	Electricity	Solar	Kerosene	Biogas	Other	Households with Widow (with/without other single women)
Bhaktapur	11370	70	6	0	0	11446
Lalitpur	14855	137	5	0	4	15001
Kavrepalanchok	12283	309	19	1	13	12625
Ramechhap	6040	64	28	2	16	6150
Sindhuli	6394	1097	32	4	47	7574
Makwanpur	11682	508	52	1	39	12282
Chitwan	20071	598	38	1	92	20800
GANDAKI	89368	1584	275	10	210	91447
Gorkha	9822	274	44	3	38	10181
Manang	179	26	0	0	0	205
Mustang	274	73	0	0	0	347
Myagdi	3735	137	25	1	26	3924
Kaski	19262	101	25	0	15	19403
Lamjung	6340	38	14	1	8	6401
Tanahu	11627	250	48	3	26	11954
Nawalparasi (East)	11631	436	33	0	23	12123
Syangja	12281	68	34	0	8	12391
Parbat	5511	26	9	1	6	5553
Baglung	8706	155	43	1	60	8965
LUMBINI	136890	5500	1523	65	1206	145184
Rukum (East)	1374	126	2	2	18	1522
Rolpa	4761	1551	25	0	120	6457
Pyuthan	7092	227	26	2	79	7426
Gulmi	10892	191	37	2	28	11150
Arghakhanchi	7293	177	27	1	24	7522
Palpa	9235	582	32	3	20	9872
Nawalparasi (West)	10713	184	110	4	45	11056
Rupandehi	29549	140	348	15	124	30176
Kapilbastu	14323	168	404	17	226	15138
Dang	16452	1111	108	8	175	17854
Banke	12819	834	234	6	156	14049
Bardiya	12387	209	170	5	191	12962
KARNALI	19279	19151	231	17	998	39676
Dolpa	486	352	7	0	8	853
Mugu	423	906	12	0	29	1370

Areas	Electricity	Solar	Kerosene	Biogas	Other	Households with Widow (with/without other single women)
Humla	654	523	3	11	47	1238
Jumla	1627	749	3	0	18	2397
Kalikot	824	2583	5	0	84	3496
Dailekh	1892	3829	60	3	202	5986
Jajarkot	963	2680	32	0	201	3876
Rukum (West)	2681	1235	17	1	56	3990
Salyan	2912	3295	66	2	133	6408
Surkhet	6817	2999	26	0	220	10062
SUDURPASHCHIM	67308	13333	277	37	2213	83168
Bajura	3104	538	12	1	111	3766
Bajhang	3280	2228	15	4	191	5718
Darchula	2653	979	25	1	97	3755
Baitadi	4182	3730	32	2	184	8130
Dadeldhura	3734	596	3	3	160	4496
Doti	5912	1540	37	7	392	7888
Achham	4506	2828	18	9	691	8052
Kailali	24115	785	74	4	192	25170
Kanchanpur	15822	109	61	6	195	16193

Annex 5.5: Types of toilet facilities by province, ecological zone, rural urban residence and municipality, NPHC 2021

Areas	Flush toilet (public sewerage)	Flush toilet (septic tank)	Pit toilet	Public toilet	Without toilet facility	Household with Widow (with/without other single women)
Nepal	7.7	56.6	30.8	0.4	4.4	799744
Provinces						
Koshi	2.1	59.4	34.9	0.4	3.2	145898
Madhesh	2.5	36.2	48.6	0.8	11.9	128154
Bagmati	26.9	54.2	17.3	0.3	1.3	166217
Gandaki	2.9	74.1	21.6	0.3	1.0	91447
Lumbini	4.1	59.3	31.2	0.4	5.0	145184
Karnali	2.1	60.1	34.5	0.4	3.0	39676
Sudurpashchim	1.9	62.3	31.1	0.5	4.2	83168
Ecological Zones						
Mountain	0.8	69.4	27.2	0.3	2.2	49213
Hill	14.7	62.7	20.9	0.3	1.5	350283
Tarai	2.5	49.7	40.0	0.6	7.2	400248
Urban/Rural residence						
Urban	23.1	56.2	18.4	0.4	1.9	198994
Peri Urban	2.6	48.2	40.9	0.6	7.7	303136
Rural	2.6	65.4	28.9	0.4	2.7	297614

Annex 5.6: Types of toilet facilities by district, NPHC 2021

Areas	Flush toilet (public sewerage)	Flush toilet (septic tank)	Pit toilet	Public toilet	Without Toilet	Household with widow (with/without other single women)
NEPAL	61878	452645	246672	3534	35015	799744
KOSHI	3009	86595	50972	654	4668	145898
Taplejung	29	1875	588	0	34	2526
Sankhuwasabha	18	3129	1118	23	48	4336
Solukhumbu	50	2237	377	7	64	2735
Okhaldhunga	155	3064	732	14	48	4013
Khotang	124	2703	1446	19	126	4418
Bhojpur	104	2429	1854	8	90	4485
Dhankuta	107	3327	1174	11	65	4684
Terhathum	62	1909	480	6	42	2499
Panchthar	160	3043	843	12	40	4098
Ilam	132	5040	1427	20	96	6715
Jhapa	329	19438	13129	138	911	33945
Morang	887	19625	13967	208	1786	36473
Sunsari	683	14463	9782	151	1076	26155
Udayapur	169	4313	4055	37	242	8816
MADHESH	3142	46335	62342	1035	15300	128154
Saptari	374	4422	9726	214	2123	16859
Siraha	409	6273	9075	159	1649	17565
Dhanusha	394	7896	8376	141	2506	19313
Mahottari	352	4515	7632	82	2394	14975
Sarlahi	369	6495	9086	127	1522	17599
Rautahat	389	5617	6986	121	2013	15126
Bara	396	5076	7749	112	1271	14604
Parsa	459	6041	3712	79	1822	12113
BAGMATI	44743	90152	28705	449	2168	166217
Dolakha	21	4527	1586	9	56	6199
Sindhupalchok	80	7497	1256	18	83	8934
Rasuwa	15	960	314	6	43	1338
Dhading	186	6251	3649	41	255	10382
Nuwakot	217	6616	2055	32	169	9089
Kathmandu	28758	11641	3865	72	61	44397

Areas	Flush toilet (public sewerage)	Flush toilet (septic tank)	Pit toilet	Public toilet	Without Toilet	Household with widow (with/without other single women)
Bhaktapur	5934	4564	903	11	34	11446
Lalitpur	6791	6665	1491	23	31	15001
Kavrepalanchok	1704	8361	2290	31	239	12625
Ramechhap	183	4751	1081	12	123	6150
Sindhuli	87	5680	1584	23	200	7574
Makwanpur	368	8245	3038	51	580	12282
Chitwan	399	14394	5593	120	294	20800
GANDAKI	2681	67781	19770	291	924	91447
Gorkha	458	7317	2181	75	150	10181
Manang	9	189	2	1	4	205
Mustang	3	253	52	9	30	347
Myagdi	99	3003	754	12	56	3924
Kaski	346	17175	1779	33	70	19403
Lamjung	254	4695	1388	18	46	6401
Tanahu	264	8375	3152	41	122	11954
Nawalparasi (East)	344	8829	2800	28	122	12123
Syangja	463	8780	2984	27	137	12391
Parbat	182	2646	2650	21	54	5553
Baglung	259	6519	2028	26	133	8965
LUMBINI	5924	86158	45292	545	7265	145184
Rukum (East)	52	738	642	5	85	1522
Rolpa	330	4643	1367	10	107	6457
Pyuthan	303	5506	1492	19	106	7426
Gulmi	395	9391	1255	20	89	11150
Arghakhanchi	385	6401	669	11	56	7522
Palpa	932	7681	1177	17	65	9872
Nawalparasi (West)	370	3878	6291	58	459	11056
Rupandehi	1041	18386	9558	112	1079	30176
Kapilbastu	587	6315	5013	79	3144	15138
Dang	564	11730	5097	69	394	17854
Banke	461	5758	6462	94	1274	14049
Bardiya	504	5731	6269	51	407	12962
KARNALI	834	23829	13698	141	1174	39676

Areas	Flush toilet (public sewerage)	Flush toilet (septic tank)	Pit toilet	Public toilet	Without Toilet	Household with widow (with/without other single women)
Dolpa	23	330	410	5	85	853
Mugu	1	284	997	13	75	1370
Humla	6	148	992	6	86	1238
Jumla	25	1191	1103	6	72	2397
Kalikot	9	2828	512	13	134	3496
Dailekh	232	2726	2867	25	136	5986
Jajarkot	123	2143	1477	10	123	3876
Rukum (West)	92	2299	1515	19	65	3990
Salyan	150	4513	1588	10	147	6408
Surkhet	173	7367	2237	34	251	10062
SUDURPASHCHIM	1545	51795	25893	419	3516	83168
Bajura	50	2554	1079	4	79	3766
Bajhang	16	3826	1709	13	154	5718
Darchula	59	2328	1313	6	49	3755
Baitadi	102	4784	3095	34	115	8130
Dadeldhura	143	3549	733	15	56	4496
Doti	252	4760	2547	23	306	7888
Achham	134	5883	1673	33	329	8052
Kailali	529	11813	10913	216	1699	25170
Kanchanpur	260	12298	2831	75	729	16193

Annex 5.7: Percentage of households by exposure to health risk, according to provinces, NPHC 2021

Areas	Households	Health risk rank				
		0	1	2	3	4
Nepal	All household	34.2	37.5	25.3	2.9	0.2
	Households with single women	32.0	39.4	25.2	3.1	0.2
	Households with widow	30.3	39.9	26.4	3.2	0.2
Koshi	All household	30.5	42.3	24.8	2.3	0.1
	Households with single women	29.7	42.4	25.2	2.5	0.2
	Households with widow	29.4	42.3	25.8	2.4	0.1
Madhesh	All household	16.9	32.7	46.8	3.3	0.2
	Households with single women	16.8	32.8	46.4	3.7	0.3
	Households with widow	16.5	32.8	46.8	3.7	0.3
Bagmati	All household	58.4	29.8	10.1	1.6	0.1
	Households with single women	55.0	31.8	11.4	1.7	0.1
	Households with widow	52.9	33.1	12.1	1.8	0.1
Gandaki	All household	43.1	38.1	16.5	2.2	0.1
	Households with single women	37.1	41.7	18.6	2.5	0.1
	Households with widow	35.9	42.4	19.1	2.5	0.1
Lumbini	All household	30.3	41.9	24.7	2.9	0.2
	Households with single women	28.0	44.9	24.1	2.9	0.2
	Households with widow	27.2	45.2	24.5	2.9	0.2
Karnali	All household	12.9	43.8	34.5	8.3	0.6
	Households with single women	10.2	44.8	35.3	8.9	0.8
	Households with widow	9.5	45.1	35.7	9.0	0.8
Sudurpashchim	All household	21.5	44.5	29.5	4.3	0.3
	Households with single women	18.0	45.9	30.8	4.8	0.5
	Households with widow	17.7	46.0	31.0	4.8	0.4

Annex 5.8: Number of households with widow by household amenities/assets used for various geographical areas, NPHC 2021

Areas	Radio	Television	Land line telephone	Mobile phone (ordinary)	Mobile phone (smart)	Any Mobile phone	Computer/Laptop	Internet	Car/jeep/ van	Motorcycle/ scooter	Bicycle	Electric fan	Refrigerator	Washing machine	Air conditioner	At least one amenity/ asset	Without any amenities/ assets
NEPAL	34.0	50.4	5.0	74.4	69.2	91.0	13.9	35.7	3.0	26.2	33.4	52.5	25.0	4.6	34.0	94.2	5.8
KOSHI	35.3	56.3	3.5	72.2	72.1	91.5	11.6	38.0	2.1	24.7	41.2	58.3	28.1	2.8	35.3	94.5	5.5
Taplejung	54.2	30.3	2.7	85.1	57.1	89.6	5.0	17.6	0.8	3.8	0.9	1.1	1.0	0.2	54.2	92.9	7.1
Sankhuwasabha	50.5	35.6	2.9	78.9	59.5	87.4	5.7	30.7	0.6	6.4	1.2	7.2	5.3	0.1	50.5	89.8	10.2
Solukhumbu	52.4	29.0	4.1	76.5	50.1	83.0	4.3	18.2	0.8	4.6	0.5	0.3	3.0	0.6	52.4	88.7	11.3
Okhaldhunga	41.3	25.3	1.5	78.8	47.7	83.7	3.2	9.6	0.4	4.4	0.3	0.9	1.3	0.1	41.3	87.1	12.9
Khotang	38.0	24.6	1.5	79.4	52.5	85.1	3.8	13.9	0.8	6.2	0.9	0.9	1.6	0.2	38.0	87.5	12.5
Bhojpur	53.2	22.5	1.2	80.3	52.9	85.3	2.9	24.7	0.4	4.0	0.4	0.7	1.0	0.1	53.2	88.5	11.5
Dhankuta	58.2	55.5	3.8	84.4	72.9	93.8	7.2	51.7	1.3	12.2	1.5	7.1	6.8	1.2	58.2	95.4	4.6
Terhathum	52.0	45.9	1.9	85.2	62.2	91.6	5.1	14.0	0.4	6.0	0.7	0.8	1.4	0.2	52.0	94.1	5.9
Panchthar	45.8	37.2	2.3	82.9	65.2	89.8	5.0	27.8	0.7	9.8	0.8	2.9	2.3	0.3	45.8	91.8	8.2
Ilam	55.4	56.1	3.3	82.6	72.5	92.7	9.0	34.6	2.1	16.6	6.8	13.4	7.5	0.9	55.4	95.3	4.7
Jhapa	37.3	67.6	4.4	68.2	80.1	93.7	14.1	52.2	3.0	32.9	57.7	82.2	40.6	4.4	37.3	96.5	3.5
Morang	24.2	65.1	3.3	67.3	75.3	91.7	14.3	38.8	2.6	30.9	64.1	81.1	36.5	4.1	24.2	95.5	4.5
Sunsari	30.7	63.1	5.0	68.5	77.8	93.1	15.7	43.1	2.6	33.7	53.5	81.7	40.6	3.4	30.7	96.2	3.8
Udayapur	19.7	41.2	1.5	76.7	64.8	90.2	7.3	19.7	1.4	16.6	27.1	49.5	21.1	0.5	19.7	92.6	7.4
MADHESH	20.8	44.2	1.5	73.8	64.9	88.8	7.7	21.2	1.4	32.8	62.7	78.1	11.7	1.3	20.8	93.9	6.1
Saptari	15.7	41.2	1.3	71.4	56.8	84.9	6.5	12.3	1.1	25.9	63.5	75.6	10.6	0.9	15.7	91.0	9.0
Siraha	22.7	46.2	1.3	68.2	68.6	89.5	8.8	24.9	1.5	33.2	61.0	78.7	11.5	1.0	22.7	94.0	6.0
Dhanusha	18.2	51.4	1.2	66.3	71.8	89.5	8.9	28.1	1.3	33.9	59.1	83.0	12.1	1.4	18.2	94.8	5.2
Mahottari	14.7	44.1	0.9	67.7	66.2	86.6	6.8	22.7	1.2	29.0	56.0	79.9	9.4	0.8	14.7	92.6	7.4
Sarlahi	16.2	40.3	1.3	77.0	61.2	88.4	6.0	15.1	1.4	31.1	59.5	73.7	11.0	0.8	16.2	93.0	7.0
Rautahat	22.7	30.0	1.8	81.1	61.4	89.4	6.7	19.0	1.6	34.1	67.9	76.4	9.4	0.8	22.7	94.8	5.2
Bara	23.5	48.6	1.6	82.3	65.7	91.3	8.4	22.9	1.5	37.0	70.7	77.8	14.1	1.5	23.5	95.8	4.2
Parsa	38.2	52.4	3.2	80.8	67.0	91.9	9.5	25.3	2.0	40.6	66.6	79.6	16.4	4.2	38.2	96.3	3.7
BAGMATI	35.5	64.9	12.6	71.2	74.7	92.6	29.6	51.9	6.7	36.7	16.1	44.2	41.0	13.2	35.5	94.9	5.1
Dolakha	57.7	40.0	1.5	76.6	39.6	81.5	5.0	15.7	1.1	6.0	0.9	2.0	3.5	0.4	57.7	86.9	13.1
Sindhupalchok	41.2	38.4	1.4	75.9	47.6	82.3	4.9	14.0	1.0	8.3	1.5	8.8	7.1	0.3	41.2	86.5	13.5
Rasuwa	28.9	36.2	2.8	76.2	57.9	82.1	7.6	23.4	2.2	13.0	2.5	9.0	9.1	1.2	28.9	84.2	15.8
Dhading	32.3	46.9	1.7	79.5	53.1	87.0	5.0	21.4	1.1	12.5	2.7	21.9	11.7	0.8	32.3	90.6	9.4
Nuwakot	41.9	46.0	1.3	78.9	57.3	87.2	6.3	28.2	1.5	16.6	3.9	27.0	14.5	0.9	41.9	90.7	9.3

Areas	Radio	Television	Land line telephone	Mobile phone (ordinary)	Mobile phone (smart)	Any Mobile phone	Computer/ Laptop	Internet	Car/jeep/ van	Motorcycle/ scooter	Bicycle	Electric fan	Refrigerator	Washing machine	Air conditioner	At least one amenity/ asset	Without any amenities/ assets
Kathmandu	30.2	85.1	27.3	63.2	92.4	97.7	55.1	80.7	13.1	57.3	13.5	54.4	66.5	28.0	30.2	99.0	1.0
Bhaktapur	31.9	76.9	17.0	66.4	90.3	97.1	48.6	76.2	8.9	56.1	18.3	55.8	55.7	17.4	31.9	98.3	1.7
Lalitpur	40.2	82.7	25.0	60.8	89.4	96.9	51.2	73.9	12.3	57.0	19.3	53.2	58.1	23.0	40.2	98.0	2.0
Kavrepalanchok	30.4	56.8	4.4	79.5	64.3	90.2	14.5	36.8	3.4	22.5	4.6	23.3	19.8	3.5	30.4	93.1	6.9
Ramechhap	35.4	32.3	1.1	79.3	37.7	82.3	3.3	5.9	0.6	6.4	1.4	6.9	3.8	0.1	35.4	86.3	13.7
Sindhuli	33.6	35.7	1.5	79.6	55.5	88.2	5.3	16.5	1.1	11.4	5.1	30.4	12.4	0.5	33.6	90.7	9.3
Makwanpur	36.8	59.3	3.6	78.6	71.7	92.9	14.7	37.1	3.1	27.0	12.1	50.7	32.7	5.4	36.8	95.2	4.8
Chitwan	38.7	68.8	6.9	71.7	85.2	95.8	25.2	60.2	5.3	43.9	59.4	83.5	59.4	12.5	38.7	97.6	2.4
GANDAKI	36.9	58.9	5.2	75.9	70.8	93.4	14.2	41.9	3.2	21.9	11.6	39.2	29.9	4.6	36.9	95.3	4.7
Gorkha	32.1	48.7	2.0	78.2	50.1	87.5	4.5	20.9	1.5	7.0	1.4	19.6	13.4	0.6	32.1	90.4	9.6
Manang	17.1	64.9	4.4	74.6	71.7	92.7	9.8	33.7	2.0	14.6	1.0	1.0	22.0	3.4	17.1	94.1	5.9
Mustang	22.2	60.2	10.1	68.9	75.8	95.4	5.5	46.7	3.5	17.3	1.7	0.0	19.9	3.7	22.2	97.4	2.6
Myagdi	22.8	37.7	1.9	71.6	64.8	87.6	5.7	37.7	1.5	6.3	1.6	7.1	8.6	0.9	22.8	89.1	10.9
Kaski	38.8	76.3	14.4	68.6	82.9	96.3	29.6	61.7	7.2	44.2	13.9	59.2	54.3	13.0	38.8	97.6	2.4
Lamjung	50.6	53.9	2.3	80.7	65.5	92.1	9.0	32.3	1.5	10.5	2.6	24.2	20.9	1.2	50.6	94.0	6.0
Tanahu	32.8	57.3	3.6	75.2	70.7	93.8	12.1	39.9	2.8	20.3	5.2	49.2	32.6	2.7	32.8	95.8	4.2
Nawalparasi (East)	43.1	63.1	3.6	72.3	82.2	95.8	18.1	60.4	3.4	34.5	51.4	80.7	49.0	7.1	43.1	97.7	2.3
Syangja	33.2	59.4	1.9	84.2	68.7	95.4	9.0	30.7	2.0	16.2	2.9	27.1	20.6	1.4	33.2	96.8	3.2
Parbat	41.0	53.9	3.3	83.4	63.7	92.6	8.8	27.0	1.8	8.9	2.6	15.4	11.2	1.0	41.0	94.8	5.2
Baglung	35.8	44.0	2.6	78.0	66.1	91.3	8.1	34.1	1.4	6.8	1.6	7.1	7.1	1.2	35.8	93.5	6.5
LUMBINI	34.6	49.4	3.2	76.2	73.0	92.0	10.6	35.3	2.5	25.0	42.2	57.4	25.4	2.9	34.6	95.5	4.5
Rukum (East)	47.2	14.0	2.4	69.8	56.0	78.7	4.4	6.4	1.2	2.3	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.0	47.2	86.9	13.1
Rolpa	49.7	15.9	1.3	81.1	64.4	86.7	3.3	11.5	1.0	2.7	0.4	1.7	0.7	0.0	49.7	90.3	9.7
Pyuthan	33.6	33.7	1.1	79.3	64.1	89.7	3.9	16.6	0.6	6.0	2.7	16.8	5.3	0.2	33.6	92.3	7.7
Gulmi	62.0	45.0	2.7	86.5	70.3	94.7	6.7	38.1	1.3	11.2	4.7	8.6	6.7	0.5	62.0	96.9	3.1
Arghakhanchi	57.8	53.9	1.2	84.4	64.6	93.4	5.0	28.3	1.5	11.0	2.5	8.7	5.3	0.4	57.8	96.4	3.6
Palpa	60.7	53.4	6.0	82.0	74.3	92.3	12.3	43.9	4.3	15.9	3.4	19.4	14.5	1.2	60.7	96.5	3.5
Nawalparasi (West)	17.6	60.8	2.5	70.4	77.6	92.5	12.9	37.9	3.2	38.2	71.9	84.1	39.5	2.7	17.6	96.4	3.6
Rupandehi	25.1	65.6	6.0	69.7	82.8	95.3	18.6	53.4	4.3	43.3	61.2	88.6	52.5	8.4	25.1	97.5	2.5
Kapilbastu	18.9	41.1	1.6	73.9	68.2	88.9	8.2	26.1	2.1	32.1	72.9	78.1	24.9	3.1	18.9	94.0	6.0
Dang	39.7	51.6	3.0	80.0	74.1	93.2	11.2	31.9	2.2	19.7	25.8	51.2	18.9	1.7	39.7	95.6	4.4
Banke	23.7	49.1	3.3	67.9	68.1	88.0	10.2	32.8	1.9	27.4	60.2	77.4	28.9	2.5	23.7	94.0	6.0
Bardiya	28.7	36.7	1.5	81.2	73.3	93.1	6.3	30.0	1.5	18.6	73.3	81.9	19.5	0.5	28.7	96.5	3.5

Areas	Radio	Television	Land line telephone	Mobile phone (ordinary)	Mobile phone (smart)	Any Mobile phone	Computer/ Laptop	Internet	Car/jeep/ van	Motorcycle/ scooter	Bicycle	Electric fan	Refrigerator	Washing machine	Air conditioner	At least one amenity/ asset	Without any amenities/ assets
KARNALI	44.1	17.2	1.7	81.4	55.1	87.2	4.8	18.8	0.7	6.1	1.6	10.9	4.6	0.3	44.1	90.2	9.8
Dolpa	15.4	24.3	1.9	70.0	34.8	74.8	2.5	7.3	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	15.4	76.7	23.3
Mugu	37.7	5.6	0.9	82.9	41.2	83.9	3.2	3.2	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	37.7	86.5	13.5
Humla	35.2	10.4	0.9	79.3	40.7	83.9	3.8	3.6	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	35.2	85.8	14.2
Jumla	34.5	19.3	1.6	84.2	55.0	87.2	2.8	7.0	0.5	4.3	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.0	34.5	89.9	10.1
Kalikot	50.4	3.3	0.5	85.1	45.8	86.6	1.4	12.3	0.1	0.7	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	50.4	89.0	11.0
Dailekh	52.9	7.5	1.2	78.6	48.4	82.5	2.8	10.9	0.4	2.4	0.4	1.6	1.1	0.0	52.9	87.5	12.5
Jajarkot	50.4	7.1	1.0	79.7	49.7	83.9	2.6	11.5	0.5	1.7	0.3	1.4	0.7	0.0	50.4	86.8	13.2
Rukum (West)	46.6	15.5	0.9	82.5	44.3	86.0	4.2	11.5	0.2	3.9	0.6	2.5	1.0	0.1	46.6	89.6	10.4
Salyan	50.6	16.1	1.1	85.7	61.9	90.6	3.5	25.8	0.9	4.7	0.8	2.4	1.4	0.1	50.6	93.7	6.3
Surkhet	35.6	34.2	3.4	79.6	69.6	91.6	9.9	34.8	1.7	16.0	5.2	38.9	16.1	1.1	35.6	93.7	6.3
SUDURPASHCHIM	40.2	28.8	2.0	77.4	58.5	87.9	5.6	23.7	1.0	14.2	33.2	45.5	11.6	0.4	40.2	91.5	8.5
Bajura	39.9	8.2	0.9	76.2	37.0	79.8	1.9	7.1	0.3	1.0	0.1	0.7	0.2	0.0	39.9	82.2	17.8
Bajhang	62.9	7.6	0.7	83.2	45.4	84.6	1.7	15.5	0.4	0.9	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.0	62.9	88.3	11.7
Darchula	61.5	20.0	1.3	85.1	52.6	88.5	2.8	14.8	0.4	0.9	0.4	9.5	2.0	0.2	61.5	92.9	7.1
Baitadi	56.2	16.3	1.5	84.2	46.1	86.9	2.1	14.5	0.6	1.7	0.4	3.9	0.8	0.0	56.2	90.9	9.1
Dadeldhura	47.6	19.2	1.2	80.4	54.9	86.0	3.2	25.2	0.9	4.8	1.6	13.7	1.8	0.1	47.6	88.4	11.6
Doti	39.2	12.8	1.3	71.3	42.5	78.0	1.9	13.0	0.3	2.8	1.6	13.3	2.0	0.0	39.2	81.7	18.3
Achham	44.2	5.5	0.5	71.9	43.0	78.8	1.6	11.5	0.3	2.4	0.2	4.7	0.6	0.1	44.2	81.8	18.2
Kailali	28.1	41.1	2.4	77.0	71.0	92.8	9.2	28.3	1.8	23.8	64.3	82.8	18.1	0.8	28.1	96.6	3.4
Kanchanpur	34.7	52.2	3.6	75.9	72.7	93.5	8.9	41.0	1.2	30.2	68.9	87.7	28.8	0.8	34.7	97.3	2.7

Annex 6: Number of households by female household member's ownership of fixed assets for various geographical areas, NPHC 2021

Areas	Housing unit only	Land only	Both (housing unit & land)	Neither housing unit nor land	Not stated	Household with widow (with/without other single women)
NEPAL	25933	84777	187154	489556	12324	799744
KOSHI	3099	19672	37294	84539	1294	145898
Taplejung	18	222	506	1732	48	2526
Sankhuwasabha	80	563	1032	2623	38	4336
Solukhumbu	38	295	775	1609	18	2735
Okhaldhunga	62	363	1124	2426	38	4013
Khotang	33	428	872	3035	50	4418
Bhojpur	40	382	918	3099	46	4485
Dhankuta	64	596	1030	2968	26	4684
Terhathum	31	311	556	1576	25	2499
Panchthar	33	441	610	2975	39	4098
Ilam	72	779	1147	4660	57	6715
Jhapa	708	4948	10247	17773	269	33945
Morang	883	5584	10502	19180	324	36473
Sunsari	890	3694	6351	14971	249	26155
Udayapur	147	1066	1624	5912	67	8816
MADHESH	4407	15746	25399	80611	1991	128154
Saptari	472	2583	2789	10795	220	16859
Siraha	477	2524	3324	10949	291	17565
Dhanusha	708	2601	4504	11235	265	19313
Mahottari	478	1840	3162	9244	251	14975
Sarlahi	550	2036	3787	10963	263	17599
Rautahat	530	1636	2925	9799	236	15126
Bara	575	1393	2555	9819	262	14604
Parsa	617	1133	2353	7807	203	12113
BAGMATI	8113	17495	43512	95641	1456	166217
Dolakha	140	504	1884	3575	96	6199
Sindhupalchok	129	559	1666	6483	97	8934
Rasuwa	24	110	267	925	12	1338
Dhading	169	923	2548	6589	153	10382
Nuwakot	157	754	2139	5918	121	9089

Areas	Housing unit only	Land only	Both (housing unit & land)	Neither housing unit nor land	Not stated	Household with widow (with/without other single women)
Kathmandu	3788	5282	12829	22347	151	44397
Bhaktapur	1042	1342	2652	6352	58	11446
Lalitpur	1187	1490	3526	8665	133	15001
Kavrepalanchok	439	1098	3406	7529	153	12625
Ramechhap	112	495	1483	3956	104	6150
Sindhuli	129	920	1767	4692	66	7574
Makwanpur	215	1259	3085	7608	115	12282
Chitwan	582	2759	6260	11002	197	20800
GANDAKI	3791	9709	28289	46981	2677	91447
Gorkha	194	828	2824	6023	312	10181
Manang	8	36	55	104	2	205
Mustang	20	30	78	203	16	347
Myagdi	79	289	1103	2308	145	3924
Kaski	1560	2282	6754	8316	491	19403
Lamjung	177	665	1894	3423	242	6401
Tanahu	513	1485	3867	5732	357	11954
Nawalparasi (East)	445	1728	4453	5283	214	12123
Syangja	394	1145	3435	6964	453	12391
Parbat	162	521	1640	3055	175	5553
Baglung	239	700	2186	5570	270	8965
LUMBINI	5328	14624	37181	85736	2315	145184
Rukum (East)	10	50	177	1261	24	1522
Rolpa	45	271	987	5032	122	6457
Pyuthan	81	402	1818	4993	132	7426
Gulmi	205	695	2703	7373	174	11150
Arghakhanchi	140	557	2674	3991	160	7522
Palpa	252	716	1846	6924	134	9872
Nawalparasi (West)	603	1453	3197	5663	140	11056
Rupandehi	2128	3272	9176	15164	436	30176
Kapilbastu	721	1873	3882	8388	274	15138
Dang	465	2372	4621	10110	286	17854
Banke	539	1438	3318	8455	299	14049
Bardiya	139	1525	2782	8382	134	12962

Areas	Housing unit only	Land only	Both (housing unit & land)	Neither housing unit nor land	Not stated	Household with widow (with/without other single women)
KARNALI	430	2492	5258	30447	1049	39676
Dolpa	4	11	57	762	19	853
Mugu	11	16	80	1232	31	1370
Humla	7	16	55	1109	51	1238
Jumla	22	124	330	1829	92	2397
Kalikot	14	79	133	3184	86	3496
Dailekh	57	216	599	4973	141	5986
Jajarkot	28	98	344	3281	125	3876
Rukum (West)	55	329	634	2851	121	3990
Salyan	63	562	1080	4572	131	6408
Surkhet	169	1041	1946	6654	252	10062
SUDURPASHCHIM	765	5039	10221	65601	1542	83168
Bajura	18	57	156	3448	87	3766
Bajhang	40	141	359	5062	116	5718
Darchula	16	85	241	3254	159	3755
Baitadi	29	180	388	7351	182	8130
Dadeldhura	26	142	389	3844	95	4496
Doti	42	197	551	6941	157	7888
Achham	39	270	520	7084	139	8052
Kailali	393	2574	4139	17692	372	25170
Kanchanpur	162	1393	3478	10925	235	16193

Annex 7: Number of households with small scale enterprise other than agriculture for various geographical areas, NPHC 20

Areas	Number of households without any small-scale enterprise	Cottage industry	Trade/business	Transportation	Service	Other	Not stated	Household with widow (with/without other single women)
NEPAL	728557	15426	34474	3594	7174	7845	2674	799744
KOSHI	132276	3225	6846	721	1269	1301	260	145898
Taplejung	2287	87	95	8	26	19	4	2526
Sankhuwasabha	3315	510	234	10	57	209	1	4336
Solukhumbu	2446	111	69	13	42	48	6	2735
Okhaldhunga	3790	80	77	6	40	14	6	4013
Khotang	4224	36	88	8	41	18	3	4418
Bhojpur	4279	75	95	4	13	12	7	4485
Dhankuta	4362	71	159	25	38	25	4	4684
Terhathum	2332	59	63	3	26	9	7	2499
Panchthar	3799	83	147	14	32	16	7	4098
Ilam	6258	98	238	27	46	26	22	6715
Jhapa	30447	796	1880	231	308	237	46	33945
Morang	32942	725	1872	196	349	319	70	36473
Sunsari	23562	407	1487	139	202	288	70	26155
Udayapur	8233	87	342	37	49	61	7	8816
MADHESH	114651	2808	6301	802	1239	1950	403	128154
Saptari	14963	358	827	92	185	385	49	16859
Siraha	15543	512	871	122	155	263	99	17565
Dhanusha	16977	497	1174	119	242	253	51	19313
Mahottari	13491	329	754	74	145	138	44	14975
Sarlahi	15769	325	835	124	144	366	36	17599
Rautahat	13475	365	744	99	174	231	38	15126
Bara	13302	230	657	91	96	183	45	14604
Parsa	11131	192	439	81	98	131	41	12113
BAGMATI	151589	3187	7596	565	1491	1531	258	166217
Dolakha	5794	113	193	16	45	34	4	6199
Sindhupalchok	8383	139	292	25	51	33	11	8934
Rasuwa	1210	72	32	4	7	8	5	1338

Areas	Number of households without any small-scale enterprise	Cottage industry	Trade/business	Transportation	Service	Other	Not stated	Household with widow (with/without other single women)
Dhading	9675	266	268	30	56	75	12	10382
Nuwakot	8351	195	306	18	94	100	25	9089
Kathmandu	39402	764	2806	99	643	655	28	44397
Bhaktapur	10366	335	552	32	79	75	7	11446
Lalitpur	13586	393	696	34	97	150	45	15001
Kavrepalanchok	11703	262	461	43	80	55	21	12625
Ramechhap	5781	147	151	20	12	22	17	6150
Sindhuli	7018	120	275	28	91	36	6	7574
Makwanpur	11192	156	588	95	81	136	34	12282
Chitwan	19128	225	976	121	155	152	43	20800
GANDAKI	83480	1867	3574	321	713	658	834	91447
Gorkha	9448	195	279	31	37	70	121	10181
Manang	163	10	10	0	21	0	1	205
Mustang	311	7	18	0	5	4	2	347
Myagdi	3652	85	100	12	28	18	29	3924
Kaski	17773	358	746	48	135	140	203	19403
Lamjung	5767	184	257	26	45	41	81	6401
Tanahu	10920	237	528	32	98	80	59	11954
Nawalparasi (East)	10711	288	712	76	122	141	73	12123
Syangja	11327	200	480	56	89	78	161	12391
Parbat	5176	88	180	15	32	25	37	5553
Baglung	8232	215	264	25	101	61	67	8965
LUMBINI	133508	2439	5494	715	1285	1249	494	145184
Rukum (East)	1315	101	49	1	8	42	6	1522
Rolpa	6104	92	123	14	54	34	36	6457
Pyuthan	6962	130	213	12	30	63	16	7426
Gulmi	10629	128	244	23	63	36	27	11150
Arghakhanchi	6958	188	238	31	61	17	29	7522
Palpa	9409	144	175	31	53	30	30	9872
Nawalparasi (West)	10104	156	450	57	142	93	54	11056
Rupandehi	27682	490	1283	130	288	221	82	30176

Areas	Number of households without any small-scale enterprise	Cottage industry	Trade/business	Transportation	Service	Other	Not stated	Household with widow (with/without other single women)
Kapilbastu	13756	339	621	94	148	139	41	15138
Dang	16436	267	681	120	134	156	60	17854
Banke	12374	186	860	134	135	274	86	14049
Bardiya	11779	218	557	68	169	144	27	12962
KARNALI	36510	599	1507	114	394	412	140	39676
Dolpa	791	14	21	1	1	22	3	853
Mugu	1261	33	49	2	11	11	3	1370
Humla	1123	10	55	7	13	25	5	1238
Jumla	2062	104	122	7	36	61	5	2397
Kalikot	3315	20	109	4	30	9	9	3496
Dailekh	5580	87	183	15	22	62	37	5986
Jajarkot	3629	53	121	8	33	19	13	3876
Rukum (West)	3748	33	139	10	37	17	6	3990
Salyan	5888	110	202	8	95	79	26	6408
Surkhet	9113	135	506	52	116	107	33	10062
SUDURPASHCHIM	76543	1301	3156	356	783	744	285	83168
Bajura	3460	84	141	11	21	35	14	3766
Bajhang	5298	101	142	16	77	59	25	5718
Darchula	3469	33	103	18	48	66	18	3755
Baitadi	7478	254	235	19	67	42	35	8130
Dadeldhura	4235	53	132	17	27	21	11	4496
Doti	7415	85	243	17	64	40	24	7888
Achham	7531	150	221	15	33	86	16	8052
Kailali	22824	333	1235	158	261	274	85	25170
Kanchanpur	14833	208	704	85	185	121	57	16193

Annex 8: Absent household and absentees by sex for various geographical areas, NPHC 2021

Areas	Household with at least one absentee	Absent Population			Household with absentee status not stated	Household with widow (with/without other single women)
		Total	Male	Female		
NEPAL	190518	296949	230415	66534	742	799744
KOSHI	33067	44623	35343	9280	112	145898
Taplejung	420	581	488	93	0	2526
Sankhuwasabha	719	943	784	159	2	4336
Solukhumbu	447	641	446	195	1	2735
Okhaldhunga	589	840	700	140	6	4013
Khotang	926	1179	1059	120	4	4418
Bhojpur	850	1099	962	137	3	4485
Dhankuta	1015	1276	1084	192	0	4684
Terhathum	507	654	564	90	2	2499
Panchthar	913	1178	996	182	2	4098
Ilam	1493	1998	1515	483	12	6715
Jhapa	9485	13253	9982	3271	15	33945
Morang	7963	10534	8380	2154	24	36473
Sunsari	5888	8095	6357	1738	20	26155
Udayapur	1852	2352	2026	326	21	8816
MADHESH	25778	32355	30410	1945	103	128154
Saptari	2997	3580	3388	192	10	16859
Siraha	4999	6030	5864	166	10	17565
Dhanusha	6026	7530	7250	280	12	19313
Mahottari	4174	5437	5139	298	5	14975
Sarlahi	2933	3747	3360	387	18	17599
Rautahat	2015	2723	2502	221	20	15126
Bara	1607	1980	1738	242	15	14604
Parsa	1027	1328	1169	159	13	12113
BAGMATI	32788	49354	32838	16516	304	166217
Dolakha	758	1097	764	333	11	6199
Sindhupalchok	1628	2314	1437	877	6	8934
Rasuwa	239	315	176	139	2	1338
Dhading	1913	2554	2034	520	6	10382
Nuwakot	1536	2060	1537	523	8	9089

Areas	Household with at least one absentee	Absent Population			Household with absentee status not stated	Household with widow (with/without other single women)
		Total	Male	Female		
Kathmandu	9882	16272	9592	6680	204	44397
Bhaktapur	1818	2730	1687	1043	12	11446
Lalitpur	2997	4943	2932	2011	12	15001
Kavrepalanchok	2062	2797	2007	790	7	12625
Ramechhap	1021	1413	1116	297	8	6150
Sindhuli	1148	1478	1258	220	4	7574
Makwanpur	2048	2684	1968	716	10	12282
Chitwan	5738	8697	6330	2367	14	20800
GANDAKI	27962	42302	33661	8641	45	91447
Gorkha	2345	3288	2666	622	7	10181
Manang	40	54	37	17	0	205
Mustang	86	141	91	50	0	347
Myagdi	1060	1491	1175	316	1	3924
Kaski	5877	9651	6804	2847	9	19403
Lamjung	1788	2536	2141	395	2	6401
Tanahu	3606	5012	4292	720	5	11954
Nawalparasi (East)	4169	6064	4885	1179	6	12123
Syangja	4245	6339	5463	876	7	12391
Parbat	1713	2645	2157	488	4	5553
Baglung	3033	5081	3950	1131	4	8965
LUMBINI	38513	57848	47995	9853	107	145184
Rukum (East)	268	349	315	34	1	1522
Rolpa	1802	2552	2210	342	11	6457
Pyuthan	2698	4041	3558	483	7	7426
Gulmi	4341	7199	5891	1308	9	11150
Arghakhanchi	2904	4754	3934	820	6	7522
Palpa	3284	4761	4153	608	9	9872
Nawalparasi (West)	2843	3979	3273	706	11	11056
Rupandehi	7481	11371	8967	2404	12	30176
Kapilbastu	3590	5438	4689	749	12	15138
Dang	4269	5909	4965	944	12	17854
Banke	2426	3418	2833	585	12	14049
Bardiya	2607	4077	3207	870	5	12962

Areas	Household with at least one absentee	Absent Population			Household with absentee status not stated	Household with widow (with/without other single women)
		Total	Male	Female		
KARNALI	6398	10640	8198	2442	21	39676
Dolpa	28	34	24	10	0	853
Mugu	99	150	117	33	1	1370
Humla	56	79	54	25	1	1238
Jumla	166	309	218	91	1	2397
Kalikot	359	802	534	268	1	3496
Dailekh	1181	2164	1680	484	5	5986
Jajarkot	387	716	511	205	3	3876
Rukum (West)	708	1055	842	213	6	3990
Salyan	1324	1864	1557	307	1	6408
Surkhet	2090	3467	2661	806	2	10062
SUDURPASHCHIM	26012	59827	41970	17857	50	83168
Bajura	822	2181	1394	787	1	3766
Bajhang	1913	5534	3482	2052	0	5718
Darchula	648	997	828	169	2	3755
Baitadi	2095	4002	3129	873	5	8130
Dadeldhura	1331	2486	1929	557	5	4496
Doti	2849	5247	4080	1167	6	7888
Achham	3113	8255	5352	2903	5	8052
Kailali	7761	19402	13206	6196	16	25170
Kanchanpur	5480	11723	8570	3153	10	16193

Annex 9: Distribution of women aged 10 years and above by marital status and districts, NPHC 2021

Area	Total women 10+ yrs.	Marital status					
		Married	Widow	Divorce	Separated	Unmarried women age 35+ yrs.	Unmarried women age below 35 yrs.
NEPAL	12439247	7999252	826147	21287	59525	90703	3442333
KOSHI	2139959	1373989	150676	5019	17077	25623	567575
Taplejung	49064	30619	2578	74	280	983	14530
Sankhuwasabha	65369	41521	4461	115	648	1013	17611
Solukhumbu	43542	26596	2793	59	286	971	12837
Okhaldhunga	60871	38777	4096	64	308	862	16764
Khotang	73481	46020	4548	92	521	1278	21022
Bhojpur	66558	42178	4605	127	518	1360	17770
Dhankuta	65350	42171	4838	133	529	1080	16599
Terhathum	37895	24632	2566	77	289	727	9604
Panchthar	72067	46930	4208	145	416	1463	18905
Ilam	120970	80227	6878	216	914	2531	30204
Jhapa	442006	280839	35163	1460	4649	4849	115046
Morang	497853	321371	37759	1182	3845	3742	129954
Sunsari	397146	256970	27078	1031	2983	3536	105548
Udayapur	147787	95138	9105	244	891	1228	41181
MADHESH	2414905	1611508	131995	1186	3466	4695	662055
Saptari	289743	197554	17355	167	459	505	73703
Siraha	300694	205625	18129	165	404	580	75791
Dhanusa	349214	240959	19893	188	513	523	87138
Mahottari	282358	187966	15405	155	367	475	77990
Sarlahi	339133	221105	18131	170	600	743	98384
Rautahat	306802	200036	15569	108	385	584	90120
Bara	295072	194365	15008	131	488	725	84355
Parsa	251889	163898	12505	102	250	560	74574
BAGMATI	2665603	1686710	171825	6324	16212	32789	751743
Dolakha	76597	48722	6330	116	453	998	19978
Sindhupalchok	114041	73669	9167	159	602	1306	29138
Rasuwa	18714	11851	1364	30	106	142	5221
Dhading	141748	92496	10676	260	812	735	36769
Nuwakot	114615	74857	9381	174	644	882	28677

Area	Total women 10+ yrs.	Marital status					
		Married	Widow	Divorce	Separated	Unmarried women age 35+ yrs.	Unmarried women age below 35 yrs.
Kathmandu	889710	545910	46096	2844	5593	14844	274423
Bhaktapur	187121	119378	11804	407	1076	2092	52364
Lalitpur	243529	151106	15586	639	1431	4128	70639
Kavrepalanchok	160564	103055	13052	190	963	1648	41656
Ramechhap	77732	49530	6329	70	353	1187	20263
Sindhuli	127776	80843	7787	173	680	745	37548
Makwanpur	195265	125081	12672	402	1157	1603	54350
Chitawan	318191	210212	21581	860	2342	2479	80717
GANDAKI	1122075	730222	94567	3085	8404	11834	273963
Gorkha	115329	76264	10492	225	880	1245	26223
Manang	2173	1321	210	17	17	139	469
Mustang	5609	3191	359	23	57	340	1639
Myagdi	46584	29603	4048	150	431	1014	11338
Kaski	269214	168628	20046	1191	2697	3386	73266
Lamjung	71923	47622	6606	166	562	1074	15893
Tanahu	148363	98938	12390	393	1065	926	34651
Nawalparasi (East)	171650	114533	12582	361	1118	1081	41975
Syangja	119383	78270	12825	220	595	1002	26471
Parbat	59697	39451	5758	111	338	455	13584
Baglung	112150	72401	9251	228	644	1172	28454
LUMBINI	2220519	1428397	149965	3815	9113	10164	619065
Rukum (East)	23651	14840	1564	65	136	309	6737
Rolpa	101484	63970	6675	251	463	673	29452
Pyuthan	105048	66475	7639	197	371	614	29752
Gulmi	114084	74008	11562	192	689	735	26898
Arghakhanchi	81848	54353	7706	123	344	286	19036
Palpa	113848	74778	10234	160	472	940	27264
Nawalparasi (West)	167220	108110	11426	285	707	695	45997
Rupandehi	479047	303592	31248	910	2022	2388	138887
Kapilbastu	277677	172666	15613	271	685	752	87690
Dang	299523	196904	18390	620	1413	1092	81104
Banke	250885	160435	14550	482	1036	1071	73311
Bardiya	206204	138266	13358	259	775	609	52937
KARNALI	696035	439782	40681	1158	2612	2728	209074
Dolpa	17226	9853	871	27	75	245	6155

Area	Total women 10+ yrs.	Marital status					
		Married	Widow	Divorce	Separated	Unmarried women age 35+ yrs.	Unmarried women age below 35 yrs.
Mugu	24761	15306	1405	32	67	102	7849
Humla	21217	13117	1275	36	73	212	6504
Jumla	48036	30070	2443	46	124	187	15166
Kalikot	56835	33318	3583	35	107	89	19703
Dailekh	104980	66177	6137	161	357	339	31809
Jajarkot	73521	44484	3949	116	220	208	24544
Rukum (West)	69503	44221	4079	151	252	236	20564
Salyan	101163	66384	6547	148	351	349	27384
Surkhet	178793	116852	10392	406	986	761	49396
SUDURPASHCHIM	1180151	728644	86438	700	2641	2870	358858
Bajura	56367	33803	3866	30	89	131	18448
Bajhang	80571	48014	5947	37	109	147	26317
Darchula	57272	36646	3911	21	88	154	16452
Baitadi	105450	64875	8487	48	164	179	31697
Dadeldhura	61051	38406	4670	39	158	147	17631
Doti	88871	52506	8235	40	156	147	27787
Achham	97412	56049	8352	51	269	225	32466
Kailali	400229	251850	26116	268	1015	1157	119823
Kanchanpur	232928	146495	16854	166	593	583	68237

Annex 10: Population trends of marital status of women by age, NPHC 2001-2021

Age group	Marital status						
	Married	Widow	Divorced	Separated	Unmarried 35+ years	Unmarried < 35 years	Not Stated
2001							
0-14	0.3	0.0	0.6	3.4	0.0	55.9	0.0
15-19	6.8	0.1	6.4	3.7	0.0	32.5	16.1
20-24	15.1	0.6	14.0	7.8	0.0	8.9	17.4
25-29	15.5	1.2	14.0	9.5	0.0	1.9	0.4
30-34	13.6	2.2	12.2	11.4	0.0	0.7	0.3
35-39	11.9	3.8	12.2	11.3	27.5	0.0	0.2
40-44	9.7	5.5	10.6	12.2	19.4	0.0	1.1
45-49	7.7	7.6	8.2	10.5	14.0	0.0	2.3
50-54	6.0	10.0	5.6	9.3	11.3	0.0	10.6
55-59	4.3	10.8	4.7	6.4	7.5	0.0	8.3
60-64	3.6	16.1	4.2	6.3	7.3	0.0	12.1
65+	5.7	42.2	7.3	8.3	12.9	0.0	31.2
Total	637147	37229	1349	2209	4476	284370	2823
2011							
0-14	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	51.2	
15-19	5.0	0.1	4.6	2.1	0.0	34.6	
20-24	13.7	0.4	11.9	6.4	0.0	10.9	
25-29	15.4	1.1	14.4	8.8	0.0	2.6	
30-34	13.4	1.9	12.5	9.2	0.0	0.8	
35-39	11.9	3.2	11.6	11.4	28.4	0.0	
40-44	9.9	4.6	11.2	11.7	20.8	0.0	
45-49	8.0	5.8	8.6	10.8	13.9	0.0	
50-54	6.5	7.7	7.5	10.6	11.3	0.0	
55-59	5.1	9.4	5.2	8.4	7.4	0.0	
60-64	4.3	16.4	5.2	8.2	6.3	0.0	
65+	6.4	49.5	7.3	12.5	11.8	0.0	
Total	6917125	498606	11515	26863	61924	3306741	
2021							
0-14	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0		40.9	
15-19	2.6	0.1	1.2	1.1		36.6	
20-24	11.4	0.4	6.7	5.3		16.3	
25-29	14.4	0.9	13.1	8.5		4.8	
30-34	13.7	1.6	15.7	9.8		1.4	
35-39	13.1	2.8	15.8	11.8	27.0	0.0	

Age group	Marital status						
	Married	Widow	Divorced	Separated	Unmarried 35+ years	Unmarried < 35 years	Not Stated
40-44	10.7	4.2	13.4	12.2	17.7	0.0	
45-49	8.6	5.3	9.6	10.9	12.8	0.0	
50-54	7.9	8.2	8.3	11.8	12.6	0.0	
55-59	5.6	9.0	5.3	8.8	8.6	0.0	
60-64	4.7	12.7	4.5	7.8	7.6	0.0	
65+	7.1	54.7	6.4	12.1	13.8	0.0	
Total	7999252	826147	21287	59525	90703	3442333	

Annex 11: Proportion of single women by caste/ethnicity, NPHC 2021

Caste/Ethnicity	Single women				Total women aged 10 + years
	Single	%	Widow	%	
Nepal	997662	8.0	826147	6.6	12439247
Hill Castes	343206	8.8	290344	7.5	3883717
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	106001	5.8	99151	5.4	1820625
Mountain/Hill Janajati	313802	9.3	232351	6.9	3375156
Tarai Janajati	77465	6.8	68663	6.0	1137991
Hill Dalits	93604	8.6	78489	7.2	1083784
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	32480	6.1	30527	5.7	535159
Religious/Linguistic groups	26821	4.9	23399	4.3	543875
Others, Foreigners & Not stated	4283	7.3	3223	5.5	58940

Annex 12: Marital status of women by caste/ethnicity and ecological zone, NPHC, 2021

Ecological Region and Caste/ethnicity	Marital Status						Total women
	Married	Widow	Divorced	Separated	Never married 35+ years	Never Married below 35 years	
Mountain	62.1	6.9	0.1	0.4	1.0	29.6	737394
Hill Castes	62.3	6.9	0.1	0.3	0.5	29.9	377893
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	65.0	4.4	0.0	0.2	0.7	29.7	1226
Mountain/Hill Janajati	62.0	6.9	0.2	0.6	1.9	28.5	258553
Tarai Janajati	62.3	5.8	0.2	0.8	1.4	29.6	2001
Hill Dalits	61.3	6.6	0.1	0.4	0.5	31.2	96894
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	67.3	10.3	1.9	0.9	0.9	18.7	107
Religious/Linguistic groups	63.3	8.3	0.8	0.0	1.7	25.8	120
Others, Foreigners & Not stated	49.7	6.8	0.7	1.0	25.3	16.5	600
Hill	63.5	7.0	0.2	0.6	1.1	27.6	5146389
Hill Castes	64.2	7.5	0.2	0.5	0.7	27.0	2088098
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	61.7	3.5	0.1	0.3	0.6	33.8	47944
Mountain/Hill Janajati	63.1	6.8	0.2	0.6	1.6	27.6	2261879
Tarai Janajati	62.9	4.5	0.1	0.4	0.7	31.4	53422
Hill Dalits	62.8	7.1	0.2	0.7	0.5	28.7	654664
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	66.2	5.2	0.1	0.5	0.6	27.5	5557
Religious/Linguistic groups	63.6	4.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	30.2	18726
Others, Foreigners & Not stated	64.3	3.1	0.2	0.2	3.3	29.0	16099
Tarai	65.2	6.3	0.1	0.4	0.4	27.5	6555464
Hill Castes	64.9	7.7	0.2	0.6	0.6	26.0	1417726
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	66.0	5.5	0.1	0.2	0.2	28.1	1771455
Mountain/Hill Janajati	63.6	7.1	0.3	0.8	1.2	27.0	854724
Tarai Janajati	66.3	6.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	26.8	1082568
Hill Dalits	62.2	7.7	0.2	0.8	0.5	28.6	332226
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	66.6	5.7	0.1	0.2	0.1	27.3	529495
Religious/Linguistic groups	62.8	4.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	32.4	525029
Others, Foreigners & Not stated	81.0	6.4	0.1	0.2	0.5	11.9	42241

Annex 13: Proportion of single women by caste/ethnicity, NPHC 2021

Caste/Ethnicity	Single women				Total women aged 10 + years
	Single	%	Widow	%	
Koshi	198395	9.3	150676	7.0	2139959
Hill Castes	57866	9.6	45229	7.5	603705
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	12176	7.4	10871	6.6	164330
Mountain/Hill Janajati	80590	9.9	55159	6.7	817422
Tarai Janajati	24814	9.4	21016	8.0	263585
Hill Dalits	12352	9.3	9299	7.0	132728
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	5051	7.4	4539	6.7	68115
Religious/Linguistic groups	4906	6.0	4052	5.0	81606
Others, Foreigners & Not stated	640	7.6	511	6.0	8468
Madhesh	141342	5.9	131995	5.5	2414905
Hill Castes	8463	9.3	7263	8.0	91129
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	70159	5.6	66808	5.3	1249784
Mountain/Hill Janajati	9812	7.9	8187	6.6	124617
Tarai Janajati	14871	6.2	14081	5.9	239940
Hill Dalits	1569	8.2	1369	7.1	19190
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	21173	5.7	20201	5.5	368862
Religious/Linguistic groups	13659	4.5	12501	4.2	300509
Others, Foreigners & Not stated	1636	7.8	1585	7.6	20874
Bagmati	227150	8.5	171825	6.4	2665603
Hill Castes	85227	8.6	67631	6.8	994983
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	1793	4.1	1419	3.2	43886
Mountain/Hill Janajati	121719	8.8	88754	6.4	1385583
Tarai Janajati	3829	6.1	2895	4.6	63271
Hill Dalits	12786	8.6	10184	6.8	149447
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	178	5.1	135	3.9	3486
Religious/Linguistic groups	525	5.1	369	3.6	10349
Others, Foreigners & Not stated	1093	7.5	438	3.0	14598
Gandaki	117890	10.5	94567	8.4	1122075
Hill Castes	45374	11.3	39018	9.7	400886
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	452	7.1	370	5.8	6336
Mountain/Hill Janajati	51160	10.6	38570	8.0	481709
Tarai Janajati	1517	7.0	1222	5.6	21700
Hill Dalits	18642	9.3	14888	7.4	200143

Caste/Ethnicity	Single women				Total women aged 10 + years
	Single	%	Widow	%	
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	40	5.6	29	4.1	716
Religious/Linguistic groups	523	7.0	372	5.0	7420
Others, Foreigners & Not stated	182	5.8	98	3.1	3165
Lumbini	173057	7.8	149965	6.8	2220519
Hill Castes	58861	9.1	51152	7.9	646586
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	20491	5.9	18829	5.5	345014
Mountain/Hill Janajati	40118	9.3	33074	7.7	431385
Tarai Janajati	20457	6.2	18523	5.6	331753
Hill Dalits	19457	8.8	16315	7.4	221547
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	5996	6.4	5583	6.0	93544
Religious/Linguistic groups	7048	5.0	5971	4.2	141238
Others, Foreigners & Not stated	629	6.7	518	5.5	9452
Karnali	47179	6.8	40681	5.8	696035
Hill Castes	28475	6.6	24837	5.7	432514
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	81	6.1	63	4.7	1329
Mountain/Hill Janajati	7547	7.7	6128	6.3	98046
Tarai Janajati	229	6.4	176	4.9	3580
Hill Dalits	10755	6.8	9411	5.9	159007
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	12	8.2	11	7.5	146
Religious/Linguistic groups	68	5.7	51	4.2	1203
Others, Foreigners & Not stated	12	5.7	4	1.9	210
Sudurpashchim	92649	7.9	86438	7.3	1180151
Hill Castes	58940	8.3	55214	7.7	713914
Madhesh/Tarai Caste	849	8.5	791	8.0	9946
Mountain/Hill Janajati	2856	7.8	2479	6.8	36394
Tarai Janajati	11748	5.5	10750	5.0	214162
Hill Dalits	18043	8.9	17023	8.4	201722
Madhesh/Tarai Dalit	30	10.3	29	10.0	290
Religious/Linguistic groups	92	5.9	83	5.4	1550
Others, Foreigners & Not stated	91	4.2	69	3.2	2173

Annex 14: Trends of marital status of women by occupation, NPHC 2001-2021

Occupation of single women	Census Year 2001*			Total women 10+
	Married	Widow	Single women	
Legislator, senior officials and manager	83.1	2.1	4.7	292
Professionals	77.0	1.1	3.8	2441
Technical and Associate Professionals	74.9	1.6	4.6	1186
Clerks or Office Assistant	74.3	4.2	6.3	1159
Service workers, shop and market sales	84.0	3.5	5.2	4605
Skilled / Semi-skilled Agricultural and Fishery Workers	79.8	2.9	3.9	93431
Craft and Related Trade Workers	80.0	2.6	3.5	13493
Plant, Machine operators and Assemblers	74.8	2.6	4.6	886
Elementary Occupation	69.9	3.3	4.3	33372
Armed Force	na	na	na	Na
Occupation Name	Census Year 2011			
Legislator, senior officials and manager	85.3	3.6	6.1	8920
Professionals	77.3	1.3	3.6	22376
Technical and Associate Professionals	74.1	2.8	5.7	8299
Clerks or Office Assistant	73.8	5.0	8.0	6400
Service workers, shop and market sales	86.1	4.2	6.1	43042
Skilled / Semi-skilled Agricultural and Fishery Workers	86.3	4.5	5.6	539589
Craft and Related Trade Workers	80.7	3.3	5.5	27267
Plant, Machine operators and Assemblers	83.0	2.9	5.0	2666
Elementary Occupation	78.8	5.3	6.8	70969
Armed Force	84.3	3.0	3.7	299
Occupation Name	Census Year 2021			
Legislator, senior officials and manager	85.4	4.6	7.6	248800
Professionals	77.8	1.7	4.5	226698
Technical and Associate Professionals	63.6	2.0	4.5	98697
Clerks or Office Assistant	65.0	3.1	6.0	84233
Service workers, shop and market sales	79.5	3.6	6.1	309944
Skilled/Semi-skilled Agricultural and Fishery Workers	80.8	5.3	6.6	4043438
Craft and Related Trade Workers	80.1	3.3	6.3	152403
Plant, Machine operators and Assemblers	82.9	3.5	5.8	20108
Elementary Occupation	64.2	6.7	8.2	1908435
Armed Force	64.0	0.4	1.7	8865

Annex 15: Life table for single women in Nepal, NPHC 2021

Age of Women	F_x	S_x	l_x	q_x	L_x	T_x	e_x
15-19	0.00310	1.00000	100000	0.00555	499226	4875549	48.755
20-24	0.00862	0.99690	99690.4	0.01132	497069.9	4376323	43.899
25-29	0.01985	0.99138	99137.56	0.02050	492881.1	3879253	39.130
30-34	0.03995	0.98015	98014.9	0.03402	485050.2	3386372	34.550
35-39	0.07261	0.96005	96005.17	0.05281	471859.6	2901322	30.220
40-44	0.12159	0.92739	92738.68	0.07773	451448.7	2429462	26.197
45-49	0.18987	0.87841	87840.78	0.10949	422133.8	1978013	22.518
50-54	0.27857	0.81013	81012.75	0.14857	382888.7	1555880	19.205
55-59	0.38575	0.72143	72142.72	0.19514	333918.2	1172991	16.259
60-64	0.50562	0.61425	61424.58	0.24899	277157	839072.6	13.660
65-69	0.62871	0.49438	49438.21	0.30945	216417.5	561915.6	11.366
70-74	0.74361	0.37129	37128.79	0.37542	156920.1	345498.1	9.305
75-79	0.83986	0.25639	25639.24	0.44534	104132.5	188578	7.355
80-84	0.91118	0.16014	16013.77	0.51730	62239.96	84445.51	5.273
85+	0.95713	0.08882	8882.217	-	22205.54	22205.54	2.500

Annex 16: Life table for widows in Nepal, NPHC 2021

Age of Women	F_x	S_x	l_x	q_x	L_x	T_x	e_x
15-19	0.00076	1.00000	100000	0.00190	499811	5119836	51.198
20-24	0.00265	0.99924	99924.3017	0.00473	499148	4620026	46.235
25-29	0.00737	0.99735	99734.8818	0.01015	497495	4120878	41.318
30-34	0.01744	0.99263	99262.9331	0.01948	493797	3623383	36.503
35-39	0.03659	0.98256	98255.7449	0.03438	486493	3129586	31.851
40-44	0.06971	0.96341	96341.3413	0.05671	473426	2643094	27.435
45-49	0.12246	0.93029	93028.8949	0.08841	451956	2169668	23.323
50-54	0.20004	0.87754	87753.5908	0.13129	419373	1717712	19.574
55-59	0.30507	0.79996	79995.7023	0.18673	373721	1298339	16.230
60-64	0.43483	0.69493	69492.8387	0.25524	315023	924617	13.305
65-69	0.57909	0.56517	56516.5303	0.33611	246520	609594	10.786
70-74	0.72056	0.42091	42091.4516	0.42709	175089	363074	8.626
75-79	0.83991	0.27944	27944.2264	0.52432	109884	187985	6.727
80-84	0.92385	0.16009	16009.475	0.62257	59062.1	78100.5	4.878
85+	0.97126	0.07615	7615.35726	-	19038.4	19038.4	2.500

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E-mail: info@nsonepal.gov.np, Website: www.nsonepal.gov.np

E-mail: popcen@nsonepal.gov.np, Website: www.censusnepal.cbs.gov.np