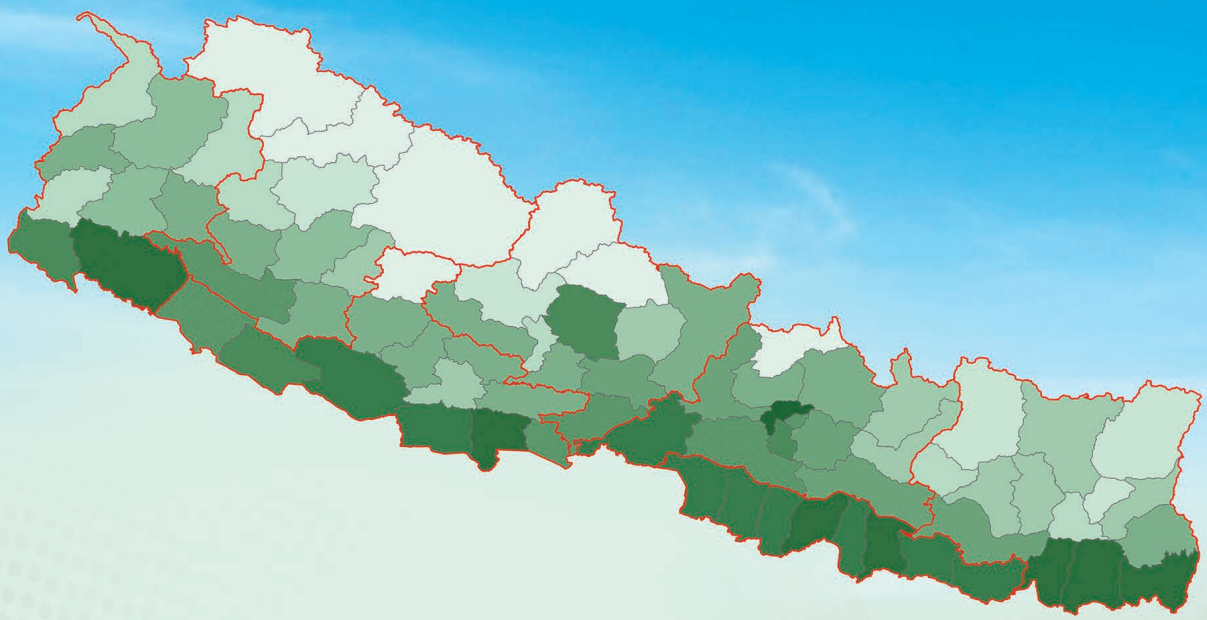
Thematic Report- XVIII

National Population and Housing Census 2021

The Status of Children in Nepal



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

MY CENSUS
MY PARTICIPATION
NATIONAL POPULATION CENSUS 2021

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Cover Map : Population distribution by district, NPHC 2021

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Foreword

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

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

I am pleased to present the long-awaited report *The Status of Children in Nepal*. Children are at the heart of a nation's demographic and developmental structure. They embody the country's future, representing its potential for innovation, progress and resilience. Ensuring children's well-being, protection and development is not only a moral imperative but also a strategic investment in national prosperity. Understanding their status and challenges provides the foundation for designing effective policies that promote equitable access to health, education, nutrition and protection—fostering an environment where every child can thrive and contribute meaningfully to nation-building.

I extend my appreciation to all contributors for their dedication in bringing this important analysis to light. I am confident that these findings will guide policymakers and planners in shaping development strategies for a more prosperous and sustainable future. I would like to specifically commend the Population Section staff for their tireless efforts in generating data, providing support, and reviewing the report. The Head of the Social Statistics Division at NSO played a crucial role in coordinating all activities and I greatly appreciate his contributions. Special thanks to child development experts Mr. Tarak Dhital and Ms. Shree Baba Pokharel for analyzing crucial data and presenting important findings, and to Mr. Uttam Narayan Malla, former Director General of the Central Bureau of Statistics, for reviewing the report from a government perspective. I also acknowledge the technical support provided by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The Inclusive Development Partners (IDP) also deserves our sincere appreciation for facilitating workshops and meetings during the preparation of this report.

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

December 2025

Dr Kamal Prasad Pokhrel
Chief Statistician

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कार्यकारी सारांश

यस प्रतिवेदनले राष्ट्रिय जनगणना २०७८ को तथ्याङ्कमा आधारित रहेर नेपालका बालबालिकाहरूको अवस्थालाई विस्तारपूर्वक विश्लेषण गरेको छ । यसले जनसाङ्ख्यिक, बाल संरक्षण, शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य, बसाइँसराइ, अपाङ्गता र समग्र जीवनस्तर लगायतका बहुआयामिक क्षेत्रलाई समेटेको छ ।

बालबालिकाका जनसाङ्ख्यिक पक्ष

राष्ट्रिय जनगणना २०७८ अनुसार नेपालमा कुल ९८ लाख ६९ हजार ५८३ जना बालबालिका रहेका छन् । नेपालमा वि.सं. २०५८ मा कुल जनसङ्ख्यामा बालबालिकाको अनुपात ४६ प्रतिशत रहेकोमा वि.सं. २०६८ मा पुग्दा सो अनुपात घटेर ४२ प्रतिशत रह्यो । यस्तो घट्ने दर निरन्तर नै रही वि.सं. २०७८ मा बालबालिकाको हिस्सा कुल जनसङ्ख्यामा ३४ प्रतिशत मात्र रह्यो । प्रदेशस्तरमा बालबालिकाको वितरणलाई हेर्दा पनि असमान अवस्था देखिन्छ जसले उनीहरूको शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य र अन्य सुविधा माथिको पहुँचलाई पनि असर पुऱ्याएको अवस्था छ । अन्य प्रदेशको तुलनामा मधेस र लुम्बिनीमा बालबालिकाको उपस्थिति अत्यधिक रहेको छ ।

- वि.सं. २०५८ को अङ्कसँग तुलना गर्दा अठार वर्षभन्दा मुनिका बालबालिकाको अनुपात वि.सं. २०७८ मा १२ प्रतिशत विन्दुले घटेको देखिन्छ । अझ वि.सं. २१०८ का लागि बालबालिकाको प्रक्षेपित अनुपात २२ प्रतिशत मात्र रहेको छ ।
- करिब एकतिहाइ अर्थात् ७१ प्रतिशत घरपरिवारहरूमा बालबालिका रहेका छन् । कर्णाली प्रदेशमा सर्वाधिक अर्थात् ८१ प्रतिशत र बागमती प्रदेशमा सबैभन्दा न्यून अर्थात् ६२ प्रतिशत घरपरिवारमा कम्तीमा एकजना बालबालिका रहेको देखिन्छ । एकचौथाइभन्दा अझै बढी (२९%) घरपरिवारमा बालबालिका नै छैनन् र बालबालिका नभएका घरपरिवारको आधिक्य बागमती र गण्डकी प्रदेशमा रहेको छ । यी दुवै प्रदेशको वि.सं. २०७७ को मानव विकास सूचकाङ्क अन्य प्रदेशको तुलनामा उच्च रहेको तथ्य मननीय छ ।
- मधेस प्रदेशमा बालबालिकाको हिस्सा सर्वाधिक अर्थात् २४ प्रतिशत रहेको छ भने कर्णाली र गण्डकी प्रदेशमा बालबालिकाको हिस्सा ७ प्रतिशत मात्र रहेको देखिन्छ ।

- मधेस प्रदेशमा प्रति परिवार २.१ जना बालबालिका रहेको देखिन्छ जब कि राष्ट्रियस्तरमा प्रतिपरिवार १.५ जना मात्र रहेका छन् । बागमती प्रदेशमा प्रतिपरिवार १.१ जना बालबालिका रहेका छन् ।
- आधाभन्दा पनि बढी (५३%) बालबालिका ०-९ वर्ष उमेर समूहका रहेका छन् ।
- करिब आधा अर्थात् ४५ प्रतिशत नेपाली बालबालिका सबैभन्दा तलका दुईओटा (अति विपन्न र विपन्न) सम्पन्नताको पञ्चांशभित्र पर्दछन् र यसले ती बालबालिकाको जोखिमजन्य अवस्थालाई इङ्गित गर्दछ ।
- केटा र केटीको अनुपातमा विभिन्न प्रदेशमा विषमता रहेको देखिन्छ । कोशी प्रदेशमा केटा (१००) को तुलनामा सबैभन्दा कम केटीहरू (८३) रहेका छन् । यो अनुपात १६ देखि १७ वर्ष उमेर समूहमा प्रति १०० केटामा ९४ केटी रहेको छ । कर्णाली प्रदेशमा तत् तत् उमेर समूहको केटी र केटाको अनुपात ८५ बाट बढेर १०९ पुगेको देखिन्छ । यसले यी उमेर समूहमा केटीको भन्दा केटाको उच्च मृत्युदर रहेको अवस्थालाई सङ्केत गर्दछ ।

बालबालिकाको संरक्षण

तथ्याङ्कले बाल संरक्षणका सवालमा चुनौती विद्यमान रहेको देखाएको छ । बालविवाह, आर्थिक रूपले सक्रिय बालबालिकालाई बालश्रमका रूपमा प्रयोग गरिएको हुनसक्ने सम्भावना, जोखिमयुक्त बसोबास व्यवस्था आदिले बालबालिकाको जीवनयापन, सुरक्षा, शिक्षा र विकासमा असर पुऱ्याउँछ ।

बालविवाह: बालबालिका जो १६-१७ वर्ष उमेर समूहका छन् तीमध्ये ५ प्रतिशतको विवाह भइसकेको देखिन्छ । यस उमेर समूहमा विवाह भएका बालबालिका कर्णाली प्रदेशमा उच्चतम अर्थात् ९ प्रतिशत र बागमती प्रदेशमा सबैभन्दा कम ३ प्रतिशत रहेको छ । कलिलो उमेरमै गर्भवती हुने दर उच्च रहेको छ । विवाहित किशोरीमध्ये २६ प्रतिशतमा यस्तो अवस्था देखिन्छ । विवाहित बालबालिकाहरूमध्ये केवल ३७ प्रतिशत मात्र हाल विद्यालय गइरहेको देखिन्छ । अविवाहित बालबालिकातर्फ हाल विद्यालय गइरहेकाहरूको हिस्सा ८९ प्रतिशत रहेको छ । विवाहितमध्ये ५२ प्रतिशत बालबालिकाले विद्यालय छाडेको देखिन्छ भने ११ प्रतिशत कहिल्यै विद्यालय नगएका देखिन्छन्।

विवाहित बालबालिकामध्ये ६१ प्रतिशत आर्थिक रूपले सक्रिय रहेका छन् । आर्थिक रूपले सक्रिय बालबालिका समूहमा बालविवाहको दर आर्थिक रूपले निष्क्रिय बालबालिकाको तुलनामा तीनगुणा बढी रहेको देखिन्छ ।

आर्थिक रूपले सक्रिय बालबालिका: दशदेखि १७ वर्षसम्मका ३२ प्रतिशत बालबालिका आर्थिक रूपले सक्रिय रहेका देखिन्छन् । यी बालबालिकामध्ये ३३ प्रतिशत बालबालिकाको उमेर १४ वर्षभन्दा कम रहेको छ ।कर्णाली प्रदेशमा आर्थिक रूपले सक्रिय बालबालिका सर्वाधिक अर्थात् ४० प्रतिशत रहेको छ । सोचनीय यो छ कि काम गरिरहेका चारमध्ये प्रत्येक ३ जना बालबालिकाको परिवार सम्पन्नताको वर्गीकरणमा सबैभन्दा तलका दुईओटा पञ्चांशमा पर्दछन् जसले गरिबी र आर्थिक रूपले सक्रिय बालबालिकाका बिचमा सहसम्बन्ध रहेको तथ्य उजागर गर्दछ र सम्भावित बालश्रमको जोखिमतर्फ प्रवृत्त गराउँछ ।

परिवारमुलीका रूपमा बालबालिका: नेपालमा ३१,५१२ (०.५%) घरपरिवारको परिवारमुली बालबालिका रहेका छन् । यीमध्ये ६१ प्रतिशतको उमेर १६-१७ वर्ष रहेको छ। परिवारमुलीको रूपमा रहेका बालबालिकामध्ये ४२ प्रतिशत आर्थिक रूपले सक्रिय रहेका छन् ।

अपाङ्गता भएका बालबालिका: कुल बालबालिकामध्ये १ प्रतिशतमा कुनै न कुनै प्रकारको अपाङ्गता रहेको छ । अपाङ्गता भएका बालबालिकाको हिस्सा कर्णाली प्रदेशमा उच्चतम २ प्रतिशत र मधेस प्रदेशमा न्यूनतम ०.९ प्रतिशत रहेको छ । अपाङ्गता भएका बालबालिकामध्ये आर्थिक रूपले सक्रिय हुनेको हिस्सा ३६ प्रतिशत रहेको छ । कर्णाली प्रदेशमा अपाङ्गता भएका बालबालिकामध्ये ४३ प्रतिशत आर्थिक रूपले सक्रिय रहेका छन् ।

बालबालिकाको जन्मदर्ता: राष्ट्रिय जनगणना २०७८ को समयमा करिब एकचौथाइ बालबालिकाको जन्मदर्ता नभएको पाइयो । यस्तो प्रवृत्ति ग्रामीणभन्दा पनि सहरी क्षेत्रमा उच्च रहेको छ । कर्णाली प्रदेशमा जन्मदर्ताको दर अन्य प्रदेशको तुलनामा उच्च (८७%) रहेको छ भने सुदूरपश्चिममा (८३%) रहेको छ । बालबालिकाका लागि उपलब्ध अनुदानका कारणले पनि कर्णाली र सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेशमा जन्मदर्ताको दर उच्च रहेको हुनसक्दछ ।

बसाइको अवस्था: बालबालिकाको अत्यधिक हिस्सा (७७.९%) आमा र बाबु दुवैजनाको साथमा बसेको देखिन्छ । आमासँग मात्र बसोबास गरिरहेका बालबालिकाको हिस्सा १७ प्रतिशतभन्दा बढी छ भने बाबुसँग मात्र बसिरहेका बालबालिकाको अंश १ प्रतिशत मात्र रहेको छ । अन्य नातेदारहरूसँग बसोबास भएका बालबालिका ३ प्रतिशत रहेका छन् ।

बालबालिकाको बसाइँसराइ

नेपालमा ग्रामीण क्षेत्रबाट सहरी क्षेत्रमा बसाइँसराइ गर्ने बालबालिकाको सङ्ख्यामा वृद्धि भइरहेको छ । बसाइँसराइले राम्रा अवसरहरू उपलब्ध हुनसक्छ तर त्यस्ता बालबालिकाहरूले स्थायित्व, पठनपाठनमा व्यवधान, बालश्रम तथा शोषण र विभेद तथा सामाजिकीकरणका लागि जोखिमको सामना गर्नुपर्ने हुन्छ।

- बालबालिकाको स्वदेशभित्रैको आन्तरिक बसाइँसराइको दर १२ प्रतिशत रहेको छ । बागमती प्रदेशमा यो दर सर्वाधिक अर्थात् १३ प्रतिशत र मधेसमा सबैभन्दा न्यून १० प्रतिशत रहेको छ।
- बसाइँसराइ गरेका बालबालिकामध्ये दुइतिहाइ (६६%) को बसोबास अर्धसहरी क्षेत्रमा रहेको छ जब कि कर्णाली प्रदेशका ८१ प्रतिशत बालबालिका ग्रामीण क्षेत्रमा बसोबास गरिरहेका देखिन्छन्। सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेशमा ६० प्रतिशत बालबालिका ग्रामीण क्षेत्रमा बसोबास गरिरहेका छन् ।
- बसाइँसराइ भएका कुल बालबालिकामध्ये ६९ प्रतिशतभन्दा बढी सम्पन्नताको शीर्षस्थ (अति सम्पन्न र सम्पन्न) दुईमा रहेका परिवारभित्रका छन् जब कि सम्पन्नताको तल्लो पञ्चाशबाट ६ प्रतिशत बालबालिकाको मात्र बसाइँसराइ भएको देखिन्छ ।
- कुनै पनि प्रदेशमा आर्थिक रूपले सक्रिय रहेका अधिकांश बालबालिकाको बसाइँसराइ भएको देखिँदैन।

बालबालिकाको शिक्षा र साक्षरता

शिक्षाले बालबालिकाको आर्थिक, सामाजिक, स्वास्थ्य तथा मनोवैज्ञानिक विकासमा महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका खेल्दछ। बागमती र गण्डकी प्रदेशमा साक्षरतादर उच्च छ भने मधेश प्रदेशमा न्यून छ। विशेषत: बालिकाहरू शैक्षिक उपलब्धिका दृष्टिले केही पछाडि रहेका देखिन्छन्।

- औसतमा ९० प्रतिशतभन्दा अधिक बालबालिका हाल विद्यालयमा गइरहेका देखिन्छन् जब कि यो दर मधेस प्रदेशमा ८१ प्रतिशत मात्र छ ।
- निरक्षर बालबालिकाको हिस्सा ६ प्रतिशत रहेको छ भने ६७ प्रतिशतले आधारभूत शिक्षा प्राप्त गरेका छन् । मधेसमा निरक्षर बालबालिकाको हिस्सा सर्वाधिक अर्थात् १४ प्रतिशत रहेको छ।
- माध्यमिक शिक्षा प्राप्त गर्ने बालबालिकाको हिस्सा सम्पन्नताको सबैभन्दा तल्लो पञ्चांशमा रहेका परिवारमा ११ प्रतिशत मात्र छ भने सबैभन्दा शीर्षस्थ पञ्चांशमा रहेका परिवारका बालबालिकातर्फ २२ प्रतिशत रहेको छ ।

- आफ्नो रोजगारदातासँग बसोबास गरिरहेका बालबालिकामध्ये ४२ प्रतिशत मात्र हाल विद्यालय गइरहेका देखिन्छन् भने आमा र बाबुसँग बसोबास गरिरहेका ८९ प्रतिशत बालबालिका हाल विद्यालय गइरहेको अवस्था छ । तथ्याङ्कले आफ्नी आमासँग मात्र बसोबास गरिरहेका बालबालिकामध्ये ९२ प्रतिशत हाल विद्यालय गइरहेको देखाएको छ ।

स्वास्थ्य सुविधा र बालबालिकाको मृत्यु हुनुका कारण

नेपालमा स्वास्थ्य सुविधाको उपलब्धता एकसमान छैन । प्रतिवेदनहरूका अनुसार बालबालिकाको मृत्यु हुनको प्रमुख कारण नसर्ने प्रकृतिका रोगहरू रहेका छन् । बालबालिको मृत्युमा आत्महत्या पनि उल्लेखनीय कारण रहेको देखिन्छ ।

- कर्णाली प्रदेशमा आधारभूत स्वास्थ्य सेवा केन्द्रहरूको सङ्ख्या सबैभन्दा कम अर्थात् ५९१ छ जुन कुल सङ्ख्याको ११ प्रतिशत हो । बागमती प्रदेशमा देशका कुल स्वास्थ केन्द्रमध्ये १८ प्रतिशत संस्थाको केन्द्रीकरण देखिन्छ । कुल ८३१ सरकारी अस्पतालमध्ये मधेस प्रदेशमा सबैभन्दा धेरै २३७ (२९%) छन् भने कर्णालीमा सबैभन्दा कम ७९ (१०%) मात्र रहेका छन्। मधेशका प्रत्येक सरकारी अस्पतालमा बालबालिकाको सङ्ख्या सबैभन्दा बढी २५,२८३ छ । कर्णाली प्रदेशमा यस्तो सङ्ख्या ८,७५० र गण्डकीमा सबैभन्दा कम ६,९३२ छ।
- राष्ट्रिय जनगणना २०७८ अनुसार कुल १५,८६८ जना बालबालिकाकाको सन्दर्भ अवधिभित्र मृत्यु भएको देखिन्छ ।यी मृत्युका लागि नसर्ने प्रकृतिका रोग नै प्रमुख कारक रहेका थिए । त्यसपछिका मुख्य कारणमा दुर्घटना र आत्महत्या रहेका थिए ।
- आत्महत्याको दर बालिकामाझ ६ प्रतिशत छ भने बालकतर्फ ३ प्रतिशत । यसले सम्बन्धित निकायको हस्तक्षेपकारी नीतिको आवश्यकतालाई औँल्याएको छ ।
- गण्डकी प्रदेशमा आत्महत्याको दर ४ प्रतिशतसहित सबैभन्दा उच्च छ । अन्य प्रदेशमा यो २ प्रतिशत हाराहारी छ।

बालबालिकाको अवस्था सूचक

जनगणनामा उपलब्ध सीमित सूचकहरूका आधारमा रहेर यस विषयगत प्रतिवेदनले नेपालभरका बालबालिकाको समग्र अवस्थाको परिमाणात्मक मूल्याङ्कन गर्न बाल अवस्था सूचकाङ्क (CSI) तयार गर्ने प्रयास गरेको छ । यद्यपि, यसमा केही परिसीमाहरू विद्यमान छन्। खासमा CSI ले देशका विभिन्न क्षेत्र तथा बालबालिकासम्बन्धी विविध विषयक्षेत्रहरूमा जनगणनाको सन्दर्भ अवधिको

अवस्थालाई प्रतिविम्बित गर्ने उद्देश्य राखेको छ। यो सूचकाङ्क को मान ० देखि १ सम्म रहन्छ जहाँ ० ले सबैभन्दा कमजोर परिणामलाई जनाउँछ भने १ ले सबैभन्दा अनुकूल अवस्थालाई सङ्केत गर्दछ।

- राष्ट्रियस्तरमा CSI को मान ०.७२ रहेको छ।
- बाल अवस्था सूचकाङ्क ०.७९ सहित बागमती प्रदेश शीर्षस्थ स्थानमा छ भने कर्णाली ०.६० अङ्कसहित अन्तिम स्थानमा रहेको छ।

वि.सं. २०७८ को जनगणनाबाट प्राप्त नतिजाहरूले नेपालका बालबालिकाको अवस्थालाई धेरै हदसम्म उजागर गरेका छन्। बालबालिकाको निरन्तर घट्दो जनसङ्ख्या र प्रदेशगत विषमता समेतका कारण बालबालिकाले स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा तथा संरक्षणका दिशामा समान पहुँच विस्तार गर्न लक्षित हस्तक्षेप अपरिहार्य देखिन्छ। बालविवाह, जोखिमपूर्ण आर्थिक स्थिति र बसाइँसराइ जस्ता सवालले निरन्तर चुनौतीहरू सिर्जना गरेकै छन् जसको सम्बोधनका लागि सबल नीति र प्रभावकारी कार्यान्वयन संयन्त्र आवश्यक छ।

साक्षरतादरमा सुधार, बालमैत्री वातावरणको विस्तार र मानसिक स्वास्थ्यसम्बन्धी समस्या सम्बोधन गर्ने कार्यहरू बालबालिकाको भविष्यका लागि महत्त्वपूर्ण छन्। साथै, आधारभूत सेवाको पहुँचमा देखिएका विषमताले समावेशी र समतामूलक विकास प्रयासहरूको आवश्यकतालाई औंल्याएको छ । यी विषयहरूलाई समग्र रूपमा सम्बोधन गरिएको अवस्थामा नेपालको संविधान, अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय अभिसन्धि, तथा राष्ट्रले प्रतिबद्धता गरेका सवालहरू साकार पार्न सहज हुनसक्ने देखिन्छ ।

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents a comprehensive analysis of the status of children in Nepal, based on the data obtained from the Nepal Population and Housing Census (NPHC), 2021. It covers multiple dimensions, including demographics, child protection, education, health, migration, disability, and overall well-being.

Child demography

The 2021 NPHC counted 9,869,583 children. The proportion of children in Nepal has dropped significantly over the years: from 46 percent in 2001, to 42 percent in 2011, and down to 34 percent in 2021. The distribution of children across provinces is uneven, impacting their access to services, education, and healthcare. Currently, Madhesh and Lumbini provinces have a higher concentration of children than other provinces.

- The population of children under 18 years of age is 34 percent of the total population, down nearly 12 percentage points from 2001. The child population projection for 2051 is 22 percent.
- Nearly three-quarters (71%) of households have children, with the highest in Karnali (81%) and the lowest in Bagmati (62%). More than a quarter (29%) of households do not have children, and the highest proportion of households without children is in Bagmati and Gandaki, which score relatively higher in the Human Development Index (HDI), 2020.
- Madhesh has the largest share of children, at 24 percent, while Karnali and Gandaki each have 7 percent.
- Madhesh has the highest number of children per household at 2.1 compared to the national average of 1.5 per household and 1.1 for Bagmati province.
- More than half (53%) of children are in the 0-9 years of age group;
- Nearly half (45%) of children in Nepal belong to the lower or lowest wealth quintile families, highlighting economic vulnerabilities.
- Differences are observed for the girl-boy ratio across provinces. Koshi has the lowest number of girls per 100 boys at 83 for the age group 0-1, which increases to 94 for the age group 16-17. In Karnali Province, the number of girls per 100 boys increases from 85 to 109 from the age group below 1 to the age group 16-17.

Child protection

The data show challenges in child protection related to child marriage, economically active children who may be used for child labour, and vulnerable living arrangements, which affect children's well-being, including safety, education, and development.

- **Child marriage:** Nearly 5 percent of children aged 16-17 years are married, with Karnali province having the highest rate of child marriage (9%) and Bagmati having the lowest (3%). Pregnancy at an early age is high, at 26 percent of married girls. Only 37 percent of married children are currently attending school, compared to 89 percent of never-married children. Over half of married children have dropped out of school (52%), and 11 percent have never attended school. Among married children, the majority (61%) are economically active. The prevalence of child marriage among economically active children is three times higher than those who are not economically active.
- **Economically active children**: About 32 percent of children aged 10-17 years are economically active; among these children, 33 percent are below 14 years old. Karnali province reports the highest rate (40%) of economically active children. Alarmingly, three out of four working children belong to the lower and lowest wealth quintiles, indicating the link between poverty and economically active children, which may leads to the risk of child labour.
- **Child-headed households**: Though the overall percentage of child-headed households is relatively small, at 0.5 percent, this represents 31,512 households across Nepal. Among these, 61 percent are led by children aged 16-17, and 42 percent of all child household heads are economically active.
- **Children with disabilities**: One percent of total children are reported to have disabilities (a rate much lower than other measures of disability in Nepal). Karnali has the highest rate (2%), and Madhesh has the lowest (0.9%). Among children with disabilities, 36 percent are economically active, with Karnali showing the highest rate (43%).
- **Birth registration**: Approximately one-quarter (26%) of children did not have their births registered at the time of the 2021 census, with generally higher rates among those in urban areas. The rate of birth registration is better in the Karnali (87%) and Sudurpashchim (83%) provinces. The child grant is one of the contributing factors to the increase in birth registrations in Karnali and Sudurpashchim.
- **Living arrangements**: A majority of children (77.9%) live with both parents. More than 17 percent of children are reported to live with their mother only and 1 percent with their father only, while 3 percent with other relatives.

Child migration

The internal migration of children from rural to urban is increasing in Nepal. Migration may provide better opportunities, but these children face increased risks, such as a lack of stability, disrupted education, child labour and exploitation, and discrimination and socialization.

- The child migration rate within the country is 12 percent, with the highest proportion in Bagmati province (13%) and the lowest in Madhesh (10%).
- Two-thirds of migrant children (66%) reside in peri-urban and urban areas, though 81 percent of child migrants in Karnali live in rural areas, followed by 60 percent in Sudurpashchim.
- More than two-thirds (69%) of migrant children belong to the higher and highest wealth quintiles, while only six percent come from the lowest quintile.
- The majority of all economically active children in a province are non-migrants.

Education and literacy

Education plays a pivotal role in children's economic, social, health, and psychological well-being. Bagmati and Gandaki, have higher literacy rates, while Madhesh has lower. Especially girls, are relatively behind in their educational attainment.

- On average, 90 percent of children are currently enrolled in school, but only 81 percent are in school in Madhesh.
- Six percent of children are illiterate, and 67 percent have attained basic education. Madhesh has the highest illiteracy rate (14%).
- Secondary education attainment increases from 11 percent for the lowest quintile to 22 percent for the highest quintile.
- Only 42 percent of children living with employers attend school, significantly lower than children living with a mother and father (89%). Interestingly, children living with their mother only have the highest prevalence of school attendance at 92 percent.

Health services and cause of death of children

Health services are unevenly distributed across Nepal. The primary cause of children's death is non-communicable diseases, according to reports. Suicide is also a notable cause of children's death.

- Karnali Province has the lowest number of basic health service centres (591), which is 11 percent of the total, while in Bagmati it is 18 percent. Out of the total 831 government hospitals, Madhesh Province has the highest number with 237 (29%), while Karnali has the

lowest with 79 (10%). Madhesh also has the highest number of children per government hospital at 25,283; in Karnali, the figure is 8,750, and Gandaki has the least at 6,932.

- According to the census, 15,868 children's deaths were reported, with non-communicable diseases identified as the leading cause, followed by accidents and suicide (5 percent of deaths).
- Suicide rates are higher among girls (6%) compared to boys (3%), highlighting the need for intervention.
- Gandaki has the highest suicide rates (4%) compared to 2 percent in other provinces, while communicable diseases are least prevalent there compared to other places.

Child situation index (CSI)

With the availability of the limited variables in Census, this thematic report tried to develop the Child Situation Index (CSI) to quantify the holistic well-being of children across Nepal with some limitation. In essence, the CSI is intended to capture the situation of children across various regions in the country and across various child-related sub-themes during the census reference period. The index ranges from 0 to 1, with 0 signifying the lowest outcomes and 1 signifying the most favourable outcomes.

- The national CSI value is 0.72.
- Bagmati scored the highest with an index value of 0.79, while Karnali scored the lowest at 0.60.

The findings from the 2021 census highlight the situation of children in Nepal. With a declining child population and provincial disparities, targeted interventions are crucial to ensure children have equitable access to healthcare, education, and protections. Child marriage, economic vulnerability, and migration continue to pose challenges, requiring strengthened policies and enforcement mechanisms. Improving literacy rates, expanding child-friendly environments, and addressing mental health concerns are vital for fostering the well-being of children. Furthermore, disparities access to essential services underscore the need for inclusive and equitable development efforts. Addressing these concerns holistically will help to ensure that every child enjoys their rights as guaranteed by the Constitution of Nepal, international conventions, and the nation's commitments.

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ACRONYMS

CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CFM	Child Functioning Module
CSI	Child Situation Index
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EMIS	Education Management Information System
GM	Geometric Mean
HDI	Human Development Index
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
NCRC	Nepal Child Right Council
NPC	National Planning Commission
NPHC	National Population and Housing Census
NSO	National Statistics Office
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SVR	Support Vector Regression
WHO	World Health Organization
UN	United Nations
UNASAI	United Nations Age-Sex Accuracy Index
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Childrens Fund

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The status of a nation's children reflects the state of its society, offering insights into present and future prosperity. As such, the government and its partners need to proactively monitor the well-being of children and seek to continuously improve it. To guide the state in upholding children's rights as guaranteed by the Constitution of Nepal, it is beneficial to regularly analyse and interpret factors such as education, health, family background, birth registration, available facilities, living conditions, migration, and child protection.

The twelfth National Population and Housing Census, conducted in 2021, collected child-centric data alongside a standard set of questions related to both child and adult populations. The multidimensional interpretation of the data can be instrumental in forming policies, programs, and priorities and reviewing the effectiveness of existing policies and programs. Without reliable data related to children and a child-focused analysis, children's issues might be overshadowed by adult requirements. This thematic report on children, primarily based on census data, is intended to pave the way for establishing new national priorities for children, including policies, programs and the allocation of resources.

1.2 Objective

This report aims to explore various dimensions of children's lives, including their demographic characteristics, living conditions, access to various services, and well-being.

The report addresses the broad question:

What is the current situation and overall well-being of children across different regions in Nepal? How do socioeconomic factors captured in Nepal's census data shape the overall situation and fulfillment of rights for children across different regions and demographic groups?

1.3 Legal and policy frameworks for children in Nepal

Children's rights are recognized as fundamental rights under the Constitution of Nepal. Article 39 of the 2015 Constitution focuses on children's protection, development, and well-being. Every child has the right to a name and birth registration, accessible education and healthcare, maintenance, proper care, sports, entertainment, early childhood development, and

participation in matters that affect them. The article ensures protection from child labour, child marriage, kidnapping, exploitation, and abuse. Additionally, the Constitution guarantees child-friendly justice, offering special safeguards for vulnerable children such as orphans, children with disabilities, and conflict-affected children.

Furthermore, Articles 16 to 38 outline other rights that also apply to children. These include the right to live with dignity, freedom of expression, access to justice, equality before the law, and protection from torture and mistreatment. Children also have the right to a clean environment, education, healthcare, food, housing, and cultural and religious freedom. These provisions aim to create a society where every child can grow up in safety, dignity, and opportunity. Nepal is also a state party to the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child and has committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 (National Planning Comission, 2024a) which include many provisions relating to children and require reliable disaggregated data for monitoring progress. Additional laws and policies that prioritize children include the following:

Act Relating to Children, 2018 (Nepal Law Comission, 2018)

- Defines a child as any person below the age of 18 years (Section 2J).
- Establishes provisions for child welfare authorities, childcare homes, child correction homes, and juvenile courts (Section 30, 43, 52, 59, 60, 61).
- Defines “violence against children” and “children in need of special protection” and measures for responding to such cases (Section 48, 66).
- Protects children from child labour in hazardous work, child marriage, trafficking, sexual abuse, and other forms of violence (Section 7, 66).

Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1999 (Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Rules, 2062 (2006), 2006)

- Prohibits the employment of children below 14 years of age in any form of work and bans hazardous work for children under 18 years (Section 3).
- Defines hazardous occupations and sets working conditions for children aged 14 to 18, including limits on working hours and provisions for rest, health, and safety (Section 6-14, Annex relating to section 3.2).
- Ensures employers violating the law face penalties, such as fines and imprisonment (Section 19).

National Identity Card and Registration Act, 2020, Sections 18 and 19 (National ID and Civil Registration Act, 2020) Ensures that personal events, including births and marriages, must be registered within 35 days at the local registration office (Section 18,19).

The Panel Code, 2017 (The National Civil (Code) Act, 2017,)

- Prohibits the employment of children in hazardous work (Section 162).
- Criminalizes the act of marrying or arranging the marriage of a person below the age of 20 years (Section 173).

Act Relating to Compulsory and Free Education, 2018 (Act Relating to Compulsory and Free Education, 2018,)

- Defines and guarantees the right to education for all, including free and compulsory education up to the basic level (up to grade 8) for every child aged 4 to 13 years from a school located at a distance of up to two kilometres from the residence of the child's guardian. (Section 3, 6,7,8)
- The individuals who have not acquired basic education shall be disqualified from obtaining any opportunities, including government services, or from being elected, appointed, or nominated to any post in governmental, non-governmental, or private institutions, effective from 1 Baishakh 2085 (14 April 2028). (Section 19)

The Act Relating to Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2017 (The Act Relating to Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2017)**s**

- Defines the rights of children with disabilities and guarantees the right to dignity, self-reliance, and active participation in society without discrimination (Section 20).
- Prohibits children with disabilities from being separated from their home or family based on their disability, except by court decision (Section 20.4).

The National Child Policy 2023 (National Child Policy, 2023)

- Aims to help develop child-friendly services and practices in public, government, non-governmental, and community organizations, focusing on bringing harmony in plans and programs related to children (Section 5).
- Provide protection to vulnerable children and those who have faced violence and abuse (Strategy 11.3).
- Strengthens the child protection system and child rights at all levels (Strategy 11.2).

The Sixteenth Plan of Nepal (Fiscal Year 2024/25–2028/29) (National Planning Comission, 2024b)

- Emphasizes addressing children's issues such as enhancing access to quality education for children; improving child healthcare services, including immunization and nutrition initiatives; strengthening policies to protect children's rights and ensure protection from exploitation and abuse; and expanding social protection programs to support vulnerable children, including those from marginalized communities (Chapter 4. 4.4(5), Chapter 5, 5.5(9,23,24), Chapter 8, 8.5(6), Chapter 10, 10.4(3)).

1.4 Definition of a child

The Act Relating to Children, 2018 and National Civil Code, 2017 defines children as any person below 18 years of age. This is in line with the definition of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which describes a child as "every human being below the age of eighteen years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier."(United Nations, 1989) However, the definition of a child is sometimes categorized differently for different purposes. Various laws protect the rights of children from conception to below 18 years (Table 1.1). For this report, children are defined as individuals under 18 years of age, which includes those aged 0-17 years, based on data from the National Population and Housing Census (NPHC) 2021.

Table 1.1 : Age of a child and legal provisions

Age	Definition/Purpose	Legal Documents
0 (conception)	Equal entitlement to partition share of family property; if a pregnant woman coparcener is due to give birth to a coparcener, a share of the property should be allocated in advance for the unborn baby, ensuring their equal entitlement to inheritance rights	National Civil Code, 2017, Section 206
0	Prohibition of abortion (except under certain conditions)	National Penal Code 2017, Section 188
0-8 years	Defined as early childhood development age	National Strategy for Early Childhood Development 2077–2088, Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission
Under 5 years	Defined as age for early childhood education and development	National Strategy for Early Childhood Development 2077–2088
4 years (completion)	Provision to participate in at least one year of early childhood development and education before joining Grade 1 in school	The Act Relating to Compulsory and Free Education, 2018, Section 6 (2)
Below 10 years	Any act of a child shall not be classified as an offence	National Penal Code 2017, Section 13
4-13 years	Enrolment in Compulsory Basic Education (up to Grade 8)	The Act Relating to Compulsory and Free Education, 2018, Section 6 (1)
Below 14 years	Child not to be engaged in work as a labourer.	Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2000, Section 3 (1)
Below 18 years	No child shall be engaged in any risky business or work referred to in the schedule of the Act	Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2000, Section 3 (2)

Age	Definition/Purpose	Legal Documents
Below 18 years	Defined as child/minor	The Act Relating to Children, 2018, Section 2(j) National Civil Code, 2017, Section 2(e)
Below 20 years	No marriage shall be concluded or cause to be concluded unless parties to the marriage have attained 20 years of age	National Penal Code 2017, Section 173

1.5 Data source

The primary data source for this report is the NPHC 2021, which is conducted every 10 years and has gathered a wide range of data related to children. Data includes demographic and socio-economic characteristics, family composition, child migration, education, economic activity, and health-related variables. Other data sources, such as the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), are used and cited to complement the analysis.

1.6 Data quality

The NPHC is conducted every 10 years (NSO) and employs progressive data collection methodologies and analytical techniques to align with technological advancements and contemporary data utilization requirements. Concurrently, systematic evaluations are conducted to ensure data quality, reliability, and accuracy, reflecting a steadfast commitment to maintaining rigorous standards in demographic and socio-economic data for evidence-based policymaking and research.

The NPHC has steadily adopted more advanced methods of data collection and analysis to keep pace with changing needs. Careful quality checks help maintain accuracy and reliability, reflecting Nepal's ongoing commitment to high standards in demographic and socio-economic research. Continued improvements in methodology, like those mentioned above, will help ensure the census remains a vital tool for both policymaking and academic research.

Since the 1971 census, Nepal has used Whipple's Index to evaluate age data quality in successive censuses. Results show a 98-point improvement from 1971 to 2021, indicating much better age reporting. The Myer's Index also improved significantly, from 24.3 in 1971 to 9.9 in 2021, reflecting increased data accuracy. For the United Nations Age-Sex Accuracy Index (UNASAI), Nepal's 1971, 1981, and 1991 censuses were rated "highly inaccurate," improving by half in 2001, 2011, and 2021, though still classified as "inaccurate." (National Statistics Office, 2025)

1.7 Methodology

This report analyses census data of individuals aged 0-17 years. The data is analyzed through a descriptive approach, providing a detailed and context-rich understanding of the complex circumstances affecting the children, enabling a nuanced insight into their developmental and situational realities. In this report, female children are referred to as “girls” and male children are referred to as “boys”. Throughout the report, statistics are reported in one decimal places, except where nuances exist.

The CSI is calculated using the geometric mean, using a correlation matrix and dendrograms to determine the variables for the CSI calculation. Machine learning algorithms, specifically the random forest regression, is used to calculate variables that are important in the CSI calculation. Chapter 8 describes in detail the choice of variables used and the methodology for how the CSI is calculated.

1.8 Limitations

This report has the following limitations:

1. The report is based on Nepal's 2021 census data and does not provide comparisons with previous census data due to limitations in the comparability of variables in the 2021 census.
2. The analysis is conducted using cross tabulations based on sex, wealth quintile, residence (rural, peri-urban, and urban), and age. To ensure clarity and ease of understanding for children, cross tabulations are limited to a maximum of two factors. For instance, the percentage of economically active children is calculated by sex and school attendance status, allowing young readers to easily interpret and learn from the data.

1.9 Report outline

The report is organised into nine chapters, each addressing key aspects of children's issues in Nepal. The first chapter, **Introduction**, outlines the background, objectives, legal and policy frameworks, definitions of a child, data sources, methodology, and limitations. The second chapter concerns **Demographic and Socio-Economic Characteristics**, highlighting population distribution and the birth registration status of children. The third chapter, **Family Composition**, discusses children's living arrangements, child-headed households, incidences of marital status of children, and children who are mothers along with their own children. Chapter four focuses on **Migration**, while Chapter five covers **Education**. Chapter six examines children's involvement in **Economic Activity**. The seventh chapter, centred on **Health**, highlights state-funded health services, children with disabilities, and causes of child mortality. Chapter eight explores dimensions of **Children Situation**, and finally, chapter nine presents the **Conclusions and Recommendations**, followed by detailed annexes.

CHAPTER II

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

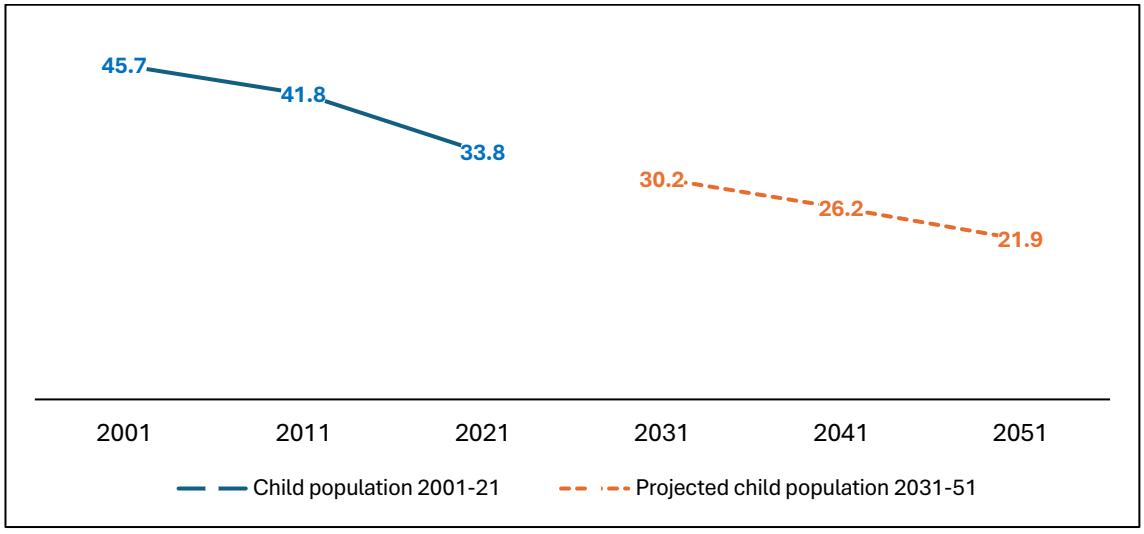
This chapter highlights the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the children of Nepal, including at the provincial level. Demographic and socio-economic characteristics provide an overview of the cultural as well as economic complexities that exist in a society.

2.1 Population distribution of children

The 2021 NPHC counted 9,869,583 children aged 0-17. The proportion of children in Nepal has dropped significantly over the years; as the last three subsequent censuses show the proportion of the total child population was 45.7 percent in 2001, 41.8 percent in 2011, and 33.8 percent in 2021. The child population is projected to be 21.9 percent in 2051 (Figure 2.1).

One immediate effect of a declining child population ratio is reduced access to education, as public schools may be merged if enrolment falls below a required minimum(Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, 2020). As the child population decreases, more schools may face mergers, increasing the risk of children in less populated and remote areas being left behind when nearby schools are closed.

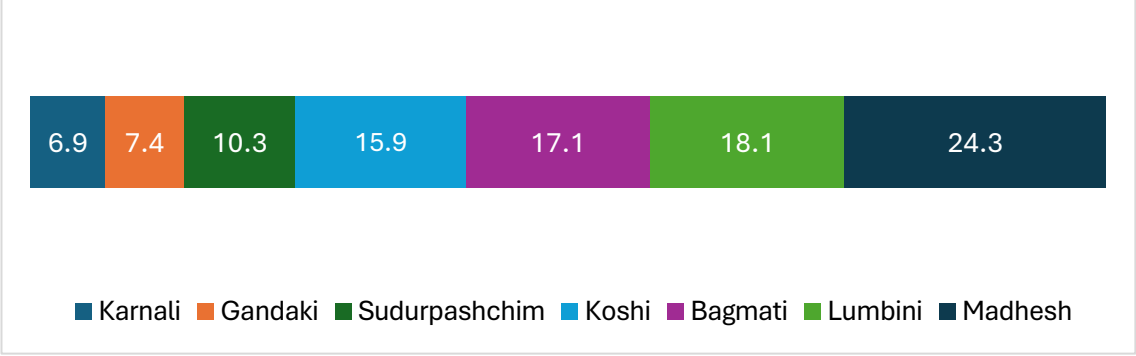
Figure 2.1: The proportion of child population 2001-21 and projection 2031-51 (%)



The data show that within a 50-year period, the child population will decline by more than 24 percentage points. This should not lead to a proportional decline in the investment in children's basic services.

One-third (33.9%) of Nepal's population is comprised of children (persons under age 18). Nearly one-quarter of all children in Nepal reside in Madhesh Province (24.3%), while only 6.9 percent of children reside in Karnali and 7.4 percent in Gandaki (Figure 2.2). A large share of children (42.4%) reside in just two provinces in the Tarai (Madhesh and Lumbini), indicating future demographic shifts and a current need for the reallocation of services and resources needed for children. Notably, while having the highest portion of children, Madhesh has the lowest Human Development Index (HDI) ranking among provinces (National Planning Comission, 2020).

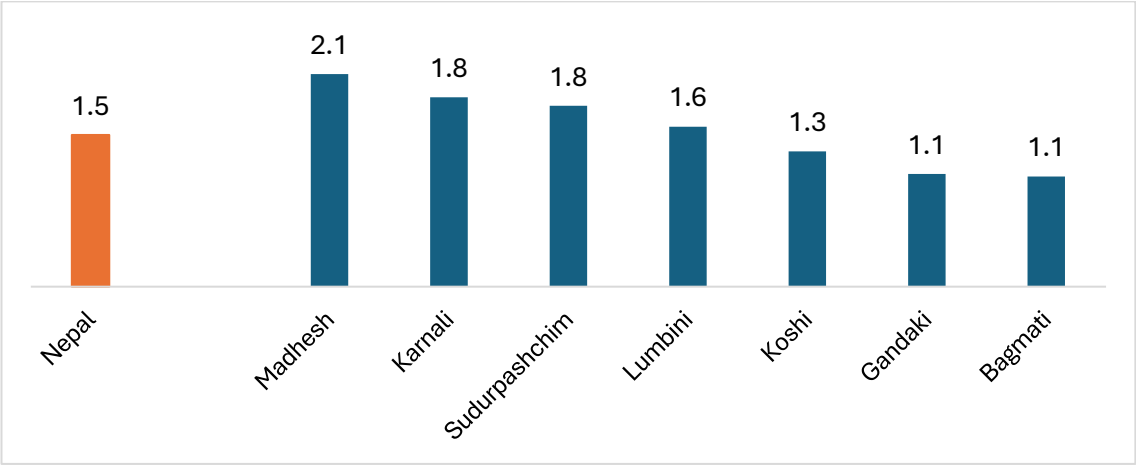
Figure 2.2: Distribution of children in Nepal across provinces (%)



Source: NPHC, 2021

Overall, 71.3 percent of households across the nation have children, and 28.7 percent do not (Map 2.1). Karnali province has the highest percentage of households with children (80.8%), followed by Madhesh (80.3%), indicating higher birth rates. Bagmati has the highest percentage of households *without* children (38.5%), and Karnali has the lowest (18.2%). Bagmati and Gandaki (38%) both have a proportionately high percentage of households without children. Interestingly, both provinces have relatively high HDI rankings. Analyzing average number of children per household shows similar results (see Figure 2.3). Madhesh has highest number of children per household at 2.1 followed by Karnali at 1.8 children per household when the national average is 1.5 children per household.

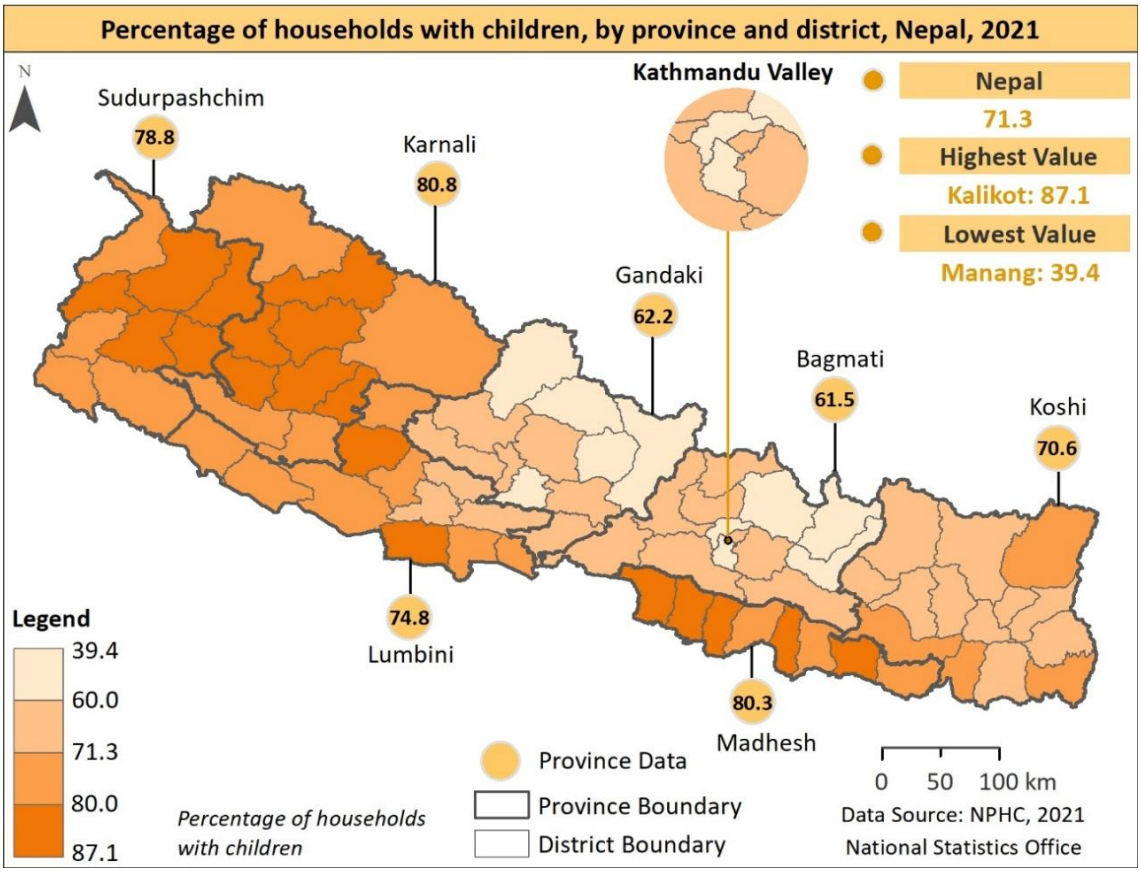
Figure 2.3: Number of children per household by province



The data highlights the need to focus on child-centered service delivery such as early childhood intervention, family centered consultation models, parenting programming etc. in areas where a higher percentage of households have children. Child-centered services are structured approaches that prioritize the rights, needs, and holistic well-being of children in every aspect of planning, implementation, and evaluation. These services ensure that children are not passive recipients, but active participants, and that policies and programs are tailored to foster their development, protection, and dignity, as guaranteed by the Constitution and relevant laws. For example, every household with children should have adequate access to essential services, including education, healthcare, clean drinking water, and child protection mechanisms, regardless of remote or accessible geographical areas. However, this varies across provinces. Madhesh has the highest overall number of children, along with a high percentage of households with children, whereas Karnali has fewer children but the highest percentage of households with children.

Among households with children, only 32.8 percent have access to tap or piped water within their premises, which are the sources of the cleanest water, while nearly one-third (32.6%) rely on tubewells or handpumps, which can provide contaminated water in some areas. Additionally, 1.5 percent use covered wells or kuwa as their main source of drinking water. Still, 2.2 percent use *un*covered wells or *kuwa*, 4.0 percent depend on spout water, and 0.4 percent draw from rivers or streams. In approximately two-thirds of households with children, a family member—including children themselves—needs to fetch and carry water for daily use. This consumes significant time and may hinder children's education. These figures underscore the urgent need for targeted interventions to achieve SDG 6 — *ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*. Specifically, Target 6.1.1(1) aims to ensure that 90.0 percent of the population uses safely managed drinking water services by 2030.

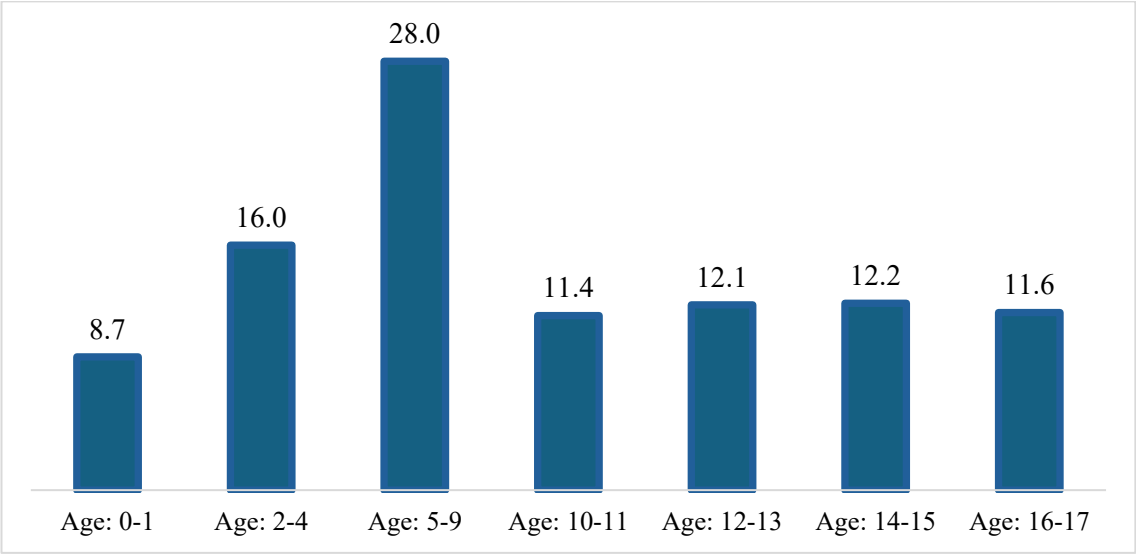
Map 2.1: Percentage of households with children by district



Source: NPHC, 2021

The proportion of total children in Nepal by province across different age groups is displayed in Figure. The highest proportion of children is aged 5-9 years at 28.0 percent, followed by ages 2-4 at 16.0 percent. Data show that more than half (52.7%) of children are below 9 years, which indicates the need to prioritize early childhood development programs. The first eight years of life are the foundational period of child development. Research suggests that investment in children's holistic development in early childhood yields dividends many times over (Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission, 2020)

Figure 2.4: Distribution of children across age group (%)



Source: NPHC, 2021

Examining the age distribution by sex shows that 51.8 percent of children in Nepal are boys and 48.2 percent are girls, meaning there are 93 girls for every 100 boys. Data shows that Madhesh has the highest number of children, and Karnali has the lowest across sex and most age groups. The number of boys is consistently higher than the number of girls across provinces. This is opposite to the national numbers, where females outnumber males; Nepal's population is 48.9 percent male and 51.1 percent female.

The percentage of boys is consistently higher than that of girls across the seven provinces (Table 2.1). Bagmati has the highest percentage of boys (52.5%), meaning there are only 91 girls for 100 boys. Karnali has the highest percentage of girls (49%), meaning 96 girls for every 100 boys. A difference is observed in the girl-boy ratio across provinces, as well as the rate at which it increases from age group 0-1 to age group 16-17. Koshi has the lowest number of girls per boys at 83 for the age group 0-1, which increases to 94 for the age group 16-17.

In Karnali Province, the number of girls per 100 boys increases from 85 to 109 from age below 1 to age 16-17, implying a difference on mortality rate for boys in between those ages. The same pattern is present in every province (and indeed follows global trends). The smallest increase in this ratio occurs in Bagmati Province.

The global average sex ratio at birth in 2024 was 95 girls per 100 boys, and the biological norm was between 102 and 106 boys (United Nations, 2024).

Table 2.1: Number of girls per 100 boys across provinces

Region	Age: 0–1	Age: 16–17	Age: 0-17
Nepal	**87**	**98**	**93**
Bagmati	89	93	91
Gandaki	88	96	91
Koshi	83	94	91
Sudurpashchim	90	102	94
Karnali	85	109	95
Lumbini	92	98	95
Madhesh	88	105	96

Source: NPHC, 2021

The distribution of children across rural, peri-urban, and urban areas in Nepal is shown in Table 2.2. Data indicate that peri-urban areas have the highest proportion of children (41.8%), followed by rural areas (34.1%), while urban areas comprise the smallest share (24.1%). Many new initiatives, including marketing and infrastructure development, are rapidly progressing in peri-urban areas, which may have both positive and negative impacts on children.

These areas have the highest rates of illiteracy, suicides, and migration among children compared to urban and rural areas. Similarly, the prevalence of child marriage and economically active children is higher than in urban areas. Given the significant number of children residing in peri-urban areas, prioritizing their protection and well-being is essential to ensure their development. However, the situation differs provincially, as the majority of children in Karnali, Sudurpashchim, and Gandaki reside in rural areas.

Table 2.2: Percentage of children in rural/urban municipalities by province

Region	Urban	Peri-urban	Rural
Nepal	**24.1**	**41.8**	**34.1**
Bagmati	51.6	14.7	33.6
Gandaki	26.1	23.2	50.7
Koshi	21.6	41.8	36.6
Sudurpashchim	11.7	27.9	60.3
Karnali	14.9	3.8	81.3
Lumbini	15.0	53.2	31.8
Madhesh	20.5	74.5	5.0

Source: NPHC, 2021

There is variation within provinces in the proportion of children living in rural, peri-urban, and urban areas. Karnali has the highest proportion of children living in rural areas (81.3%) and Madhesh the lowest (5%). Similarly, Madhesh has the highest proportion of children living in peri-urban areas (74.5%) and Karnali the lowest (3.8%). Bagmati has the highest proportion of children living in urban areas (51.6%) and Sudurpashchim the lowest (11.7%).

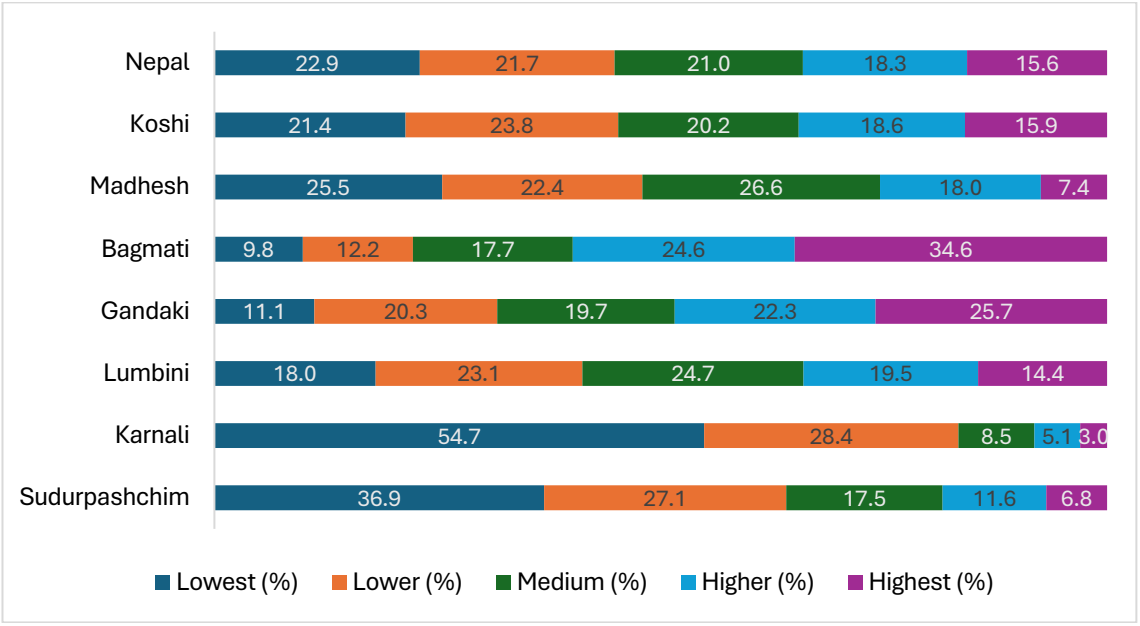
The proportion of children by wealth quintile across the seven provinces is highlighted in Figure 2. At the national level, the proportion of children decreases for higher wealth quintiles. For instance, the two low wealth quintiles consist of 22.9 percent and 21.7 percent of children, respectively, and the highest wealth quintile consists of 16 percent of children. This means that a high proportion (45%) of children in Nepal are from families with limited resources. This highlights the challenge faced by Nepal in achieving SDG 1 — *ending poverty in all its forms everywhere*. Under target 1.1, the proportion of the population below the international poverty line should be reduced to 4.9 percent and under target 1.2, the proportion of children under five years of age below the national poverty line should be reduced to 5.0 percent by 2030 (National Planning Comission, 2016). While census data allows for reporting on wealth and not income (the measure used to calculate poverty) children living below the poverty line are in the lowest wealth quintile.

The highest proportion of married children, economically active children, and children with disabilities also exist in the lower and lowest wealth quintiles. Additionally, the highest rate of illiteracy and the lowest prevalence of children currently attending school also fall in the same wealth quintiles. This trend is more prominently observed in Sudurpashchim and Karnali provinces.

At the provincial level, there are pronounced variations in the proportions of children across wealth quintiles. For example, Bagmati has the highest proportion of children in the highest wealth quintile (34.6%), whereas Karnali has the lowest proportion of children in the highest wealth quintile (3.0%), which is significantly lower than the national average of 15.6 percent.

Additionally, there are stark differences in the proportion of children in the lowest wealth quintile. Data show that Karnali consists of the largest proportion of children in the lowest wealth quintile (54.7%), whereas Bagmati consists of the smallest proportion of children in the lowest wealth quintile (9.8%). Similarly, the proportion of children in the lowest wealth quintile in Karnali (54.7%) is more than twice the national average of 22.9 percent.

Figure 2.5: Distribution of children across wealth quintile (%)



Source: NPHC, 2021

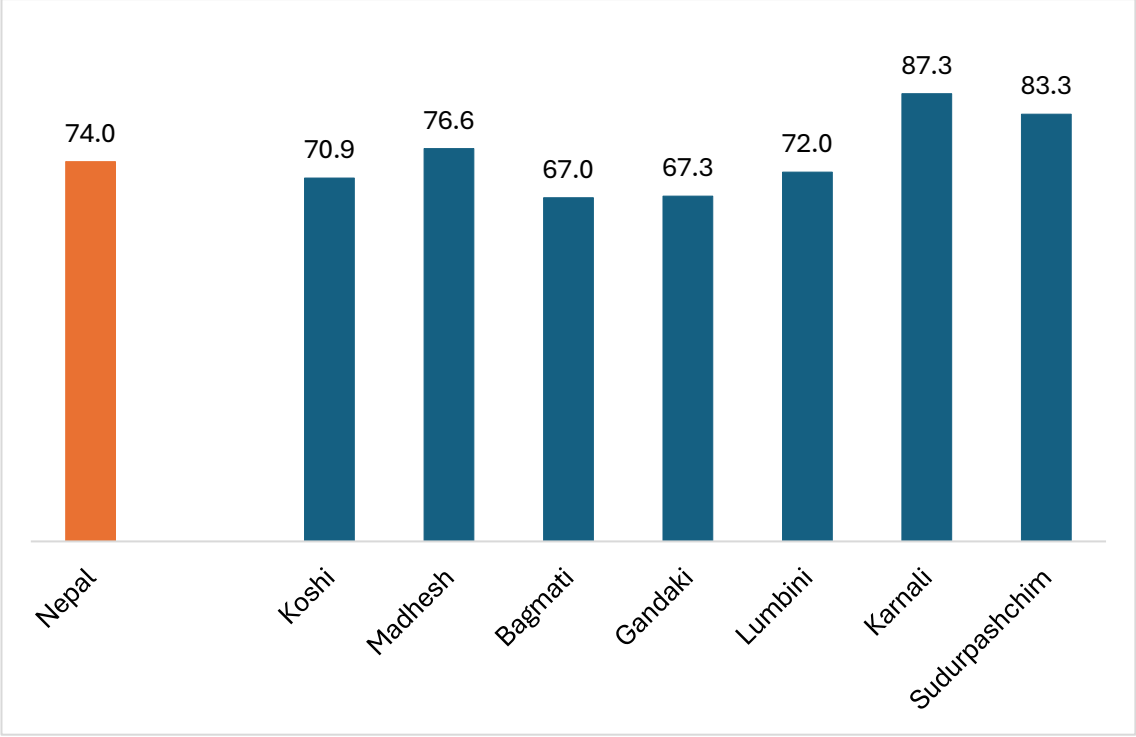
2.2 Birth registration status

Birth registration is a fundamental right of children, as mentioned in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and is guaranteed by the Constitution of Nepal. The birth registration certificate not only gives children a legal identity but also serves as a vital document of existence that allows them to enrol in school, access health services, receive social security allowances and other facilities provided by the state, and obtain citizenship once of age. Having a document that provides their age also helps to protect children from various forms of exploitation, such as child labour, child marriage, and human trafficking. It also determines family relationships, which are essential for multiple purposes, particularly for the purposes of inheritance and property rights. Furthermore, it guides the government in planning education, health, and social welfare policy. Society first acknowledges a child's existence and identity through birth registration. The right to be recognized as a person before the law is a critical step in ensuring lifelong protection and is a prerequisite for exercising all other rights.(UNICEF, 2024) SDG 16, Nepal's Target 16.9.1 aims to ensure that 100 percent of children under five years of age have their births registered with a civil authority. Despite persistent challenges, Nepal is enhancing its birth registration system toward universal registration to safeguard all children's rights.

Although birth registration is a fundamental right of children, about a quarter of children's births were not legally registered at the time of the 2021 census (Figure 2.6). Karnali Province has the

highest rate of birth registration at 87.3 percent, followed by Sudurpashchim at 83.3 percent. In contrast, the relatively developed Bagmati and Gandaki provinces have the lowest birth registration rate at 67 percent. This discrepancy might be the byproduct of child-centric schemes launched in specific areas, such as the Child Grant to the Karnali and Sudurpashchim provinces, which require children's births to be registered to access the grant. The Nepal MICS 2019 final report noted that the child grant is one of the contributing factors to the increase in birth registration compared to Nepal MICS 2014 (National Statistics Office/UNICEF, 2020). Efforts are currently underway to expand the child grant nationally, the effects of which can be examined in the next census.

Figure 2.6: Percentage of children (aged 5 and below) with birth registration



Source:NPHC, 2021

The status of children, by age group, whose birth is not registered, is displayed in Table 2.3. Despite a provision for free registration within 35 days of birth according to the National Identity Card and Registration Act 2020, data show that 39.6 percent of all children aged 0-1 were unregistered. However, the proportion of registered births decreases with age. This may be due to these children needing a birth certificate to enrol in school and to access other services.

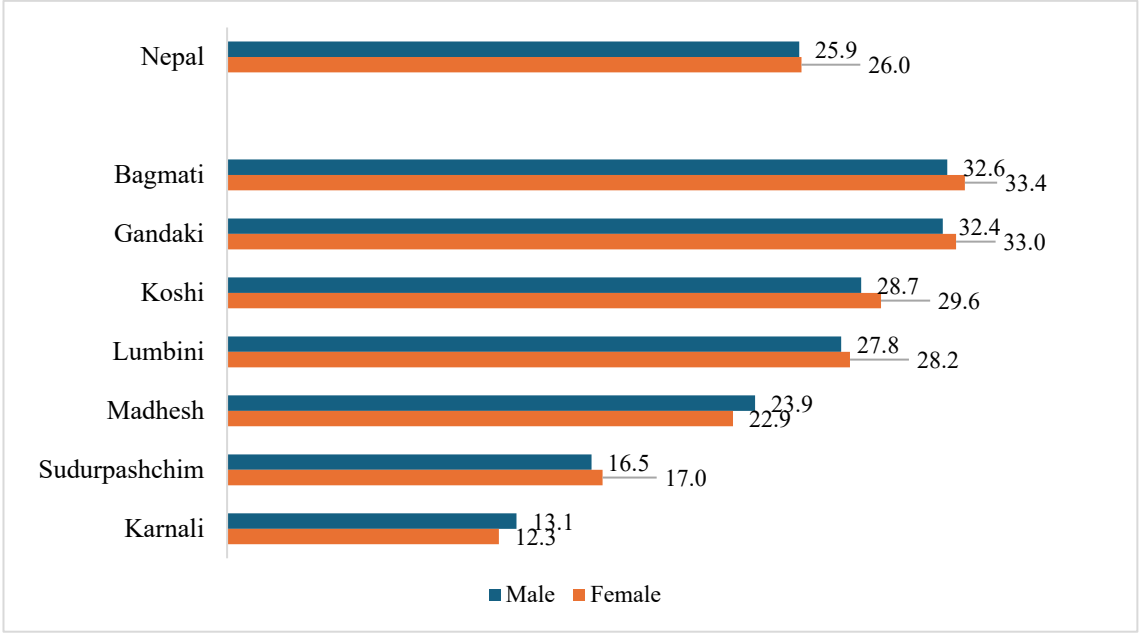
Table 2.3: Percentage of children without birth registration

Region	0-1 years	2-3 years	4-5 years
Nepal	**39.6**	**23.6**	**17.6**
Koshi	44.6	27.5	18.6
Madhesh	37.3	20.9	16.2
Bagmati	49.9	30.9	21.0
Gandaki	48.8	30.2	22.5
Lumbini	41.9	25.3	19.3
Karnali	17.8	10.5	10.6
Sudurpashchim	25.2	14.1	11.9

Source: NPHC, 2021

The rate of births *not registered* among the total population of aged 0-5 years is 26 percent. Overall, the proportion of unregistered births for girls and boys is almost equal (26.0 percent for girls and 25.9 percent for boys); however, it varies slightly more at the provincial level (Figure 2.7). In five provinces, a slightly higher percentage of girls' births were not registered compared to boys. Interestingly, the Madhesh and Karnali provinces had a higher percentage of boys' births not registered.

Figure 2.7: Percentage of children without birth registration by sex



Source: NPHC, 2021

At the national level, there is modest variation by wealth quintile for births not registered, with 16-18 percent in all quintiles. However, at the provincial level, there is notable variation. For instance, 11.3 percent of children in the lowest quintile in Bagmati province have not had their birth registered compared to 30.9 percent in the highest quintile; a similar trend is seen in Gandaki (Table 2.4). The lowest quintiles in Karnali and Sudurpashchim, respectively, have 52.0 percent and 30.9 percent of unregistered births. The general trend for these two provinces is that the proportion of unregistered births decreases with wealth. Generally, birth registration is associated with access to public services for children. In higher-income households, services are accessed through market mechanisms that might not require birth registration; this is reflected in provinces with a high HDI, such as Bagmati and Gandaki, where children in the higher and highest wealth quintiles are not registered. In contrast, children from lower-income households are more likely to need registration to access publicly provided services. Nevertheless, Karnali, Madhesh, and Sudurpashchim have a lower ratio of unregistered births in the highest quintile. This might indicate that the high quintile populations are more aware of and actively utilizing the public services available for children in those regions, perhaps in part due to fewer private service options being available.

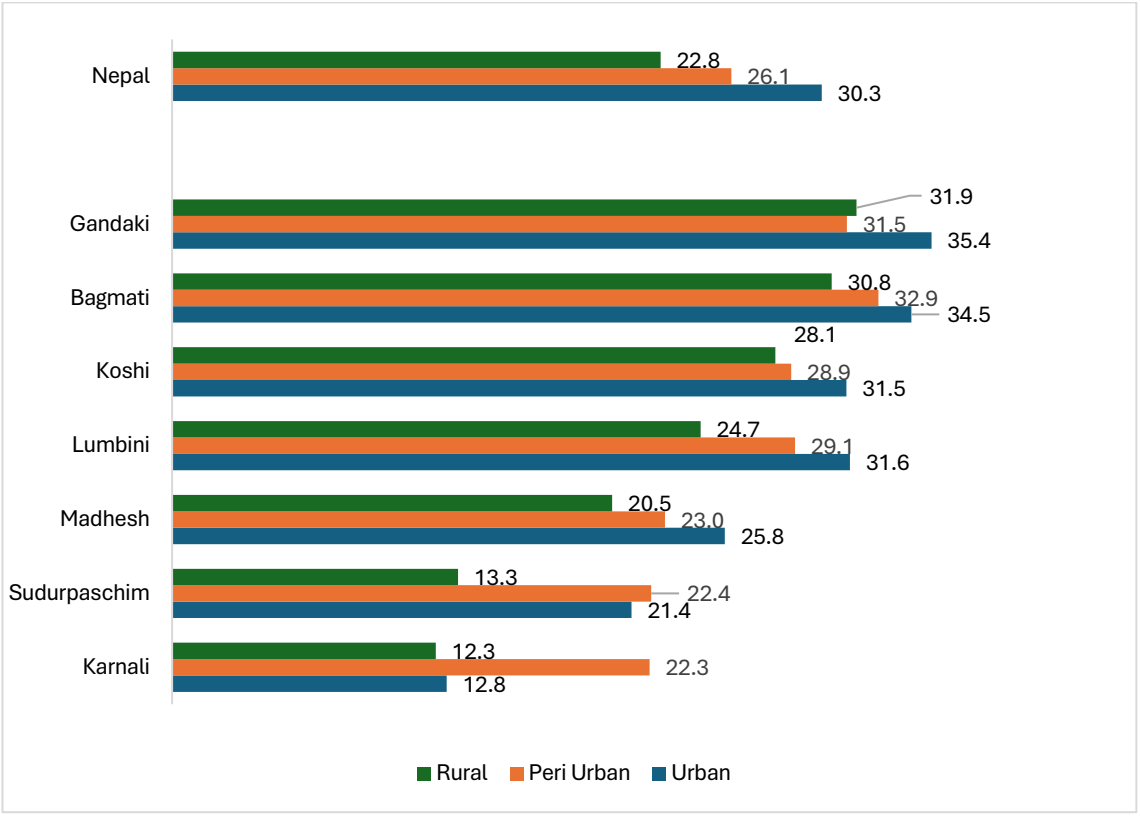
Table 2.4: Percentage of children without birth registeration by wealth quintile

Region	Lowest	Lower	Medium	Higher	Highest
Nepal	**18.0**	**17.4**	**16.9**	**16.4**	**15.9**
Koshi	25.3	24.7	20.1	17.4	12.6
Madhesh	27.5	22.2	25.2	17.6	7.5
Bagmati	11.3	12.5	17.8	27.3	30.9
Gandaki	11.8	22.0	20.5	22.6	23.0
Lumbini	18.8	22.2	25.2	19.3	14.4
Karnali	52.0	27.6	9.8	6.1	4.4
Sudurpashchim	30.9	25.7	20.1	14.0	9.2

Source: NPHC, 2021

Data show differences in the proportion of births not registered in urban-rural areas (Figure 2.8). Overall, 30.3 percent of all children in urban areas do not have their birth registered, compared to 26.1 percent in peri-urban areas and 22.8 percent in rural areas. The general trend across the country and all provinces shows that urban areas have the highest rate of unregistered births. People who live in rural areas are more likely to register the birth of their children compared to the urban population, with the peri-urban population serving as a buffer between the two. This could be an indicator of successful campaigns in rural areas; however, it also highlights the need to expand efforts toward peri-urban and urban areas as well.

Figure 2.8: Percentage of children without birth registered by rural/urban



Source: NPHC, 2021

CHAPTER III

FAMILY COMPOSITION

This chapter describes the composition or arrangement and roles within a child's family, including who they live with, characteristics of households headed by a child, and child marriage.

3.1 Living arrangements of children

Children's living arrangements are an important factor in shaping their social, emotional, and cognitive development. Additionally, children living with their mother only can face additional economic hardship and increased time constraints, while children living with their employers can face forced child labour, abuse, and exploitation.

A majority of children (77.9%) live with both parents, but the proportion varies significantly across provinces. Madhesh province leads with 83 percent, suggesting stronger family co-residence patterns. Gandaki province trails at 67 percent, raising concerns about parental separation or migration patterns (Table 3.1).

Table 3.1: Living arrangements of children (%)

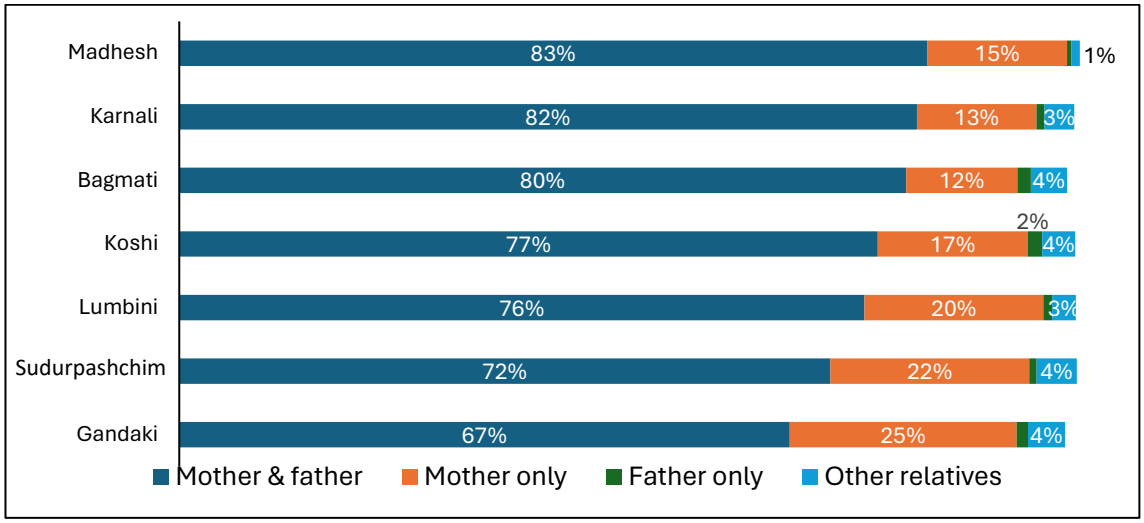
Category	Total	Male	Female
Mother and father	77.9	78	77.7
Mother only	17.1	17.1	17.1
Father only	1.03	1.07	1.0
Father and step mother	0.3	0.4	0.3
Mother and step father	0.1	0.05	0.1
Other relatives	3.0	2.7	3.2
Employer	0.03	0.03	0.02
Other	0.5	0.6	0.4
Not stated	0.1	0.1	0.1

Source: NPHC, 2021

Overall, more than 17.1 percent of children are reported to be living with their mother only and 1.0 percent with father only, while almost 3.0 percent live with other relatives. Madhesh Province has the highest percentage (82.7%) of children living with both parents (mother and father), and Gandaki has the lowest (67.5%). There is a significant disparity across provinces for children living with their mother only. Gandaki province has the highest percentage (25.1%) of

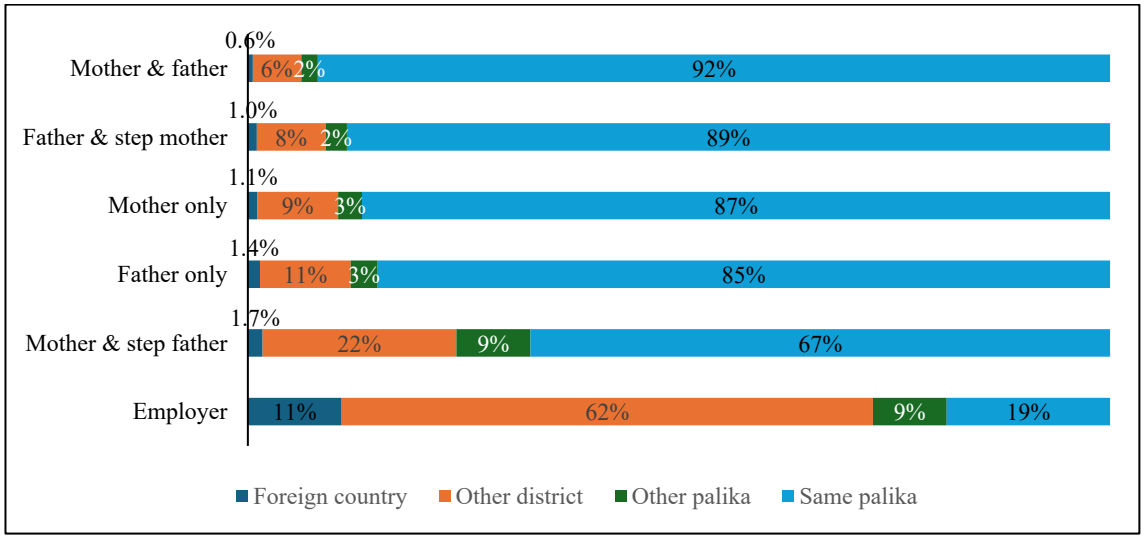
this group, followed by Sudurpashchim (22%). Bagmati has the lowest percentage (12.3%) of children living with their mother only. In Koshi, 1.6 percent of children live with their father only.

Figure 3.1: Living arrangement of the children by province



Children living with both parents are most likely to be born in the same municipality where they currently live (91.9%), indicating residential stability and lower exposure to migration-related risks. In contrast, children living with an employer are most likely to have been born in an entirely different district (61.6%). Additionally, 22.5 percent of children living with their mother and stepfather were born in another district. This shows that children living with people other than both parents are more likely to face migration and related vulnerabilities.

Figure 3.2: Place of birth and living arrangement of the children



A significant percentage of children living with an employer (10.9%) are from a foreign country (most likely India), suggesting cross-border vulnerabilities and possible links to child labour or trafficking (Table 3.2). Children not residing with both biological parents face higher mobility and are potentially more vulnerable to social, economic, and protection risks. Moreover, employer-based living arrangements particularly raise red flags for exploitation, lack of legal guardianship, and limited access to social services.

Table 3.2: Living arrangement of children (%), NPHC 2021

Relationship	???	???	???	???
Employer	10.9	61.6	8.6	18.9
Mother & step father	1.7	22.5	8.6	67.2
Father only	1.4	10.5	3.1	84.9
Mother only	1.1	9.4	2.8	86.8
Father & step mother	1.0	8.0	2.5	88.5
Mother & father	0.6	5.6	1.9	91.9

The percentage of children living with both a mother and father and a mother only declined with age, while the percentage of those who lived with other relatives increased. This may suggest increasing family separation, mobility, or shifts in guardianship arrangements—possibly due to economic migration, remarriage, or the loss of a parent. The rising share of older children living with other relatives could reflect extended family stepping in to provide care, transitions out of the nuclear family structure, or pursuit of educational and other opportunities. Of those living with employers, 81.2 percent were aged 14 and above. There were no children aged 9 and below living with employers. This implies that older children are disproportionately exposed to employment-linked living arrangements, which may signal child labour, informal or domestic work. These patterns point to an age gradient of risk, where adolescents are more likely to experience separation, reside with non-parent caregivers, or be under employer authority.

Table 3.3: Percentage of children under different living arrangements by age

Child's living status	0-1	2-4	5-9	10-11	12-13	14-15	16-17
Mother & father	84.8	80.4	77.4	76.6	76.3	76.2	74.9
Mother only	14.4	17.9	18.6	18.0	17.3	16.2	14.4
Father only	0.2	0.5	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.5
Other relatives	0.4	0.9	2.3	3.2	3.7	4.5	6.7

Source: NPHC, 2021

More than 80% of children from the lowest (80.3%) and high*est (*80.5%*)* wealth quintiles live with both parents, while only 74.2 percent of children from the high*er* wealth quintile are likely to live with both parents. This may suggest that in low-income families, cohabitation is often necessary for survival and caregiving support, while in high-income families, it may reflect stable housing, greater access to resources, and stronger support mechanisms within the family. The highest percentage (75.6%) of children living with an employer are reported to be economically active compared to children living with a mother only (31.9%) or mother and father (31.8%).

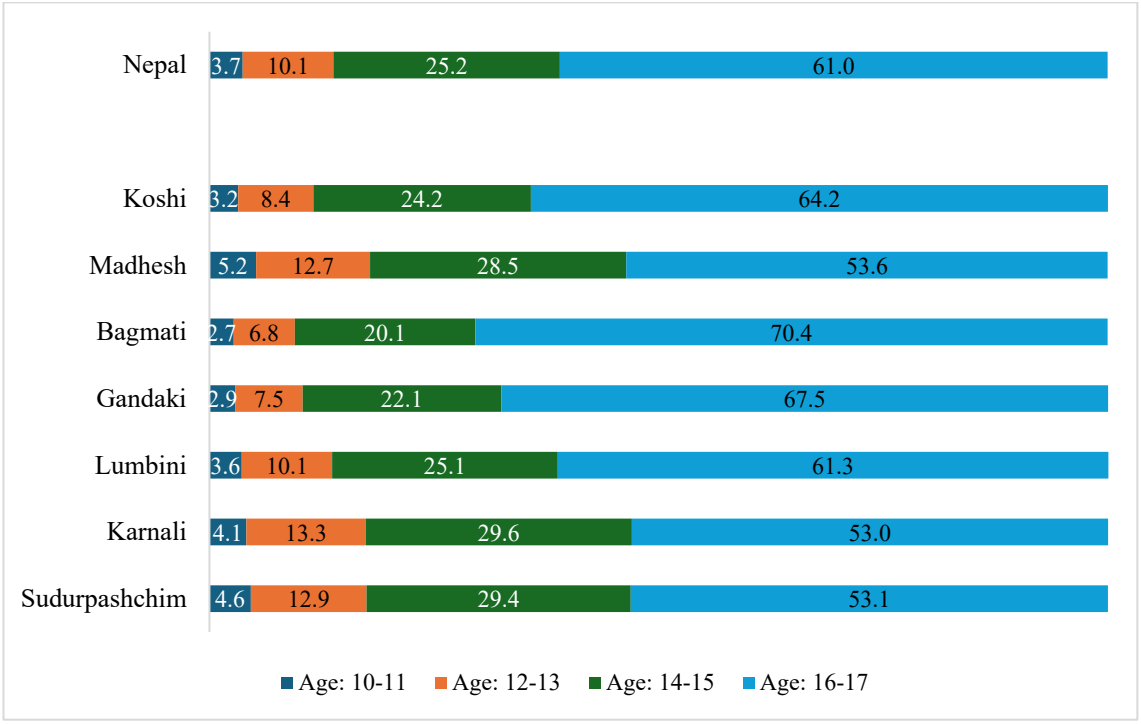
Peri-urban areas have the highest percentage (78.6%) of children living with both mother and father. This is slightly lower in rural areas (76.7%), which is compensated for by a slightly higher percentage of children in rural areas living with their mother only. This may indicate male out-migration for work, leaving mothers as primary caregivers. In urban areas, living with other relatives is slightly more common (4.1%) compared to rural areas (3.2%) and peri-urban areas (2.1%).

3.2 Child-headed household

The study of child-headed households is important, especially in a country like Nepal, as it highlights aspects that might significantly impact the well-being of a child. For instance, households headed by children are generally impoverished, leading to negative outcomes such as dropping out of school to take care of siblings, early marriage, possible exploitation, child labour, and psychological trauma from losing parents early. Furthermore, research is important as it also exposes gaps present in the current policy and legal systems intended to protect the welfare of children.

Data shows that 31,512 (0.5%) households are headed by children under 18 years of age. Among them, 61.0 percent are headed by children aged 16 to 17, and nearly 4 percent are headed by children aged 10-11 (Figure 3.3). In Bagmati province, 29.6 percent of children who are the head of the household are below age 16, compared to 47.0 percent in the Karnali and 46.9% in Sudurpashchim provinces.

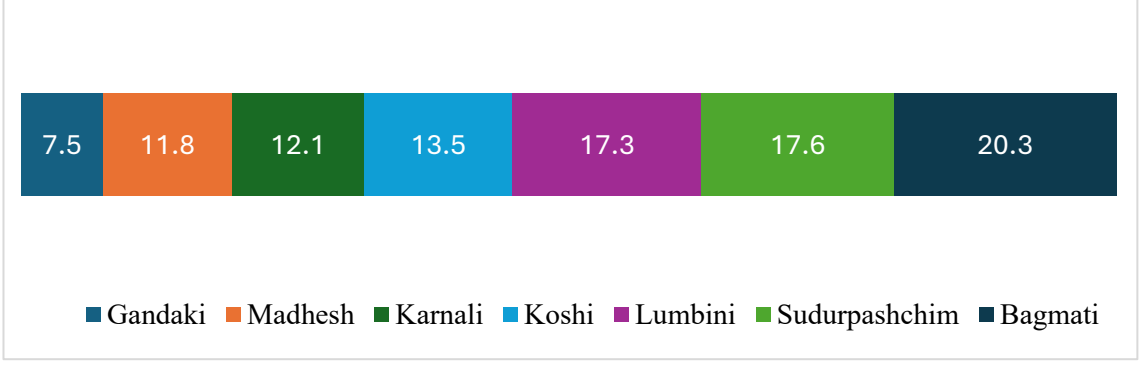
Figure 3.3: Distribution of child-headed households across age (%)



Source: NPHC, 2021

Nearly half of child household heads (42%) in Nepal are economically active. This varies by province. Among economically active children who are household heads, Bagmati has the highest percentage of children at 20.3 percent, and Gandaki has the lowest at 7.5 percent (Figure 3.4).

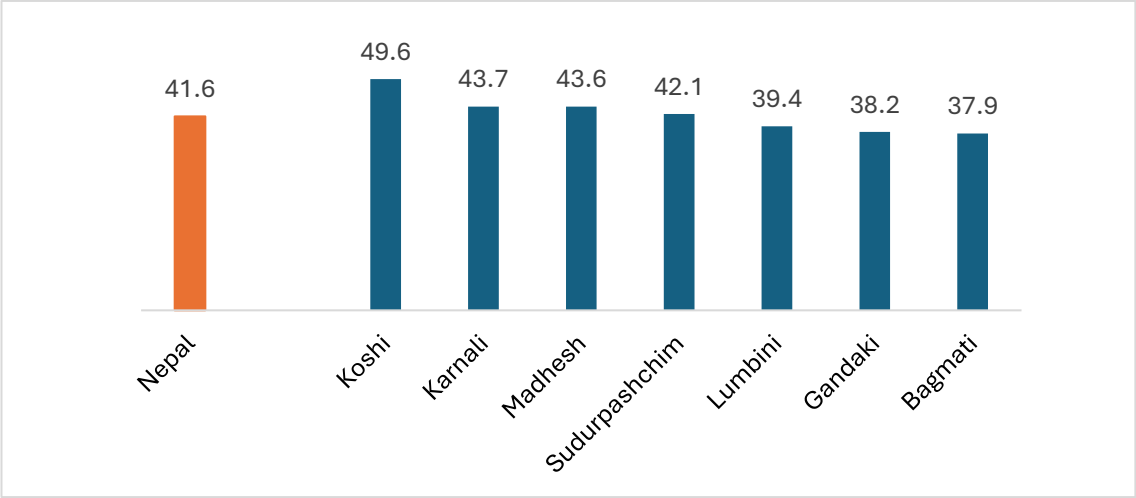
Figure 3.4: Distribution of economically active child-headed households by province (%)



Source: NPHC, 2021

The proportion of child household heads by province who are economically active is highlighted in Figure 3.5. In Koshi, half (49.6%) of the children who are household heads are economically active, which is the highest rate among provinces. Bagmati has the lowest rate at 37.9 percent.

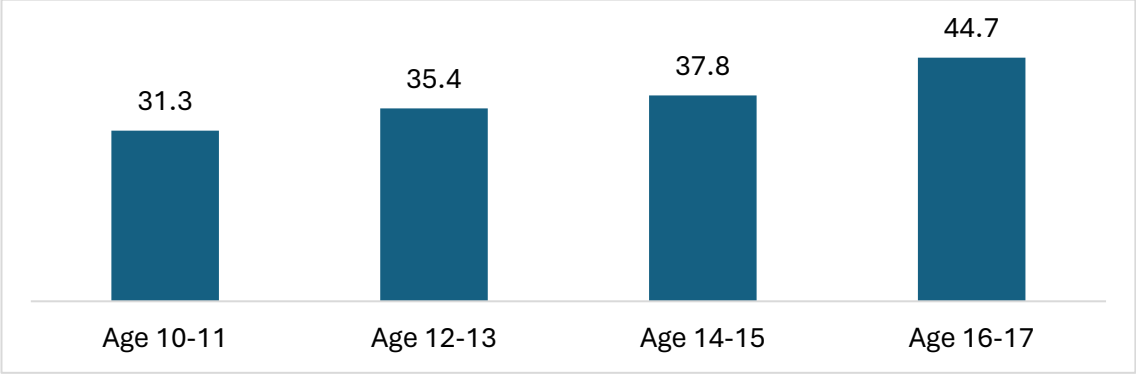
Figure 3.5: Percentage of child-headed household with economically active child-head



Source: NPHC, 2021

Not surprisingly, as child household heads grow older, their economic activity increases. Among the youngest age group of child household heads, age 10-11, 31.3 percent are economically active, which increases to 44.7 percent in the 16-17 age group (Figure 3.6). As mentioned above, across provinces, Koshi has the highest rate of economically active child household heads across all age groups: 42.6 percent in the 10-11 age group, 43.8 percent in the 12-13 age group, 44.0 percent in the 14-15 age group, and 52.7 percent in the 16-17 age group.

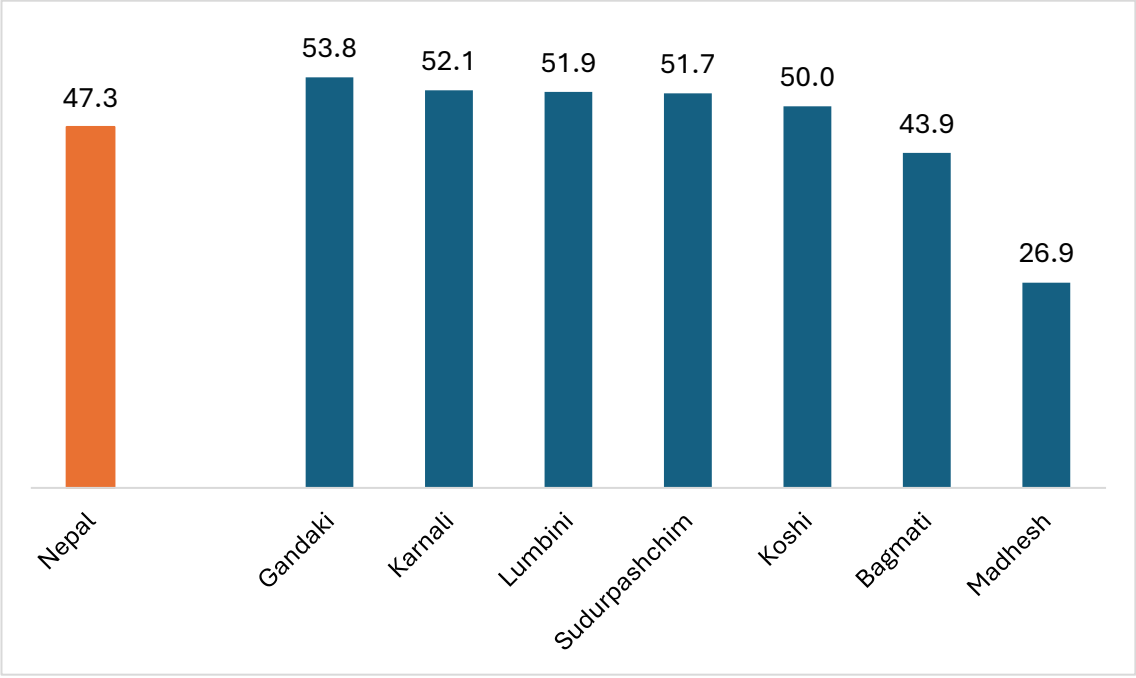
Figure 3.6: Percentage of child-headed households with child head who are economically active by age



Source: NPHC, 2021

At the national level, there are more boy-headed households than girl-headed ones, on average, at 53 percent and 47 percent respectively. However, across five provinces, there are at least as many girls as household heads as there are boys as household heads. One striking exception, which skews the national average, is in Madhesh, where 73.1 percent of child-headed households are headed by boys compared to 26.9 percent by girls (Figure 3.7). Across provinces, Madhesh has the lowest number of girl child-headed households in all age groups, likely due to beliefs or stigma about gender.

Figure 3.7: Percentage of households headed by girls (out of total child-headed households)



Source: NPHC, 2021

Child-headed households are more common in lower wealth quintiles in Karnali and Sudurpashchim due to factors like socio-economic disadvantage and parental work migration (Table). This leaves children to fend for themselves, which, in turn, makes them more susceptible to economic shocks, exploitation, and generational cycles of poverty. Therefore, careful analysis of child-headed households is important for identifying vulnerable populations and for formulating policies that benefit them.

Overall, 20.5 percent of all child-headed households fall in the lowest wealth quintile, and only 7.4 percent of child-headed households fall in the highest quintile. While there is a common and expected trend within provinces where child-headed households are more prevalent in low wealth quintiles and less prevalent in high wealth quintiles, Bagmati and Gandaki have the

opposite trend. In these two provinces, more than 50 percent of child-headed households are in the high wealth quintiles (Table 3.4). However, these children can still face vulnerabilities despite having access to assets, or even remittence income from parents abroad, that place them in higher wealth quintiles. There may be cases of having shelter but not enough food, and vulnerability to exploitation without the presence of an adult caregiver remains a concern.

Karnali has the highest proportion of child-headed households in the low spectrum of the wealth quintile. Within Karnali, 62.8 percent of child-headed households are in the low spectrum of the wealth quintile, followed by Sudurpashchim at 53.9 percent.

Table 3.4: Distribution of child-headed households across wealth quintile (%)

Province	Lowest	Lower	Medium	Higher	Highest
Nepal	20.5	17.0	19.9	34.6	7.4
Koshi	19.5	18.9	23.6	30.6	6.8
Madhesh	27.2	20.4	25.4	23.2	3.5
Bagmati	5.1	7.4	17.3	53.5	14.9
Gandaki	8.7	11.5	18.2	49.5	11.2
Lumbini	16.8	20.0	21.1	35.4	6.5
Karnali	39.8	23.0	14.7	19.7	2.7
Sudurpashchim	32.9	21.0	20.3	22.6	3.0

Source: NPHC, 2021

3.3 Marital status of children

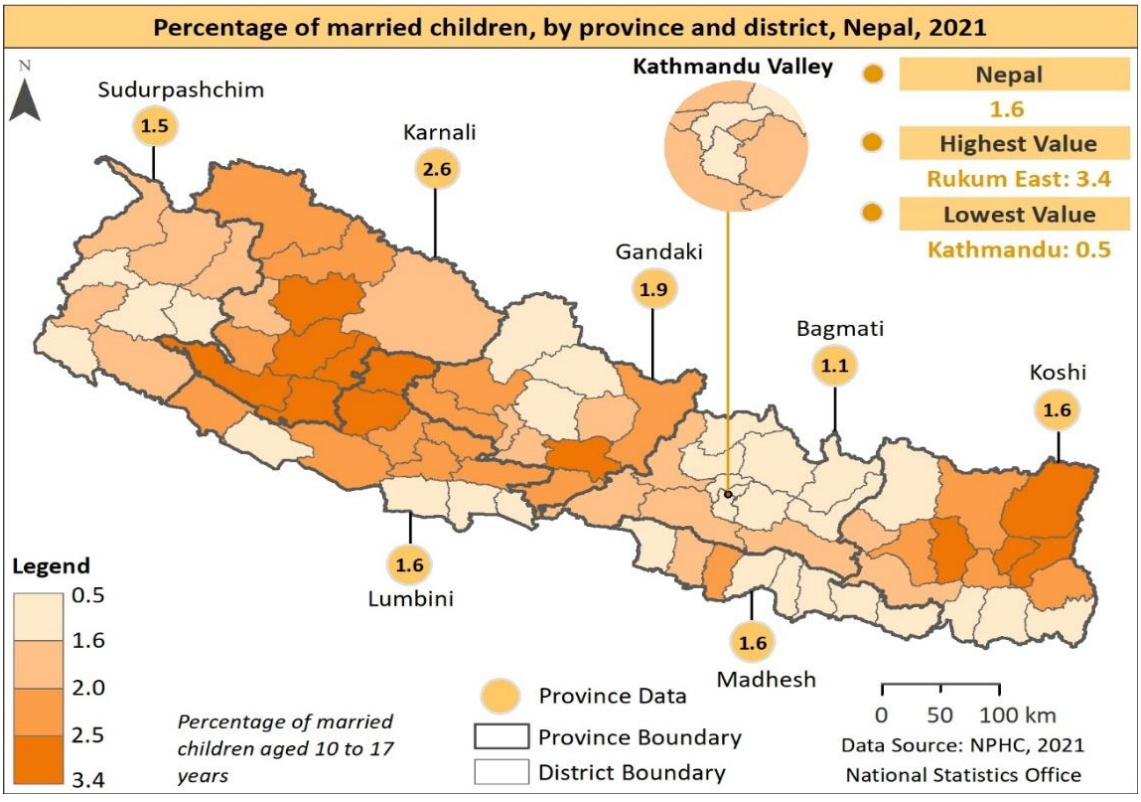
Both child and early marriage have been long-standing issues in Nepal. Although prohibited by law, the practice persists due to factors like lack of awareness about harms, poverty, tradition, limited opportunities, discontinuation of education, and safety concerns in society, especially for girls (NCRC, 2021). This practice affects not only children but also their families, communities, and the country's development. Ending child marriage is a key goal among the SDGs, with a target to eliminate it by 2030. South Asian Initiatives to End Violence Against Children, an apex body of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, has prioritized the elimination of child marriage as one of its five major child protection issues.[1] Child marriage has devastating effects on young girls, including increased health risks, limited education, and heightened vulnerability to poverty and violence. Child marriage is an egregious violation of every child's right to reach her or his full potential (UNICEF, 2018).

[1] South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children

This section presents data from various aspects on the marital status of children aged 10-17 years in Nepal. For this section, along with married children in the conventional sense, married children also include widows/widowers, divorced, and separated children. A report from the NSO titled Nuptiality in Nepal, 2025, defines that "any formal marriage or informal union between a child under the age of 18 and an adult or another child is referred to as child marriage. It is measured as the proportion of the 20- to 24-year-old population that marries before the age of 15 and before the age of 18 (as per the Sustainable Development Goal indicator 5.3.1 for measuring target 5.3 for eliminating child, early and forced marriage). In Nepal, 3.0 and 21.9 percent of females aged 20 to 24 were married before the ages 15 and 18, respectively."[2]

In this report, the marital status of children is analyzed only among those aged 10 to 17 during the census period. It thus provides data reflecting the situation at that specific time and age group. The prevalence of married children nationally is similar to that of a majority of provinces (1.6%), while Karnali stands out as having 2.6 percent of married children (Map 3.1).

Map 3.1: Percentage of children who are married



Source: NPHC, 2021

[2] National Statistics Office, Nuptiality in Nepal, 2025

3.3.1 Prevalence of child marriage

The data highlight the prevalence of child marriage in Nepal, with 1.6 percent of married children in the 10-17 age group. Karnali has the highest percentage of ever-married children, and Bagmati ranks lowest. However, the proportion of married children is highest in Madhesh, with 22.0 percent of total ever-married children, and lowest in Gandaki, with 8.9 percent of total ever-married children. The prevalence is significantly higher among girls at 2.6 percent (59,417), compared to boys at 0.7 percent (15,698), reflecting gender disparities in early marriage. This data does not reflect the exact age group specified under SDG 5 — *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*. Target 5.3.1 aims to reduce the proportion of women aged 15–19 years who are married or in union to 4.1 percent by 2030. However, the data reveal a notable prevalence of marriage among children.

In comparison, Nepal MICS 2019 reported a high prevalence of marriage among adolescents, with 19 percent of women aged 15-19 years being currently married Central Bureau of Statistics/UNICEF, 2020). When the data is disaggregated into smaller age groups, it reveals a notable skew in the proportion of ever-married children, with the 16-17-year age group showing significantly higher percentages across all provinces. Among ever-married children, 75.4 percent are 16-17 years of age. Karnali has the highest proportion of ever-married children, followed by Gandaki. Other provinces have similar proportions (approximately 5 percent). Bagmati has the lowest proportion of child marriage. Child marriage among children between the ages of 14 and 15 is generally low, but Karnali and Gandaki have had higher rates in this age group. In every province, marriage before the age of 13 is uncommon (Table 3.5).

Table 3.5: Percentage of children who are ever married by age

	10-13	14-15	16-17
Nepal	**0.3**	**1.0**	**4.9**
Koshi	0.3	1.0	4.9
Madhesh	0.3	1.0	5.0
Bagamati	0.2	0.7	3.2
Gandaki	0.3	1.3	5.4
Lumbini	0.3	1.0	5.0
Karnali	0.3	1.4	9.1
Sudurpashchim	0.3	0.9	5.1

Source: NPHC, 2021

3.3.2 Gender among married children

The ratio of girls (79%) is drastically higher than that of boys (21%) among ever-married children. Data reveal a significant gender disparity in child marriage, with girls making up the vast majority of ever-married children across all provinces. Even though this trend is consistent across the nation, Bagmati province has the lowest (76.1%) rate of married girls, and Koshi (80.8%) and Madhesh 981.1%) have the highest rates (Table 3.6). These variations may reflect differences in cultural norms, economic well-being, and social pressures surrounding early marriage in different provinces.

Table 3.6: Child marriage prevalence by sex (%), NPHC 2021

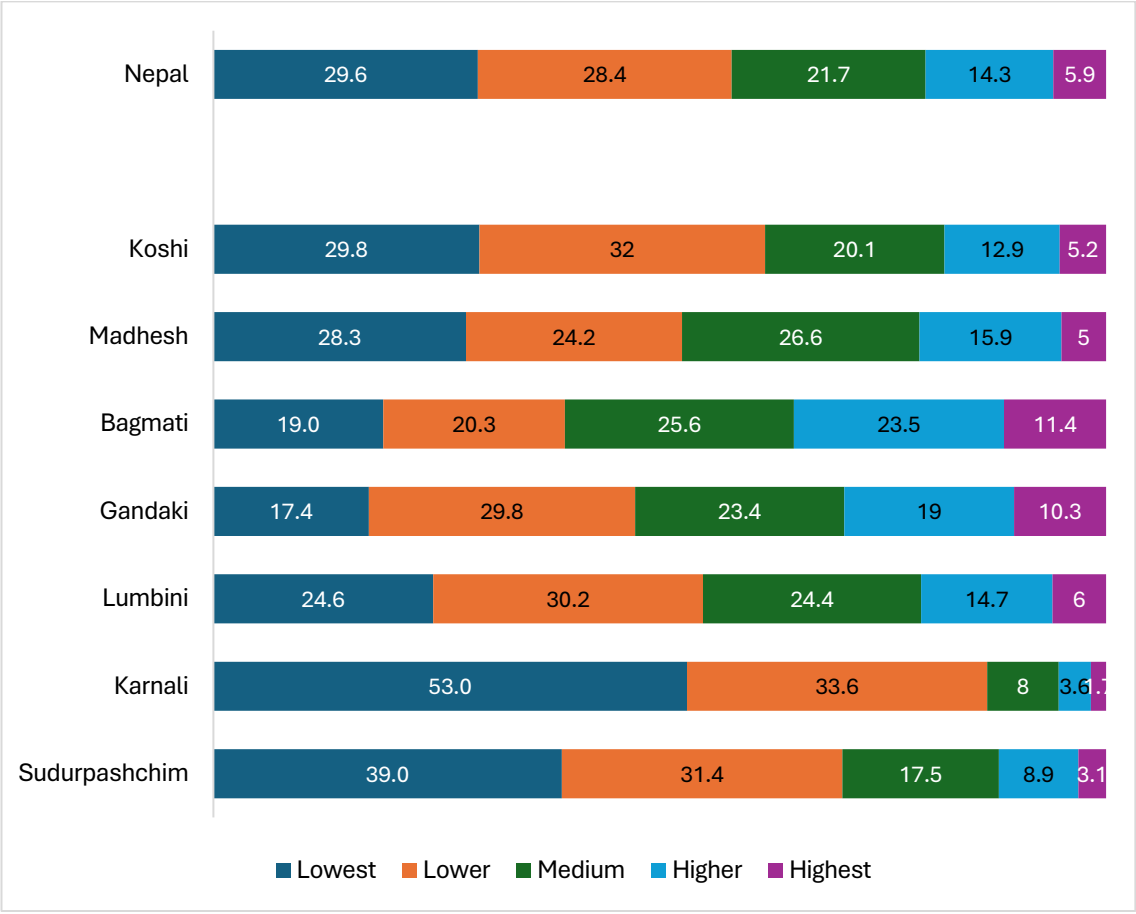
Area	Prevalence rate	
	Male	Female
Nepal	21.0	79.0
Koshi	19.2	80.8
Madhesh	19.8	81.1
Bagmati	23.9	76.1
Gandaki	19.6	80.4
Lumbini	21.3	78.7
Karnali	22.6	77.4
Sudurpashchim	22.4	77.6

Source: NPHC, 2021

3.3.3 Economic well-being and child marriage

The prevalence of ever-married children is also associated with the family's economic well-being. The prevalence of married children by wealth quintile is illustrated in Figure. Data shows a strong relationship between economic well-being and child marriage prevalence. More than half of married children belong to the lowest and lower quintiles, with the highest prevalence in Karnali, where 53.0 percent of married children belong to the lowest quintile. Only 5.9 percent of married children belong to the highest quintile, showing severe inequalities (Figure 3.8). These trends indicate the reality that poverty is one of the major determinants of early marriage.

Figure 3.8: Distribution of married children across wealth quintile by province (%)

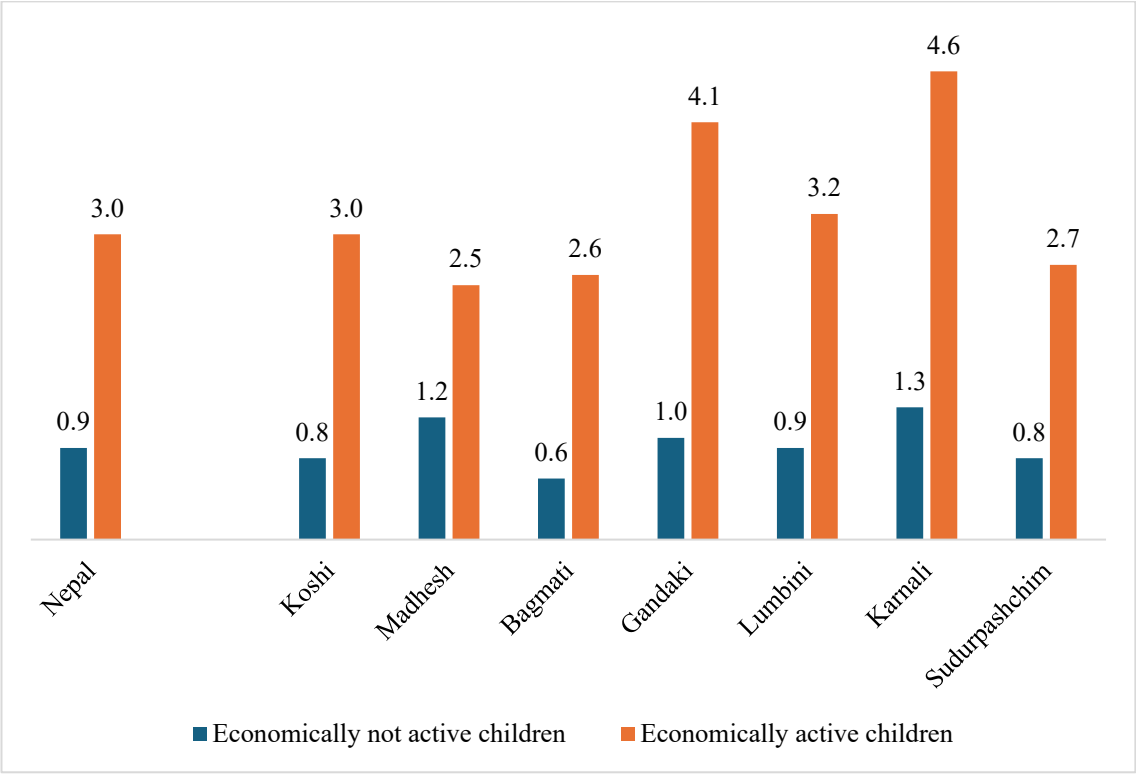


Source: NPHC, 2021

3.3.4 Economic activity among married children

The prevalence of married children among economically active children was slightly higher than that among all children (Figure 3.9). In Nepal, 3.0 percent of economically active children were married, while less than 1 percent of not economically active children were married. The highest rate of economically active married children was in Karnali, at 4.6 percent, followed by Gandaki, at 4.1 percent, and the rest of the provinces, at around 3 percent.

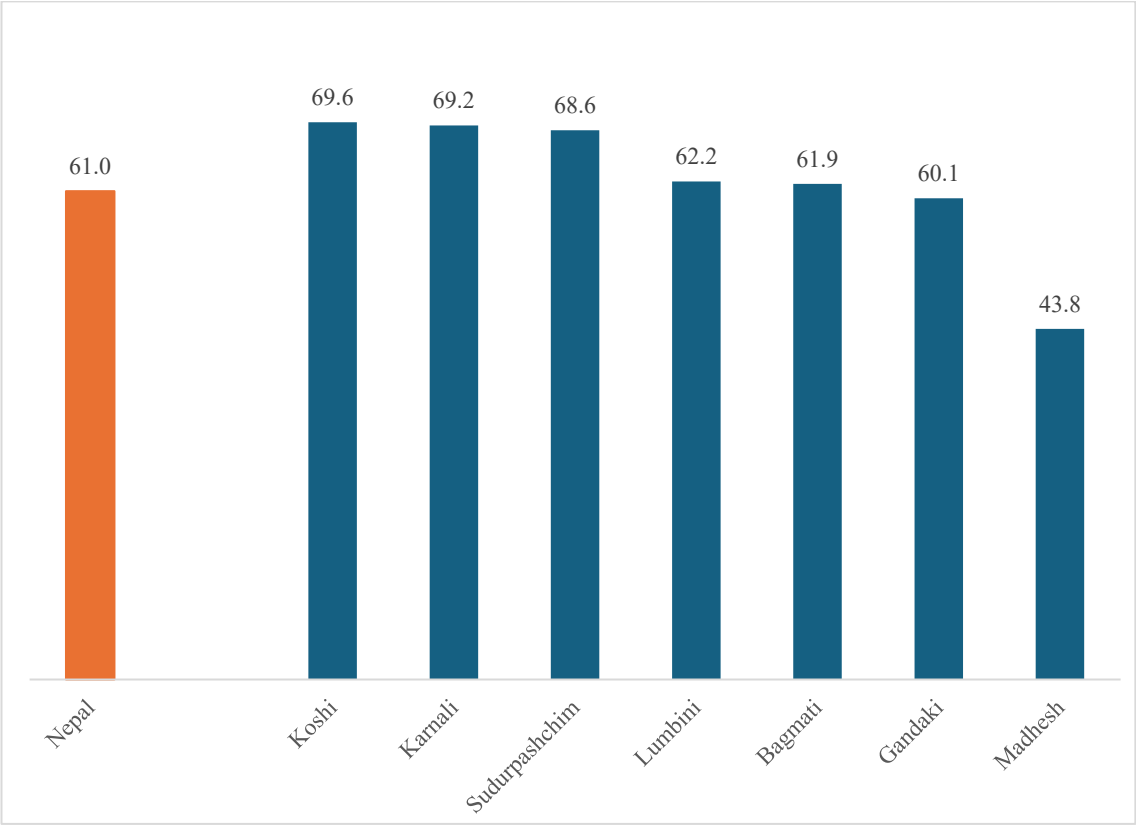
Figure 3.9: Percentage of children who are married by economic activity



Source: NPHC, 2021

The majority of married children (58.0%) are from the low wealth quintiles, hence, compelling them to be economically active to fulfil financial responsibilities. The same is 86.6 percent for Karnali and 70.4 percent for Sudurpashchim. Figure 3.10 indicates the prevalence of economically active children among married children at the national level and by province. Nationally, a majority (61.0%) of married children are economically active. In Koshi, this rate is 69.6 percent, followed by Karnali (69.2%) and Sudurpashchim (68.6%). However, while Madhesh has the highest overall rate of married children at 22 percent, it has the lowest rate of economically active married children at 43.8 percent. About three-quarters of married children are girls, which may indicate that married girls in Madhesh often focus on household responsibilities rather than work outside the home.

Figure 3.10: Percentage of married children who are economically active



Source: NPHC, 2021

3.3.5 Education among married children

Children are expected to be in school and complete their education, which not only provides invaluable knowledge but also opens doors to better opportunities in the future. However, nearly two-thirds of married children were economically active, highlighting repeated violations of their rights: first through marriage and second by being compelled to work for a living.

Early marriage significantly affects children's access to and progress in education. Only 36.5 percent of married children are currently attending school, compared to 89.1 percent of never-married children, showing the negative impact of marriage on children (Table 3.7).

Over half of married children have dropped out of school (52.0%), and a noteworthy percentage never attended school (11.4%). Gender disparity is evident, with boys having a higher likelihood of continuing education after marriage than girls, who face greater adversity in education. These findings emphasize the need for interventions to prevent early marriage and ensure continued access to education, especially for girls.

Table 3.7: School Attendance by Marital Status of Children (%)

	Currently attending	Ever attending	Never attending
Nepal	**88.3**	**8.0**	**3.7**
Ever married	36.5	52.0	11.4
Never married	89.1	7.3	3.6
Male total	**88.2**	**8.4**	**3.4**
Ever married	50.2	41.2	8.6
Never married	88.4	8.2	3.4
Female total	**88.4**	**7.6**	**4.0**
Ever married	32.9	54.8	12.2
Never married	89.8	6.3	3.8

Source: NPHC, 2021

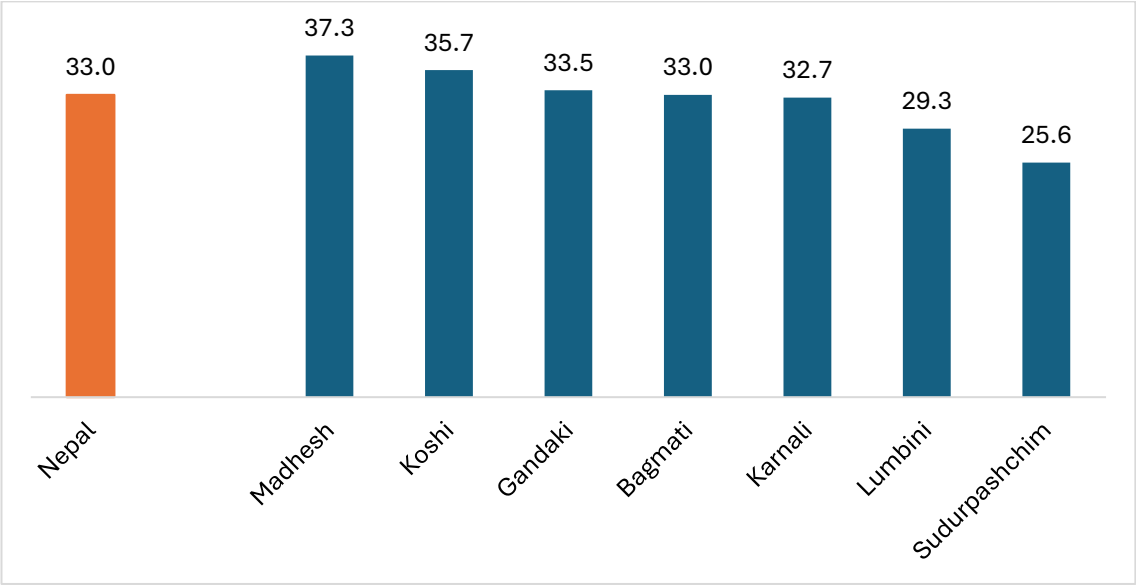
Child marriage in Nepal reflects social, cultural, and economic inequalities. Child marriage denies children, especially females, their right to education, as well as increases their vulnerability to labour exploitation and reproductive health risks. Addressing the issue of child marriage requires a multifaceted approach that includes targeting gender equality, improving the level of access to education, providing economic assistance to low-income families, educating and sensitizing families and children, and implementing stringent enforcement of available legislation protecting children from marriage in early age.

3.4 Children as mothers and their children

Pregnancy during adolescence carries risks for girls, who are still growing and developing. The following two figures show the percentage of child mothers (between the ages of 13 and 17) who have ever been married regardless of her current marital status (such as separation or divorce) and the number of children born alive and currently alive to child mothers who are between the ages of 13 and 17.

The prevalence of children born to married girls is shown in Figure 3.11. Notably, at the national level, one-third of married children under 18 years of age have given birth to a child. The highest prevalence of children born to mothers aged 10-17 years is in Madhesh province at 37.3 percent, while the lowest is in Sudurpashchim at 25.6 percent.

Figure 3.11: Percentage of married girls age 10-17 with ever born child



Source: NPHC, 2021

Table 3.8 shows the percentage of child mothers between the ages of 13 and 17 who have ever been married. Marriage among girls aged 13-15 remains rare in Nepal at only 0.8 percent overall. The national average for girls aged 16-17 giving birth is 1.2 percent; three provinces—Koshi, Gandaki, and Karnali—are above the national average, with Karnali having the highest rate of child mothers at 2.5 percent. Bagmati has the lowest rate at 0.8 percent.

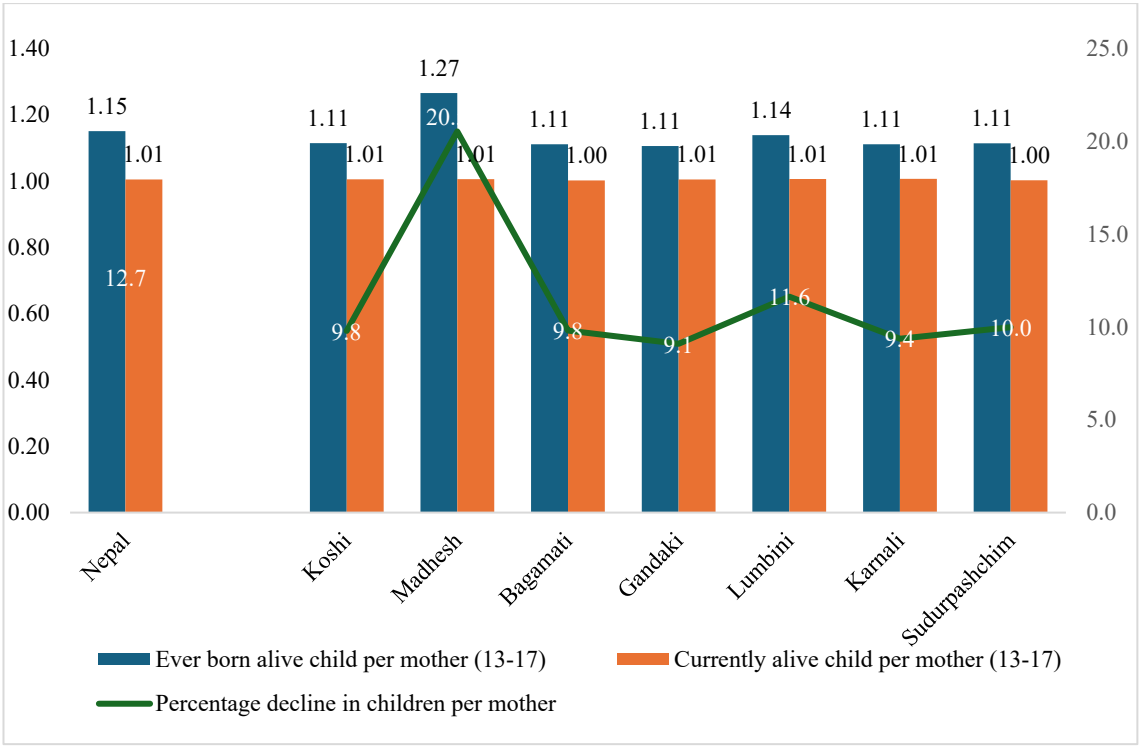
Table 3.8: Number of married girls with ever born child

	% Mother (age 13-15)	Mother (age 13-15)	% Mother (age 16-17)	Mother (age 16-17)
Nepal	**0.08**	**581**	**1.24**	**7041**
Koshi	0.08	115	1.45	1349
Madhesh	0.05	94	1.11	1295
Bagmati	0.04	63	0.84	911
Gandaki	0.11	72	0.11	709
Lumbini	0.07	113	1.09	1158
Karnali	0.11	71	2.46	945
Sudurpashchim	0.05	53	1.12	674

Source NPHC, 2021

Adolescent pregnancy also poses risks for the children born to these young mothers. Figure 3.12 shows that nationally, the average number of children born to a mother aged 13-17 is 1.15, while the average number of children still alive is 1.01, indicating a 12.7 percent average national decline in the number of children alive per mother for this demographic. Across provinces, Madhesh has the largest difference between the number of children born alive to child mothers and the number currently alive, showing a 20.5 percent decline, indicating that child mortality among child mothers is highest in this province, possibly due to fewer health and maternal resources. The decline in Gandaki and Karnali is lowest at 9.1 percent.

Figure 3.12: Number of ever born alive children and currently alive children per mother (age 13-17)



Source: NPHC, 2021

The total number of ever-married girls aged 10-17 is 58,851. Among them, 25.7 percent are mothers. Since the data on motherhood only includes those aged 13-17 and shows 15,125 in number, this illustrates that more than a quarter of married adolescent girls at this age have children, which can have adverse health effects for both the young mother and her newborn.

CHAPTER IV

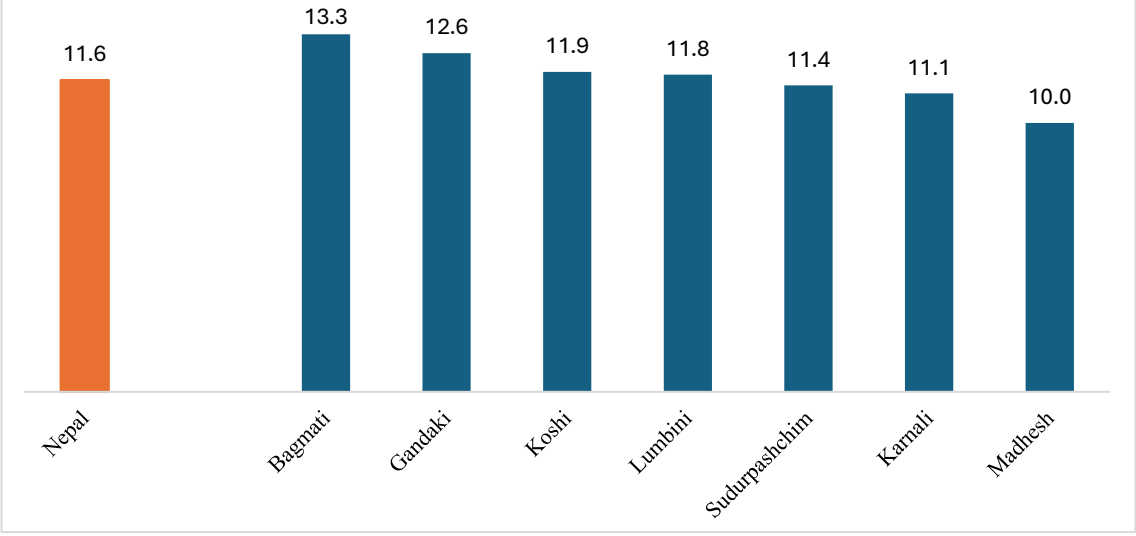
CHILD MIGRATION

The study of child migration is essential, as it provides insight into developmental impacts on children, including effects on their education and exposure to risks such as abuse and exploitation. Furthermore, it plays a critical role in informing legal and policy responses aimed at safeguarding children who are particularly vulnerable in migration contexts.

Migration affects children in different ways. While some experience a safe transition, others face increased risks, including violence, exploitation, and lack of access to essential services, including health, education, and protection. Multiple factors, including voluntary choices and external pressures, drive migration. Push factors, such as poverty or conflict, compel children to leave their homes, while pull factors, such as better opportunities, attract them to new locations. These patterns differ between boys and girls (UNICEF, 2022).

According to the NPHC 2021, a non-migrant is someone who was born and enumerated in the same place, for instance, at the same local level. Figure 4.1 presents the overall proportion of children in Nepal who are migrants (11.6%), along with the distribution by province. The largest proportion of migrant children resides in Bagmati (13.3%), likely due to the availability of economic opportunities, while the smallest proportion resides in Madhesh (10%).

Figure 4.1: Percentage of children who are migrants

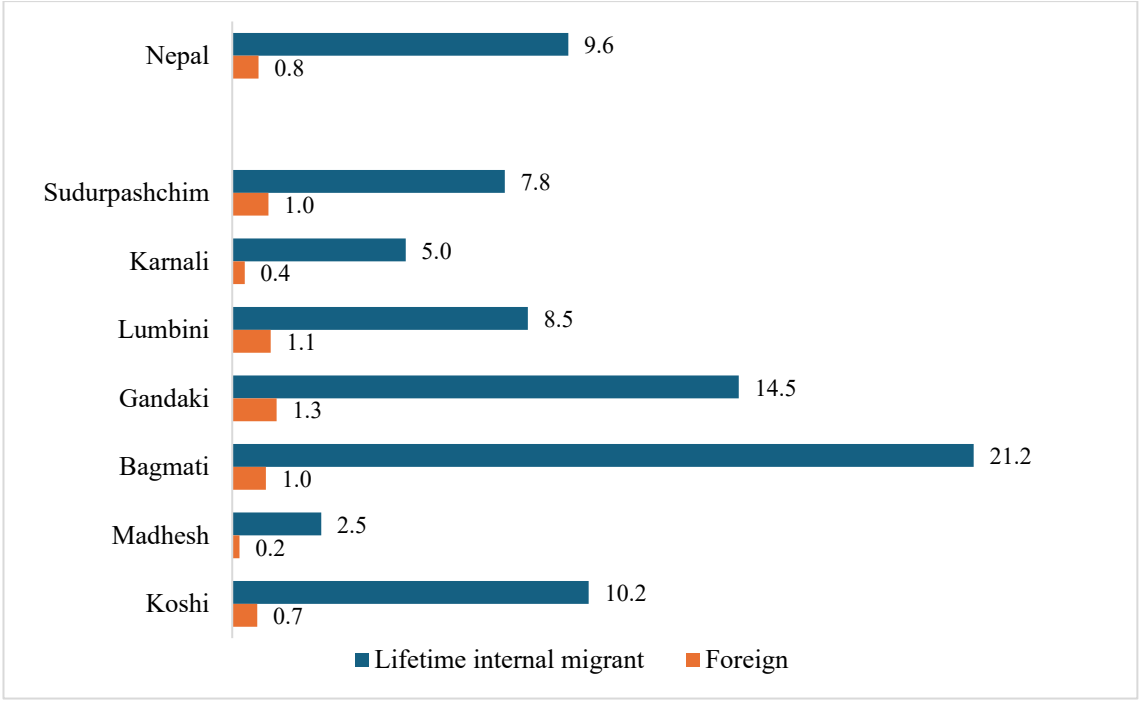


Source: NPHC, 2021

A lifetime internal migrant is someone who was born in one place, for instance, and enumerated at another local level in the same district or in another district. An international immigrant is someone who was foreign-born but was enumerated in Nepal. An international immigrant is represented by the term "foreign".

Madhesh has the highest proportion of non-migrant children (97%), while migration into Madhesh and Karnali is low at 2.5 percent and 5.0 percent, respectively. Data also shows that, as expected, lifetime migration to Bagmati from other provinces is the highest at 21.2 percent. The highest proportion of foreign-born migrants is in Gandaki at 1.3 percent, with the lowest in Madhesh at 0.2 percent (Figure 4.2).

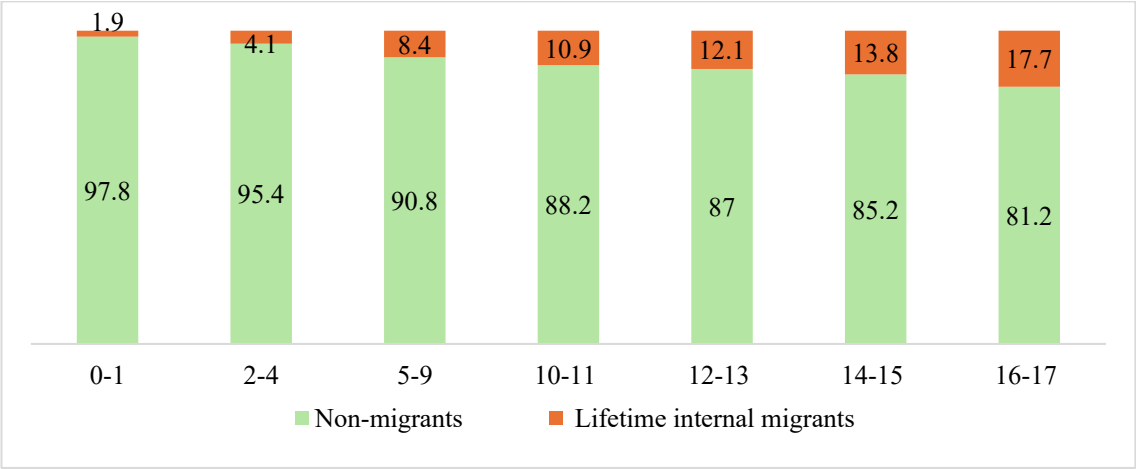
Figure 4.2: Migration status of children (%)



Source: NPHC, 2021

Figure 4.3 reports the migration status of children by age groups. Non-migrants form the highest proportion across all age groups, with the proportion of lifetime internal migrants increasing with age. This can be attributed to various factors such as parents seeking better opportunities or children themselves looking for work elsewhere than the place in which they were born.

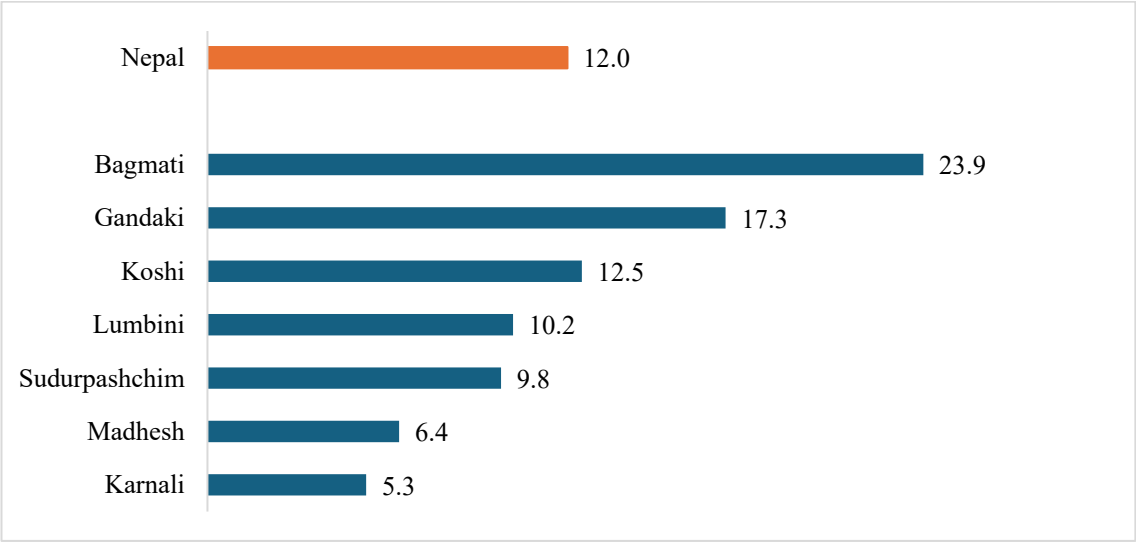
Figure 4.3: Migration status across age group (%)



Source: NPHC, 2021

Figure 4.4 shows the migration status of economically active children across provinces, indicating that the majority of all economically active children in a province are non-migrants. Of all the economically active children in Karnali, only 5.3 percent are migrants. In other words, Karnali has the highest share of economically active non-migrant children. In contrast, Bagmati has the highest share of migrant children out of all economically active children at 23.9 percent.

Figure 4.4: Internal migration status of economically active children (%)



Source NPHC, 2021

The majority of migrant children live with both parents. This is the case nationally (61.0%) and by province. In Madhesh province, 72.4 percent of migrant children live with both parents. In Lumbini, 29.7 percent of migrant children live with a mother only compared to 12.5 percent in Madhesh province.

In Nepal and across provinces, child migration status is largely similar across sexes. Nationally, 9.7 percent of boys and 9.5 percent of girls are lifetime internal migrants. The pattern is similar in foreign migration status as well, with 1 percent each for both sexes.

Of all migrant children, 65.9 percent live in either peri-urban or urban areas in Nepal (Table 4.1). Karnali and Sudurpashchim are exceptions in that, respectively, 81.3 percent and 60.3 percent of child migrants live in rural areas. In Madhesh, 74.5 percent of migrant children live in peri-urban areas. Bagmati has the highest share of child migrants living in urban areas (51.6%).

Table 4.1: Distribution of children who are migrated across urban/rural (%)

	Peri-urban	Rural	Urban
Nepal	**41.8**	**34.1**	**24.1**
Koshi	41.8	36.6	21.6
Madhesh	74.5	5.0	20.5
Bagmati	14.7	33.6	51.6
Gandaki	23.2	50.7	26.1
Lumbini	53.2	31.8	15.0
Karnali	3.8	81.3	14.9
Sudurpashchim	27.9	60.3	11.7

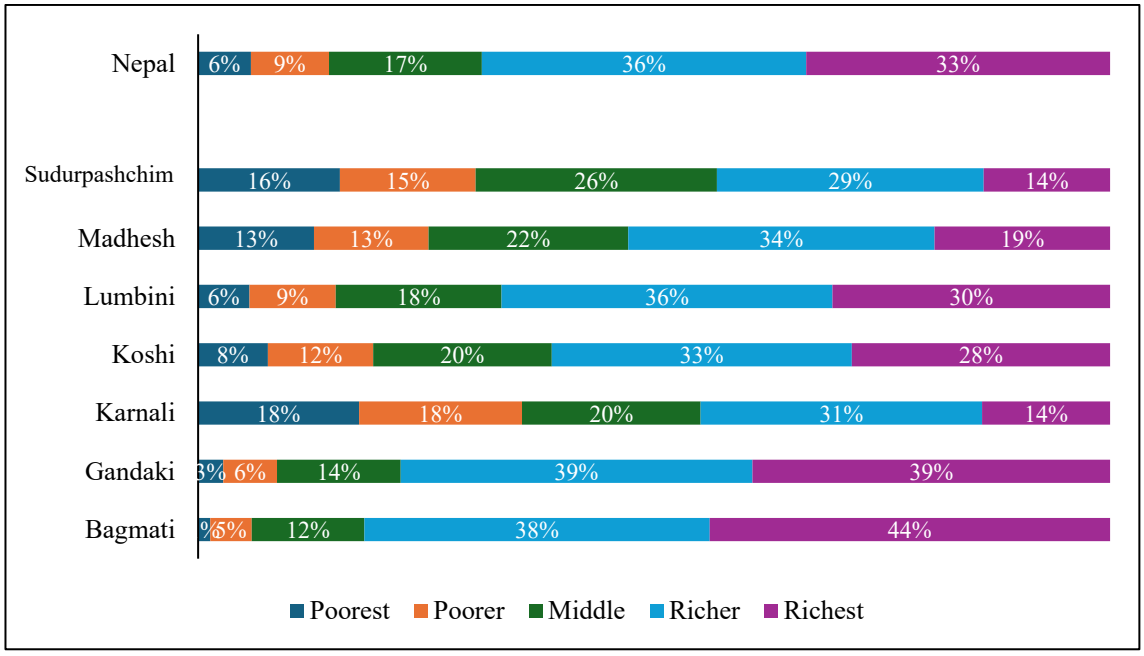
Source: NPHC, 2021

Of all migrant children, only 5.8 percent are from the lowest wealth quintile (Figure 4.5). Overall, 68.9 percent of migrant children are from either the higher or highest quintile. Bagmati has the highest share of migrant children from the highest quintile at 43.9 percent, followed by 39.2 percent in Gandaki. The Karnali and Sudurpashchim provinces have the lowest share of migrant children from the highest quintile (14.0% and 13.9%).

This data underscores migration due to spatial inequality, which pushed outmigration from backward areas. For example, children from the two low wealth quintiles in Karnali (36%), Sudurpashchim (30%) and Madhesh (25%) have migrated. The move might be attributed to lack of physical infrastructure and lack of job opportunities. Fewer but still percentages of children are in the low wealth quintiles in Koshi (20%) and Lumbini (15%). While the situation is not as dire, these areas still struggle, with large proportions of children in the middle wealth quintile. Children in these provinces still face challenges such as lack of opportunities, making migration

plausible. In general, children from low wealth quintiles likely move due to lack of adequate physical infrastructure and parental job opportunities, while children with more wealth likely move because of parental access to resources.

Figure 4.5: Distribution of migrated children across wealth quintile



Source: NPHC, 2021

CHAPTER V

EDUCATION

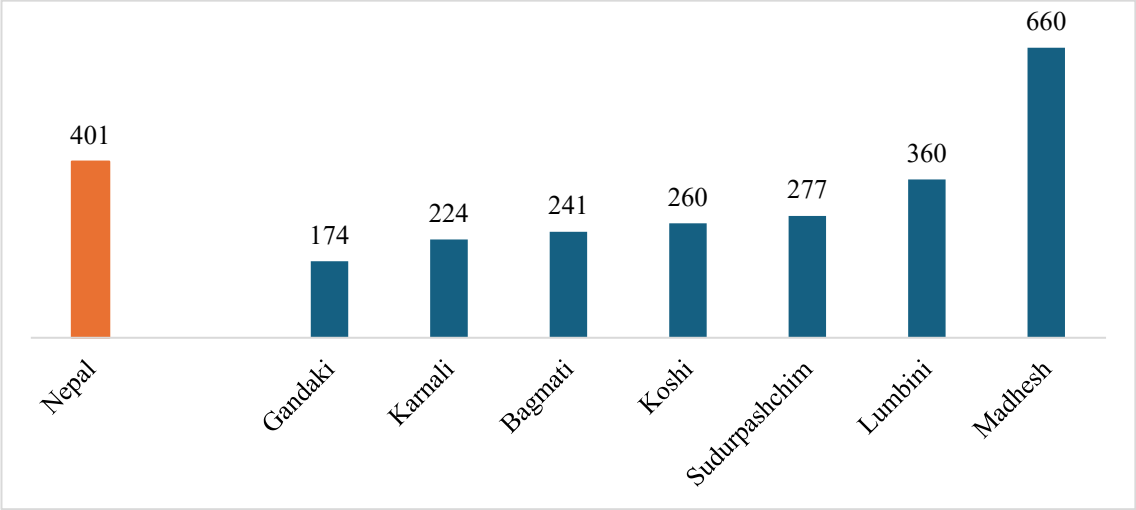
Education serves as one of the key cornerstones for societal prosperity. It is especially important in the context of children as it plays a pivotal role in children's economic, social, health, and psychological well-being (The Lancet Public Health, 2020). Hence, analysing education across dimensions such as wealth quintiles and urban/rural areas is essential to identify disparities and target policies.

This chapter highlights a range of education indicators, including attendance, education level, and literacy rates at various levels of disaggregation.

5.1 School characteristics

Nationally, Nepal has 18,972 basic-level schools and 7,131 secondary schools (Ministry of Education, Science and Technology CEHRD, 2025). Bagmati province has the highest number of basic and secondary schools and the lowest is in Karnali. Figure 5.1 shows the average number of students per school overall (401) and by province. Madhesh has the highest density of students in schools by a large margin, reflecting resource constraints in a province that also has the highest proportion of child residents.

Figure 5.1: Number of students (rounded) per school by province



Source: Education Flash Report 2024/25

5.2 Attendance

Attendance is reported in terms of children who are currently attending school, have ever attended (but have since dropped out), or have never attended school. Out of all children in Nepal aged 5-17. However, there is inequity across provinces and sex. Gandaki province has just 1 percent of female children who have never attended school, while in Madhesh province, 14.7 percent have never attended. Girls are more likely to have never attended school in Madhesh, Sudurpashchim, Karnali, and Lumbini (Table 5.1). This highlights the need for targeted intervention to ensure children's enrollment in school, in line with SDG 4—*ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education*. Specifically, Target 4.1 aims to achieve a 99.5 percent net enrolment rate in primary education by 2030.

Madhesh province has 80.9 percent of children currently attending school compared to the national average of 89.5 percent, and 93.8 percent in Bagmati province and 94.3 percent in Gandaki province.

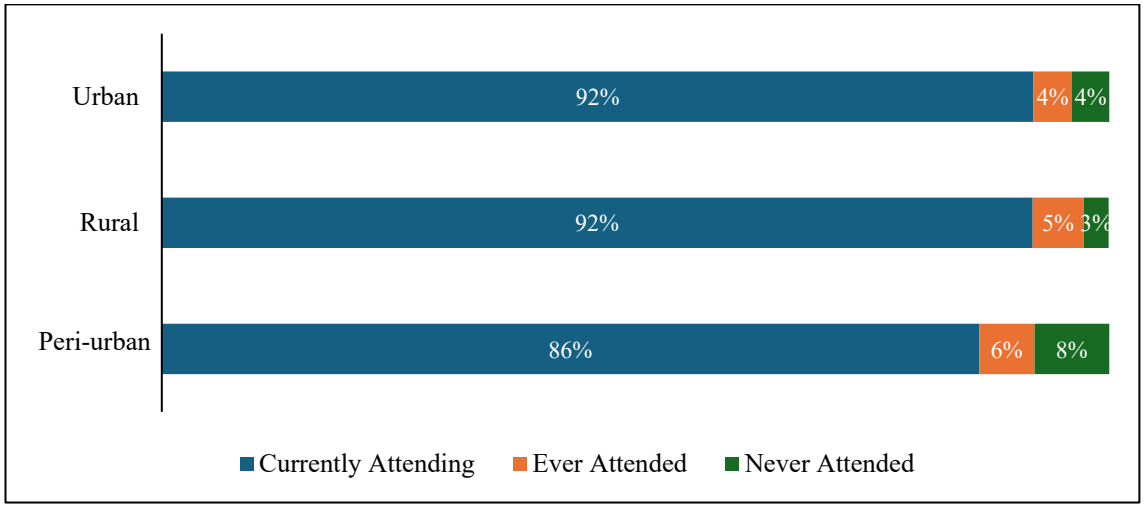
Table 5.1: Percentage of children who never attended schools by sex (%)

Province	Male	Female
Nepal	**4.9**	**5.4**
Madhesh	12.6	14.7
Lumbini	3.4	3.6
Koshi	2.9	2.8
Sudurpashchim	2.5	2.6
Karnali	2.5	2.6
Bagmati	1.7	1.6
Gandaki	1.1	1.0

Source: NPHC, 2021

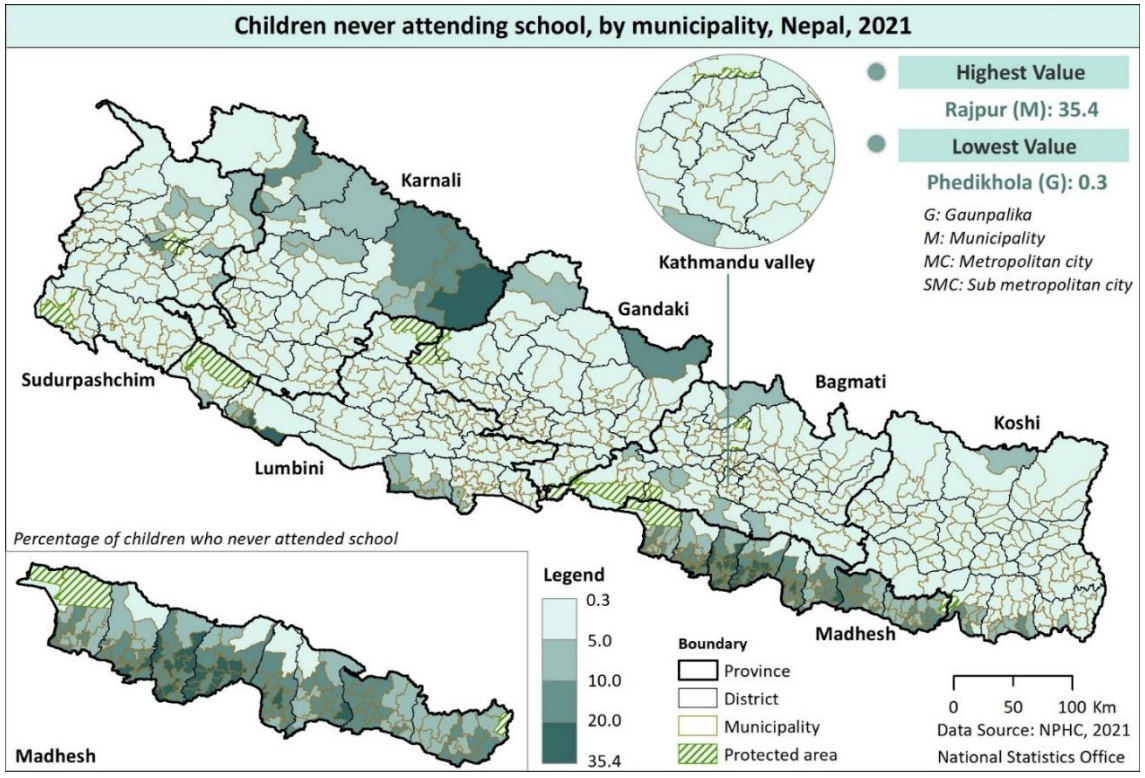
Rural areas have the lowest share of children who never attended school (3%) while peri-urban areas have the highest share (8%). Peri-urban areas have the lowest percentage of children currently attending school at 86 percent, while 92 percent of children are currently attending schools in urban areas (Figure 5.2).

Figure 5.2: Children School Attendance Status by Urban/Rural Areas: Nepal (%), NPHC 2021



Map 5.1 shows that districts in Madhesh province have the highest percentage of children who never attend school. Districts in Gandaki province and districts of Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur have the lowest percentage of children who have never attended school.

Map 5.1: Percentage of children who never attended school, NPHC 2021

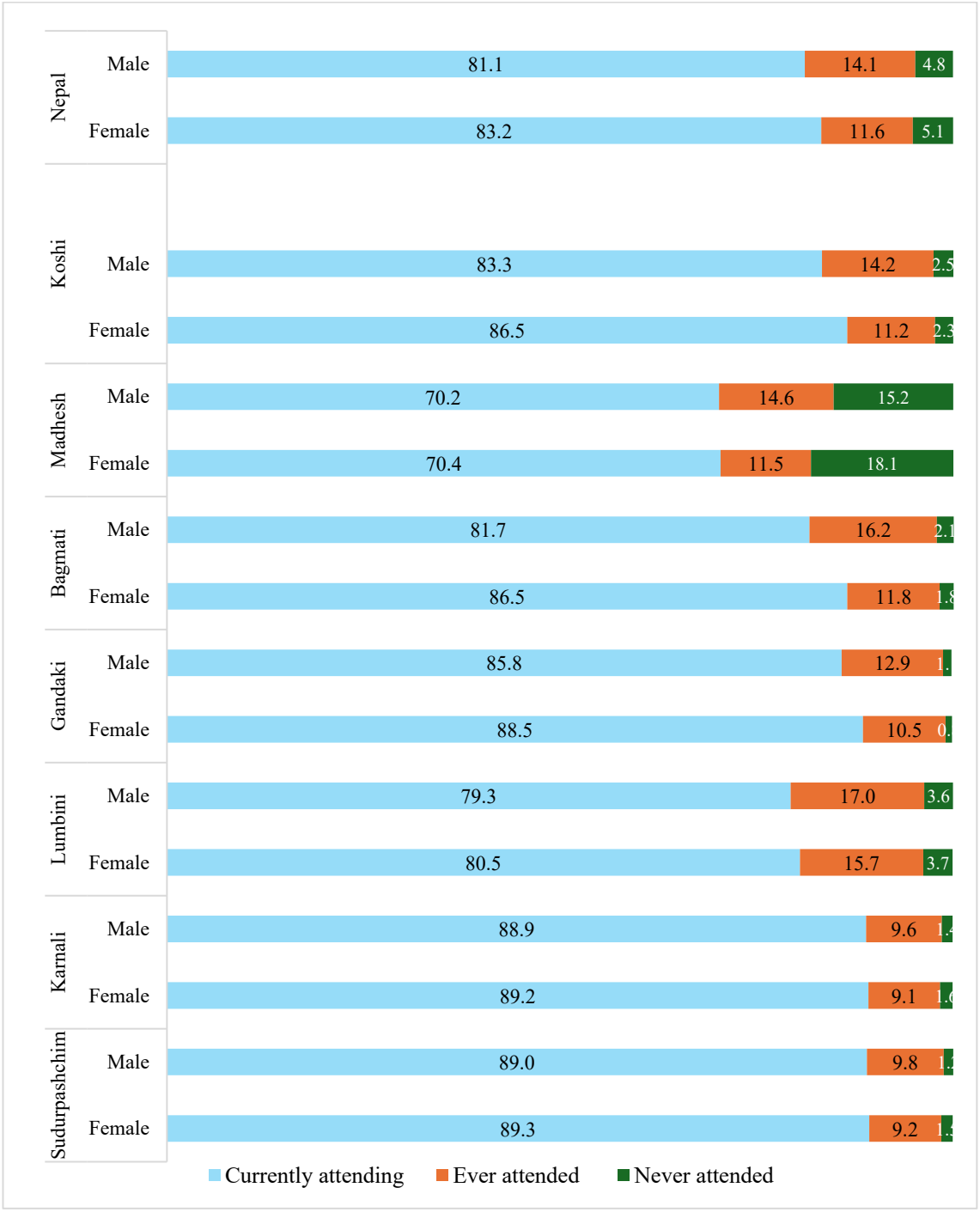


One aspect of inclusive and equitable access to education which warrants further research is related to language of instruction at local levels. In recognition of Nepal's multilingual context and aligned with international evidence supporting mother-tongue and multilingual instruction, the Eighth Amendment (2073 BS /2016 AD) of the Education Act (1971) introduced a provision allowing communities to provide basic education in a mother tongue. Previously, Nepali was the official language of instruction nationally. As with any relatively new policy, implementation can be inconsistent and slow to take hold for a variety of reasons.

In Madhesh, only 5.8 percent of the population speaks Nepali as a first language according to the NHPC 2021, which is by far the lowest proportion in the country. Many speak Nepali as a second language (data on second language of children specifically is not available), but overall, fewer people in Madhesh use Nepali compared to other provinces. While census data does not include information about school language policies, children in Madhesh especially, as well as those in other areas, may struggle to learn in schools if the medium of instruction is unfamiliar. Linguistic barriers can compound other existing barriers to education, and contribute to higher drop-out rates.

School attendance among economically active children is significantly lower (82.1%) compared to children who are not economically active (91.2%). Figure 5.3 highlights the status of school attendance among economically active children by sex. Of all economically active girls in Nepal, 83.2 percent are currently attending school, while 11.6 percent have ever attended (but dropped out), and 5.1 percent have never attended school. In contrast, among boys, the ever-attended (dropped out) prevalence is higher at 14.1 percent. In Madhesh province, currently attending is lowest in both sexes (70.3%), and never attended is the highest at 18.1 percent and 15.2 percent respectively for girls and boys.

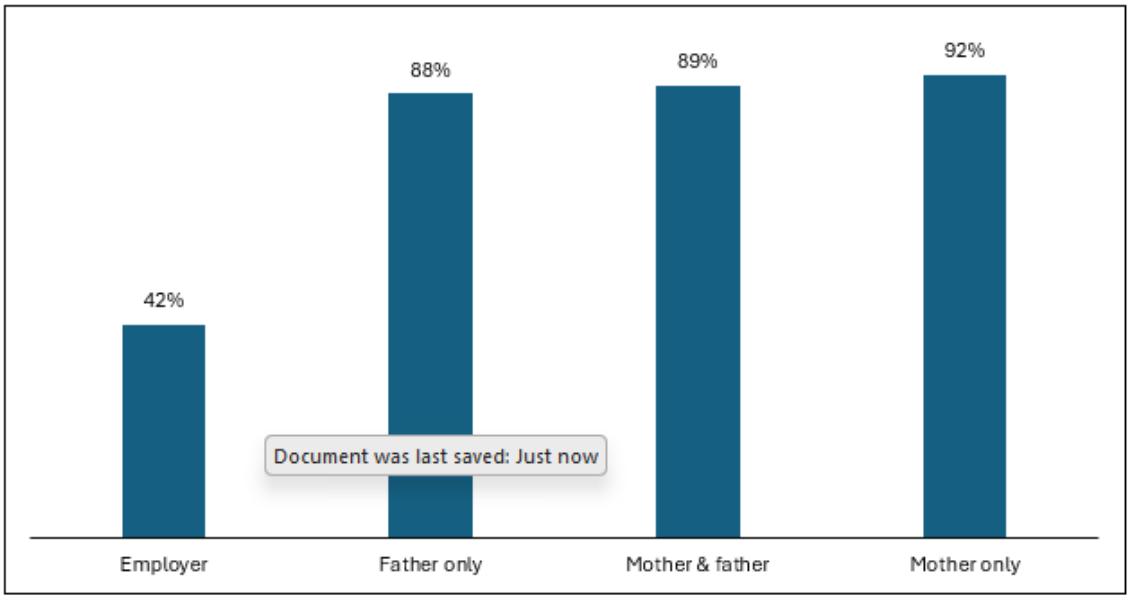
Figure 5.3: Percentage of economically active children among those who never attended and ever attended school by gender



Source: NPHC, 2021

School attendance is highest among children living with their mother only (92%), followed by mother and father (89%), and lowest among children living with their employers (42%). The majority (81%) of children living with an employer were aged 14 and above (Figure 5.4).

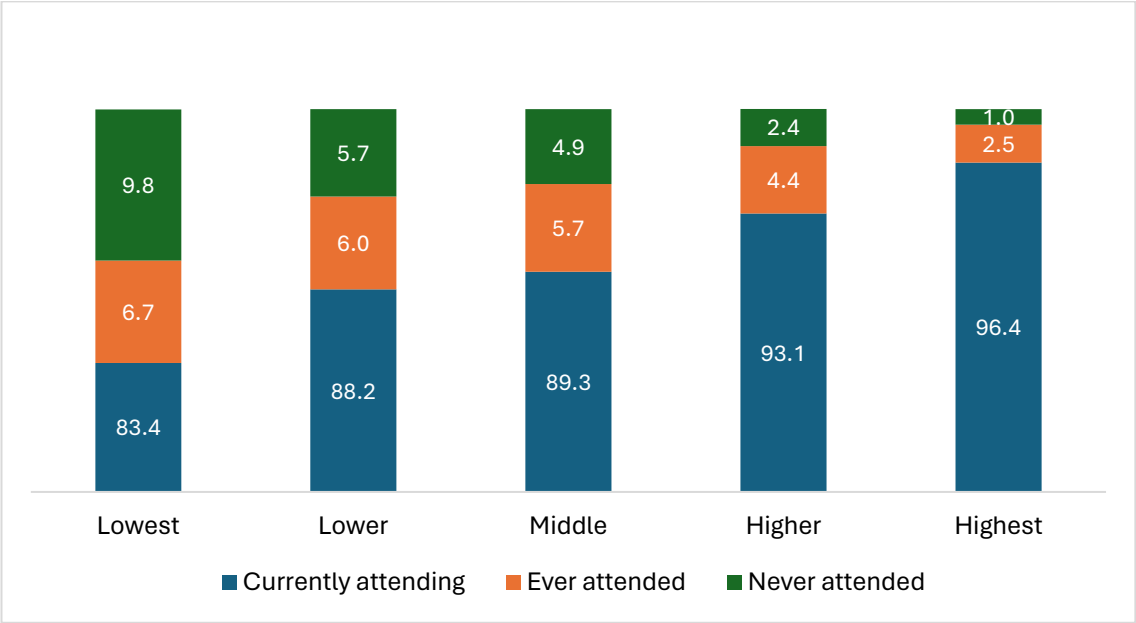
Figure 5.4: School attendance by living arrangement



Among children from the lowest wealth quintile, 9.8 percent have never attended any school compared to 1.0 percent from the highest quintile (Figure 5.5). Additionally, the percentage of children who ever attended school (but dropped out) changes from 6.7 percent in the lowest quintile to 2.5 percent in the highest quintile. Various reasons such as lack of access to education with decreasing wealth, higher opportunity costs of education among economically deprived families, cultural and societal factors like early marriage for children in lower wealth quintiles, and access to comparatively worse educational infrastructure for deprived children might play a role in the percentage differences between children in wealthy and impoverished households and educational attendance.

On the other end, 83.4 percent of children from the lowest wealth quintile are currently attending schools compared to 96.4 percent of those from the highest quintile. Again, economic status is the major driver of the educational status of children. Poverty reduction is key to achieving greater education access and quality.

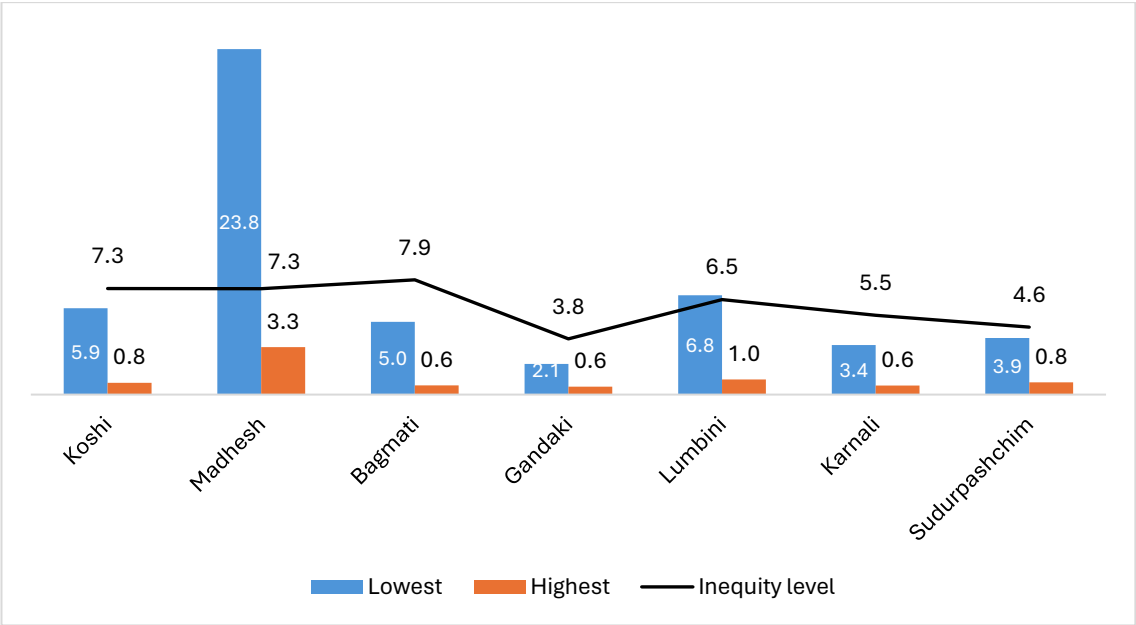
Figure 5.5: Percentage of children who ever attended and never attended by wealth quintile



Source: NPHC, 2021

In Madhesh province, 23.8 percent of children from the lowest quintile have never attended school compared to 3.3 percent from the highest quintile (Figure 5.6).

Figure 5.6: Percentage of children who never attended school by wealth quintile and province



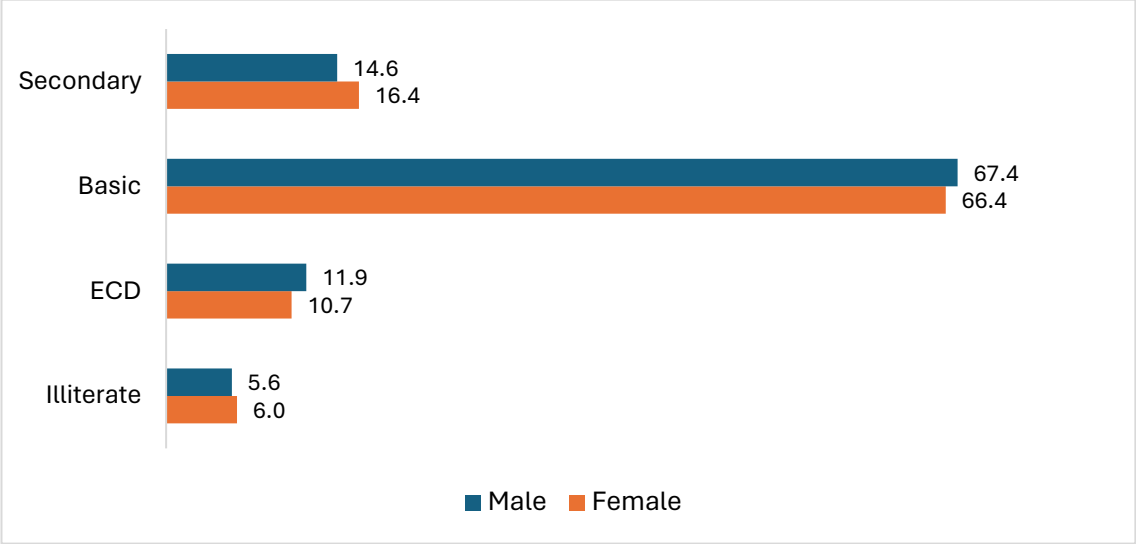
Source: NPHC, 2021

5.3 Level of education

This section presents findings on the level of education reached by children in Nepal. The census asks about completion for each grade, but not for the schooling level. The data here are presented by level but only indicate percentages of children who have reached that level at the time of the census; therefore, they may not yet have completed it.

Nationally, boys outpace girls in level of educational attendance until secondary school, when girls overtake boys at 16.4 percent compared to 14.6 percent, which is nearly a reversal of the basic education level proportions (Figure 5.7). The percentage of illiterate girl children is only slightly higher than illiterate boy children nationally, at 6.0 percent and 5.6 percent, respectively. The percentages of girls and boys in basic education is significantly higher than other levels of education, at 67.4 percent for boys and 66.4 percent for girls, possibly because of widespread access to basic education and the nation's focus on universal primary education as well as gender equity in educational access. The data show ample room for improvement in availability of and access to early childhood education.

Figure 5.7: Level of education by sex (%)



This pattern above exists even across provinces (not shown).

- Bagmati and Gandaki have the highest proportion of girls (approximately 22%) in secondary education, while Madhesh province has the lowest proportion of boys (10.3%) in secondary education.
- Madhesh has the highest proportion of girls who are illiterate (15.3%) and Gandaki has the lowest proportion of boys that are illiterate (1.8%)

Table 5.2 shows overall levels of education nationally and by province at the time of the 2021 census. Across Nepal, 5.8 percent of children are at the "illiterate" level of education (likely meaning they have never attended school), 11.3 percent have reached or currently attend early childhood development (ECD), 66.9 percent have reached or currently attend basic education, and 15.5 percent have reached or currently attend secondary education. Madhesh has the highest proportion of children at illiterate level of education (14.3%) and the lowest level of basic (62.8%) and secondary (10.6%) educational attainment. Bagmati and Gandaki share the highest level of secondary school attainment at 20.3 percent and 20.1 percent respectively.

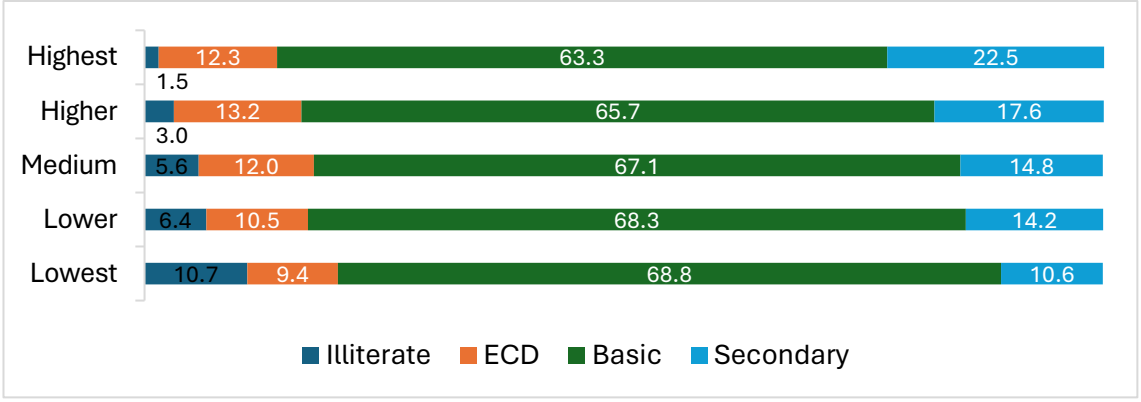
Table 5.2: Distribution of children across education level by province (%)

	Illiterate	ECD	Basic	Secondary
Nepal	**5.8**	**11.3**	**66.9**	**15.5**
Koshi	3.2	11.8	67.7	17.0
Madhesh	14.3	11.9	62.8	10.6
Bagmati	2.0	11.1	66.2	20.3
Gandaki	1.9	10.6	66.5	20.1
Lumbini	4.5	12.1	68.7	14.0
Karnali	3.2	9.2	70.4	16.4
Sudurpashchim	3.5	10.4	70.8	14.8

Source:NPHC, 2021

Figure 5.8 shows that education levels increase significantly for higher wealth quintiles. The percentage of children who have secondary education increases from 10.6 percent for the lowest quintile to 22.5 percent for the highest quintile. This shows that economic conditions are an important driver of education levels in Nepal. The trend is similar in each province.

Figure 5.8: Distribution of children across education by wealth quintile (%)



Source: NPHC, 2021

Table 5.3 This data reveals significant wealth-based educational disparities across Nepal's seven provinces, with the poorest populations facing substantially higher illiteracy rates (ranging from 3.5% to 24.5%) compared to the wealthiest (0.9% to 3.9%), and Madhesh Province showing the most severe inequality. While basic education enrollment remains relatively high across all groups (58-74%), secondary education completion tells a different story: wealthy populations achieve 17-25 percent secondary attainment versus only 6-15 percent for the poorest, indicating that economic barriers prevent educational progression beyond primary levels. Early childhood development participation shows minimal variation across wealth groups (8-14%),suggesting that the critical educational gaps emerge later in the schooling pipeline. Overall, the data demonstrates that wealth remains the primary determinant of educational success in Nepal, with geographic location—particularly in Madhesh compounding these inequalities.

Table 5.3: Percentage of children with different levels of education by province for lowest and highest wealth quintile

		Illiterate	ECD	Basic	Secondary
Bagmati	Lowest	5.5	9.0	74.0	11.2
	Highest	0.9	11.4	62.5	25.0
Gandaki	Lowest	3.5	8.8	71.9	14.9
	Highest	1.2	11.3	62.8	23.6
Karnali	Lowest	4.2	8.6	72.4	14.0
	Highest	1.1	12.0	63.0	23.0
Koshi	Lowest	6.4	9.8	70.8	12.7
	Highest	1.1	12.6	64.5	21.7
Lumbini	Lowest	8.1	10.1	72.0	9.1
	Highest	1.6	13.6	63.9	20.2
Madhesh	Lowest	24.5	9.6	58.7	6.8
	Highest	3.9	14.2	64.0	17.6
Sudurpashchim	Lowest	5.0	9.3	74.0	11.2
	Highest	1.4	12.4	64.2	21.5

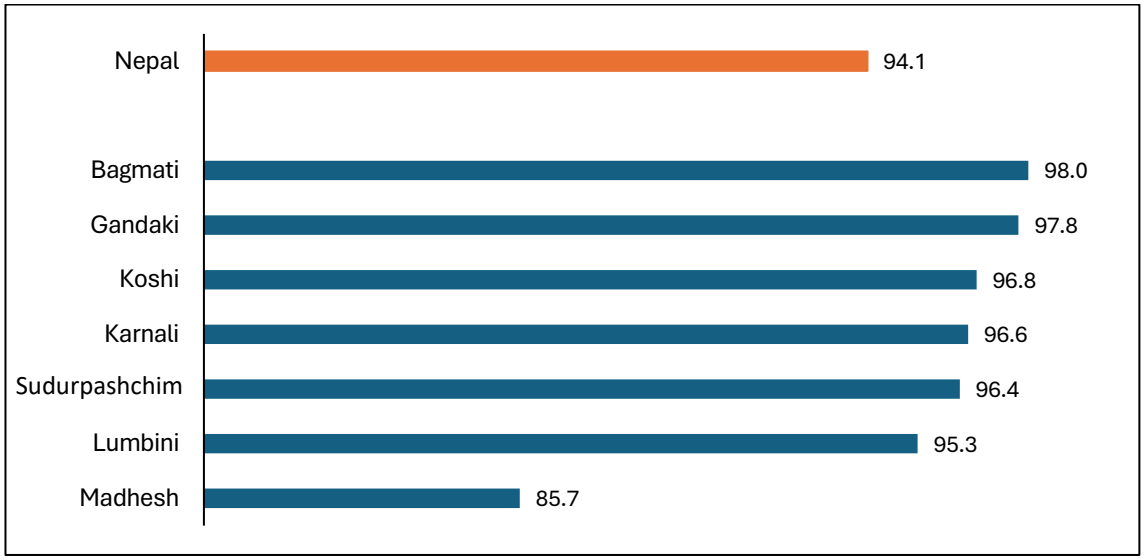
Source: NPHC, 2021

5.4 Literacy

According to the census, a child is defined as literate if they can both read and write. Hence, the child literacy rate is defined as the percentage of the child population in a certain age group that can both read and write based on household head report (no literacy assessment is administered).

Figure 5.9 shows the child literacy rate in Nepal. Overall, 94.1 percent of children in Nepal are reported to be literate. However, a significant disparity in the child literacy rate exists between Madhesh and the other provinces. Bagmati has the highest literacy rate at 98 percent. With the exception of Madhesh, the literacy rates of other provinces are close to one another and to the nation's. Madhesh, however, has a significantly lower literacy rate compared to other provinces at 85.7 percent.

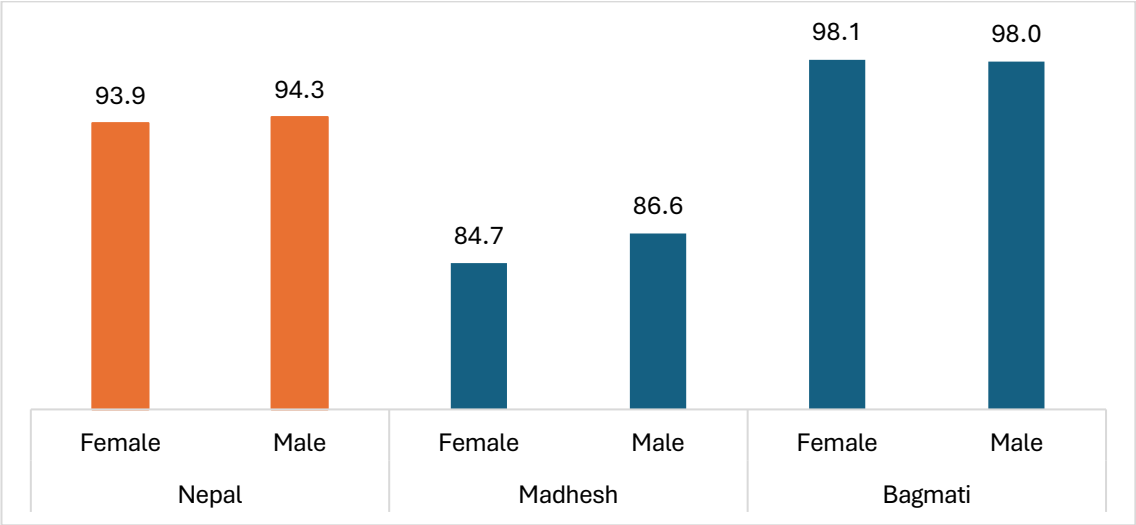
Figure 5.9: Literacy rate among children (5-17) by province (%)



Source: NPHC, 2021

Literacy rates are further broken down by sex in Nepal and across provinces. To compare and contrast the differences between provinces, Bagmati (highest literacy rates) and Madhesh (lowest literacy rates) are reported. Bagmati is chosen as a measure or benchmark for nearly universal literacy rates and Madhesh is chosen to illustrate the barriers still faced by children in certain regions in the country. Figure 5.10 shows the literacy rate nationally and for these two provinces by gender. While nationally and in Bagmati province there is near parity in literacy rates for boys and girls, the literacy rate of girls in Madhesh is 84.7 percent, while for boys it is 86.6 percent. This disparity requires further analysis, along with the development of policy measures to effectively address the issue.

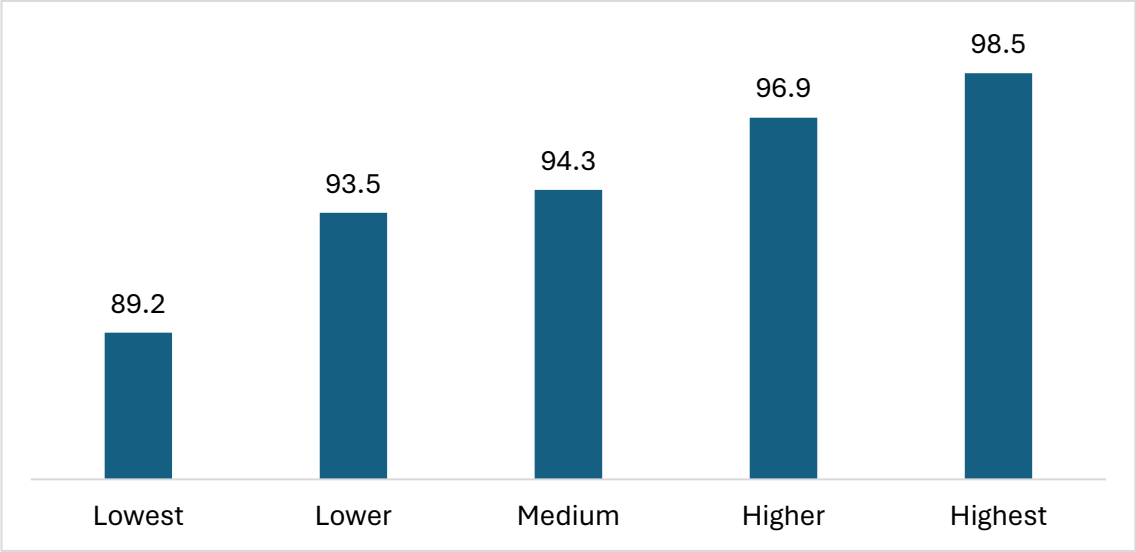
Figure 5.10: Child literacy rate by sex for Madhesh and Bagmati (%)



Source: NPHC, 2021

The wealth of the household a child is born into largely determines whether or not the child can access education. Hence, literacy rates can be expected to be higher for children born into higher wealth quintiles as opposed to lower wealth quintiles. Figure 5.11 shows that literacy rates are indeed highest in the highest wealth quintile (98.5%) and lowest in the lowest wealth quintile (89.2%). In general, data follows the same pattern across provinces as well**.** One key observation is that children born into the lowest quintile in Madhesh have a literacy rate of 75.5 percent.

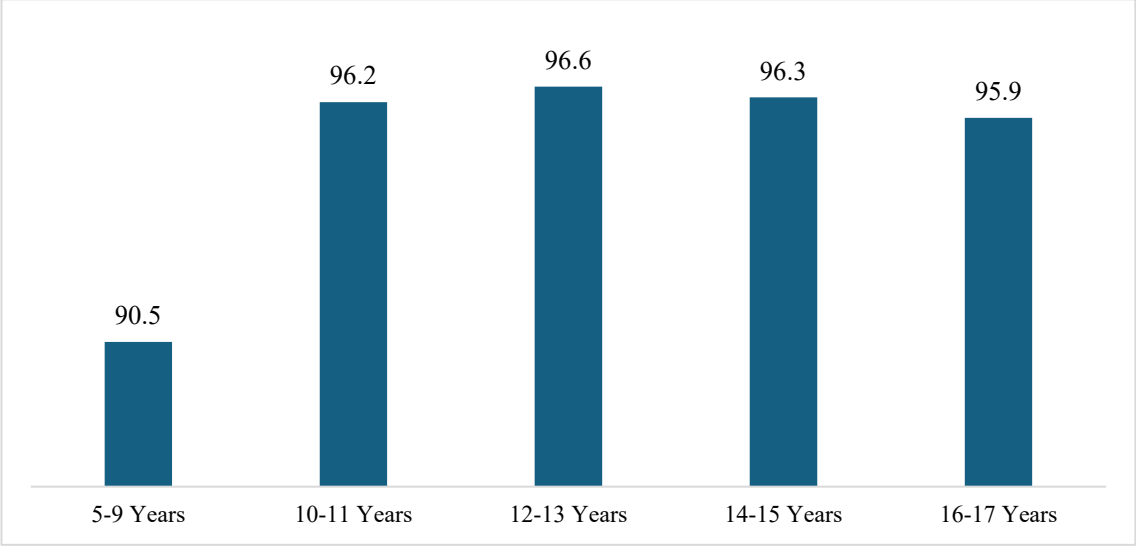
Figure 5.11: Child literacy rate by wealth quintile in Nepal (%)



Source: NPHC, 2021

Lastly, Figure 5.12 reports child literacy rate by age groups. The 12-13 age group has the highest overall literacy rate at 96.6 percent, and the 5-9 age group has the lowest at 90.5 percent (which is to be expected, given that 5-9 years corresponds to the early grades of schooling, when literacy is still being learned). Across provinces, the pattern is similar. However, literacy rates in Madhesh across all age groups are still lower than those in other provinces.

Figure 5.12: Child literacy rate by age (%)



Source: NPHC, 2021

Nationally, Nepal's education system has several positive indicators of school attendance and gender parity, with only 5.1 percent of children never having attended school overall and only 2.6 percent in rural areas. The national literacy rate of children is high at 94.1 percent, and two-thirds of them have reached the basic education level. However, large regional variations exist, with Madhesh province standing apart from the rest in terms of low educational outcomes. Compared to the national data described above, 13.6 percent of all children in the province have never attended school, which increases to 23.8 percent for those in the lowest quintile. The literacy rate of children in Madhesh is 85.7 percent and lower for girls than boys, while all other provinces are above 95 percent. Madhesh, along with other areas of the country, can benefit from education interventions that increase implementation of existing policies related to inclusive, safe, and equitable learning environments, where children can learn in a familiar language, receive support to catch up and re-enroll where needed, and have their learning struggles met with qualified instructional support.

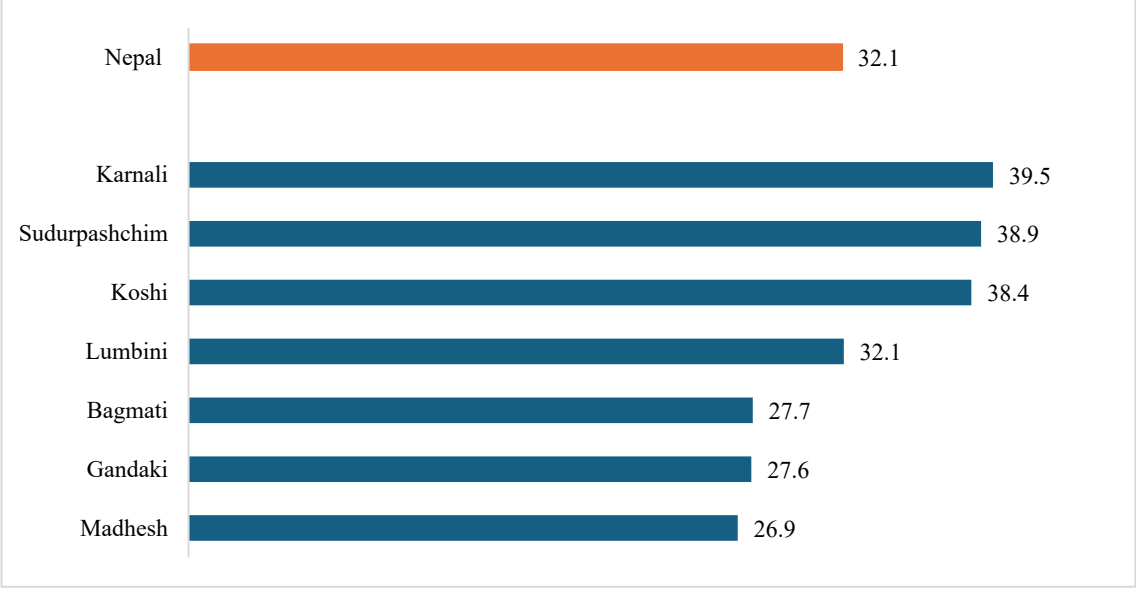
CHAPTER VI

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

The term “economically active children” refers to children 10-17 years of age who are engaged in economic activities, such as working for pay, profit, or family gain. This includes both formal and informal sectors and covers activities ranging from agriculture to services. However, children are expected to be in school, not in the workplace. The involvement of children in economic activities possibly leads to the risk of child labour and hampers education, as well as the physical and psychological development and well-being of children. Child labour, though prohibited by law, is one of the widespread child protection concerns in Nepal. NPHC data does not directly reflect child labour. It requires deeper analysis of economically active children to accurately identify cases of child labour Nepal has committed to SDG 8, Target 8.7.1, aiming to eliminate hazardous child labour by 2030.

A notable number of children aged 10-17 years in Nepal are economically active (Figure 6.1). Nearly one-third (32.1%) of children aged 10-17 years in Nepal are economically active as of the 2021 census. Karnali province has the highest prevalence of economically active children with 39.5 percent, and the lowest is in Madhesh with 26.9 percent.

Figure 6.1: Percentage of children who are economically active by province



Source: NPHC, 2021

The prevalence of economically active children increases in the higher age group. However, notable prevalence is seen in the younger age group as well. Table 6.1 shows the prevalence of economically active children by age group among the total children aged 10-17 years. In Nepal, 39.0 percent of children aged 16-17 years are economically active, while 33.0 percent of children aged 14-15 years are active. Younger children below the age of 14 also have a significant prevalence. Economically active children below the age of 14 may be considered to be engaged in child labour, as the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, 2000 prohibits their engaging in work as labourers. The status of children 14 and above requires further analysis. The trend of prevalence is almost similar across all provinces. The highest prevalence in all age groups is in Karnali Province, followed by the Sudurpashchim and Koshi provinces.

Table 6.1: Percentage of economically active children by age

	10-13 years	14-15 years	16-17 years
Nepal	28.0	33.0	39.0
Koshi	33.0	41.0	47.0
Madhesh	24.0	28.0	33.0
Bagmati	23.8	28.0	34.1
Gandaki	23.0	28.0	35.0
Lumbini	27.0	33.0	40.0
Karnali	35.0	41.0	48.0
Sudurpashchim	34.0	41.0	47.0

Source: Calculations from NPHC, 2021

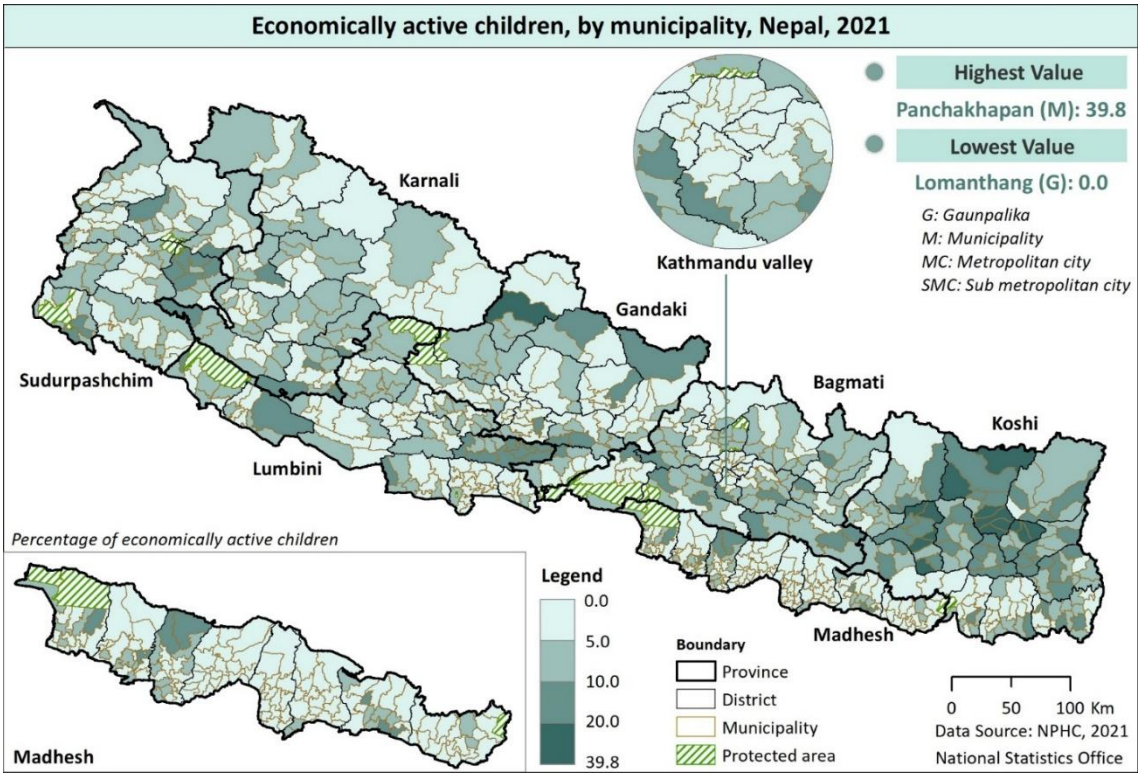
Both boys and girls are economically active in almost equal proportions across Nepal and in each province. Nationally, 32.1 percent of boys and girls aged 10-17 years are economically active. A similar ratio is seen in the provinces.

The prevalence of economically active children differs in rural and urban areas. The map highlights the prevalence of economically active children in rural to urban areas. Of all the children aged 10-17 years in rural areas in Nepal, 40.3 percent are economically active, nearly double the prevalence in urban areas. This may reflect limited access to education, social protection, and livelihood alternatives, often pushing children into work for household survival. In peri-urban areas, 30.0 percent are economically active and in urban areas 23.8 percent are economically active.

This varies in provinces, with Koshi having the highest percentage of economically active rural children at 49.7 percent. Sudurpashchim has the highest percentage of economically active peri-urban children at 39.7 percent in and Karnali has the highest percentage of economically active

urban children at 30.4 percent. See Map 6.1 for colour and shading that highlights this variation. These patterns indicate that province-specific interventions are essential what works in Koshi's villages might not be appropriate for Karnali's urban centres.

Map 6.1: Percentage of economically active children

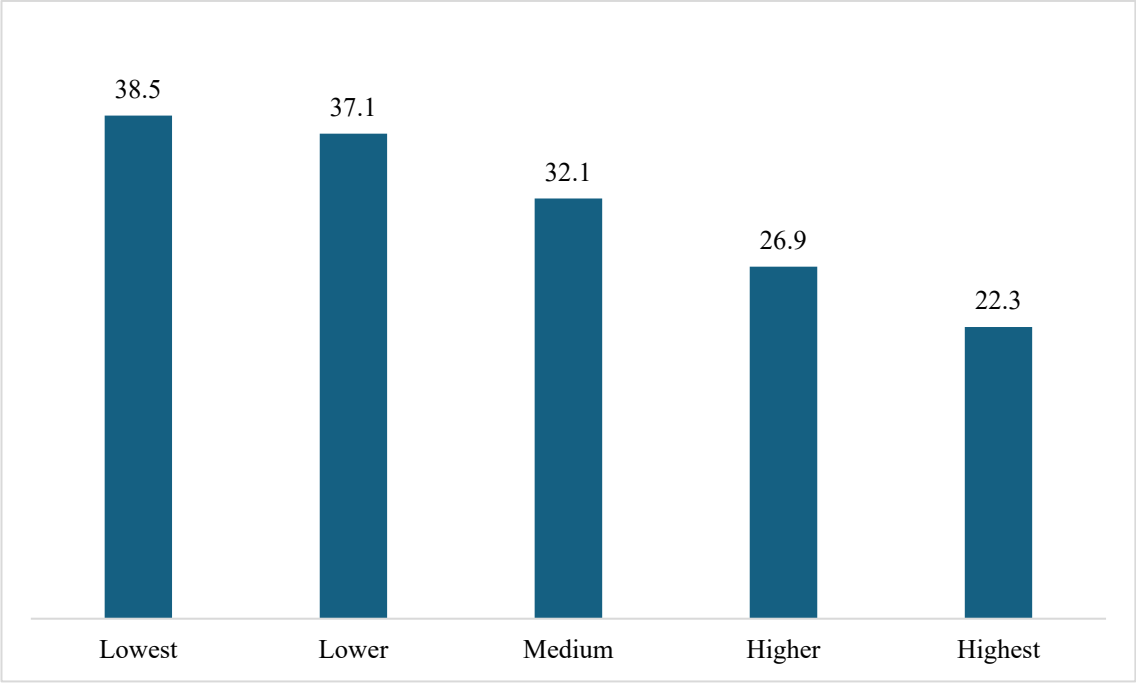


The prevalence of economically active children differs by wealth quintile nationally, as shown in Figure 6.2. Of the children in the lowest wealth quintile in Nepal, 38.5 percent are economically active in comparison to the highest quintile at 22.3 percent. Not surprisingly, the prevalence of economically active children decreases from the lowest to the highest quintile as wealthier children are more likely to have access to education, protection services, and alternatives to economic activities, and are less burdened by concerns of basic survival compared to those in the low wealth quintiles. Economic hardship pushes children into labour at an early age, which in turn limits their education, health, psychosocial well-being, and future earning potential, while increasing the risk of abuse and exploitation. This may create a vicious cycle of poverty that persists across generations.

Province-wise, the prevalence of economically active children slightly varies within wealth quintiles (not shown). The highest percentage of economically active children is 47.9 percent of children from the lowest wealth quintile in Koshi province and Bagmati has the lowest

proportion of economically active children from the highest wealth quinitle (20.3%). Children in the lowest wealth quintile in Koshi are therefore disproportionately more likely to be economically active compared to children in the same quintile in other provinces.

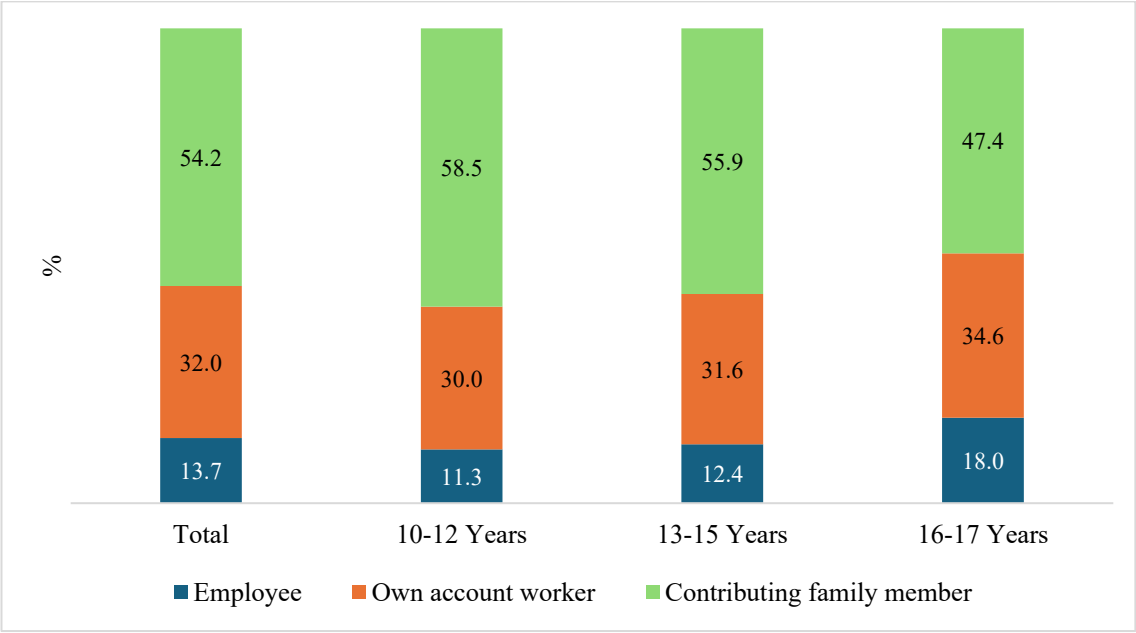
Figure 6.2: Percentage of economically active children by wealth quintile



Source: NPHC, 2021

Among economically active children, notable numbers are economically active through employment to an external employer versus working for themselves (own-account workers such as porters or venders) or as contributing members of a family business or farm[3]. Figure 6.3 highlights the employment status of economically active children by age groups. Among economically active children aged 10-17 years, 13.7 percent are employed, 32.0 percent are own-account workers, and 54.2 percent are contributing family members. Of concern, 11.3 percent of younger children aged 10-12 years are employed, and 30.0 percent are own-account workers. Similarly, 12.4 percent of the 13-15 year age group are employed. The 16-17 years group shows the highest employee rate (18.0%) and lowest contributing family member rate (47.4%).

Figure 6.3: Employment status of economically active children by age (%)



Source: NPHC, 2021

It is notable that law prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years. Therefore, this data highlights the presence of hidden child labour. An employed child who is below the age of 14 is considered to be engaged in child labour, while contributing family workers—often unpaid—may be involved in exploitative practices masked as familial responsibility. Another category, own-account workers, may lack protection, proper monitoring, and access to education.

CHAPTER VII

HEALTH

This chapter discusses health-related indicators that impact children, including the availability of services, children with disabilities, and causes of death among children.

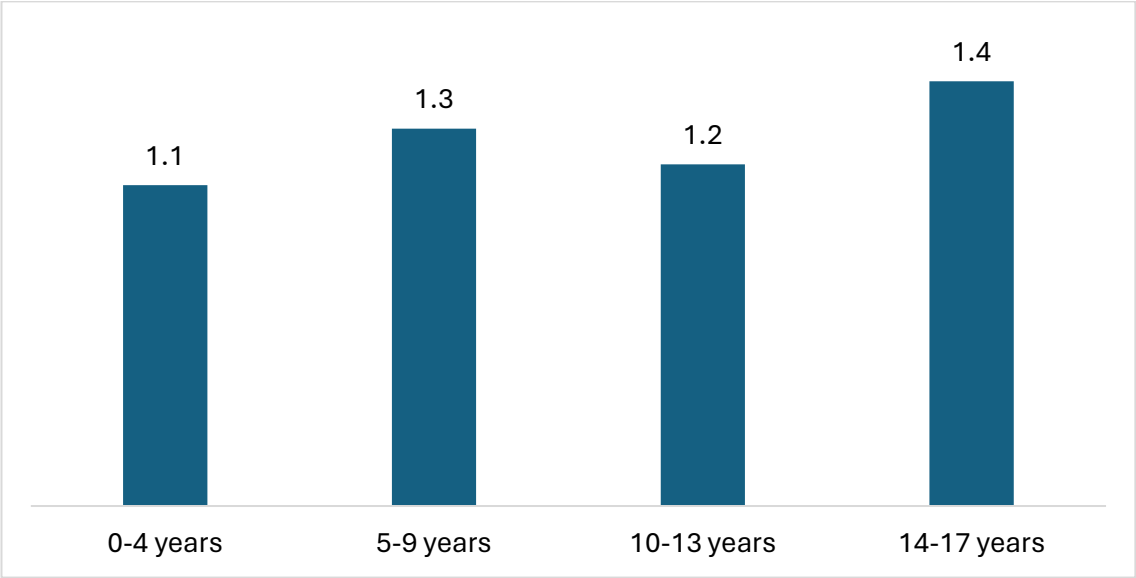
7.1 Children with disabilities

The 2021 census measured disability prevalence among children and adults by asking a household respondent whether each child had any disabilities and, if so, to identify the disability type from a list of 12 options. The options include: 1) physical disability, 2) low vision, 3) blind, 4) deaf, 5) hard of hearing, 6) deaf and blind, 7) speech problem, 8) mental or *manosamajik*, 9) intellectual disability, 10) haemophilia, 11) autism, and 12) multiple disability. Response options were yes, no, or not stated. If a respondent reported a child having more than one disability, enumerators marked "multiple disability".

The overall prevalence rate among children 17 and below in Nepal is 1.2 percent, according to census data. Variations by age, sex, province and other characteristics are discussed below. However, it is important to note that other measures of disability in Nepal, using different methods and tools, have found significantly higher prevalence rates that are more aligned with global prevalence rates. For example, the 2019 MICS study, also a nationally representative household-based survey, found an overall rate of 10.5 percent among children aged 2-17 in Nepal (National Statistics Office/UNICEF, 2020) . Therefore, this section of the report presents disability data from the 2021 census and, where relevant, notes alternative findings. But the measures adopted was different as MICS used Washington Group Short Set of Questionaire.

Census data on disability by age group shows that the national prevalence rate for children fluctuates across age cohorts (Figure 7.1). The rate of disability among children aged 0-4 is 1.1 percent and increases to 1.3 percent for the 5-9 age group. Among children aged 10-13, the rate drops to 1.2 percent before again rising to 1.4 percent among the 14-17 age group.

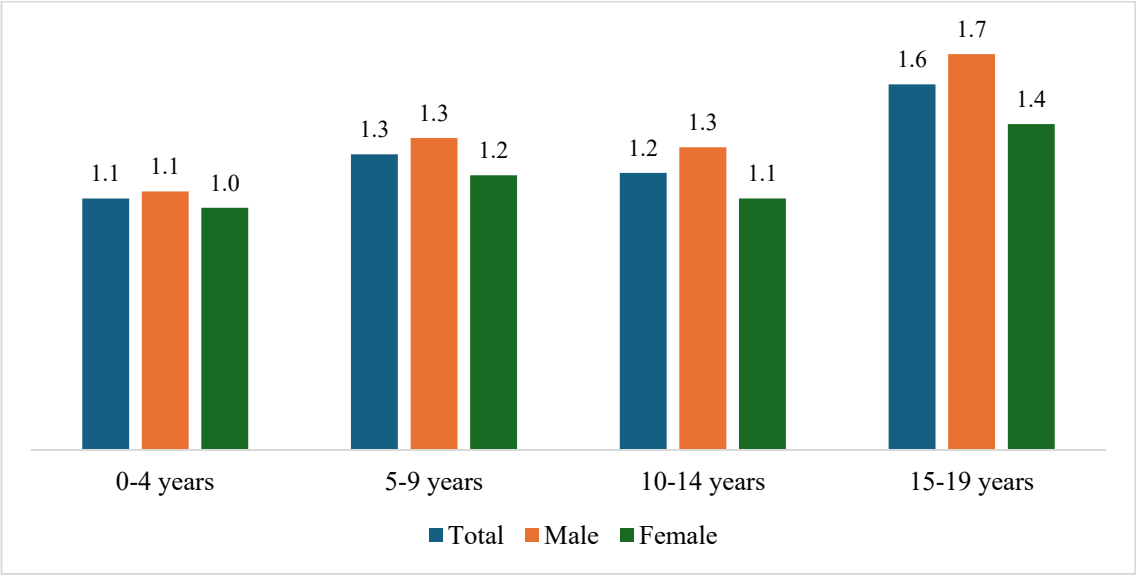
Figure 7.1: Disability prevalence rate by age (%)



Source: NPHC, 2021

More boys than girls were reported to have a disability in the 2021 census (Figure 7.2). The difference is small in the youngest age group of 0-4 but continues to widen as children grow older, with 1.7 percent of boys aged 15-19 having a disability compared to 1.4 percent of girls in the same age group.

Figure 7.2: Disability prevalence rate by age and sex (%)

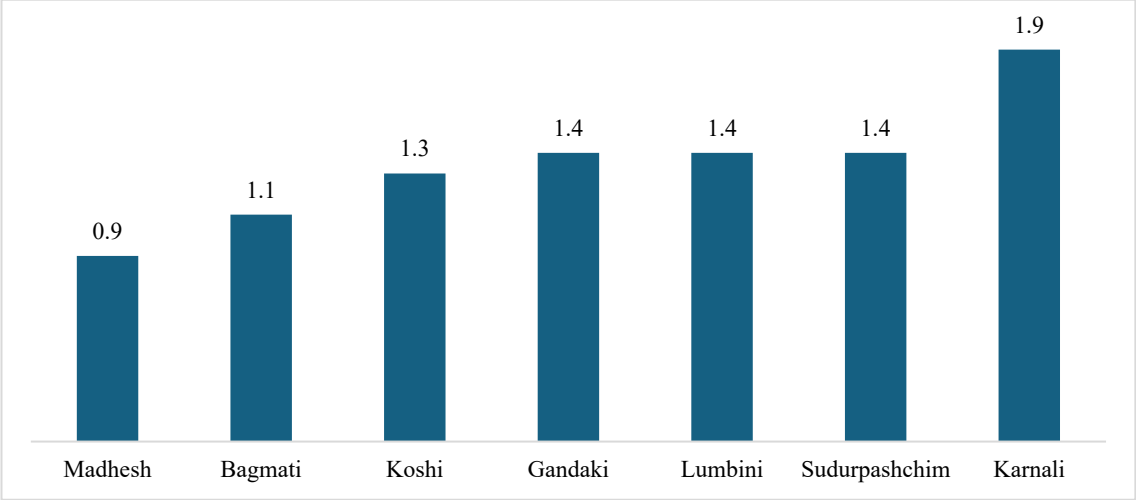


Source: NPHC, 2021

Data on child disability prevalence by province shows the lowest rates in Madhesh (0.9%) and Bagmati (1.1%) and the highest in Karnali at 1.9 percent (Figure 7.3). The rate in Koshi is 1.3 percent, and Gandaki, Lumbini, and Sudurpashchim share the same rate of 1.4 percent.

It is worth noting, however, that the 2019 MICS data shows Sudurpashchim having the highest prevalence at 12.0 percent, followed closely by Gandaki and Koshi. The rate in Karnali and Madhesh is nearly the same at 10.2 and 10.1 percent, and the lowest rate is in Bagmati at 9.3 percent.

Figure 7.3: Disability prevalence rate by province (%)



Source: NPHC, 2021

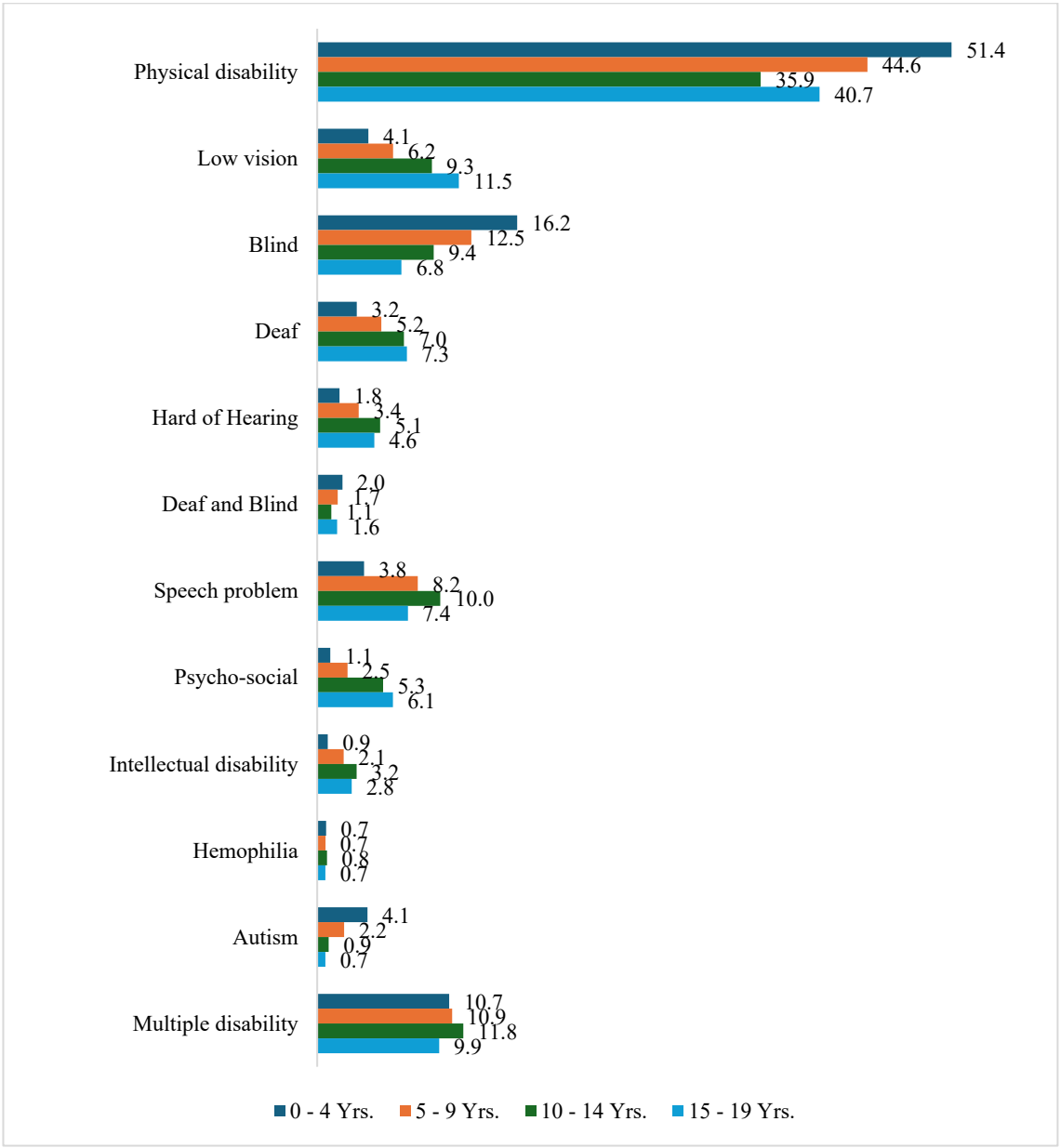
Examining census data by age group across provinces shows significantly higher rates of disability reported for older children in Karnali, with those aged 14-17 years being over twice as likely to have a reported disability as those in Madhesh.

Figure 7.4 shows the proportion of reported disabilities among children by type. Most reported disabilities are physical, representing 51.4 percent of reports for the youngest group (aged 0-4), dropping to 35.9 percent for children aged 10-14, then rising to 40.7 percent for the oldest group (aged 15-19). This could suggest that by early adolescence, some physical disabilities are resolved through treatment, but that other physical disabilities appear in the later teen years, perhaps as a result of accident or injury.

The next most prevalent categories are “blind” and “multiple disability”, with the latter ranging from 9.9 percent to 11.8 percent of reported disabilities. This category can contain two or more disability types; however, the individual types are not recorded. Therefore, the category can have the effect of obscuring the true rate distribution of the other 11 disability types. This may help to explain, for example, why the rate for blindness sharply decreases with age and, to a

lesser degree, there is a decrease in the rate for the oldest age group across several other disability types (though it is also likely that some older children receive treatment that resolves their disability). Many disabilities can remain undetected in a child's early years of life but appear as they grow older. Thus, the "multiple disability" category may have the unintended consequence of resulting in skewed and inaccurate prevalence data in other categories.

Figure 7.4: Reported prevalence of disabilities by type (%)

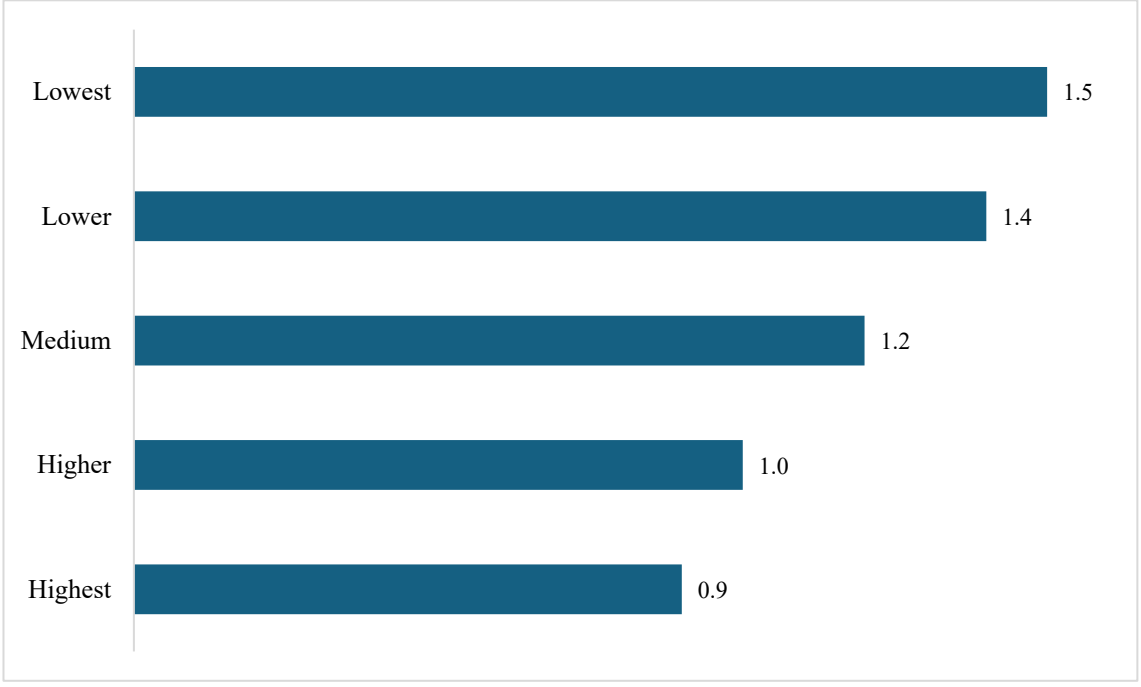


Source: NPHC, 2021

Disability prevalence by wealth quintile aligns with global trends, showing higher reports of disability within lower-wealth families (Figure 7.5). In Nepal, the prevalence rate among the lowest quintile households is 1.5 percent compared to 0.9 percent among the highest quintile households.

While many disabilities are not caused by identifiable external factors, wealth status can be both a cause and an effect of the presence of disability in some cases. Pregnant women who have fewer resources may develop complications during pregnancy due to a lack of nutrition or other forms of prenatal care, which can lead to their children developing a disability. Children from deprived families can also develop a disability due to poor nutrition, lack of medical care for illness, or accident/injury.

Figure 7.5: Disability prevalence rate by wealth quintile (%)



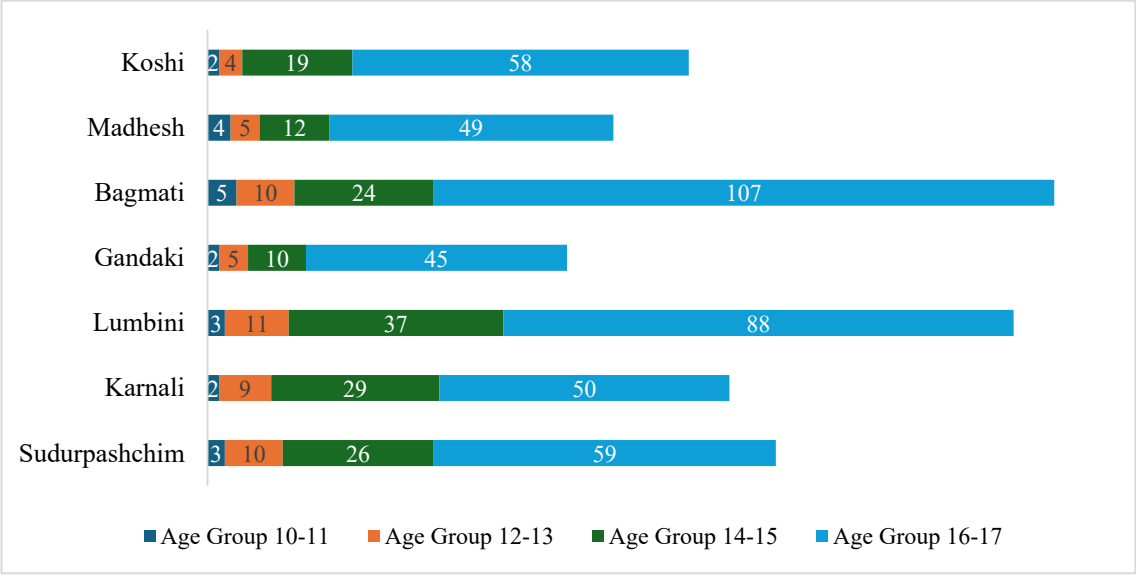
Source: NPHC, 2021

A child-headed household presents significant challenges, which are compounded when the household is headed by a child with a disability. Figure 7.6 reports the total number of households by age group and province where a child with a disability is the head of the household.

For the 10-17 age group, a total of 688 households are headed by children with disabilities. As expected, across all provinces, the highest number of households headed by children with disabilities are in the 16-17 age group. There are 456 children in this age group, followed by the

14-15 age group with 157 households headed by children with disabilities and the 12-13 age group with 54 households. The 10-11 age group has 21 households headed by children with disabilities across all provinces. Bagmati has the highest number of households in this category in the 16-17 age group, with a total of 107 households. Gandaki has the lowest in this category at 45. Bagmati also has the highest number of households headed by children with disabilities in the 10-11 age group, with five such households. Koshi, Gandaki, and Karnali each have the lowest in this category and age group with only two households in each province.

Figure 7.6: Total number of households headed by children with disabilities

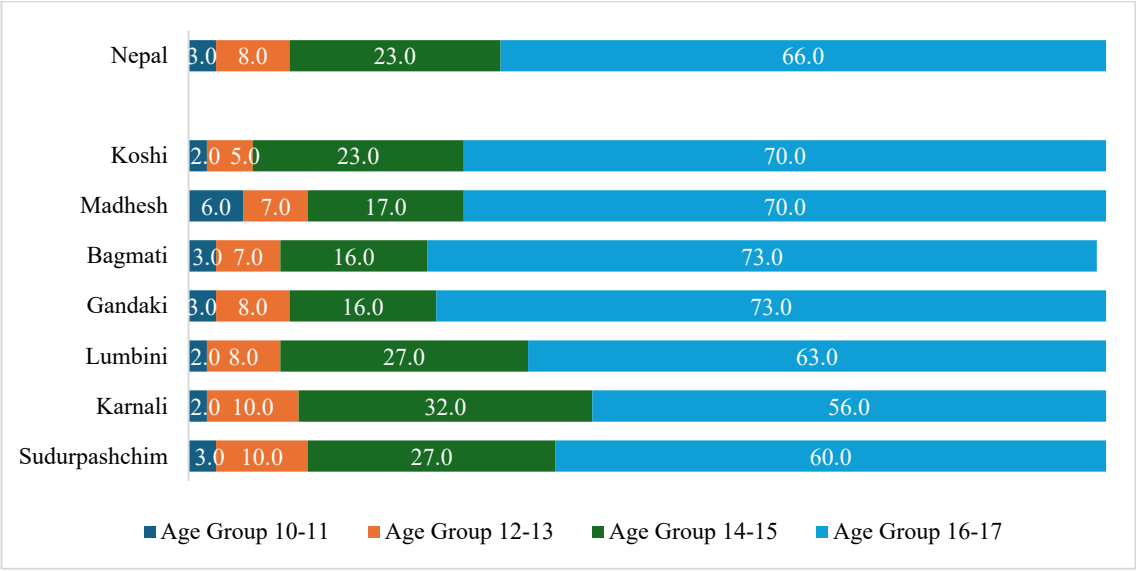


Source: NPHC, 2021

Among children with disabilities who are also household heads, 66 percent are in the 16-17 age group. Strikingly, 3.1 percent are in the 10-11 age group.

Across provinces, the largest percentage of households headed by children with disabilities are in the 16-17 age group (Figure 7.7). Bagmati has the highest percentage at 73 percent, whereas Sudurpashchim has the lowest percentage of households with 60 percent in this category. Madhesh has the highest proportion of households headed by children with disabilities in the 10-11 age group at 6 percent, with Lumbini and Karnali at 2 percent in this category.

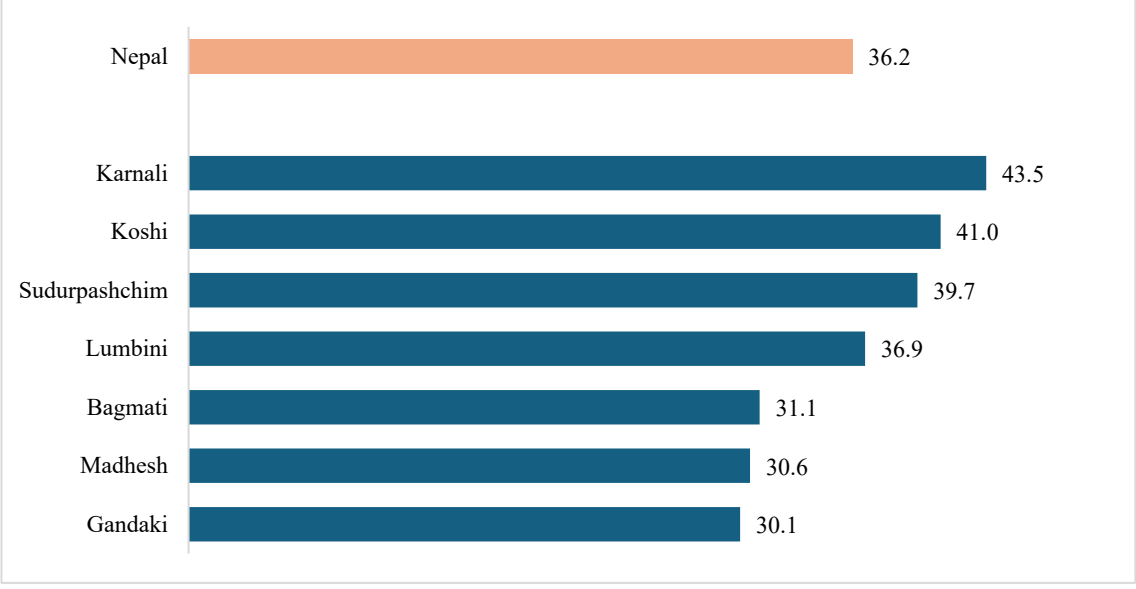
Figure 7.7: Distribution of child with disability headed households across age by province (%)



Source: NPHC, 2021

Data shows that children with disabilities are also economically active. Figure 7.8 highlights the prevalence of economically active children among children with disabilities. Of all children with disabilities in Nepal, more than one-third (36.2%) are economically active. The prevalence was highest in Karnali at 43.5 percent and lowest in Gandaki at 30.1 percent.

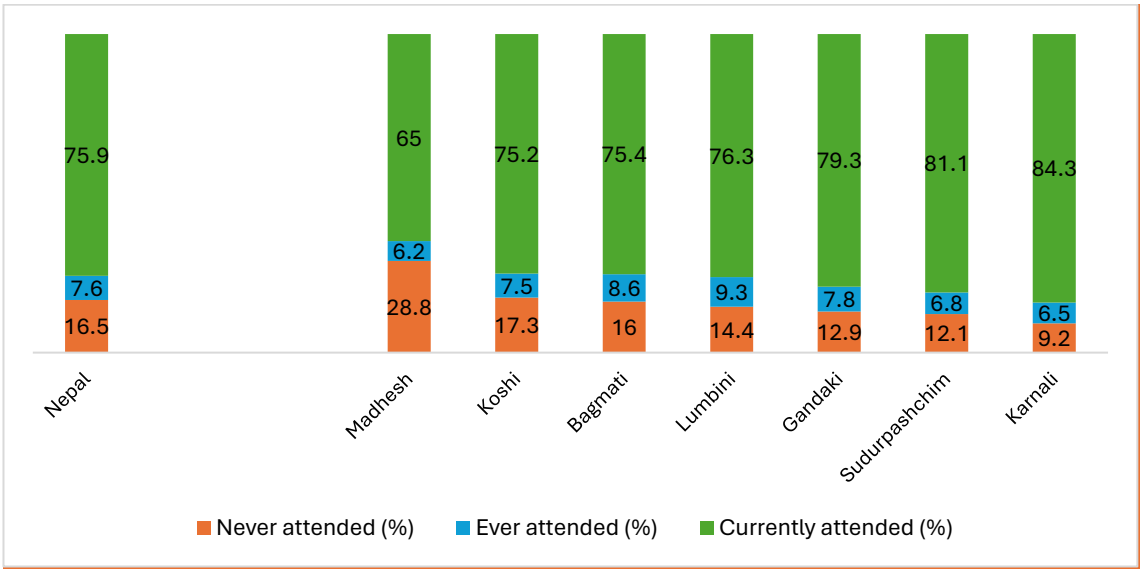
Figure 7.8: Percentage of economically active children with disabilities (%)



Source: NPHC, 2021

Reports the educational status of children with disabilities. In Nepal, while 75.6 percent of children with disabilities are currently attending school, 16.5 percent never attended school, and 7.6 percent ever-attended school. While Karnali has the most children with disabilities currently attending school at 84.0 percent, Madhesh has the lowest at 65.0 percent. Madhesh has the highest proportion of children with disabilities who never attended school at 28.8 percent, and the lowest proportion of children with disabilities who ever-attended school at 6.2 percent.

Figure 7.9: Educational status of children with disabilities (%)



Source: NPHC, 2021

7.2 Cause of death among children

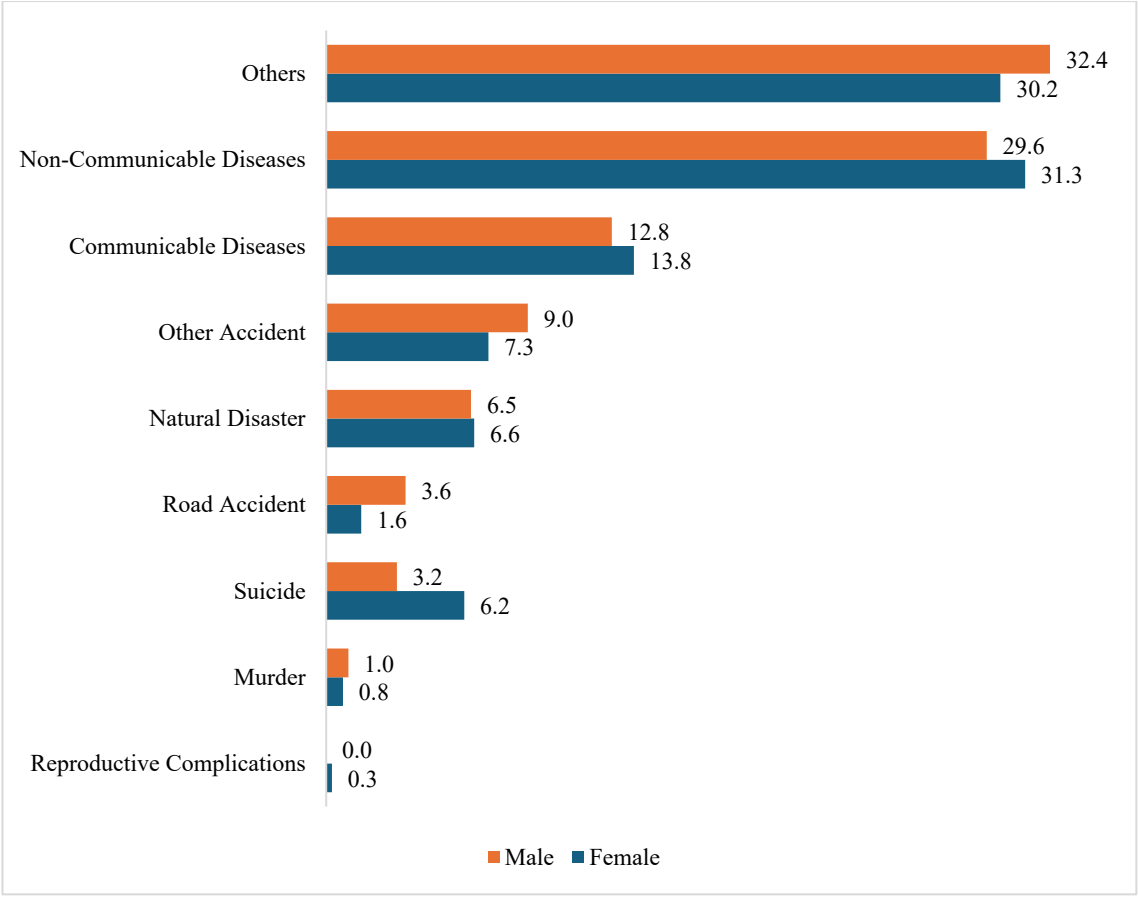
Many children face preventable deaths due to inadequate access to healthcare, lack of awareness, and insufficient facilities for their protection and well-being (National Academies of Sciences et al., 2024). Data was collected on nine variables to identify the cause of death among children. 'Other' is one of the nine variables in which a significant number is observed in the data.

The data illustrates the cause of death among children who passed away within the last 12 months in the households surveyed. The total number of reported deaths of children was 15,868 (7,012 were girls).

The data shows the primary cause of death in children disaggregated by sex. Non-communicable diseases were identified as the leading cause of death in children at 31.3 percent for females and 29.6 percent for males, followed by communicable diseases at 13.8 and 12.8 percent,

respectively. Natural disasters are also significant causes at 6.6 and 6.5 percentage for female and male. It is concerning that 4.5 percent (boys: 3.2% and girls: 6.2%) of the total deaths occurred due to suicide, highlighting the need for action around the mental health and well-being of children. The prevalence of suicide is nearly double in female children compared to male children. This alarming gender gap signals unique psychosocial vulnerabilities among girls, including potential issues such as early marriage, domestic violence, abuse, societal pressure, and a lack of parental care—particularly in terms of acknowledging their pain and listening to their views. These results indicate a critical need for improved health care, safety, and psychosocial care for children. (Figure 7.10)

Figure 7.10: Cause of death of children by sex (%)



Source: NPHC, 2021

The data indicates substantial provincial variations in the causes of death. Suicide incidence among children is highest in Gandaki Province (6.9%), followed by Bagmati (5.7%) and Koshi (5.7%). The highest number of road and other accident-related deaths is also found in Gandaki.

Interestingly, communicable diseases contribute the least to children's deaths in Gandaki Province in comparison to other provinces (Table 7.1).

Table 7.1: Cause of death by province (%)

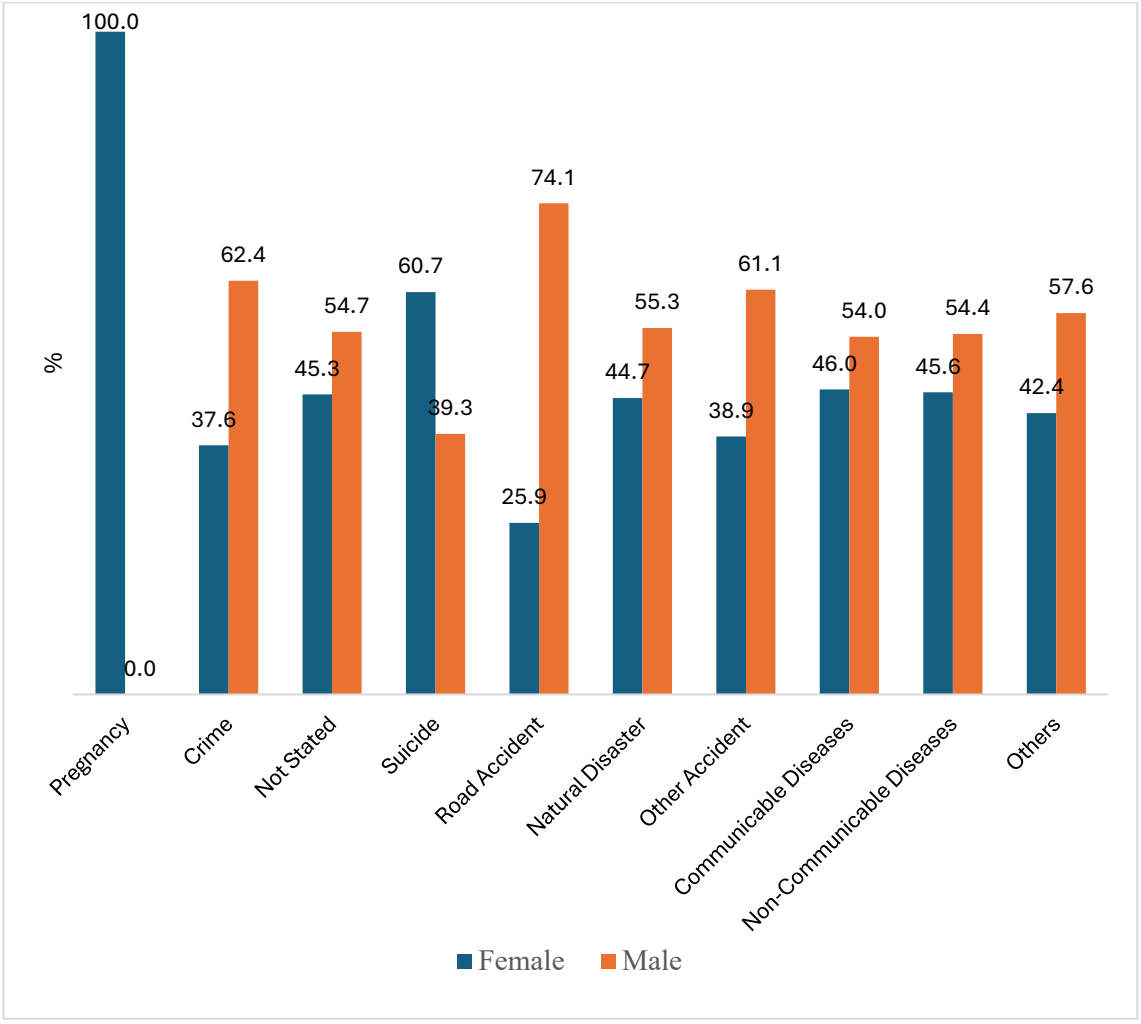
	Non-communicable diseases	Communicable diseases	Other accident	Natural disaster	Suicide	Road accident	Not stated	Murder	Others
Nepal	**30.4**	**13.2**	**8.3**	**6.6**	**4.5**	**2.7**	**1.9**	**0.9**	**31.5**
Koshi	36.1	14.0	6.4	4.6	5.7	2.4	1.7	0.6	28.5
Madhesh	26.0	12.1	8.9	10.9	3.3	3.0	1.9	1.0	32.8
Bagmati	34.2	15.1	7.6	3.5	5.7	2.5	2.8	0.6	28.1
Gandaki	35.9	7.9	9.1	5.0	6.9	3.9	2.1	1.3	27.6
Lumbini	30.0	12.3	7.2	5.7	3.5	2.8	2.0	1.0	35.4
Karnali	26.2	16.3	11.4	6.5	5.2	1.5	1.2	1.0	30.2
Sudurpashchim	28.3	15.7	9.9	4.7	4.5	2.4	1.6	0.8	32.0

Source: NPHC, 2021

Figure 7.11 highlights the sex ratio of the causes of death among children. Among total child deaths, 44.2 percent were girls, and 55.8 percent were boys.

The data reveals gender differences in the reasons behind child deaths. Although boys are more likely to be involved in accidents, notably road accidents, data indicate that girls have a higher prevalence of suicide. Boys are almost three times more likely to die from road accidents compared to girls and girls are 1.5 times more likely to die from suicide than boys. The pattern of cause of death from diseases is similar between the sexes.

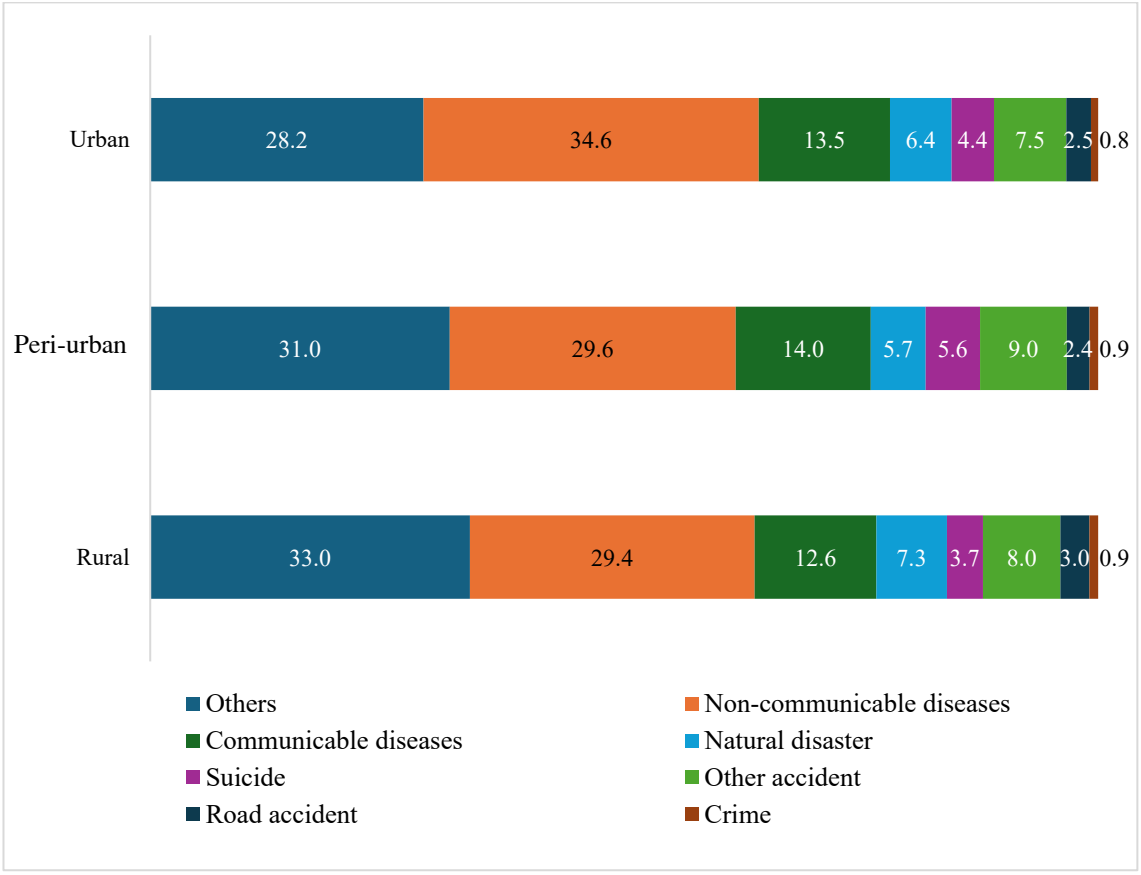
Figure 7.11: Cause of death by sex (%)



Source: NPHC, 2021

A slight difference was found in the cause of death between urban and rural areas. Data reveal that non-communicable disease deaths were responsible for a greater number of urban deaths at 34.6 percent, as opposed to peri-urban (29.6%) and rural regions (29.4%) (Figure 7.12). Road accidents occur at a lower rate in peri-urban area. Still, other types of accidents and suicides appear to be relatively more prevalent in these areas, which might indicate environmental or social factors underlying such occurrences.

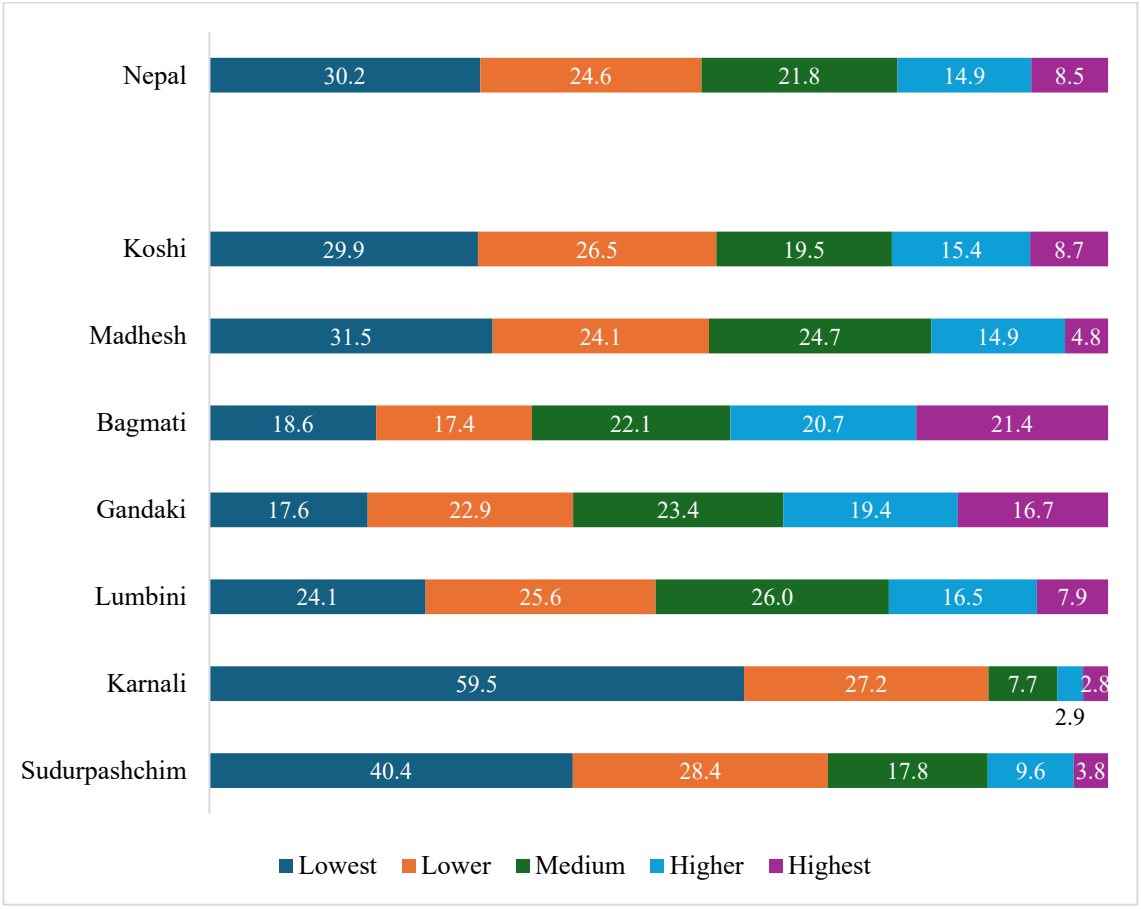
Figure 7.12: Cause of death by urban/rural municipalities in Nepal (%)



Source: NPHC, 2021

Figure 7.13 illustrates the prevalence of death among children by wealth quintile, and the data highlights a correlation between children's deaths and wealth ranking. The prevalence of death among children was highest among the lowest wealth quintile and lowest among the highest wealth quintile at the national level. However, some provinces vary in this pattern. In Karnali, the lowest quintile had significantly higher rates (86.7%), while Bagmati had a fairly even distribution across the wealth quintiles. These provincial differences suggest that socioeconomic status, access to healthcare, and living conditions play a major part in the death of children.

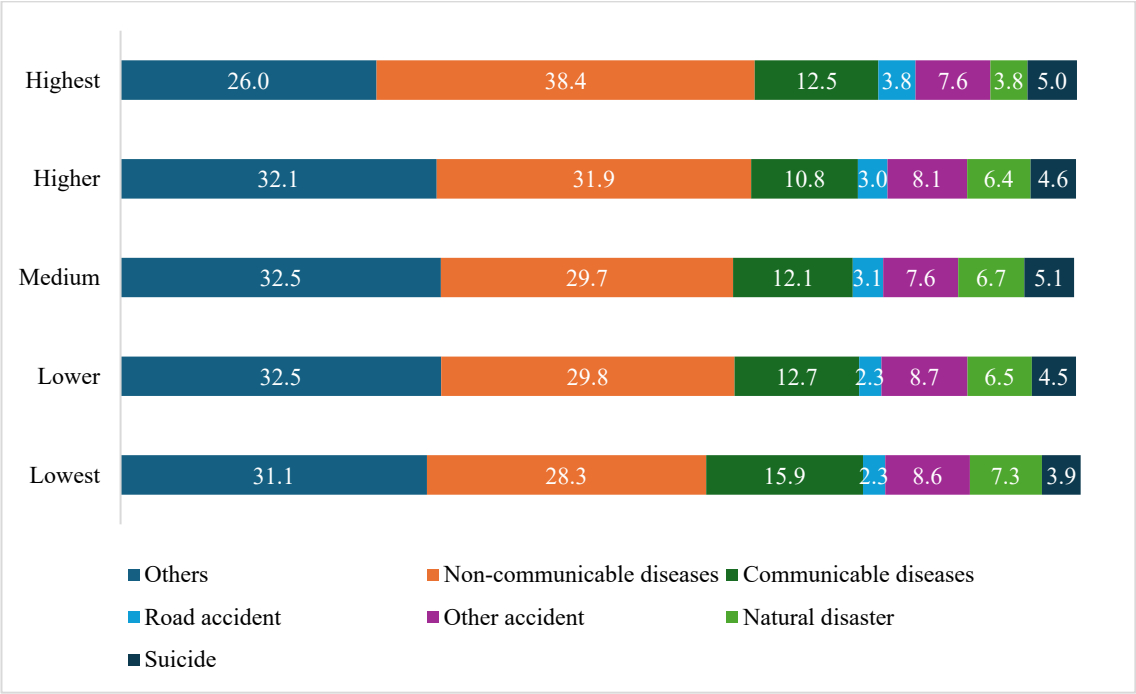
Figure 7.13: Death of children by wealth quintile (%)



Source: NPHC, 2021

A few variations are noted in the causes of death across different wealth quintiles (Figure 7.14). Non-communicable diseases prevail among the wealthiest, and communicable disease kills the lowest quintile most often, possibly reflecting disparities in healthcare access and living conditions. Suicide deaths are highest in the second wealth quintile and lowest among the lowest and highest. Further, road accidents appear to be more common among the wealthiest quintile, suggesting differences in lifestyle and exposures to risk.

Figure 7.14: Cause of death of children by wealth quintile in Nepal (%)



Source: NPHC, 2021

In summary, the data identify significant causes of children's deaths, including non-communicable disease as the leading cause, followed by communicable disease, accidents, and natural disasters. Suicide, at 4.5 percent, signifies the need for mental health interventions. Additionally, gender inequality shows boys have a higher tendency to die from accidental death, while girls commit suicide more. Provincial difference is also observed, with Gandaki recording the most suicides and road accident fatalities. Meanwhile, urban-rural disparities manifest in the excess of rural deaths from non-communicable diseases, while there is an increase in accidents and suicides in peri-urban areas. The death of children among wealth quintiles varies, with the lowest quintile experiencing the most deaths. The nature of deaths also varies across wealth quintiles, ranging from non-communicable disease for the highest to communicable disease for the lowest.

CHAPTER VIII

CHILD SITUATION INDEX

One of the key developments of this report is to quantify the holistic well-being of children across Nepal using the Child Situtation Index (CSI). In essence, CSI is intended to capture the snapshot of children across various regions in the country and across various sub-themes mentioned in previous chapters. Child Situation Index (CSI) ranges from 0 to 1, with 0 signifying the lowest outcomes and 1 signifying the most favourable outcomes, providing a standardized measure for comparative analysis.

8.1 Methodology to calculate the child situation index

In the formulae, CSI represents the well-being of children in Nepal. It is estimated as a geometric mean of 14 equally-weighted variables provided by the NPHC 2021. Geometric mean is used to calculate the index as it is less susceptible to extreme values in the choice variables.

$$CSI = \sqrt[14]{r_1 * r_2 * r_3 * \dots * r_{14}}$$

where $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n$ are the rates of each variable 1 through 14 that go into calculating the CPI. Variables (r_i) used for the calculation of CPI are listed below:

1. Children born by children aged 10-17 years
2. Percentage of children who are **not active economically**. The essence of this variable is to capture the idea of prosperity of a child as they are able to focus on school and education rather than work (*Economically Inactive Rate*).
3. Percentage of children who have their **birth registered legally**. This feature intends to capture whether or not the child is protected legally (*Birth Registration Rate*).
4. Percentage of children that are **never married**. To get this rate, the number of children that are married or are widowed/separated/divorced is used to calculate a marriage rate, which is then subtracted from 1 (*Non-Marriage Rate*).
5. Percentage of children who **do not have any disability**. To get this rate, disability rate is first computed and is subtracted from 1 (*Without Disability Rate*).

6. Percentage of children that are **living with both parents**. It can be hypothesized and research has shown that living with both parents is better for the child's overall well-being (*Both Parents Rate*).
7. *Literacy rate* of children– percentage of children who are **literate** (can read and write).
8. Percentage of children who live in a **household that is owned** rather than rented or leased (*Household Ownership Rate).*
9. Percentage of children who live in a **permanent house structure** representing safety and perhaps affluence in the area (*Permanent House Rate*).
10. Percentage of children who live in households that have easy **access to drinking water** source (*Easy Access to Water Source Rate*). Among many, tap/pipe within premises, tube-well/handpump, covered well/kuwa, and jar/bottle water are considered as having easy access to drinking water.
11. Percentage of children who live in households that have easy access to better **fuel source**. Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is taken as a better and easily accessible fuel source as opposed to still commonly used other traditional fuel sources like wood (*Household LPG Rate*).
12. Percentage of children who live in households with better **light source** (*Household Light Source Rate*). Electricity is used as an indicator for this as it is considered as a clean energy source. It is cheap and is easily available to the public.
13. Percentage of children who live in household with better **toilet facility** (*Household Toilet Rate*). Flush toilets within the household premises are considered safer and easier for children as opposed to other forms of toilets.
14. Percentage of children who live in households with **internet access** (*Household Internet Rate*).

The quantities used for CSI calculation are determined based on data availability from NPHC 2021 and mathematical technique on geometric mean was taken from as a reference from Human Development Index, Universal Health Index, which is used globally. Considering the opportunity of the data use Child Situation index was calculated for the first time in Nepal by aggregating multiple individual indicator that together measure a complex ,multidimensional phenomena (Chakraborty, 2002; Matteo Mazziotta ,OECD, 2008; Ritu Mathur, Namrata Jaitli and Amarnath H.K. et al., 2022; Roseleur, 2016; WHO, 2023). Again, assuming a formative framework, whereby the different data items are drivers of well-being, the selection and aggregation of indicators requires a model that explains how different components combine to deliver an understanding of the complex, multidimensional phenomenon. A well-being framework is such a model: it separates the entire phenomenon into constituent dimensions, explains how each dimension is (causally) related to the aggregate outcome (well-being), and

identifies the indicators that are to be aggregated into a composite index. In order to fulfil this requirement correlation and dendogram analysis was done to cluster and select the variables. Each rate that selected is expected to capture positive influences in the development of child in a particular domain. Furthhermore, several machine learning algorithms for model selection were employed to calculate the Child Situation Index (CSI). Due to the nature of the problem at hand, five machine learning algorithms using the Python Scikit-learn package estimator (Bac et al., 2021) were analyzed to choose the model best suited for the study. The five estimators analyzed were Random Forest Regressor, Multi-layer Perceptron (MLP) Regressor, Ridge, Linear Regression, and Support Vector Regression (SVR) (Jomthanachai et al., 2022). Following the machine learning convention of model selection and data analysis, data is split into training and testing sets. The training set contains 80 percent data while the testing sets contain 20 percent data. Subsequently, model accuracy checks to calculate the CSI were performed. The model accuracies for predicting the CSI based on several iterations using different variables and models with all 14 variables included is reported in Table 8.1.

Table 8.1: Model accuracy (%)

Rank	Python Scikit-learn Package Estimator	Accuracy (%)
1	Random Forest Regressor	91.6
2	MLP Regressor	90.6
3	Ridge	90
4	Linear Regression	90
5	Support Vector Regression (SVR)	76.6

For the percentages reported above in Table 8.1, Random Forest Regressor ranks highest in predicting the CSI, while SVR ranks last. Random Forest Regressor predicts the CSI with 91.6 percent accuracy while SVR predicts the CSI with 76.6 percent accuracy. It should be noted that the models generate slightly varying numbers around the reported percentages every time they are run. As can be seen, the Random Forest Regressor predicts the CSI with the highest accuracy, hence, Random Forest Regressor is used to predict the CSI.

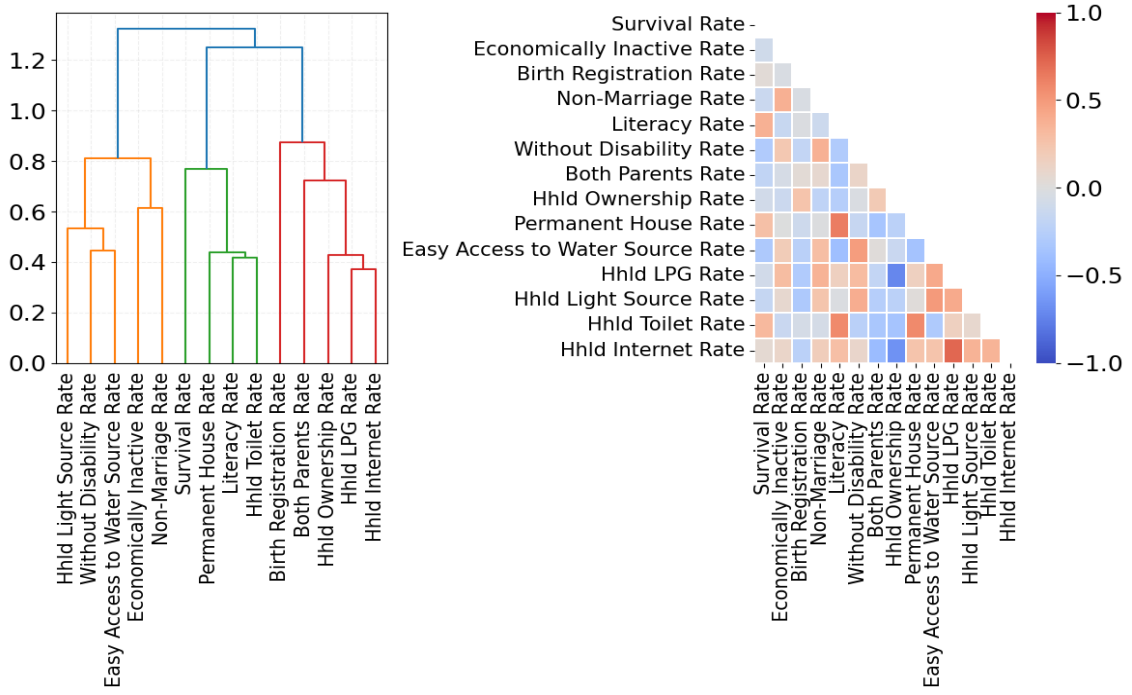
There are limitations of the model. Limitations stem from the limited availability of the variables of sufficient data to capture the nuances. First, all variables are equally weighted. For instance, the percentage of children that are never married and percentage of children who live in households with better toilet facilities are equally weighted. It should be noted though that widely accepted indices weigh their variables equally. Second, the CSI might lack external validity since this is the first time the CSI is calculated.

8.2 Correlation matrix and dendogram

The right side matrix of Figure 8.1 represents the correlation matrix while the left side plot represents the Dendogram. As mentioned above, the weight given to each of the 14 variables to compute the index is the same.

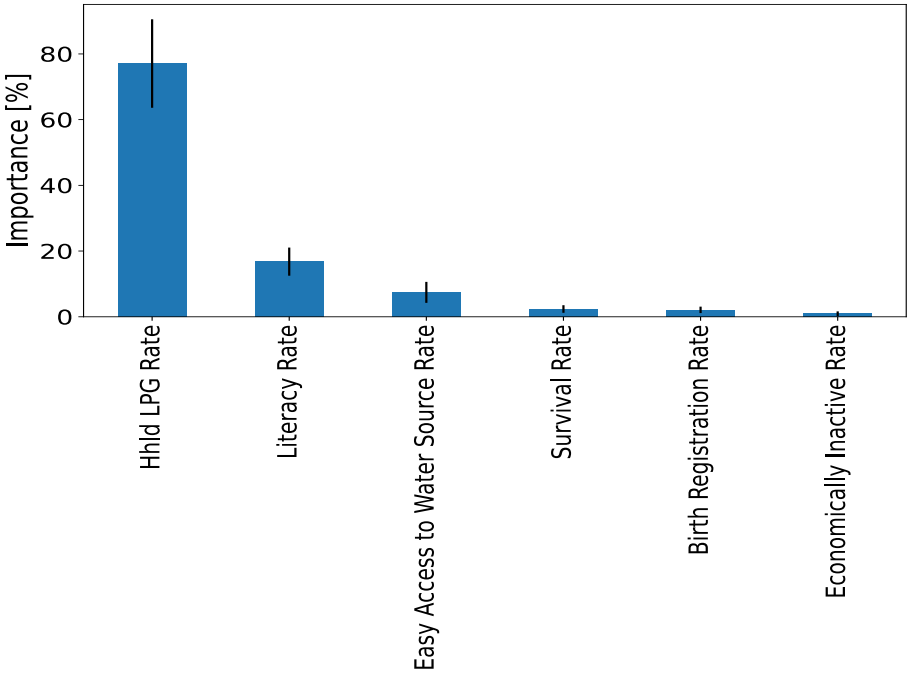
Correlation analysis identifies six weakly correlated variables that can be used to best predict the CSI. Hierarchical clustering was used to select these variables and is shown in the Dendogram below. Dendograms are used to cluster together similar variables that are relatively correlated. Variables used to compute CSI are clustered, from which only one representative variable per cluster is selected for analysis. In Figure 8.1, there are three clusters of variables represented by the colors orange, green, and red and two variables per cluster predict CSI. In Dendograms, variables that have higher variance have long legs, i.e., they are weakly correlated. For instance, in the red cluster, *Hhld LPG Rate* and *Hhld Internet Rate* are correlated and can also be seen in the correlation matrix plot on the right. Therefore, *Hhld LPG Rate* is used as an independent variable in the analysis, along with *Birth Registration Rate*. Similarly, *Survival Rate* and *Literacy Rate* are selected from the green cluster, and *Easy Access to Water Source Rate* and *Economically Inactive Rate* are selected from the orange cluster. The remaining eight variables are at the very least slightly correlated with one of the six variables.

Figure 8.1: Dendogram and correlation matrix of the choice variables



To determine the importance of these six variables in predicting the index, Random Forest Regression from the Python package Scikit-Learn is used. The importance of the six variables in determining the value of the index, in descending order, is as follows: *Household LPG Rate* (77.1%), *Literacy Rate* (16.8%), *Easy Access to Water Rate* (7.4%), *Survival Rate* (2.4%), *Birth Registration Rate* (2.1%), and *Economically Inactive Rate* (0.9%). It should be noted that each of the six variables is the featured representative of its respective cluster, and together they also represent the other eight variables not mentioned here. Additionally, it should also be noted that the six featured variables and their percentages do not represent "variable importance" in the conventional sense, but rather, when these six featured variables instead of all 14 variables are used, it predicts the CSI value with approximately 81 percent accuracy using the Random Forest Model generated by training our data. If censuses from other years were to be added to the current dataset, the accuracy of the model should theoretically improve.

Figure 8.2: Variable importance



Furthermore, the model states that six variables carry different weights in predicting the CSI as this exercise is a holistic effort. *However, targeted interventions should focus on improving all fourteen variables and not just a selected few.* Since this is the first effort in defining the CSI , further study and more data is will increase the accuracy of the model.

8.3 Methodological limitation

The Child Situation Index (CSI) methodology has several limitations. First, it assigns equal weights to all 14 variables, even though their impacts on child well-being may differ. As Nepal's first CSI, it also lacks external validation or benchmarking with international indices. The selection of variables is constrained by census data availability rather than a comprehensive framework of child well-being, and the machine learning models used show varying accuracy, raising concerns about consistency. Moreover, the census indicators provide limited nuance and was not able to capture children's own perspectives, while the use of a geometric mean makes results sensitive to very low or zero values. Reducing 14 variables to 6 through clustering may oversimplify child well-being, and reliance on a single census year prevents analysis of trends over time. Finally, definitional ambiguities in indicators, such as "easy access" to water or "better" toilet facilities, may affect measurement accuracy.

8.4 The Child Situation Index results

Map 8.1 shows the CSI across the country. The areas of greater child prosperity are where the CSI is close to 1. The CSI is zero in government-sanctioned areas such as wildlife reserves and national parks. The CSI values are reported in Appendices 1, 2, and 3.

The eastern and central areas of Nepal show better CSIs, whereas western Nepal shows discouraging CSI overall. The CSI is also able to capture the geographical nuances that might play a role in child prosperity. For instance, while the hilly areas in the western region have, in general, comparatively lower regional CSI values, the Darchula area bordering India, for example, has comparatively higher CSI values, attesting to the veracity of the CSI.

Map 8.1 shows that the areas in the Eastern Terai belt have encouraging CSI. In the same location, the strip from Itahari to Biratnagar also shows a favourable value. In this region, as expected, major cities and urban areas seem to have a higher CSI value, while hilly regions have lower CSI values. Following this, the Solukhumbu area has a relatively higher CSI value in the eastern region.

Moving toward the central region of Nepal, the Kathmandu Valley has a strong CSI. Additionally, CSI in areas close to the valley, such as Nuwakot and Makwanpur, show favourable environments for children. Overall, the central region of the country indicates relatively favourable environments for children compared to the other areas.

Moving west, the Bharatpur and Rupandehi areas in the lower central region show favourable CSI. In the central west region, the general Kaski region shows better CSI values. Moving further west, the Dang district region shows better CSI values.

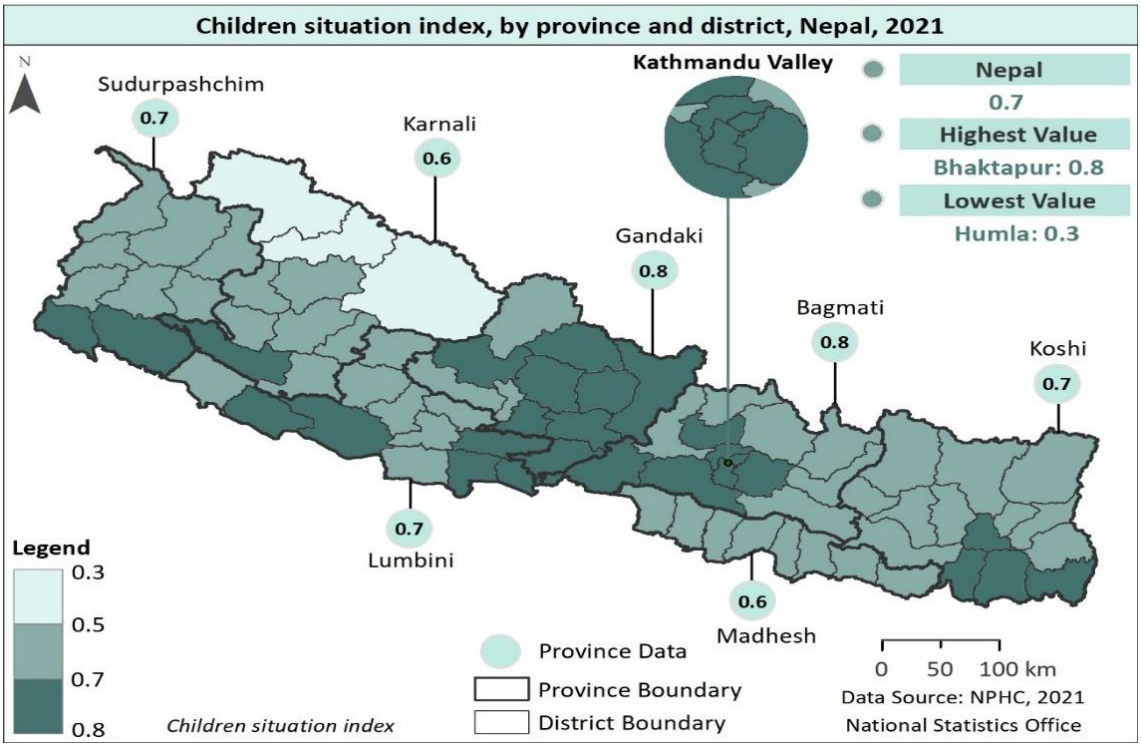
In the western region of the country, the Nepalgunj, along with the Birendranagar Surkhet, show higher CSI values. Additionally, the Kailalii area shows higher CSI values along with Dipayal-Silgadhi. As mentioned, the CSI also captured the Dharchula area, which borders India, and shows higher values compared to its surrounding area. However, overall CSI is lower in the western part of the country, especially in the hilly regions in the west, compared to the rest of the country.

Table 8.2 shows the top 10 areas for child well being across the entire nation in descending order. Bhaktapur Municipality ranks at the top with a CSI value of 0.857, followed by Budhanilkantha Municipality with a CSI value of 0.85. As can be seen in Table 8.2, 8 out of 10 top municipalities are from Bagmati Province. Within Bagmati, the Kathmandu District has 50 percent of the CSI values, followed by Bhaktapur District at approximately 38 percent. Appendix 2 lists the variables used, variable values, and the CSI values.

Table 8.2: Child situation index (Top 10 local levels)

Province	District	Area	CPI
Bagmati	Bhaktapur	Bhaktapur Municipality	0.857
Bagmati	Kathmandu	Budhanilkantha Municipality	0.850
Bagmati	Kathmandu	Kageshwori Manahara Municipality	0.849
Bagmati	Bhaktapur	Suryabinayak Municipality	0.842
Lumbini	Rupandehi	Siddharthanagar Municipality	0.840
Bagmati	Kathmandu	Chandragiri Municipality	0.834
Bagmati	Bhaktapur	Madhyapur Thimi Municipality	0.833
Bagmati	Lalitpur	Mahalaxmi Municipality	0.833
Koshi	Jhapa	Damak Municipality	0.832
Bagmati	Kathmandu	Kirtipur Municipality	0.827

Map 8.1: Child situation index by province and district across Nepal



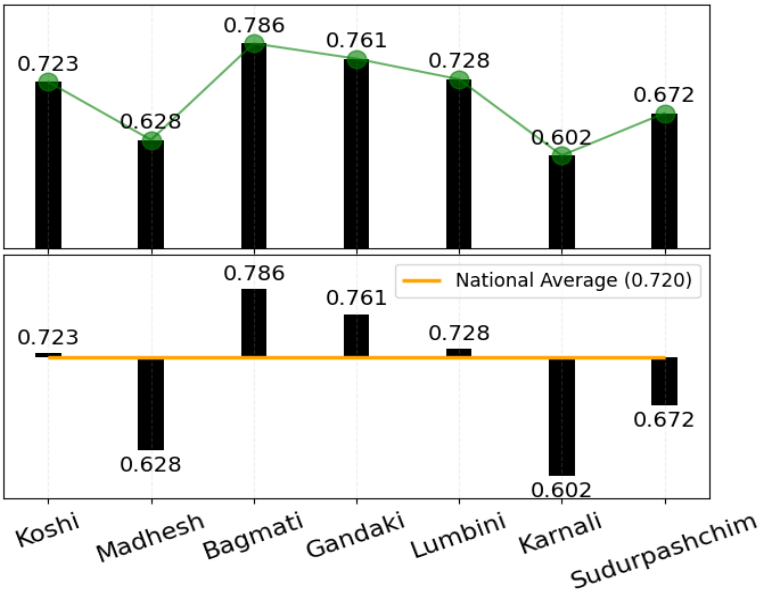
The district level CSI values are shown as shades of colours in Map 8.1 While local-level data help with planning, service delivery, and most importantly, accountability, district-level data are key to spotting gaps and reaching specific groups. Districts in central Nepal Bhaktapur, Kathmandu, and Lalitpur have encouraging CSI. Mustang, Baglung and Parbat have less than 0.7 CSI in Gandaki province. This shows that the need for targeted intervention is elsewhere. For instance, data reveals that Karnali and Sudurpashchim provinces, on average, have discouraging CSI, perhaps necessitating holistic interventions in these regions.

Provincial-level data allow for the comparison of regional performance, offering valuable context and highlighting disparities when measured against a common national benchmark. Figure 8.3 below shows the provincial CSI values and their deviation from the national CSI average. The top plot reports the provincial average CSI values. As the figure suggests, Bagmati has the most favourable environment for children with a CPI value of 0.786, followed by Gandaki (CSI value of 0.761) and Koshi (CSI value of 0.723). Karnali has the least favourable environment for children, with a CSI value of 0.602.

The bottom plot shows the national average and the deviation of the indices from the national average across the provinces. The national average is 0.719. Karnali has the most (and negative) deviation from the national average, followed by Madhesh. Bagmati has the most (and positive)

deviation from the national average, followed by Gandaki. Appendix 1 reports the provincial CPI values, Appendix 2 reports the district level CPI values, and Appendix 3 reports the local level CPI values, respectively.

Figure 8.3: Provincial CSI values and deviation from the mean



The analysis of CSI states that overall child prosperity is comparatively good. However, significant improvements can be achieved through the implementation and consistent enforcement of targeted policy measures.

CHAPTER IX

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report presents the findings from the 2021 census and sheds light on the status of children in Nepal. The census provides valuable data, while recognizing that it may not encompass every aspect of child-related issues. The legal framework for child rights in Nepal is extensive, covering child protection, participation, education, healthcare, and more. However, some data indicate that these laws are unable to completely safeguard children due to implementation shortcomings, lack of accountability, and socio-economic constraints. While policies emphasize equal access, inclusion remains an issue, especially for economically disadvantaged children and those with disabilities.

With a declining child population and provincial disparities, targeted interventions are crucial to ensure equitable access to healthcare, education, and protection. The child population is concentrated in relatively geographically accessible provinces, with Madhesh having the highest numbers, followed by Lumbini. In contrast, a remote location, Karnali, has the lowest number of children. This distribution warrants balanced child-centric development programs that prioritize inclusivity over the total child population, ensuring that no child is left behind, regardless of where they live.

Child marriage, economic vulnerability, and migration continue to pose challenges, requiring strengthened policies and enforcement mechanisms.The child-headed households should be brought to the attention of local officials to ensure these children receive the necessary support. This should include expanding access to education with child-friendly environments, and developing alternatives for those children who are currently not attending school (including those who never attended school), which will lead to improved literacy rates. Additionally, addressing mental health concerns is vital for fostering well-being, as the suicide rate is visible, more so among girls. Accessible services also need to be strengthened to protect the rights of children with disabilities and promote their flourishing. Furthermore, disparities in prosperity and access to essential services underscore the need for inclusive development efforts. Addressing these concerns holistically will help ensure that every child enjoys their rights as guaranteed by the Constitution and the nation's international commitments.

A coordinated effort from all three tiers of government and agencies, civil society, and local communities is required for practical change. Through policy improvements, targeted interventions, and increased investment in children, Nepal can create an environment where all

children grow up safe, educated, and empowered. The path forward depends on bold, evidence-based actions that translate legal guarantees into meaningful change, securing a future where all children can flourish to their full potential, regardless of their background.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Research child population decline.** Conduct research into reasons that people are having fewer children and the long-term impact of the decreasing child population, which is most visible in the provinces where more people are wealthy and educated.
2. **Invest in early childhood.** Enhance the early childhood development programmes, since more than half of the child population is under 9 years of age, and the first 8 years of age are the foundational period of child development.
3. **Enhance living standards.** Strengthen and create targeted, practical programs to uplift the living standard of the lowest and lower wealth quintile families, as nearly half of the nation's children belong to these households. The CSI shows that children residing in overall higher-wealth areas have greater well-being.
4. **Improve legal implementation.** Enhance the implementation and reform of laws related to child protection, such as the Act Relating to Children, 2018; Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2000; National Civil Code, 2017; National Penal Code, 2017; and Act Relating to Compulsory and Free Education, 2018. Make the general public aware of the legal provisions, and hold law enforcement authorities more accountable.
5. **Strengthen child protection.** Improve the child protection system for prevention, identification and reporting, response and intervention, reintegration, and support for affected children and families facing child marriage, child labour, and other risks.
6. **Expand inclusive education.** Expand access to education in required areas (as supported by data); develop a child-friendly environment in schools; promote and support instruction in languages that are familiar to students; and provide special attention, support, and alternatives to children who drop out of the education system and to those who have never enrolled.
7. **Address mental health.** Enhance mental health intervention in schools and health centres, as well as parental education on the mental health and well-being of children.
8. **Improve disability data.** Revise disability indicators for the next census to align with international methods, and expand disability screening to children in schools and communities for early intervention to prevent worsening cases and to provide timely support. In addition, expand disability-inclusive teacher training.
9. **Support all children everywhere.** Develop a balanced child-centric development programme, ensuring that no child is left behind, regardless of where they live, as the child population is concentrated in relatively accessible provinces, while being lowest in remote locations.

APPENDIX 1: CHILD Situation INDEX (PROVINCE)

Area	Index
Nepal	0.720
Bagmati	0.786
Gandaki	0.761
Lumbini	0.728
Koshi	0.723
Sudurpaschim	0.672
Madhesh	0.628
Karnali	0.602

APPENDIX 2: CHILD Situation INDEX (DISTRICT)

Province	Area	Index
Bagmati	Bhaktapur	0.836
Bagmati	Kathmandu	0.820
Bagmati	Lalitpur	0.819
Gandaki	Kaski	0.814
Gandaki	Parasi	0.793
Bagmati	Chitawan	0.792
Lumbini	Rupandehi	0.787
Koshi	Jhapa	0.778
Gandaki	Lamjung	0.762
Gandaki	Tanahu	0.759
Sudurpashchim	Kanchanpur	0.755
Bagmati	Kavrepalanchok	0.747
Koshi	Morang	0.735
Lumbini	Palpa	0.734
Bagmati	Makwanpur	0.730
Koshi	Sunsari	0.729
Lumbini	Dang	0.725
Lumbini	Nawalpur	0.723
Gandaki	Manang	0.722
Koshi	Dhankuta	0.721

Province	Area	Index
Lumbini	Banke	0.712
Gandaki	Syangja	0.709
Bagmati	Nuwakot	0.707
Gandaki	Myagdi	0.704
Sudurpashchim	Kailali	0.703
Karnali	Surkhet	0.701
Gandaki	Gorkha	0.701
Gandaki	Parbat	0.698
Bagmati	Dhading	0.693
Lumbini	Gulmi	0.691
Bagmati	Rasuwa	0.690
Lumbini	Bardiya	0.685
Lumbini	Kapilbastu	0.684
Bagmati	Dolakha	0.681
Madhesh	Parsa	0.677
Koshi	Ilam	0.675
Gandaki	Baglung	0.675
Koshi	Solukhumbu	0.671
Madhesh	Dhanusa	0.667
Lumbini	Arghakhanchi	0.667
Gandaki	Mustang	0.660
Bagmati	Sindhupalchok	0.656
Koshi	Panchthar	0.653
Sudurpashchim	Dadeldhura	0.646
Koshi	Tehrathum	0.642
Koshi	Sankhuwasabha	0.640
Bagmati	Sindhuli	0.640
Koshi	Udayapur	0.639
Madhesh	Bara	0.635
Madhesh	Siraha	0.627
Sudurpashchim	Darchula	0.627
Lumbini	Pyuthan	0.616

Province	Area	Index
Koshi	Taplejung	0.615
Bagmati	Ramechhap	0.613
Karnali	Salyan	0.612
Madhesh	Rautahat	0.611
Madhesh	Mahottari	0.606
Koshi	Bhojpur	0.605
Madhesh	Sarlahi	0.590
Lumbini	Rolpa	0.588
Karnali	Rukum (west)	0.588
Koshi	Okhaldhunga	0.584
Koshi	Khotang	0.582
Madhesh	Saptari	0.568
Sudurpashchim	Doti	0.563
Sudurpashchim	Bajhang	0.553
Lumbini	Rukum (east)	0.547
Sudurpashchim	Bajura	0.537
Karnali	Jajarkot	0.528
Karnali	Dailekh	0.526
Sudurpashchim	Achham	0.516
Karnali	Kalikot	0.513
Karnali	Jumla	0.512
Sudurpashchim	Baitadi	0.508
Karnali	Dolpa	0.461
Karnali	Mugu	0.405
Karnali	Humla	0.333

APPENDIX 3: CHILD Situation INDEX (LOCAL LEVEL)

Province	District	Municipality	Index
Bagmati	Bhaktapur	Bhaktapur Municipality	0.857
Bagmati	Kathmandu	Budhanilkhantha Municipality	0.851
Bagmati	Kathmandu	Kageshwori Manahara Municipality	0.849
Bagmati	Bhaktapur	Suryabinayak Municipality	0.842
Lumbini	Rupandehi	Siddharthanagar Municipality	0.841
Bagmati	Kathmandu	Chandragiri Municipality	0.834
Bagmati	Bhaktapur	Madhyapur Thimi Municipality	0.833
Bagmati	Lalitpur	Mahalaxmi Municipality	0.833
Koshi	Jhapa	Damak Municipality	0.833
Bagmati	Kathmandu	Kirtipur Municipality	0.828
Bagmati	Kathmandu	Gokarneshwor Municipality	0.822
Gandaki	Parasi	Devchuli Municipality	0.821
Gandaki	Kaski	Pokhara Metropolitian City	0.819
Bagmati	Chitawan	Bharatpur Metropolitian City	0.819
Lumbini	Rupandehi	Butwal Sub-Metropolitian City	0.817
Lumbini	Rupandehi	Tilottama Municipality	0.817
Gandaki	Parasi	Kawasoti Municipality	0.817
Bagmati	Kavrepalanchok	Dhulikhel Municipality	0.816
Bagmati	Bhaktapur	Changunarayan Municipality	0.815
Lumbini	Rupandehi	Sainamaina Municipality	0.814
Gandaki	Tanahu	Shuklagandaki Municipality	0.814
Koshi	Jhapa	Kankai Municipality	0.813
Koshi	Jhapa	Arjundhara Municipality	0.810
Gandaki	Parasi	Gaidakot Municipality	0.810
Bagmati	Makwanpur	Hetauda Sub-Metropolitian City	0.810
Gandaki	Lamjung	Sundarbazar Municipality	0.809
Bagmati	Kavrepalanchok	Panauti Municipality	0.809
Bagmati	Kathmandu	Tarakeshwor Municipality	0.808
Bagmati	Lalitpur	Godawari Municipality	0.806
Bagmati	Lalitpur	Lalitpur Metropolitian City	0.806
Bagmati	Chitawan	Ratnanagar Municipality	0.805
Koshi	Jhapa	Birtamod Municipality	0.804

Province	District	Municipality	Index
Bagmati	Kathmandu	Dakshinkali Municipality	0.801
Gandaki	Tanahu	Aanbu Khaireni Gaunpalika	0.798
Karnali	Surkhet	Birendranagar Municipality	0.798
Bagmati	Kathmandu	Kathmandu Metropolitian City	0.798
Gandaki	Lamjung	Rainas Municipality	0.798
Bagmati	Kathmandu	Nagarjun Municipality	0.797
Bagmati	Kavrepalanchok	Banepa Municipality	0.797
Koshi	Morang	Urlabari Municipality	0.797
Bagmati	Kathmandu	Tokha Municipality	0.797
Lumbini	Palpa	Tansen Municipality	0.793
Lumbini	Banke	Nepalganj Sub-Metropolitian City	0.792
Koshi	Jhapa	Bhadrapur Municipality	0.791
Koshi	Sunsari	Itahari Sub-Metropolitian City	0.789
Sudurpashchim	Kanchanpur	Punarbas Municipality	0.788
Lumbini	Rupandehi	Siyari Gaunpalika	0.787
Sudurpashchim	Kanchanpur	Bhimdatta Municipality	0.787
Bagmati	Nuwakot	Bidur Municipality	0.787
Koshi	Sunsari	Dharan Sub-Metropolitian City	0.784
Lumbini	Rupandehi	Devdaha Municipality	0.784
Gandaki	Tanahu	Byas Municipality	0.783
Koshi	Morang	Sundarharaicha Municipality	0.783
Koshi	Jhapa	Kamal Gaunpalika	0.783
Gandaki	Manang	Koshi	0.781
Koshi	Jhapa	Buddhashanti Gaunpalika	0.781
Gandaki	Lamjung	Bensishahar Municipality	0.780
Lumbini	Banke	Kohalpur Municipality	0.779
Bagmati	Chitawan	Khairahani Municipality	0.779
Lumbini	Nawalpur	Sunawal Municipality	0.772
Koshi	Morang	Biratnagar Metropolitian City	0.772
Koshi	Jhapa	Mechinagar Municipality	0.771
Sudurpashchim	Kanchanpur	Beldandi Gaunpalika	0.770
Koshi	Dhankuta	Dhankuta Municipality	0.770
Sudurpashchim	Dadeldhura	Amargadhi Municipality	0.769

Province	District	Municipality	Index
Bagmati	Rasuwa	Kalika Gaunpalika	0.767
Lumbini	Nawalpur	Bardaghat Municipality	0.767
Koshi	Sunsari	Ramdhuni Municipality	0.765
Gandaki	Syangja	Putalibazar Municipality	0.765
Lumbini	Rupandehi	Kanchan Gaunpalika	0.765
Koshi	Jhapa	Haldibari Gaunpalika	0.764
Lumbini	Rupandehi	Om Satiya Gaunpalika	0.764
Lumbini	Dang	Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitian City	0.763
Gandaki	Myagdi	Beni Municipality	0.760
Sudurpashchim	Darchula	Mahakali Municipality	0.760
Sudurpashchim	Kanchanpur	Dodhara Chandani Municipality	0.759
Madhesh	Dhanusa	Janakpurdham Sub-Metropolitian City	0.758
Gandaki	Kaski	Machhapuchchhre Gaunpalika	0.758
Lumbini	Dang	Rapti Gaunpalika	0.757
Gandaki	Tanahu	Bhimad Municipality	0.756
Gandaki	Parasi	Madhya Bindu Municipality	0.756
Koshi	Morang	Belbari Municipality	0.755
Lumbini	Arghakhanchi	Sandhikharka Municipality	0.754
Koshi	Jhapa	Shivasatakshi Municipality	0.754
Gandaki	Lamjung	Madhya Nepal Municipality	0.753
Gandaki	Tanahu	Bandipur Gaunpalika	0.753
Lumbini	Rupandehi	Suddhodhan Gaunpalika	0.752
Lumbini	Dang	Lamahi Municipality	0.751
Gandaki	Parbat	Kushma Municipality	0.751
Sudurpashchim	Kailali	Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitian City	0.749
Lumbini	Gulmi	Resunga Municipality	0.748
Lumbini	Rupandehi	Mayadevi Gaunpalika	0.748
Koshi	Jhapa	Barhadashi Gaunpalika	0.748
Lumbini	Palpa	Rampur Municipality	0.746
Bagmati	Sindhuli	Kamalamai Municipality	0.746
Koshi	Solukhumbu	Solu Dhudhakunda Municipality	0.744
Koshi	Tehrathum	Myanglung Municipality	0.744
Madhesh	Parsa	Birgunj Metropolitian City	0.744

Province	District	Municipality	Index
Lumbini	Kapilbastu	Kapilbastu Municipality	0.744
Gandaki	Syangja	Walling Municipality	0.743
Lumbini	Banke	Baijanath Gaunpalika	0.742
Lumbini	Gulmi	Ruruchhetra Gaunpalika	0.742
Koshi	Morang	Budhiganga Gaunpalika	0.741
Gandaki	Kaski	Annapurna Gaunpalika	0.741
Lumbini	Rupandehi	Rohini Gaunpalika	0.741
Lumbini	Dang	Ghorahi Sub-Metropolitian City	0.739
Gandaki	Tanahu	Myagde Gaunpalika	0.738
Gandaki	Gorkha	Gorkha Municipality	0.738
Sudurpashchim	Kanchanpur	Bedkot Municipality	0.737
Gandaki	Parbat	Jaljala Gaunpalika	0.737
Bagmati	Kavrepalanchok	Mandan Deupur Municipality	0.737
Koshi	Morang	Pathari Shanishchare Municipality	0.736
Gandaki	Parasi	Hupsekot Gaunpalika	0.736
Lumbini	Bardiya	Thakurbaba Municipality	0.736
Bagmati	Chitawan	Kalika Municipality	0.735
Lumbini	Kapilbastu	Banganga Municipality	0.733
Gandaki	Parasi	Binayi Tribeni Gaunpalika	0.732
Koshi	Jhapa	Gauradaha Municipality	0.731
Sudurpashchim	Kanchanpur	Belouri Municipality	0.731
Koshi	Udayapur	Triyuga Municipality	0.731
Sudurpashchim	Kailali	Bardagoriya Gaunpalika	0.731
Sudurpashchim	Kailali	Tikapur Municipality	0.730
Bagmati	Chitawan	Rapti Municipality	0.730
Sudurpashchim	Kailali	Lamki Chuha Municipality	0.730
Gandaki	Manang	Manang Ngisyang Gaunpalika	0.729
Koshi	Ilam	Illam Municipality	0.729
Gandaki	Tanahu	Bhanu Municipality	0.728
Lumbini	Palpa	Rambha Gaunpalika	0.727
Bagmati	Makwanpur	Manahari Gaunpalika	0.727
Bagmati	Dhading	Dhunibenshi Municipality	0.726
Gandaki	Syangja	Phedikhola Gaunpalika	0.726

Province	District	Municipality	Index
Bagmati	Dhading	Galchhi Gaunpalika	0.725
Lumbini	Nawalpur	Ramgram Municipality	0.725
Lumbini	Palpa	Purbakhola Gaunpalika	0.725
Koshi	Solukhumbu	Khumbu Pasanglhamu Gaunpalika	0.724
Koshi	Morang	Katahari Gaunpalika	0.723
Lumbini	Gulmi	Chandrakot Gaunpalika	0.723
Sudurpashchim	Kanchanpur	Shuklaphanta Municipality	0.723
Gandaki	Mustang	Gharpajhong Gaunpalika	0.723
Madhesh	Bara	Jitpur Simara Sub-Metropolitian City	0.721
Bagmati	Dhading	Tripurasundari Gaunpalika	0.721
Lumbini	Bardiya	Badhaiyatal Gaunpalika	0.721
Gandaki	Lamjung	Marshyangdi Gaunpalika	0.720
Gandaki	Mustang	Thasang Gaunpalika	0.719
Lumbini	Bardiya	Madhuwan Municipality	0.718
Bagmati	Nuwakot	Kakani Gaunpalika	0.718
Bagmati	Dolakha	Bhimeshwor Municipality	0.718
Lumbini	Palpa	Mathagadhi Gaunpalika	0.718
Bagmati	Dhading	Gajuri Gaunpalika	0.717
Gandaki	Gorkha	Palungtar Municipality	0.717
Gandaki	Myagdi	Annapurna Gaunpalika	0.717
Bagmati	Kathmandu	Shankharapur Municipality	0.716
Karnali	Salyan	Sharada Municipality	0.716
Koshi	Morang	Kanepokhari Gaunpalika	0.716
Bagmati	Dhading	Nilkhantha Municipality	0.715
Gandaki	Baglung	Baglung Municipality	0.715
Bagmati	Nuwakot	Panchakanya Gaunpalika	0.711
Bagmati	Rasuwa	Uttargaya Gaunpalika	0.710
Koshi	Bhojpur	Bhojpur Municipality	0.709
Koshi	Panchthar	Phidim Municipality	0.709
Madhesh	Rautahat	Gaur Municipality	0.708
Lumbini	Palpa	Baganaskali Gaunpalika	0.708
Gandaki	Baglung	Dhorpatan Municipality	0.707
Lumbini	Kapilbastu	Shivaraj Municipality	0.705

Province	District	Municipality	Index
Gandaki	Gorkha	Shahid Lakhan Gaunpalika	0.704
Koshi	Dhankuta	Shahidbhumi Gaunpalika	0.704
Koshi	Dhankuta	Chhathar Jorpati Gaunpalika	0.702
Koshi	Ilam	Suryodaya Municipality	0.701
Bagmati	Sindhupalchok	Choutara Sangachowkgadhi Municipality	0.701
Gandaki	Kaski	Rupa Gaunpalika	0.701
Koshi	Ilam	Rong Gaunpalika	0.700
Gandaki	Syangja	Bhirkot Municipality	0.700
Lumbini	Palpa	Tinau Gaunpalika	0.699
Bagmati	Chitawan	Madi Municipality	0.698
Sudurpashchim	Kanchanpur	Krishnapur Municipality	0.697
Koshi	Ilam	Mai Jogmai Gaunpalika	0.696
Bagmati	Lalitpur	Mahankal Gaunpalika	0.695
Bagmati	Kavrepalanchok	Panchkhal Municipality	0.695
Karnali	Rukum (West)	Musikot Municipality	0.694
Koshi	Sunsari	Duhabi Municipality	0.693
Koshi	Sunsari	Barahachhetra Municipality	0.693
Bagmati	Kavrepalanchok	Roshi Gaunpalika	0.693
Bagmati	Dolakha	Shailung Gaunpalika	0.692
Madhesh	Siraha	Siraha Municipality	0.691
Bagmati	Nuwakot	Tarakeshwor Gaunpalika	0.691
Koshi	Dhankuta	Sangurigadhi Gaunpalika	0.689
Madhesh	Mahottari	Jaleshwor Municipality	0.689
Gandaki	Syangja	Galyang Municipality	0.688
Gandaki	Gorkha	Bhimsenthapa Gaunpalika	0.687
Koshi	Taplejung	Phungling Municipality	0.687
Sudurpashchim	Kailali	Godawari Municipality	0.686
Lumbini	Pyuthan	Pyuthan Municipality	0.686
Koshi	Morang	Letang Municipality	0.686
Koshi	Khotang	Diktel Rupakot Majhuwagadhi Municipality	0.685
Bagmati	Rasuwa	Gosaikunda Gaunpalika	0.684
Gandaki	Syangja	Chapakot Municipality	0.683
Madhesh	Rautahat	Chandrapur Municipality	0.683

Province	District	Municipality	Index
Bagmati	Kavrepalanchok	Bethanchowk Gaunpalika	0.683
Madhesh	Bara	Parawanipur Gaunpalika	0.683
Koshi	Sunsari	Inaruwa Municipality	0.682
Madhesh	Parsa	Chhipaharmai Gaunpalika	0.681
Gandaki	Parbat	Modi Gaunpalika	0.680
Madhesh	Parsa	Thori Gaunpalika	0.679
Sudurpashchim	Kailali	Janaki Gaunpalika	0.679
Lumbini	Kapilbastu	Buddhabhumi Municipality	0.678
Koshi	Sankhuwasabha	Khandabari Municipality	0.678
Gandaki	Lamjung	Dordi Gaunpalika	0.677
Sudurpashchim	Bajhang	Jayaprithbi Municipality	0.677
Lumbini	Gulmi	Chhatrakot Gaunpalika	0.675
Lumbini	Bardiya	Bansgadhi Municipality	0.675
Lumbini	Rupandehi	Lumbini Sanskritik Municipality	0.675
Gandaki	Gorkha	Barpak Sulikot Gaunpalika	0.675
Bagmati	Dolakha	Jiri Municipality	0.674
Madhesh	Sarlahi	Lalbandi Municipality	0.674
Koshi	Sankhuwasabha	Dharmadevi Municipality	0.674
Lumbini	Dang	Gadhawa Gaunpalika	0.674
Gandaki	Syangja	Arjun Choupari Gaunpalika	0.672
Gandaki	Syangja	Aandhikhola Gaunpalika	0.672
Lumbini	Palpa	Ribdikot Gaunpalika	0.671
Madhesh	Siraha	Lahan Municipality	0.671
Bagmati	Makwanpur	Thaha Municipality	0.671
Koshi	Dhankuta	Pakhribas Municipality	0.671
Lumbini	Nawalpur	Palhinandan Gaunpalika	0.671
Bagmati	Dhading	Siddhalek Gaunpalika	0.671
Karnali	Dailekh	Narayan Municipality	0.670
Koshi	Ilam	Chulachuli Gaunpalika	0.670
Bagmati	Nuwakot	Myagang Gaunpalika	0.670
Lumbini	Rupandehi	Gaidahawa Gaunpalika	0.670
Bagmati	Kavrepalanchok	Namobuddha Municipality	0.670
Madhesh	Mahottari	Bardibas Municipality	0.670

Province	District	Municipality	Index
Bagmati	Nuwakot	Likhu Gaunpalika	0.670
Karnali	Surkhet	Gurbhakot Municipality	0.669
Gandaki	Manang	Chame Gaunpalika	0.669
Madhesh	Bara	Prasauni Gaunpalika	0.668
Koshi	Morang	Miklajung Gaunpalika	0.668
Lumbini	Nawalpur	Sarawal Gaunpalika	0.667
Madhesh	Dhanusa	Laxminiya Gaunpalika	0.667
Gandaki	Tanahu	Devghat Gaunpalika	0.667
Koshi	Dhankuta	Chaubise Gaunpalika	0.667
Sudurpashchim	Kailali	Kailari Gaunpalika	0.666
Lumbini	Bardiya	Gulariya Municipality	0.666
Madhesh	Siraha	Mirchaiya Municipality	0.666
Koshi	Dhankuta	Mahalaxmi Municipality	0.666
Madhesh	Parsa	Bindabasini Gaunpalika	0.666
Lumbini	Gulmi	Musikot Municipality	0.665
Gandaki	Lamjung	Dudhapokhari Gaunpalika	0.665
Gandaki	Myagdi	Malika Gaunpalika	0.665
Bagmati	Ramechhap	Manthali Municipality	0.664
Gandaki	Myagdi	Raghuganga Gaunpalika	0.663
Madhesh	Parsa	Dhobini Gaunpalika	0.663
Koshi	Jhapa	Kachanakawal Gaunpalika	0.663
Bagmati	Sindhupalchok	Indrawoti Gaunpalika	0.663
Lumbini	Dang	Shantinagar Gaunpalika	0.661
Madhesh	Dhanusa	Mithila Bihari Municipality	0.661
Lumbini	Nawalpur	Pratapapur Gaunpalika	0.661
Bagmati	Sindhupalchok	Helambu Gaunpalika	0.661
Gandaki	Baglung	Galkot Municipality	0.660
Gandaki	Parasi	Baudikali Gaunpalika	0.660
Lumbini	Rupandehi	Sammarimai Gaunpalika	0.659
Gandaki	Gorkha	Gandaki Gaunpalika	0.659
Bagmati	Sindhupalchok	Balephi Gaunpalika	0.658
Bagmati	Sindhupalchok	Melanchi Municipality	0.658
Lumbini	Banke	Khajura Gaunpalika	0.657

Province	District	Municipality	Index
Bagmati	Dhading	Thakre Gaunpalika	0.657
Lumbini	Rupandehi	Kotahimai Gaunpalika	0.657
Madhesh	Sarlahi	Malangawa Municipality	0.657
Lumbini	Bardiya	Barbardiya Municipality	0.656
Gandaki	Myagdi	Mangala Gaunpalika	0.655
Karnali	Surkhet	Bheriganga Municipality	0.655
Madhesh	Bara	Nijagadh Municipality	0.655
Madhesh	Sarlahi	Hariwan Municipality	0.655
Koshi	Jhapa	Jhapa Gaunpalika	0.654
Koshi	Panchthar	Falelung Gaunpalika	0.654
Madhesh	Parsa	Kalikamai Gaunpalika	0.654
Bagmati	Makwanpur	Bhimphedi Gaunpalika	0.653
Bagmati	Makwanpur	Makawanpurgadhi Gaunpalika	0.653
Bagmati	Rasuwa	Aamachhodingmo Gaunpalika	0.650
Bagmati	Kavrepalanchok	Chauri Deurali Gaunpalika	0.650
Bagmati	Nuwakot	Belkotgadhi Municipality	0.649
Madhesh	Dhanusa	Dhanushadham Municipality	0.648
Lumbini	Gulmi	Malika Gaunpalika	0.648
Madhesh	Dhanusa	Mithila Municipality	0.648
Bagmati	Kavrepalanchok	Temal Gaunpalika	0.648
Bagmati	Dhading	Jwalamukhi Gaunpalika	0.647
Koshi	Sankhuwasabha	Madi Municipality	0.647
Koshi	Morang	Kerabari Gaunpalika	0.645
Madhesh	Bara	Kalaiya Sub-Metropolitian City	0.644
Lumbini	Palpa	Nisdi Gaunpalika	0.644
Madhesh	Parsa	Bahudarmai Municipality	0.643
Bagmati	Chitawan	Ichchha Kamana Gaunpalika	0.643
Koshi	Ilam	Deumai Municipality	0.642
Bagmati	Nuwakot	Suryagadhi Gaunpalika	0.642
Madhesh	Dhanusa	Sabaila Municipality	0.642
Madhesh	Dhanusa	Hansapur Municipality	0.642
Lumbini	Dang	Babai Gaunpalika	0.641
Sudurpashchim	Kailali	Joshipur Gaunpalika	0.641

Province	District	Municipality	Index
Lumbini	Bardiya	Rajapur Municipality	0.641
Madhesh	Siraha	Golbazar Municipality	0.641
Madhesh	Dhanusa	Chhireshwornath Municipality	0.640
Lumbini	Gulmi	Kali Gandaki Gaunpalika	0.640
Koshi	Morang	Gramthan Gaunpalika	0.640
Madhesh	Dhanusa	Aurahi Gaunpalika	0.639
Bagmati	Nuwakot	Tadi Gaunpalika	0.639
Madhesh	Rautahat	Garuda Municipality	0.638
Lumbini	Gulmi	Gulmi Durbar Gaunpalika	0.638
Gandaki	Baglung	Badigad Gaunpalika	0.638
Madhesh	Mahottari	Matihani Municipality	0.637
Koshi	Udayapur	Katari Municipality	0.637
Bagmati	Sindhupalchok	Bahrabise Municipality	0.637
Bagmati	Lalitpur	Konjyosom Gaunpalika	0.637
Bagmati	Dolakha	Kalinchowk Gaunpalika	0.636
Sudurpashchim	Doti	Jorayal Gaunpalika	0.636
Bagmati	Sindhuli	Sunkoshi Gaunpalika	0.636
Koshi	Morang	Sunwarshi Municipality	0.636
Karnali	Salyan	Tribeni Gaunpalika	0.636
Madhesh	Bara	Pheta Gaunpalika	0.635
Bagmati	Sindhupalchok	Panchpokhari Thangpal Gaunpalika	0.635
Madhesh	Dhanusa	Nagarain Municipality	0.635
Lumbini	Bardiya	Geruwa Gaunpalika	0.634
Koshi	Sunsari	Dewangunj Gaunpalika	0.634
Koshi	Morang	Ratuwamai Municipality	0.634
Madhesh	Mahottari	Pipara Gaunpalika	0.634
Madhesh	Saptari	Rupani Gaunpalika	0.633
Karnali	Jajarkot	Bheri Malika Municipality	0.633
Bagmati	Makwanpur	Indrasarowar Gaunpalika	0.632
Bagmati	Dolakha	Tamakoshi Gaunpalika	0.631
Lumbini	Pyuthan	Mallarani Gaunpalika	0.631
Koshi	Morang	Dhanapalthan Gaunpalika	0.631
Koshi	Panchthar	Falgunanda Gaunpalika	0.631

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Lumbini	Rolpa	Sunil Smriti Gaunpalika	0.631
Madhesh	Dhanusa	Dhanauji Gaunpalika	0.630
Bagmati	Sindhupalchok	Bhotekoshi Gaunpalika	0.630
Madhesh	Mahottari	Balawa Municipality	0.630
Bagmati	Ramechhap	Gokulganga Gaunpalika	0.630
Koshi	Sankhuwasabha	Chainapur Municipality	0.630
Sudurpashchim	Kailali	Bhajani Municipality	0.630
Gandaki	Mustang	Varagung Muktichhetra Gaunpalika	0.629
Bagmati	Dhading	Benighat Rorang Gaunpalika	0.629
Lumbini	Gulmi	Satyawoti Gaunpalika	0.629
Lumbini	Kapilbastu	Krishnanagar Municipality	0.629
Gandaki	Baglung	Kathekhola Gaunpalika	0.629
Gandaki	Gorkha	Siranchowk Gaunpalika	0.627
Sudurpashchim	Baitadi	Dasharathchand Municipality	0.627
Bagmati	Nuwakot	Shivapuri Gaunpalika	0.626
Gandaki	Parbat	Phalebas Municipality	0.625
Gandaki	Gorkha	Aarughat Gaunpalika	0.625
Sudurpashchim	Kailali	Ghodaghodi Municipality	0.625
Koshi	Solukhumbu	Sotang Gaunpalika	0.625
Bagmati	Lalitpur	Bagmati Gaunpalika	0.625
Koshi	Sunsari	Barju Gaunpalika	0.625
Sudurpashchim	Kailali	Gauriganga Municipality	0.624
Bagmati	Sindhupalchok	Lisankhu Pakhar Gaunpalika	0.624
Bagmati	Dolakha	Gaurishankar Gaunpalika	0.624
Koshi	Ilam	Sandakpur Gaunpalika	0.623
Sudurpashchim	Darchula	Shailyashikhar Municipality	0.623
Madhesh	Saptari	Saptakoshi Municipality	0.623
Madhesh	Rautahat	Brindaban Municipality	0.623
Madhesh	Sarlahi	Bagmati Municipality	0.622
Bagmati	Ramechhap	Ramechhap Municipality	0.622
Koshi	Sunsari	Harinagar Gaunpalika	0.621
Sudurpashchim	Dadeldhura	Ganyapdhura Gaunpalika	0.621
Lumbini	Arghakhanchi	Malarani Gaunpalika	0.620

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Madhesh	Dhanusa	Janak Nandini Gaunpalika	0.620
Gandaki	Syangja	Kaligandaki Gaunpalika	0.620
Lumbini	Kapilbastu	Mayadevi Gaunpalika	0.620
Bagmati	Dolakha	Bigu Gaunpalika	0.620
Karnali	Salyan	Kapurkot Gaunpalika	0.619
Gandaki	Kaski	Madi Gaunpalika	0.619
Lumbini	Nawalpur	Susta Gaunpalika	0.619
Madhesh	Saptari	Rajbiraj Municipality	0.618
Bagmati	Sindhuli	Golanjor Gaunpalika	0.618
Bagmati	Nuwakot	Kispang Gaunpalika	0.617
Karnali	Jumla	Chandannath Municipality	0.617
Madhesh	Bara	Devtal Gaunpalika	0.617
Lumbini	Rukum (East)	Sisne Gaunpalika	0.617
Lumbini	Rolpa	Madi Gaunpalika	0.615
Koshi	Okhaldhunga	Siddhicharan Municipality	0.615
Bagmati	Nuwakot	Dupcheshwor Gaunpalika	0.615
Sudurpashchim	Dadeldhura	Aalital Gaunpalika	0.615
Lumbini	Kapilbastu	Maharajganj Municipality	0.615
Lumbini	Kapilbastu	Yasodhara Gaunpalika	0.615
Madhesh	Rautahat	Durga Bhagawati Gaunpalika	0.614
Gandaki	Baglung	Tamankhola Gaunpalika	0.614
Koshi	Tehrathum	Laligurans Municipality	0.614
Lumbini	Pyuthan	Jhimaruk Gaunpalika	0.613
Karnali	Dailekh	Dungeshwor Gaunpalika	0.613
Bagmati	Dolakha	Melung Gaunpalika	0.612
Gandaki	Parbat	Bihadi Gaunpalika	0.611
Madhesh	Saptari	Surunga Municipality	0.611
Lumbini	Gulmi	Dhurkot Gaunpalika	0.611
Koshi	Solukhumbu	Necha Salyan Gaunpalika	0.610
Madhesh	Rautahat	Ishanath Municipality	0.610
Bagmati	Dolakha	Baiteshwor Gaunpalika	0.610
Lumbini	Gulmi	Madane Gaunpalika	0.609
Lumbini	Rupandehi	Marchawari Gaunpalika	0.609

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Madhesh	Dhanusa	Bideha Municipality	0.609
Koshi	Morang	Rangeli Municipality	0.609
Madhesh	Siraha	Karjanha Municipality	0.608
Karnali	Surkhet	Lekabeshi Municipality	0.607
Madhesh	Bara	Mahagadhimai Municipality	0.607
Madhesh	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Gaunpalika	0.607
Karnali	Salyan	Bagachour Municipality	0.606
Lumbini	Arghakhanchi	Chhatradev Gaunpalika	0.606
Madhesh	Sarlahi	Haripur Municipality	0.606
Bagmati	Sindhuli	Tinpatan Gaunpalika	0.605
Koshi	Panchthar	Miklajung Gaunpalika	0.602
Lumbini	Palpa	Rainadevi Chhahara Gaunpalika	0.602
Sudurpashchim	Baitadi	Patan Municipality	0.601
Sudurpashchim	Doti	Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality	0.601
Koshi	Ilam	Fakfokathum Gaunpalika	0.599
Sudurpashchim	Darchula	Marma Gaunpalika	0.598
Koshi	Udayapur	Chaudandigadhi Municipality	0.598
Lumbini	Arghakhanchi	Panini Gaunpalika	0.598
Madhesh	Parsa	Pokhariya Municipality	0.597
Karnali	Salyan	Siddha Kumakh Gaunpalika	0.597
Lumbini	Rolpa	Rolpa Municipality	0.597
Madhesh	Dhanusa	Bateshwor Gaunpalika	0.596
Lumbini	Banke	Rapti Sonari Gaunpalika	0.596
Gandaki	Parasi	Bulingtar Gaunpalika	0.596
Lumbini	Rolpa	Lungri Gaunpalika	0.596
Madhesh	Dhanusa	Mukhiyapatti Musaharmiya Gaunpalika	0.595
Madhesh	Dhanusa	Ganeshman Charnath Municipality	0.595
Lumbini	Banke	Janaki Gaunpalika	0.595
Koshi	Solukhumbu	Mahakulung Gaunpalika	0.594
Gandaki	Parbat	Paiyu Gaunpalika	0.594
Madhesh	Mahottari	Mahottari Gaunpalika	0.594
Madhesh	Bara	Bishrampur Gaunpalika	0.594
Madhesh	Rautahat	Paroha Municipality	0.593

Province	District	Municipality	Index
Madhesh	Rautahat	Boudhimai Municipality	0.593
Koshi	Okhaldhunga	Molung Gaunpalika	0.593
Bagmati	Sindhuli	Ghyanglekha Gaunpalika	0.592
Madhesh	Siraha	Sakhuwa Nankarkatti Gaunpalika	0.591
Madhesh	Bara	Simroungadh Municipality	0.591
Lumbini	Arghakhanchi	Bhumikasthan Municipality	0.591
Koshi	Okhaldhunga	Khiji Demba Gaunpalika	0.591
Madhesh	Siraha	Arnama Gaunpalika	0.590
Karnali	Rukum (West)	Tribeni Gaunpalika	0.590
Sudurpashchim	Bajura	Jagannath Gaunpalika	0.590
Koshi	Panchthar	Kummayak Gaunpalika	0.589
Madhesh	Mahottari	Loharpatti Municipality	0.589
Madhesh	Rautahat	Madhav Narayan Municipality	0.589
Gandaki	Baglung	Jaimuni Municipality	0.589
Lumbini	Dang	Dangisharan Gaunpalika	0.589
Koshi	Sankhuwasabha	Sabhapokhari Gaunpalika	0.589
Madhesh	Mahottari	Gaushala Municipality	0.588
Koshi	Tehrathum	Chhathar Gaunpalika	0.587
Lumbini	Pyuthan	Naubahini Gaunpalika	0.587
Koshi	Solukhumbu	Mapya Dudhkoshi Gaunpalika	0.586
Madhesh	Rautahat	Katahariya Municipality	0.586
Lumbini	Rolpa	Tribeni Gaunpalika	0.586
Lumbini	Pyuthan	Sarumarani Gaunpalika	0.585
Lumbini	Kapilbastu	Bijayanagar Gaunpalika	0.585
Bagmati	Makwanpur	Bakaiya Gaunpalika	0.585
Karnali	Salyan	Chhatreshwori Gaunpalika	0.585
Koshi	Panchthar	Yangbarak Gaunpalika	0.585
Madhesh	Siraha	Bariyarpatti Gaunpalika	0.585
Madhesh	Siraha	Bishnupur Gaunpalika	0.584
Koshi	Taplejung	Meringden Gaunpalika	0.584
Madhesh	Siraha	Bhagawanpur Gaunpalika	0.584
Lumbini	Banke	Duduwa Gaunpalika	0.584
Gandaki	Syangja	Biruwa Gaunpalika	0.583

Province	District	Municipality	Index
Lumbini	Kapilbastu	Shuddhodhan Gaunpalika	0.583
Lumbini	Gulmi	Isma Gaunpalika	0.583
Bagmati	Kavrepalanchok	Bhumlu Gaunpalika	0.583
Madhesh	Sarlahi	Ishworpur Municipality	0.582
Gandaki	Tanahu	Rhishing Gaunpalika	0.582
Sudurpashchim	Dadeldhura	Nawadurga Gaunpalika	0.581
Sudurpashchim	Bajura	Budhinanda Municipality	0.580
Lumbini	Pyuthan	Aairawati Gaunpalika	0.580
Koshi	Bhojpur	Arun Gaunpalika	0.580
Sudurpashchim	Dadeldhura	Ajayameru Gaunpalika	0.580
Madhesh	Rautahat	Maulapur Municipality	0.580
Madhesh	Sarlahi	Barahathawa Municipality	0.579
Madhesh	Siraha	Sukhipur Municipality	0.579
Madhesh	Dhanusa	Shahidnagar Municipality	0.578
Bagmati	Dhading	Ganga Jamuna Gaunpalika	0.578
Madhesh	Siraha	Kalyanpur Municipality	0.577
Gandaki	Manang	Narpa Bhumi Gaunpalika	0.576
Karnali	Salyan	Banagad Kupinde Municipality	0.576
Gandaki	Myagdi	Dhawalagiri Gaunpalika	0.576
Bagmati	Sindhuli	Dudhouli Municipality	0.575
Gandaki	Gorkha	Dharche Gaunpalika	0.574
Karnali	Surkhet	Panchapuri Municipality	0.573
Koshi	Solukhumbu	Thulung Dudhkoshi Gaunpalika	0.572
Bagmati	Sindhupalchok	Tripurasundari Gaunpalika	0.572
Koshi	Bhojpur	Temkemaiyum Gaunpalika	0.572
Gandaki	Baglung	Bareng Gaunpalika	0.572
Madhesh	Siraha	Dhangadhimai Municipality	0.572
Madhesh	Sarlahi	Chakraghatta Gaunpalika	0.570
Madhesh	Mahottari	Manara Shisawa Municipality	0.570
Lumbini	Pyuthan	Sworgadwari Municipality	0.569
Koshi	Bhojpur	Salpa Silichho Gaunpalika	0.569
Karnali	Salyan	Kumakh Gaunpalika	0.569
Koshi	Ilam	Mai Municipality	0.569

Province	District	Municipality	Index
Lumbini	Rolpa	Sunchhahari Gaunpalika	0.568
Madhesh	Saptari	Khadak Municipality	0.568
Madhesh	Rautahat	Rajpur Municipality	0.568
Bagmati	Ramechhap	Sunapati Gaunpalika	0.568
Madhesh	Rautahat	Yamunamai Gaunpalika	0.567
Madhesh	Saptari	Bode Barsain Municipality	0.567
Gandaki	Tanahu	Ghiring Gaunpalika	0.565
Koshi	Bhojpur	Pauwa Dunma Gaunpalika	0.565
Koshi	Jhapa	Gauriganj Gaunpalika	0.565
Bagmati	Kavrepalanchok	Khanikhola Gaunpalika	0.565
Madhesh	Mahottari	Ekadara Gaunpalika	0.564
Madhesh	Saptari	Bishnupur Gaunpalika	0.564
Lumbini	Pyuthan	Mandavi Gaunpalika	0.564
Gandaki	Syangja	Harinas Gaunpalika	0.563
Koshi	Okhaldhunga	Likhu Gaunpalika	0.563
Madhesh	Sarlahi	Brahmapuri Gaunpalika	0.563
Karnali	Rukum (West)	Sanibheri Gaunpalika	0.562
Bagmati	Dhading	Netrawati Dabjong Gaunpalika	0.562
Bagmati	Sindhupalchok	Jugal Gaunpalika	0.562
Madhesh	Sarlahi	Kaudena Gaunpalika	0.562
Sudurpashchim	Bajhang	Bitthadchir Gaunpalika	0.562
Koshi	Tehrathum	Menchhayayem Gaunpalika	0.562
Lumbini	Pyuthan	Gaumukhi Gaunpalika	0.562
Madhesh	Rautahat	Dewahi Gonahi Municipality	0.561
Madhesh	Sarlahi	Godaita Municipality	0.561
Madhesh	Rautahat	Rajdevi Municipality	0.561
Sudurpashchim	Bajura	Badimalika Municipality	0.560
Koshi	Sunsari	Gadhi Gaunpalika	0.560
Koshi	Bhojpur	Aamchowk Gaunpalika	0.559
Koshi	Taplejung	Sidingba Gaunpalika	0.558
Koshi	Sankhuwasabha	Panchakhapan Municipality	0.558
Gandaki	Baglung	Nisikhola Gaunpalika	0.558
Bagmati	Makwanpur	Bagmati Gaunpalika	0.558

Province	District	Municipality	Index
Bagmati	Sindhuli	Marin Gaunpalika	0.558
Lumbini	Arghakhanchi	Shitaganga Municipality	0.557
Karnali	Dolpa	Thulibheri Municipality	0.557
Madhesh	Rautahat	Phatuwa Bijayapur Municipality	0.556
Koshi	Khotang	Halesi Tuwachung Municipality	0.555
Bagmati	Ramechhap	Likhu Tamakoshi Gaunpalika	0.555
Madhesh	Mahottari	Samsi Gaunpalika	0.554
Madhesh	Rautahat	Gadhimai Municipality	0.554
Koshi	Sankhuwasabha	Chichila Gaunpalika	0.553
Madhesh	Saptari	Shambhunath Municipality	0.552
Karnali	Rukum (West)	Banphikot Gaunpalika	0.552
Madhesh	Dhanusa	Kamala Municipality	0.552
Madhesh	Bara	Subarna Gaunpalika	0.552
Bagmati	Sindhuli	Phikkal Gaunpalika	0.552
Madhesh	Mahottari	Aurahi Municipality	0.551
Koshi	Taplejung	Aatharai Tribeni Gaunpalika	0.551
Sudurpashchim	Doti	Purbichouki Gaunpalika	0.550
Sudurpashchim	Bajura	Swamikartik Khapar Gaunpalika	0.549
Koshi	Okhaldhunga	Manebhanjyang Gaunpalika	0.549
Madhesh	Bara	Baragadhi Gaunpalika	0.549
Sudurpashchim	Dadeldhura	Parashuram Municipality	0.549
Sudurpashchim	Achham	Sanphebagar Municipality	0.549
Bagmati	Ramechhap	Khandadevi Gaunpalika	0.549
Madhesh	Rautahat	Gujara Municipality	0.548
Madhesh	Saptari	Agnisair Krishna Sabaran Gaunpalika	0.548
Madhesh	Parsa	Sakhuwa Prasauni Gaunpalika	0.548
Madhesh	Mahottari	Ram Gopalpur Municipality	0.547
Koshi	Panchthar	Hilihan Gaunpalika	0.546
Bagmati	Sindhupalchok	Sunkoshi Gaunpalika	0.546
Koshi	Khotang	Aiselukharka Gaunpalika	0.545
Sudurpashchim	Achham	Mellekh Gaunpalika	0.545
Koshi	Udayapur	Rautamai Gaunpalika	0.545
Koshi	Taplejung	Pathivara Yangwarak Gaunpalika	0.544

Province	District	Municipality	Index
Lumbini	Rolpa	Gangadev Gaunpalika	0.544
Gandaki	Baglung	Tarakhola Gaunpalika	0.544
Gandaki	Gorkha	Ajirkot Gaunpalika	0.543
Sudurpashchim	Darchula	Duhun Gaunpalika	0.543
Madhesh	Siraha	Nawarajpur Gaunpalika	0.542
Madhesh	Bara	Aadarsha Kotwal Gaunpalika	0.541
Madhesh	Parsa	Parsagadhi Municipality	0.540
Koshi	Bhojpur	Shadananda Municipality	0.540
Gandaki	Gorkha	Chumanubri Gaunpalika	0.540
Koshi	Udayapur	Belaka Municipality	0.540
Bagmati	Dhading	Khaniyabas Gaunpalika	0.539
Karnali	Kalikot	Pachal Jharana Gaunpalika	0.539
Madhesh	Siraha	Aurahi Gaunpalika	0.538
Madhesh	Sarlahi	Haripurwa Municipality	0.538
Sudurpashchim	Darchula	Apihimal Gaunpalika	0.538
Karnali	Dailekh	Mahabu Gaunpalika	0.538
Sudurpashchim	Achham	Bannigadhi Jayagadh Gaunpalika	0.538
Madhesh	Bara	Pacharauta Municipality	0.537
Lumbini	Rolpa	Runtigadhi Gaunpalika	0.536
Karnali	Kalikot	Sanni Tribeni Gaunpalika	0.535
Karnali	Surkhet	Simta Gaunpalika	0.535
Koshi	Tehrathum	Aatharai Gaunpalika	0.533
Madhesh	Siraha	Naraha Gaunpalika	0.533
Madhesh	Sarlahi	Kabilashi Municipality	0.533
Madhesh	Saptari	Dakneshwori Municipality	0.533
Koshi	Okhaldhunga	Chishankhu Gadhi Gaunpalika	0.532
Madhesh	Saptari	Kanchanrup Municipality	0.532
Koshi	Bhojpur	Ramprasad Rai Gaunpalika	0.532
Madhesh	Sarlahi	Balara Municipality	0.531
Lumbini	Rolpa	Thawang Gaunpalika	0.531
Karnali	Kalikot	Naraharinath Gaunpalika	0.530
Koshi	Khotang	Rawa Besi Gaunpalika	0.530
Koshi	Taplejung	Sirijanga Gaunpalika	0.530

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Bagmati	Makwanpur	Kailash Gaunpalika	0.529
Koshi	Morang	Jahada Gaunpalika	0.529
Gandaki	Lamjung	Kwhola Sothar Gaunpalika	0.528
Madhesh	Parsa	Paterwa Sugauli Gaunpalika	0.528
Sudurpashchim	Bajhang	Chhabis Pathibhara Gaunpalika	0.528
Madhesh	Parsa	Jagarnathpur Gaunpalika	0.528
Sudurpashchim	Doti	Badi Kedar Gaunpalika	0.528
Madhesh	Bara	Kolhabi Municipality	0.526
Koshi	Khotang	Sakela Gaunpalika	0.526
Koshi	Panchthar	Tumbewa Gaunpalika	0.525
Bagmati	Ramechhap	Doramba Gaunpalika	0.525
Madhesh	Saptari	Chhinnamasta Gaunpalika	0.524
Koshi	Khotang	Khotehang Gaunpalika	0.524
Bagmati	Dhading	Rubi Valley Gaunpalika	0.524
Bagmati	Rasuwa	Naukunda Gaunpalika	0.524
Karnali	Kalikot	Khandachakra Municipality	0.523
Karnali	Dailekh	Gurans Gaunpalika	0.522
Koshi	Udayapur	Udayapurgadhi Gaunpalika	0.520
Madhesh	Parsa	Pakaha Mainpur Gaunpalika	0.520
Bagmati	Ramechhap	Umakunda Gaunpalika	0.520
Sudurpashchim	Kanchanpur	Laljhadi Gaunpalika	0.520
Sudurpashchim	Darchula	Malikarjun Gaunpalika	0.520
Madhesh	Sarlahi	Chandranagar Gaunpalika	0.519
Madhesh	Mahottari	Sonama Gaunpalika	0.516
Koshi	Sankhuwasabha	Makalu Gaunpalika	0.515
Koshi	Taplejung	Mikwakhola Gaunpalika	0.514
Koshi	Bhojpur	Hatuwagadhi Gaunpalika	0.514
Madhesh	Mahottari	Bhangaha Municipality	0.513
Madhesh	Saptari	Balan-Bihul Gaunpalika	0.513
Sudurpashchim	Bajhang	Masta Gaunpalika	0.513
Madhesh	Sarlahi	Bishnu Gaunpalika	0.513
Sudurpashchim	Bajura	Budhiganga Municipality	0.512
Sudurpashchim	Bajhang	Khaptad Chhanna Gaunpalika	0.511

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Koshi	Sunsari	Bhokraha Narsingh Gaunpalika	0.510
Bagmati	Makwanpur	Raksirang Gaunpalika	0.510
Karnali	Jajarkot	Shivalaya Gaunpalika	0.509
Koshi	Taplejung	Maiwakhola Gaunpalika	0.509
Koshi	Sankhuwasabha	Silichong Gaunpalika	0.508
Lumbini	Dang	Bangalachuli Gaunpalika	0.507
Koshi	Tehrathum	Phedap Gaunpalika	0.506
Sudurpashchim	Doti	Shikhar Municipality	0.506
Sudurpashchim	Achham	Chaurpati Gaunpalika	0.505
Koshi	Okhaldhunga	Sunkoshi Gaunpalika	0.505
Sudurpashchim	Doti	K.I. Singh Gaunpalika	0.503
Koshi	Taplejung	Phaktanlung Gaunpalika	0.503
Karnali	Rukum (West)	Chaurjahari Municipality	0.503
Karnali	Surkhet	Barahatal Gaunpalika	0.500
Sudurpashchim	Baitadi	Melauli Municipality	0.498
Bagmati	Sindhuli	Hariharpurgaghi Gaunpalika	0.497
Lumbini	Dang	Rajpur Gaunpalika	0.497
Sudurpashchim	Kailali	Chure Gaunpalika	0.496
Karnali	Kalikot	Mahawai Gaunpalika	0.495
Koshi	Khotang	Kepilasgadhi Gaunpalika	0.495
Koshi	Sunsari	Koshi Gaunpalika	0.495
Koshi	Okhaldhunga	Champadevi Gaunpalika	0.492
Karnali	Dailekh	Dullu Municipality	0.491
Sudurpashchim	Baitadi	Surnaya Gaunpalika	0.491
Madhesh	Bara	Karaiyamai Gaunpalika	0.489
Sudurpashchim	Bajhang	Bungal Municipality	0.488
Sudurpashchim	Dadeldhura	Bhageshwor Gaunpalika	0.488
Karnali	Kalikot	Shuva Kalika Gaunpalika	0.485
Koshi	Solukhumbu	Likhu Pike Gaunpalika	0.485
Karnali	Dailekh	Bhairabi Gaunpalika	0.485
Koshi	Ilam	Mangsebung Gaunpalika	0.485
Madhesh	Sarlahi	Ramnagar Gaunpalika	0.485
Sudurpashchim	Bajura	Tribeni Municipality	0.484

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Madhesh	Sarlahi	Parsa Gaunpalika	0.484
Sudurpashchim	Achham	Mangalsen Municipality	0.482
Karnali	Jajarkot	Nalgad Municipality	0.482
Karnali	Jajarkot	Barekot Gaunpalika	0.481
Koshi	Khotang	Diprung Chuichumma Gaunpalika	0.480
Lumbini	Rukum (East)	Putha Uttanganga Gaunpalika	0.480
Karnali	Kalikot	Raskot Municipality	0.477
Madhesh	Sarlahi	Dhanakaul Gaunpalika	0.476
Karnali	Jajarkot	Chhedagad Municipality	0.475
Karnali	Surkhet	Chingad Gaunpalika	0.475
Sudurpashchim	Darchula	Lekam Gaunpalika	0.471
Sudurpashchim	Baitadi	Pancheshwor Gaunpalika	0.470
Koshi	Khotang	Jante Dhunga Gaunpalika	0.469
Madhesh	Saptari	Tilathi Koiladi Gaunpalika	0.468
Lumbini	Rukum (East)	Bhoome Gaunpalika	0.468
Karnali	Dolpa	Tripurasundari Municipality	0.466
Madhesh	Saptari	Hanumannagar Kankalini Municipality	0.466
Karnali	Mugu	Chhayanath Rara Municipality	0.466
Karnali	Salyan	Darma Gaunpalika	0.465
Lumbini	Rolpa	Pariwartan Gaunpalika	0.462
Karnali	Salyan	Kalimati Gaunpalika	0.461
Karnali	Rukum (West)	Aathabisakot Municipality	0.460
Sudurpashchim	Achham	Kamal bazar Municipality	0.456
Gandaki	Mustang	Lo Ghekar Damodarkunda Gaunpalika	0.455
Sudurpashchim	Achham	Panchdebal Binayak Municipality	0.454
Madhesh	Saptari	Mahadewa Gaunpalika	0.452
Sudurpashchim	Doti	Aadarsha Gaunpalika	0.452
Sudurpashchim	Doti	Bogatan Phudsil Gaunpalika	0.451
Karnali	Jumla	Kanaka Sundari Gaunpalika	0.450
Madhesh	Saptari	Rajgadh Gaunpalika	0.448
Koshi	Sankhuwasabha	Bhotkhola Gaunpalika	0.445
Koshi	Udayapur	Limchunbung Gaunpalika	0.445
Madhesh	Sarlahi	Basbariya Gaunpalika	0.444

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Gandaki	Parbat	Mahashila Gaunpalika	0.443
Sudurpashchim	Darchula	Naugad Gaunpalika	0.441
Sudurpashchim	Bajura	Khaptad Chhededaha Gaunpalika	0.438
Karnali	Dailekh	Chamunda Bindrasaini Municipality	0.437
Karnali	Jumla	Tatopani Gaunpalika	0.435
Sudurpashchim	Baitadi	Puchaundi Municipality	0.423
Karnali	Dailekh	Naumule Gaunpalika	0.423
Sudurpashchim	Baitadi	Dilasaini Gaunpalika	0.422
Sudurpashchim	Bajhang	Surma Gaunpalika	0.422
Sudurpashchim	Kailali	Mohanyal Gaunpalika	0.420
Madhesh	Parsa	Jirabhawani Gaunpalika	0.417
Karnali	Dolpa	Jagadulla Gaunpalika	0.416
Karnali	Jumla	Guthichaur Gaunpalika	0.416
Sudurpashchim	Bajhang	Durgathali Gaunpalika	0.415
Karnali	Dailekh	Bhagawatimai Gaunpalika	0.414
Karnali	Dailekh	Aathbis Municipality	0.413
Karnali	Jumla	Sinja Gaunpalika	0.412
Bagmati	Kavrepalanchok	Mahabharat Gaunpalika	0.411
Sudurpashchim	Achham	Turmakhand Gaunpalika	0.409
Karnali	Humla	Simkot Gaunpalika	0.409
Sudurpashchim	Bajura	Himali Gaunpalika	0.408
Sudurpashchim	Achham	Dhakari Gaunpalika	0.408
Karnali	Surkhet	Chaukune Gaunpalika	0.408
Sudurpashchim	Doti	Sayal Gaunpalika	0.406
Sudurpashchim	Bajhang	Kedarsyun Gaunpalika	0.405
Karnali	Kalikot	Palata Gaunpalika	0.403
Madhesh	Saptari	Tirahut Gaunpalika	0.399
Sudurpashchim	Darchula	Byas Gaunpalika	0.398
Karnali	Dolpa	Mudkechula Gaunpalika	0.393
Sudurpashchim	Bajura	Gaumul Gaunpalika	0.388
Karnali	Jajarkot	Kuse Gaunpalika	0.382
Sudurpashchim	Bajhang	Thalara Gaunpalika	0.380
Sudurpashchim	Achham	Ramaroshan Gaunpalika	0.379

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Karnali	Jajarkot	Junichande Gaunpalika	0.375
Karnali	Jumla	Patarasi Gaunpalika	0.374
Koshi	Udayapur	Tapli Gaunpalika	0.373
Karnali	Dailekh	Thantikandh Gaunpalika	0.358
Koshi	Khotang	Baraha Pokhari Gaunpalika	0.358
Sudurpashchim	Baitadi	Dogada Kedar Gaunpalika	0.357
Karnali	Kalikot	Tilagupha Municipality	0.348
Sudurpashchim	Bajhang	Talkot Gaunpalika	0.348
Karnali	Mugu	Mugumakarmarog Gaunpalika	0.344
Lumbini	Banke	Narainapur Gaunpalika	0.340
Karnali	Jumla	Hima Gaunpalika	0.338
Karnali	Mugu	Khatyad Gaunpalika	0.336
Gandaki	Mustang	Lomanthang Gaunpalika	0.333
Karnali	Humla	Namkha Gaunpalika	0.321
Karnali	Dolpa	Chharka Tangsong Gaunpalika	0.320
Karnali	Jumla	Tila Gaunpalika	0.320
Sudurpashchim	Bajhang	Saipal Gaunpalika	0.314
Sudurpashchim	Baitadi	Shivanath Gaunpalika	0.304
Karnali	Humla	Chankheli Gaunpalika	0.280
Sudurpashchim	Baitadi	Sigas Gaunpalika	0.279
Karnali	Dolpa	Kaike Gaunpalika	0.262
Karnali	Humla	Kharpunath Gaunpalika	0.260
Karnali	Dolpa	Shey Phoksundo Gaunpalika	0.239
Karnali	Humla	Sarkegad Gaunpalika	0.230
Karnali	Humla	Tanjakot Gaunpalika	0.203
Karnali	Mugu	Soru Gaunpalika	0.169
Karnali	Dolpa	Dolpo Buddha Gaunpalika	0.139
Karnali	Humla	Adanchuli Gaunpalika	0.133

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