

Nepal - National Population Census 1971

**Central Bureau of Statistics - National Planning Commission Secretariat, His
Majesty's Government**

Report generated on: September 1, 2016

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Overview

Identification

ID NUMBER
NPL-CBS-NPC-1971-V0

Version

VERSION DESCRIPTION
Version 0 - Microdata is not available.

Overview

ABSTRACT

The ancient history of Nepal is assumed to have begun in 750 B.C. and ended in 250 A.D. During that period Kirats ruled the country. But no written record of this is available. Early history of Nepal had witnessed the establishment of a number of beleaguered dynasties and principalities scattered in the fertile valleys of Kathmandu and Pokhara and in the river basins of the Karnali and the Gandaki. Although some others dynasties survived for a short period of time, others ruled for centuries. The Lichhavi dynasty, for instance, lasted over four centuries (464-879 A.D.). Another great dynasty-the Malla-Dynasty-had established itself in Kathmandu valley around the 13th century, and lasted over five hundred years. The divided and hostile principalities and kingdoms were finally consolidated in 1769 under king Prithivi Narayan Shah and his successors to become the modern nation of Nepal. Socially and economically, however, the modern era in Nepal's history has started with the revival of the national aspirations of the poor countries in Asia after the Second World War. These aspirations were mainly concerned with acquiring independence, and emancipation from the perpetual state of ignorance, poverty and political stress. Failing to democratize the regime and to bring about educational, social and economic reforms in the country, the Rana Regime was finally thrown out by the joint efforts of the King and people of Nepal in 1951. Within the frame of the open policy with other nations, Nepal has been able to implement four economic development plans, with the cooperation of several countries and International Agencies. The fifth economic development plan (1975-80) has placed special priority on agricultural development as infrastructure for future industrial development and also has laid emphasis on industrialization of the country than the previous plans.

The objectives of the 1971 Population Census were:

1. to provide data for small administrative areas of the country on population and household,
2. to provide sex disaggregated data of the population and other variables related to households, demographic, social and economic conditions of the country, and
3. to provide detailed information on marriages, women, children, the aged and the disabled.
4. to determine the prevailing trends and characteristics of population change, namely, age structure, mortality, fertility, education and labour force.

KIND OF DATA
Census/enumeration data [cen]

UNITS OF ANALYSIS
Individuals and Households

Scope

NOTES
The scope of the 1971 Population Census of Nepal includes:

HOUSEHOLD:

Household characteristics, household listing, absentee members, deceased persons, number of marriages, divorces, physical and mental disabilities

INDIVIDUAL:

Absentee members :

Individual characteristics, name of the absentee member and their age, sex, marital status, reason of being absent and where he/she has gone.

Deceased members :

Individual characteristics, name of the deceased members and their age, sex and where and from whom s/he had received the treatment.

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

National Coverage

Zone

Districts

Town and Village Panchayat

UNIVERSE

The census covered all de jure household members (usual residents) in private households.

Producers and Sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

Name	Affiliation
Central Bureau of Statistics	National Planning Commission Secretariat, His Majesty's Government

FUNDING

Name	Abbreviation	Role
His Majesty's Government	HMG	
United States Agency for International Development	USAID	Census Data Processing

OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Name	Affiliation	Role
Mr. John Adams	USAID	Data Processing

Metadata Production

METADATA PRODUCED BY

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
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Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Binod Sharan Acharya, Statistical Officer		Central Bureau of Statistics	Metadata Documentation of the Census

DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION
2012-03-12

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION
Version 1 (March 2012)

DDI DOCUMENT ID
DDI-NPL-CBS-NPC-1971-V01

Sampling

Sampling Procedure

Not applicable to a complete enumeration census.

Questionnaires

Overview

The census questionnaire is the ultimate field document from which all data are compiled. Needless to say that the simpler is the questionnaire designed the greater will be the level of accuracy and easier the counting procedures and coding and editing of the items. The questionnaire used in 1971 census was pre-coded. The purpose of pre-coding was initially to minimize the answers to be written so that further editing and coding processes would also be minimized.

The questionnaire of 1971 census contained the following items :

Family Members

Name of the Head of the Household

Events During Last Year

Family Serial No.

Family No.

Household No.

Total

Male

Female

Absent (6) Months and More

No. of deaths

Male Marriages during Last Year

Male Divorces during Last Year

Signature of Respondent

Mental Deficiency

Disabled persons

d. Age

e. Place of Birth

f. Citizenship

g. Religion

h. Mother Tongue

i. Marital Status (Single, Married, Divorced, Widowed)

j. Number of Children ever born during Life Time

k. Number of Children still alive

l. Births occurring during the Last Year

m. Literacy (Literate or Illiterate)

n. School Enrolment

o. Years of Schooling Completed

p. Economic Activity (Economically Active or Inactive)

q. Economic Status (Employer, Employeeetc.)

r. Status of the Unemployed

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start	End	Cycle
1971-06-10	1971-06-26	N/A

Time Periods

Start	End	Cycle
1971-06-22	1971-06-22	N/A

Data Collection Mode

Face-to-face [f2f]

Data Collection Notes

1. Planning and Organization of the Census :

The legal provision for conducting periodic population censuses was made available in the Statistical Act 2015 dated 18 Marga 2015, of which clause number (4) has left the decision for compiling statistics on any topic to a written order, from His Majesty's Government. For each census conducted in Nepal by the Central Bureau of Statistics, a special Notice was issued in the Official Gazette defining the census organization, the responsibilities of the governmental and private institutions. They were to cooperate in an utmost and helpful manner with the Central Bureau of Statistics in providing all possible assistance to the Statistical Officers deputized by the C.B.S. for conducting the census.

Section (4) of the Statistical Act (2015) provides that "...HMG through a written Notice can order the compilation of data on any affairto specify the schedules for the compilation of necessary information..... and appoint or nominate authorized officers for the purpose of collecting such data"

The Act obligates the individuals of any community under a written request to supply any information or data under their possession as specified in the order.

On the other hand, the Act has strictly guaranteed the confidentiality of all information provided to the officers, under section 8 ("..... the information collected under sections 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, regarding the individual family, household or company or parts thereof, should not be divulged, directly or indirectly, to any person except the Director or the Officers of Department without a written approval of the person concerned"). This status closely follows the United Nation's recommendation for census legislation as set out in "Principles and Recommendations for National Population Censuses". (ST/STAT/SER.M/44) which state:"Legal authority for the census is required for fixing primary administrative responsibility, for obtaining the necessary funds, for determining the general scope and timing of the census and for placing a legal obligation upon the public". "The principle of conceptual and organizational flexibility should be observed in drafting the census legislation. Thus, the inclusion of too rigid provisions regarding the type of data to be collected, or the structure and relationships of the various parts of the census organization are undesirable"

2. Preparation and Administration :

In the census of 1971, the 14 administrative zones of the kingdom were further divided into 17 census areas with a view to effect more efficient supervision and control of the field work, particularly in the rugged and remote zones of Karnali and Dhaulagiri, and also to ensure smooth and efficient enumeration. The subdivisions of zones into 75 districts were kept intact. In each of the 17 census areas, an officer from the C.B.S. was appointed to direct and conduct the census operations in that area, and was assisted by one non-gazetted Class I official, and other subordinates. Similarly, in each of the 75 districts, one non-gazetted Class I personnel was appointed as a supervisor of the field work. A number of 8-10 panchayat was assigned to each Kharidar (non-gazetted Class II) to carry out the preliminary household count in the specific household schedule. The household listhas provided the frame for the individual enumeration. With the cooperation of Home Ministry a list of all town and village panchayat had been prepared, and all names were arranged alphabetically district wise for the purpose of coding.

Two sets of maps were prepared in collaboration with the concerned department. The first set including maps for zones to be used by zonal officers and the second set on district level to be used by district supervisors. All houses in town panchayats and only in big village panchayats were numbered six months before the census operation. In town panchayats each town was divided into blocks corresponding to some extent to the wards division and within each block houses were given two numbers. The first denotes the house serial number in the block and the second denotes the block's number. All preparatory work for the census was done by the C.B.S. officials. The Director was personally involved in supervising the field work of his officers and subordinates. This included flow of documents and transportation of personnel and materials. Altogether total of about 12,500 supervisors and enumerators were employed temporarily.

3. Recruitment and Training of Personnel :

Due to the fact that there exists a large number of linguistic and tribal communities, it was felt more practical to recruit and train local people in each enumeration area, than to recruit personnel at the center, and send them later to the field. The Zonal Officers, their assistants, and a large number of Kharidars were all recruited at the center and trained rigorously, and the census schedule was pre-tested in two village panchayats and an urban sector. Further, the zonal officers established 17 training centers in the census areas to train the appointed 12,000 enumerators. It should be noted that due to the volume of work, the dispersion of localities and the low rate of literacy, the minimum qualification required for recruiting an enumerator were his abilities to read and write.

The household list was prepared by the Kharidars and kept in the district census office for further check with the individual forms filled in by the enumerators. Any discrepancy between the two schedules was to be verified on the spot by the census supervisor.

Questionnaires

The census questionnaire is the ultimate field document from which all data are compiled. Needless to say that the simpler is the questionnaire designed the greater will be the level of accuracy and easier the counting procedures and coding and editing of the items. The questionnaire used in 1971 census was pre-coded. The purpose of pre-coding was initially to minimize the answers to be written so that further editing and coding processes would also be minimized.

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Male Divorces during Last Year

Signature of Respondent

Mental Deficiency

Disabled persons

d. Age

e. Place of Birth

f. Citizenship

g. Religion

h. Mother Tongue

i. Marital Status (Single, Married, Divorced, Widowed)

j. Number of Children ever born during Life Time

k. Number of Children still alive

l. Births occurring during the Last Year

m. Literacy (Literate or Illiterate)

n. School Enrolment

o. Years of Schooling Completed

p. Economic Activity (Economically Active or Inactive)

- q. Economic Status (Employer, Employeeetc.)
- r. Status of the Unemployed

Data Collectors

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation
Central Bureau of Statistics	CBS	His Majesty's Government

Supervision

In each of the 17 census areas, an officer from the C.B.S. was appointed to direct and conduct the census operations in that area, and was assisted by one non-gazetted Class I official, and other subordinates. Similarly, in each of the 75 districts, one non-gazetted Class I personnel was appointed as a supervisor of the field work. A number of 8-10 panchayat was assigned to each Kharidar (non-gazetted Class II) to carry out the preliminary household count in the specific household schedule. The household list has provided the frame for the individual enumeration.

Data Processing

Data Editing

A primary check was done by the supervisors on the spot in order to tally the household schedule with the census questionnaire. Further editing and coding procedures were completed by the supervisors in the office. It was expected that a considerable proportion of unknown category will come about particularly regarding age, economic status, and other items. Regarding age some method was elaborated in pointing out a direct relationship between age and certain major events occurring during the last six or seven decades from which the enumerator, if the respondent fails to estimate his age, could deduce the respondent's approximate age. It was thought that this method would ultimately give a better estimate of ages, instead of obtaining a very big category of unknown ages. Admittedly, this procedure had, to some extent given the enumerator, the liberty to estimate the respondent's age within the limits of a wide range, particularly, adult ages.

Other Processing

Just after the field work was completed an IBM Computer Model 1401, was made available to the CBS on hire basis. Mr. John Adams from USAID was assigned to process Nepal's census data in Kathmandu. All tabulations were produced in two volumes, and the works were completed in nearly one and half year.

Data Appraisal

Estimates of Sampling Error

Not applicable to a complete enumeration census.

File Description

Variable List

Documentation

Questionnaires

Population Census of Nepal 1971, Questionnaire

Title Population Census of Nepal 1971, Questionnaire
Author(s) Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)
Date 1971-05-01
Country Nepal
Language Nepali
Filename Questionnaire1971.pdf

Other materials

The Analysis of Population Statistics of Nepal

Title The Analysis of Population Statistics of Nepal
Author(s) Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)
Date 1977-02-01
Country Nepal
Language English

I - Introduction

Introduction on the Methodology Used in 1961 and 1971 Population Censuses

1. A Historical Prelude
2. Governmental and Administration
3. Nepal's Economic Resources
4. Planning and Organization of the Census:
 - a. Planning and Organization of the Census
 - b. Preparation and Administration
 - c. Recruitment and Training of Personnel
 - d. The Household List and the Census Schedule
 - e. The Count: De-Jure Distribution
 - f. Checking, Editing and Coding
 - g. Data Processing
 - h. The Census Publicity
1. 1961 Census Method
2. The Census Findings and their Conformity with the UN's Recommendations
3. Experience Gained

II - Differences in Administrative Divisions and Census Areas between 1961 and 1971 Censuses

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 - 1.1 The Geographic Structure
 - 1.2 Climate and Rainfall
2. A Brief Outline of the History of Census Undertaking in Nepal

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Regional Distribution of the Population of Nepal Density and Ethnic Composition

- 1.1 Regional Distribution of the Population and Population Density
- 1.2 The Distribution of the Population of Nepal by Size of Locality
- 1.3 Racial and Ethnic Composition of the Population of Nepal
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- 3.5 The Sex Composition of the Population
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- 3.7 Regional Differences in Age and Sex Distributions
- 3.8 Mortality Level and Trend in Nepal
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- 3.10 The Estimation of Mortality Based on Growth Rate and Age Distribution
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- 6.1 The Economically Active Concept
- 6.2 The Economic Activity Rates
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- 6.4 Regional Differences in Industrial Composition
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- 6.6 Regional Differences in the Socio-economic Status
- 6.7 The Longevity of Working Life in Nepal

PART VII

Conclusions and Recommendations

Filename Analytical Report1971.pdf

National Population Census 1971, Population Monograph

Title National Population Census 1971, Population Monograph

Author(s) Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)

Date 1977-02-01

Country Nepal

Language English

Contributor(s) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) , United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) , National Planning Commission (NPC) , The Family Planning/Maternal Child Health (FP/MCH) Project , Ministry of Health (MOH) , The Mi

Publisher(s) Central Bureau of Statistics, Nepal

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- Age and Sex Composition
- Ethnicity and Religion
- Marital Status
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- Trends and Differentials in Fertility
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- Population Projections
- Population Growth and Health Development
- Economic Activity of the Population
- Population Growth and Educational Development
- Financial Implications of Population Growth
- Law and Population

Annexe

- I. Sources of Demographic Data
- II. Evaluation of the Quality of the Demographic Data

Filename Monograph1971.zip

National Population Census 1971, Major Tables

Title National Population Census 1971, Major Tables

Author(s) Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)

Country Nepal

Language English

Description This is a collection of tables of the Population Census of Nepal 1971

Abstracts :

Abstracts_TA-1 : Areas of the Districts of Nepal, Their Population and Densities
 Abstracts_TA-2 : Literacy of Population 6 Years of Age and over by Sex, for Development and Geographic Regions and Districts
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 Abstracts_TA-12 : Employment Status of Economically Active Population 10 Years of Age and by Sex for Town Panchayats

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 Vol1- gen-2 : Rank of Districts by number of inhabitants-1971
 Vol1- gen-3 : Rank of Localities with 5,000 or more population by number of 1 inhabitants-1971
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 Vol3- gen-21 : Major Industry Group of Economically Active Population 10 Years of Age And Over by Age & Sex for Zones & Districts - 1971
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Filename Statistical_Table1971.zip

