

# Vital Registration System in Nepal

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## ABSTRACT

*The events which are occurring in our life cycle such as birth, death, marriage, divorce and internal migration are the vital events. The vital event registration system is the dynamic study of population changes and it provides the legitimacy of each incident of each individual. Vital statistics generated through civil registration systems are the major source of continuous monitoring of birth, death, marriage, divorce and internal migration over time. The main objective of this study is to find out the annual trend of registration of vital events like birth, death, marriage, divorce and internal migration in Nepal as well as to highlight the need for investment in better registration of all vital events. This article is based on secondary data of nationwide annual vital events statistics obtained from ministry of local development. The number of birth registration has been increased by 2164.39, death by 2301.26, marriage by 3490.75, divorce by 67.09 and internal migration by 2683.68 in each year than preceding year. The registration of all vital events shows the rising trend in Nepal. As many Nepalese are not registering the vital events immediately so concern authorities should come with effective awareness plan to make people aware of importance of registration of vital events in their life as well as to nation.*

**Keywords:** Birth, death, divorce, marriage, migration

## INTRODUCTION

Nepal has been practicing vital registration system under the time to time amended act “Birth, death and other personal events registration act, 2033 (1976)”. The important individual events such as birth, death, marriage, divorce and migration which occur day to day in front of us are the vital events. These events have been affecting in social, economic, cultural sectors even in the nation and international human community. The continuous process of attaining, studying, analyzing and disseminating of these vital events is known as the ‘vital event registration system’. The vital registration system helps to predict the future individual events. Vital registration is concerned with the recording of key life cycle or vital events. These vital events are “A live birth, death, marriage, divorce, adaptation, legitimacy of birth, recognition

of parenthood, annulment of marriage or legal separation (Dhakal, 2011).

The publication and analysis of vital statistics is an important element of population management, planning and administration, and is necessary for monitoring trends in fertility and mortality, the main components of population dynamics (United Nations, 2001). In less developed and developing countries, there is often a common concern among demographers about data quality, especially concerning the vital registration systems, and a strong consensus about the necessity to improve vital statistics (Abou Zahr et al. 2015).

In Nepal, “Village Panchayat Act,1962” was the first legal attempt to maintain record of vital events like birth and death by village panchayat within its geographical area. In those days, vital events have been collecting, publishing and utilizing by the act named “Birth, Death and other Personal Events (Registration) Act,2033(1976)” and its consequent rule entitled “Birth, Death and other personal events (Registration) Rule,2033(1977). To make the legal provisions regarding the registration and the issuance of certificates of birth, death, marriage, divorce and migration of person residing, this act was sealed and publishes in Kartik 4, 2033(20 Oct.1976). It is an act made for the registration of the birth, death, marriage, divorce and migration. The vital registration system was launched in ten districts of the country as the initial phase from 1977 and it was finally implemented all over the country in 1991. The third amendment of this act was in Kartik 17, 2063(3 Nov.2006) by Amending Some Nepal Acts to Maintain Gender Equality Act, 2063(2006). The event of marriage is also recorded by “Marriage Registration Act,2028(1971)” and consequent rule entitled “Marriage Registration Rules, 2028(1971).” In August 2014, Nepal showed commitment on UNESCAP ministerial declaration for Asia and Pacific towards universal and responsive civil registration and vital statistics systems that facilitate the citizen’s realization of their rights and support good governance and development by the decade (2015-24) – “Get Everyone in the Picture”. The commitment has further streamlined the government efforts to augment the rolling out of the systems and establishment of a specialized agency - Department of Civil Registration (DoCR) established in November 2014.

Vital registration in Africa remains more problematic for a variety of reasons (Rao et al. 2000). This deficiency has numerous consequences, and is a serious shortcoming for age-reporting, of older persons in particular (Randall & Coast, 2016). Moreover, the assessment of the birth registration system in Zambia recommended further decentralization of birth registration to the sub-district level, with strong involvement of health facilities and traditional and other community-based leadership (Government of Zambia, 2008). Only a few developing

countries have been able to improve their civil registration and vital statistics systems in the past 50 years. This may be due to the lack of human resources and their commitment. In Ghana, health professionals see birth registration as undue additional responsibilities and do not collaborate effectively as desired (UNICEF, 2008). Civil registration laws have not been revised for many years in Nepal. Outdated laws and procedures inherited from the past are still in place due to which the rationales and objectives of registration laws therefore do not always reflect social and cultural realities of the country. The complete coverage, accuracy and timeliness of civil registration is therefore essential. Non-registration of vital events is a particularly serious problem in developing countries of Asia.

Vital statistics can be extremely useful for planning and policymaking. Despite the importance of civil registration for citizens and governments, a significant proportion of the world's population is not included in any registration system. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), globally an estimated 48 million births each year and an estimated 38 million deaths are unregistered. That is, some 40 percent of births and 66 percent of deaths are not yet recorded. Rural areas with large concentrations of poor and indigenous populations tend to be less well covered by civil registration than more affluent, urban areas. Thus, a significant investment is required to extend the coverage of registration systems. This lack of full coverage makes the statistics from poorer countries less reliable than would be desirable. As vital statistics play important role to make better and effective decision on national level so this paper assess to make people aware and know the importance of vital registration by analyzing the annual trend of registration of birth, death, marriage, divorce and internal migration. This article is based on secondary data of annual vital events statistics obtained from department of civil registration to make people aware and know the importance of vital registration. For this study data of 15 years (2058 to 2072) has been utilized.

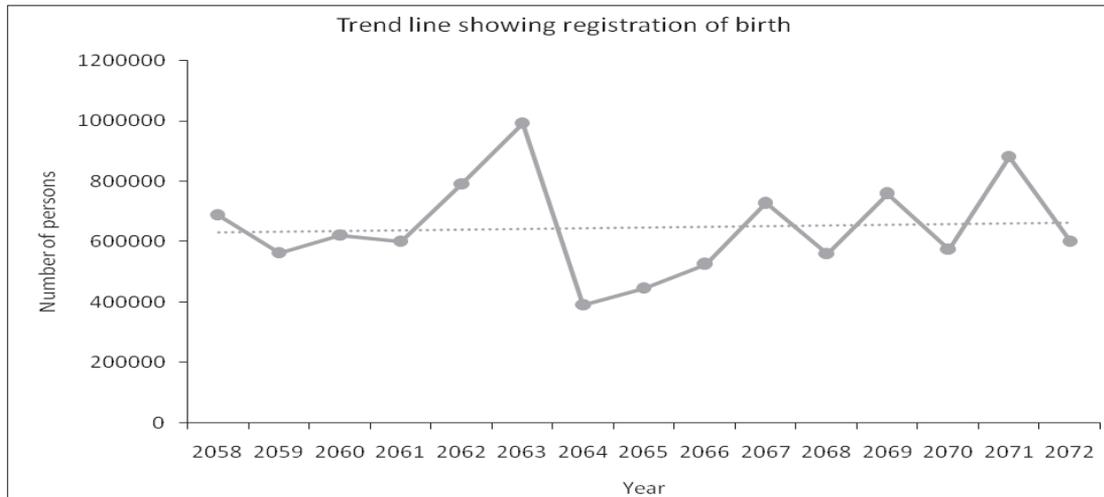
## RESULTS

### Birth

The trend line equation for registration of birth obtained from least square method using 15 years' time series data. The trend line shows the registration of birth has been rising slowly. This indicates that peoples are unaware of importance of registrations of birth and they registered only when they find themselves in a situation where they need proof of identity.

**Figure 1**

*Registration of Births (2058-2072)*

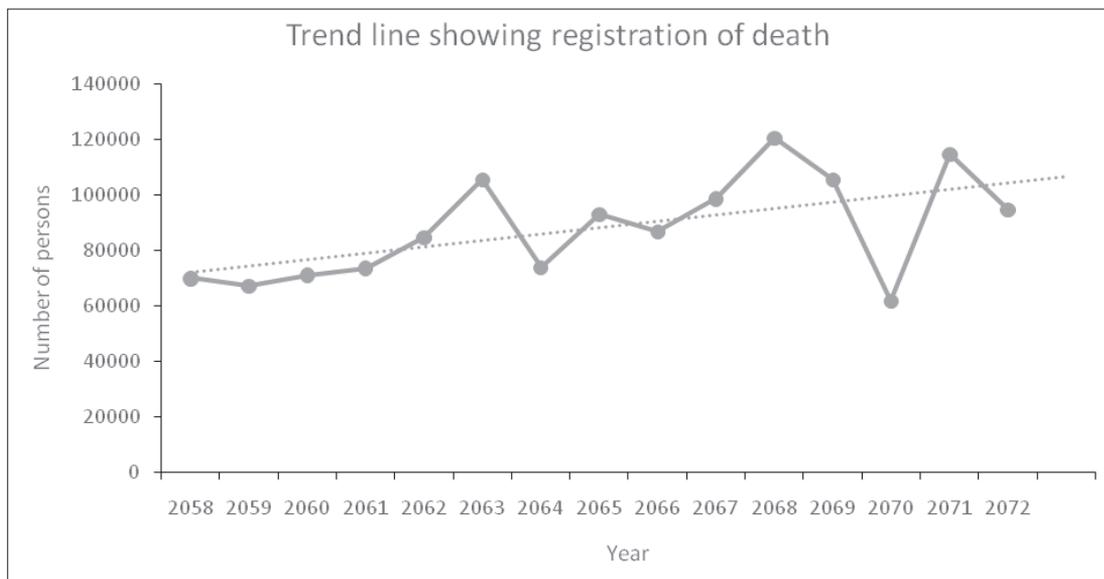


**Death**

The trend line shows that registrations of death in Nepal is rising. It may be due to the fact that deaths certificates are compulsory for transferring the entitlement and legal ownership in Nepal. The overall result indicates that the registration of death has been increasing.

**Figure 2**

*Registration of Deaths (2058-2072)*

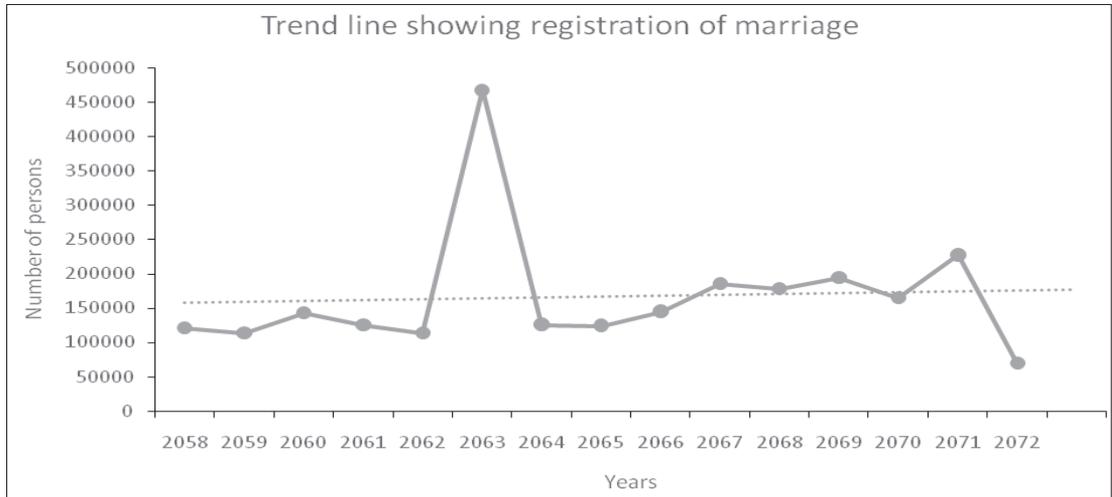


### Marriage

The registration of marriage is in increasing order in Nepal. The trend line shows that the registration of marriage in Nepal has been increasing.

**Figure 3**

*Registration of Marriage (2058-2072)*



### Divorce

The registration of divorce is in increasing order in Nepal. The trend line shows that registration of divorce has been increasing rapidly in Nepal over the last few years.

**Figure 4**

*Registration of Divorce (2058-2072)*

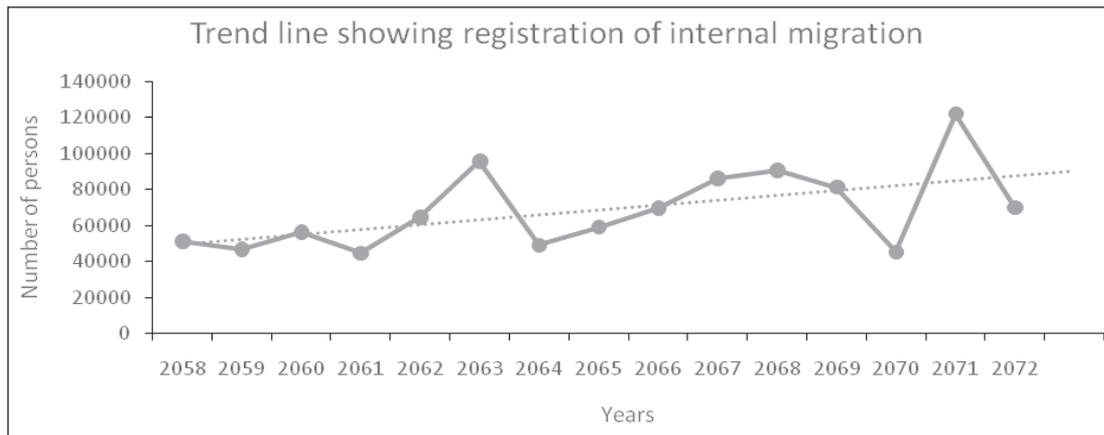


## Migration

The registration of internal migration is also in increasing order in Nepal. It may be due to the fact that large number of Nepalese are migrating from rural area to urban area with the expectation of making their life better.

**Figure 5**

*Registration of Migration (2058-2072)*



## CONCLUSION

The registration of vital events is increasing in good number in the last few years which is better and effective than earlier period. The finding from this study shows that there are rising trends for registrations of birth, death, marriage, divorce and internal migration in Nepal. Although the registration of all vital events shows the rising. This finding confirms the prevailing belief that some improvements have to done to make people aware of vital registration. Lack of social awareness of the importance of registration of vital events might be the key factor for slow rising trend of registration of vital events in Nepal.

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