

# Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice of Contraceptives in Currently Married Women of Reproductive Age in Santhal Community.

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## *Abstract*

*This research work mainly concerns with the rural-urban migration and its effects on livelihood. The main problem of the study was to find out the rural-urban migration and its effects in Urlabari municipality, ward no. 7. The objectives of the study were to find out the rural- urban migration ratio in Urlabari municipality, ward no.7 and to analyse the effects of rural urban migration. This research study is quantitative in its nature. Primary resources of data were collected from 130 households who were selected purposively using questionnaire and interview. Similarly the secondary resources of data were collected from journals, articles, books, websites and other concerned organizations. The collected data were analysed with the help of computer using simple statistical tools such as percentage. It was found through the analysed data that the major causes of rural- urban migration are job/service opportunities. 23 per cent of the respondents migrated to the study area for the sake of job/ services. It was concluded that the job/services, education are the major pull factors for the rural people for their migration.*

*Keywords: attitudes, contraceptives, marginalized community, perception*

## Introduction

Nepal is multi-cultural, multi-lingual, multi-religious and multi-cast/ethnic country. Satars are one of the most backward ethnic groups of Nepal. They live in Jhapa, Morang and Sunsari districts. More than 97% of Satar people of the country live in the eastern terai region of Nepal (NPHC, 2011). The ancestral strongly hold of the dark-skinned, curly-haired and stoutly built body. The name Santal, according to Skrefsrud (1868) was a

corruption of Saontar which was adopted by Santals when they lived in the area around Saont now identified with Silda Pargana in Midnapore district of West Bengal. W.B Oldham was of the opinion that Santal is an abbreviation of Samantawala. Apr 27, 2011 Santhal, also spelled Santal, also called Manjhi, ethnic group of eastern India, numbering well over five million at the turn of the 21st century. Their greatest concentration is in the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Orissa, in the eastern part of the country (Niraula, 2010). The government of Nepal has taken initiatives to increase the enrollment of the students and keep them in school by making tuition fee free up to secondary level, offering various scholarship schemes for girls, marginalized and indigenous children; however, the dropout rate of children in Nepal is still high.

Santals are one of the most backward ethnic groups of Nepal. They have their own unique religion and culture. Their ancestral deity is Thakurjiu and their paternal guardian deity is Maranburu (Niraula, 2010). Bow and arrows are their traditional weapons. Their favorite meat is pork. Most Santals are engaged in farming and labor. They belong to the Austro-Asiatic group of human families. Their language is called Santhali. Santhals are the only people in Nepal speaking a language belonging to the Austro-Asiatic language family. They have their own script, which was developed by Dr Raghunath Murmu.

The Santhals do not worship any idols nor do they make any temples of their deities. They, however, recognize ghosts and spirits like Kal Sing, Lakchera, Beudarang. The gods of Santhal are Jaheraera, Marangburu, Manjhi, etc. The god of the mountains is called Marangburu. The Santhal are animists, and they sacrifice animals to their gods. The Santhal also worship the village deity of Gramdeuta. The priest of Santhal is called Naiki and the shaman Ujha. Pilchuhadam and Budi are their ancestral deities. The religion of Santhal is called Sarna religion.

As the Santhals like to live near forests and rivers, hunting and fishing are their favourite occupations. They are also adept in farming and put much

labour in the activity. Although owners of land in the past, there are very few landowners among the Santhals today.

Thus, Satars are the notable ethnic group of people having their own nature and culture in Nepal. The main purpose of this research study is to find out the socioeconomic and demographic characteristics of such backward ethnic group of people and also to identify the level of family planning among married women of reproductive age ( 15- 49) of this group of people.

### Statement of the problem

Population of Nepal has been increasing rapidly since the last few decades due to high fertility and declining mortality. Mortality rate has declined in Nepal due to improved health facilities and technological diffusion. Fertility rate has remained high due to low level of education, occupation, religious belief, low rate of Contraceptives, universality of marriage, early age at marriage etc.

Fertility is one of the most important factor of population change. It is biologically restricted to the women who are 15-49 years of age (within reproductive life span). Fertility differs from one group of people to another. There are many factors for determining the level of fertility in community such as, economic, social, cultural and other. High fertility is associated with developing countries and low fertility in developed countries. It directly affects the structure and growth rate of population.

### Methodology of the study

This study is based on mixed method research design. Study is based on participant opinion or experience. This study was conducted at Shivasatakshi municipality-2, Jhapa. The samples were selected with help of convenience sampling method. 125 married women in Santhal community were selected using random sampling procedure. Among them, six women were selected for the purpose of interview with help of purposive sampling procedure.

Observation and Interview were the major tools Interview schedule was used as the main tool for the data collection. But for secondary data and

more authentic data collection, document study and questionnaire were to collect data.

### Interpretation and Analysis of the Study

Demographic situation of any community affects in their knowledge, attitude and practice on Contraceptives among currently married women of reproductive age group. Especially the educational status, occupation, types of family and ethnic group influenced in reproductive behavior.

Educational Status is an important factor for human beings. It helps the person to maintain the quality of life in changeable time period. Education can change our knowledge, attitude and practice of positive behavior. Though education we can establish our personality. Thus the educational status of married women of the study area is as follows:

The data on educational attainment are collected for all those household populations aged five years and above. The education attainments of couples have a very strong effect on contraceptive knowledge, attitude and use. The education status is divided into six categories: Primary, Lower Secondary, Secondary, S.L.C. Passed, Higher Secondary and Bachelor above which seemed in below table.

Table 1 : Educational attainments.

Literacy Status	Percent	Number
Literate	58	46.4
Illiterate	67	53.6
Total	125	100.00
Education Attainment		
Primary	22	37.9
Lower secondary	10	17.2
Secondary	14	24.1
Higher Sec.	9	15.5
Bachelor above	3	5.3
Total	58	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 1 shows that out of 125 respondents 46.4 percent seems too literate where as 53.6 percent respondents illiterate. Table also shows that more than 50 percent Santhal women are still illiterate which is not good symptoms of good society.

### Knowledge and use of Contraceptives

One of the major objectives of the study was to analyze the knowledge and Use of Contraceptives. Knowledge on Contraceptives is an important phenomenon in family planning programme. In the absence of knowledge of contraceptive methods there is less chance of reducing fertility rate and it may affect the overall family life such as health, education, life style and availability of food and good environment.

All married women should know the meaning of Contraceptives to plan and manage small and happy family otherwise they were suffered from great number of their children and they were lacking food, basic needs and other opportunities. Due to the lack of appropriate knowledge of Contraceptives couple may born unnecessary children with unplanned ways. Knowledge of contraceptive methods is an important precursor to their use. The ability to recognize Contraceptives when it is described is a simple test of a respondent's knowledge but not necessarily an indication of the extent of her or his knowledge. The 2011 NDHS collected information on knowledge of Contraceptives by asking respondents whether or not they have heard about eight modern methods (female and male sterilization, the pill, intrauterine devices [IUDs], injectables, implants, male condoms, and emergency Contraceptives) and two traditional methods (rhythm method and withdrawal). Respondents were also asked whether they knew about any other methods in addition to those listed (NDHS, 2011, P.94). In a question what do you have knowledge about Contraceptives? Table 1 shows that out of 125 respondents 96 percent have knowledge about Contraceptives whereas only four haven't. Study also shows that it is betterment for human being.

Table 2 : *Knowledge Contraceptives*

Knowledge on Contraceptives	No of Respondents	Percent
Yes	120	96.0
No	5	04.0
Total	125	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2022

### Sources of Contraceptives

The government sector provides 69% of contraceptives, including the large majority of female and male sterilization, more than two thirds of injectables and implants, and about half of the pill. Private medical facilities provide 21% of contraceptives, including about half of the pill and one-quarter of injectables. NGOs provide 8% of contraceptives (NDHS, 2011, key findings).

Main sources of Contraceptives are for users of different modern methods. Such information on where women obtain their contraceptive method is important for program managers and implementers in designing family planning policies and programs. All current users of modern contraceptive methods were asked the most recent source of their methods. The government sector remains the major source of contraceptive methods in Nepal, providing methods to 69 percent of current users (however, the share of the government sector as a source of modern methods has decreased from 77 percent in 2006). Within the government sector, one-third of users obtain their methods from government hospitals, 13 percent from mobile clinics, and 9 percent from government sub-health posts.

The main Sources of information about Contraceptives were communication media. Sources of information about contraceptive devices are different. So, available information is as follows:

**Table 3 : *Information on Contraceptives***

Sources of information on Contraceptives	No of Respondents	Percent
Printed Media	17	14.2
Radio/TV	41	34.2
Health Workers	35	29.2
Husband	16	10.8
Friends	11	7.6
Total	120	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 3 shows that out of 120 respondents mostly got information from Radio/ TV (34.2%) followed by Health Workers (29.2%). Similarly Printed Media (14.2%), Husband (10.8%) and few percent (7.6%) got information from Friends. Study also shows that definitely Radio/TV does not only provide entertainment but also providing sources of information regarding knowledge on Contraceptives.

### **Attitude towards Contraceptives**

To get a sense of their attitude towards Contraceptives in general, men were asked for their opinion on number of question pertaining to Contraceptives and its use. Thirteen percent of Nepalese men agree that Contraceptives is a woman's business, and 20 percent agree that women who use Contraceptives may become promiscuous. Men living in rural areas, the terai, and the Western region, particularly the Western hill sub region, are more likely to have these perceptions than other men. Men with SLC and higher level of education and those in the highest wealth quintile are less likely to have these misconceptions regarding contraceptive use than other men (NDHS, 2011, P.110).

Table 3 shows that out of 120 respondents in a questions of doe's condom reduce man's pleasure or not? 76.7 percent agree followed by disagree

(9.2%) and only 14.2 percent respondents told they did not know about it. Similarly in a question of does a condom is very inconvenient to use during sexual intercourse, 70.8 percent agree followed by disagree (21.7 %) and 7.5 percent respondents said that they did not know about it .In a question of a condom can be re-used, 85.8 percent respondents disagree and only 14.2 percent respondents seems to be they did not know about it. Similarly in a question of does condom protects against sexual diseases or not? 65.0 percent agree and 35.0 told they did not know about it. In a question of a women has no right to tell man to use condom, 29.1 percent agree followed by disagree (58.3%) and only 12.5 percent told that they did not know about it. In a question of does Contraceptives is a women's business and a man should not have to worry about it? 12.5 Percent respondents agree followed by disagree (82.5 %) and few percent gave their attitude they did not know about it. In a question of does women who are sterilized may become promiscuous? 33.3 percent agree followed by disagree (54.2%) and 12.5 percent said that they did not know about it. In a question of does being sterilized for the man is the same as castration? 73.3 percent agree followed by disagree (21.7%) and 5.8 percent respondents told they did not know about it and in a question of does a women is the one who gets pregnant so she should not be the one to go to sterilized? 18.3 percent respondents agree followed by 76.7 percent disagree and only 5.0 percent respondents gave their view that they did not know about it.

Table 4 : *Attitude towards Contraceptives*

Attitude towards Contraceptives	Respondents			Total
	Agree	Disagree	Don't know	
Condom reduce man's pleasure	76.7(92)	9.2(11)	14.2(17)	0
A condom is very inconvenient to use	70.8(85)	21.7(26)	7.5 (9)	0
A condom can be re-used	-	85.8(103)	14.2(17)	0
A condom protects against disease	65.0 (78)	-	35 .0(42)	00
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A women has no right to tell man to use condom	29.1(35)	58.3(70)	2.5 (15)	0
Contraceptives is a women's business and a man should not have to worry about it	12.5 (15)	82.5 (99)	5 .0(6)	0
Women who are sterilized may become promiscuous	33.3(40)	54.2(65)	12.5 (15)	0
Being sterilized for the man is the same as castration	73.3(88)	21.7(26)	5.8(7)	0
A women is the one who gets pregnant so she should not be the one to go to sterilized	18.3(22)	76.7(92)	5 .0(6)	0

N= 120

Note: Percentage may exceed hundred due to multiple responses.

Source: Field Survey, 2022

### Involvement in using Contraceptives (husband or wife)

Couples are using different types of Contraceptives. Some devices are used by male and some devices are used by female. In a question, who was involvement in using of Contraceptives they reported that as follows:

Table No. 5 : *Involvement in using Contraceptives (either husband or wife)*

Involvement in using Contraceptives	No of Respondents	Percent
Husband	22	18.3
Wife	98	81.7
Total	120	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 5 shows that out of 120 respondents, 81.7 percent respondents replied during the sexual intercourse they were (wife /female ) using Contraceptives themselves whereas only 18.7 percent respondent's replied their husband involvement in using Contraceptives during their sexual intercourse . Study also shows that female/wife seems to be more active than their male partners and it shows the better family life.

### Causes for not Using Contraceptives

Some respondents are not using family planning devices because of their misconception on family planning process. There may other different cause of not using these contraceptives because there are different causes of not using it. Among total respondents and only 6 percent respondents reported that they did not use family planning devices now.

Table 6 : *Causes for not Using Contraceptives.*

Causes for Not Using Contraceptives	No of Respondents	Percent
Husband (Abroad )	6	85.7
Not Needed ( No any child, infertility)	1	14.3
Total	7	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 6 shows that out of 6 respondents, 85.7 percent respondents said that due to husband (Abroad) they did not use any types of Contraceptives and 14.3 percent respondents said that lack of child they did not need.

### Findings and Conclusion

It can be concluded that the respondents were familiar with Contraceptives. The permanent devices were found comparatively less practiced than temporary devices. Almost 96 percent respondents had knowledge on Contraceptives among them they all were ever users of Contraceptives as different devices such as Depo\Sangini, Pills, Condom, and Norplant etc. Though health post provides Contraceptives to the couple free of cost, they borrow it from shops, hospital and clinic. Women seemed more active to use Contraceptives than male. The couples who hadn't willing to get any other children seemed also using the temporary devices. Similarly, men are to be motivated to do Vasectomy as permanent devices than women, as it is easier for male than female.

Out of 125 respondents, 46.6 percent were literate. Among them mostly got primary level education (37.9%) followed by secondary level

(24.1%). Very few percent got bachelor and above (5.3%). Study found that mostly respondents got marriage at the age of 15-19 (52.0%) followed by age group 20-24 (28.0%) and only 9.6 percent got married at the age group 25-29. Out of 125 respondents mostly have two child (45.6%) and few percent respondents haven't any child. Out of 125 respondents, 96.0 percent have knowledge about Contraceptives. Among them mostly familiar with Depo/Sangini (100%) followed by condom (95.8%) and few percent have knowledge about Emergency Contraceptives (6.7%). The main sources of information about Contraceptives were from Radio / TV (34.2%) followed by Health workers (29.2%) and a few percent with friend (7.6%). Among the ever users 94.2 percent are still using Contraceptives. Among the still users mostly respondents were using Depo/Sangini (41.6%) followed by Oral Tablet / Pills (16.8%). About 113 respondents all were suffering with side effects. Among the suffered 93.8 percent respondents contacted with Doctor. Among the non-users, 85.7 percent respondents did not use any types of Contraceptives due to her husband abroad.

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