

# CHAPTER 15

## INTERNAL MIGRATION IN NEPAL

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### 15.1 Introduction

Migration is one of the three components of population change. Any change in the volume and flow of migration will change the size, growth, and other characteristics of the population both in sending and receiving areas. Migration within a country does not affect its the total size of the population and growth rate but it affects regional and sub-regional population and growth rate within the country. But migration into and/or outside the country does affect the size and the growth of a country's population. Migration unlike fertility and mortality is the least researched and understood component of demographic dynamics in Nepal despite the fact that many of Nepal's socio-economic and political problems are interwoven with the process of both internal and international migration (KC, 1998).

This chapter is devoted to the discussion of internal migration of native born population within the country, primarily based on the data collected during the 2001 census of Nepal. First, it examines the volume and pattern of life-time internal migration by zones, regions and districts. Second, it analyses various streams of migration. Third, it introduces the concept of period migration. Fourth, the chapter examines some reasons and characteristics of internal migrants and non-migrants with respect to literacy, occupational and ethnic status.

Before interpreting data on internal migration, this chapter provides geographical and demographic background of Nepal under which migration plays its role. It also provides definition of various types of migration used in this chapter. The major argument at the end of this chapter is that the major population and development issue in Nepal in the first decade of the twenty-first century is not going to be fertility but population movement (See Skeldon, 1992: 4; Hugo, 1992; Bose, 1992: 21).

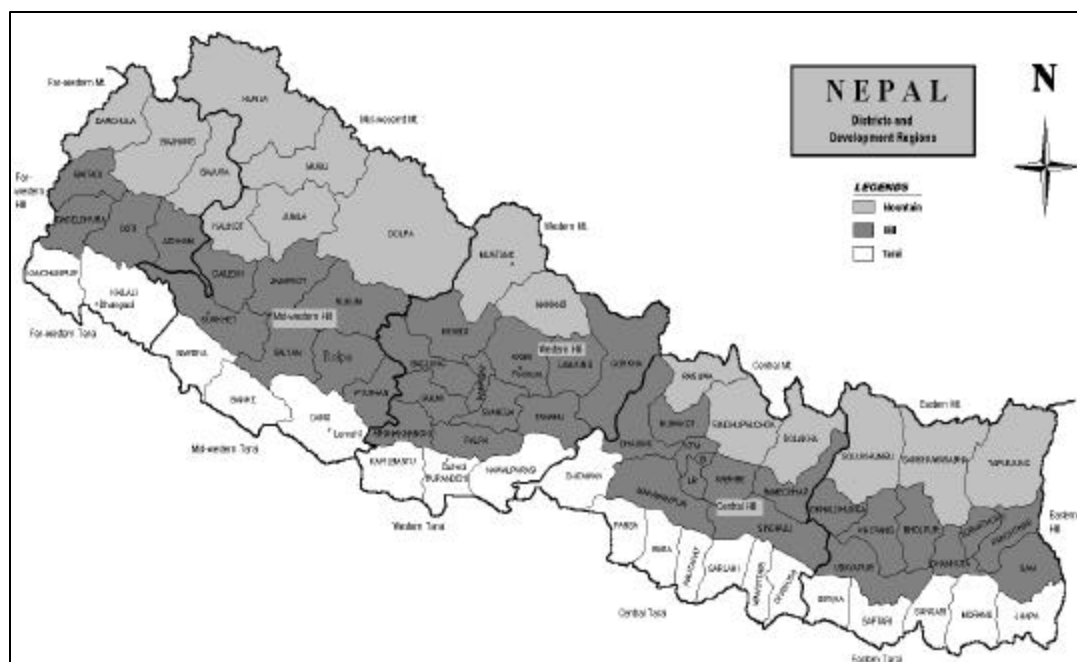
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### 15.1.1 Geographical Background

Nepal is an independent country situated on the southern slopes of the middle Himalayas. It stretches over a length of 885 kilometers (east-west) and a width of 145 to 241 kilometers (north-south) surrounded by the sparsely populated Tibetan autonomous region of China in the north and India in the east, south (Gangetic plain) and west. The country is divided into three ecological zones namely mountain, hills and Tarai (Figure 15.1). These zones are broad bands of elongated horizontal regions, each separated by a combination of altitude, climate, district boundaries and drainage basins from south to north and east to west.

**Figure 15.1: Three zones, five development regions, 15 sub-regions and 75 districts, Nepal**



The mountain zone ranging in altitude from 4,877 meters to 8,848 meters has sixteen administrative districts. Out of the total area of 147,181 square kilometers of land space area of sovereign Nepal, the mountain zone occupies 35.2 per cent land space with a density of population of only 32.6 persons per square kilometer [CBS, 2002: 1]. Most part of this zone falls under the lap of high Himalayas with hostile climate (temperate to cool temperate) with snowy mountains and peaks. This zone generally inhabits people in agglomerated settlements located far apart from one another. This zone had only 7.3 per cent of the total population of the country (See Table 15.1).

The hill ranges in altitude from 610 meters to 4,877 meters with moist sub-tropical climate. It is the meeting place of people coming from the north and the south of the country. It occupies 41.7 per cent of the total area with a population density of 167.1 persons per square kilometer and has 44.3 per cent of the total population. This zone has 39 districts with many of the large urban centres in the country.

The Tarai zone ranges in altitude of less than 610 meters with humid tropical and sub-tropical climate. It has 20 districts with only 23.1 per cent of the total area of the country but has a density of population almost twice greater (329.6 persons per square kilometer) than in the hills. In 2001, this zone had accommodated 48.4 per cent of the total population of Nepal.

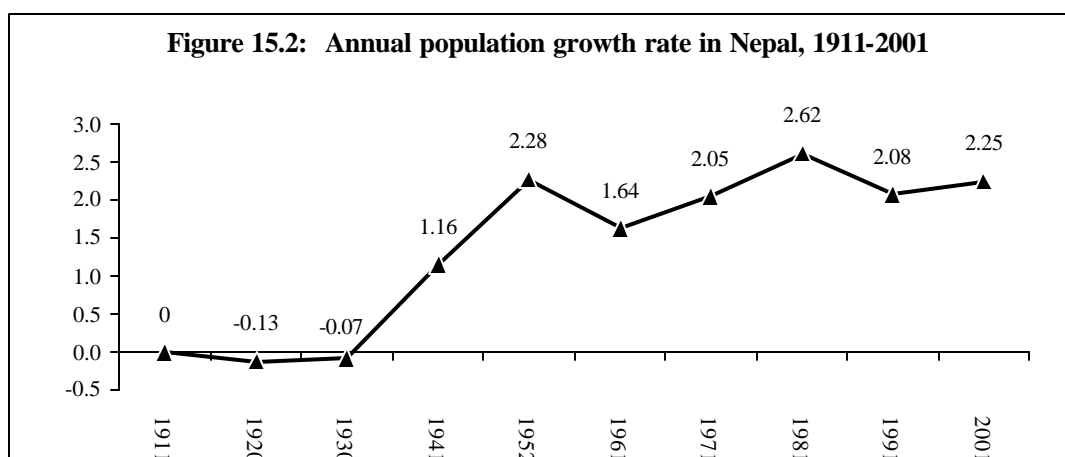
These ecological zones are important in the discussion of the patterns and trends of internal migration in the country. This is in the sense that there is a mountain zone with sufficient land space and sparse population due to rugged topography, sloppy terrain and inhospitable environment and there is the hill zone in between the mountain and Tarai with low agricultural productivity but is strategically located in terms of defense and development initiatives. The proportion of area and population in this hill zone almost match but high environmental degradation, landslides, deforestation, haphazard development of both rural and urban settlement have made it difficult to develop. But people of all kinds and creed join and run the mainstream of national life in this zone. The Tarai has a relatively hot climate with adequate rainfall during the monsoon season. It has rich and fertile agricultural land and has become the prime destination of the mountain and the hill people of Nepal since the very campaign of malaria eradication during the late fifties.

These three zones have been sub-divided into 15 regions on the basis of five development regions and three ecological zones. Then there are 75 administrative districts belonging to three zones and five development regions. In 2001 census, data on internal migration were provided at the district level as well as by individual towns. Nepal has now 58 urban centres located in various districts of Nepal with a total urban population 14 per cent in 2001. Rural to rural migration stream getting gradually shifted towards rural to urban followed by urban to urban and urban to rural represents different stages of development of the Nepalese population.

### **15.1.2 Demographic Background**

In 2003, Nepal's population is estimated to have reached 25.1 million with a density of 179 persons per square kilometer [United Nations, 2003]. Nepal ranked 143rd in human development index of 2003 [UNDP, 2003]. Every two in five persons in Nepal lives below absolute poverty

line and every other person in the rural area is poor (NPC, 2003). Very high unemployment and underemployment rates of 17.4 and 32.3 per cent (NPC, 2003: 58, 99) have compelled people to remain either under severe poverty or migrate to other places within and outside the country for better opportunity for livelihood. The population of Nepal grew at an annual rate of 2.25 per cent between 1991 and 2001 (Figure 15.2) with a sex ratio of 99.8. Nepal has a huge population of females in the reproductive age group (49.2%) with high fertility rate (4.1 children per woman). Marriage among girls before the age of 18 years is prevalent. Population momentum created by the young age population (39.4% below 15 years) will contribute more to population growth and migration in the country. Eighteen per cent of all births is attributed to women under 20 years of age in Nepal (United Nations, 2003). This may severely limit the scope of reducing population growth rate and poverty in Nepal.



Nepal's demographic indicators are still very low compared to those of the other South Asian countries (See United Nations, 2003). For example, Nepal at present has a crude birth rate of 33 and a crude death rate of 10. Infant mortality rate of 64.4 and maternal mortality ratio of 539 are still very high. Mortality under age 5 years is still high at 98 (United Nations, 2003). The literacy rate for the population 6 years and above has reached 53.7 per cent, while the female literacy of the same age is very low at 42.5 per cent in 2001. Life expectancy at birth for females is now 61 years and that of males is 60.1 years, registering the life expectancy of 60.8 years for the total population in the country (CBS, 2003). Females in Nepal are slowly showing the tendency of living longer than males like in most other countries.

Nepal still has a low level of urbanization compared to many other countries in Asia. Nepal's urban centres increased from 16 in 1971, 23 in 1981, 33 in 1991 and 58 in 2001. In 2001, Nepal had 86.1 per cent rural population and 13.9 per cent urban. With increasing number of urban

centres and the level of urbanization, Nepal is experiencing increasing volume of both internal and international migration in the urban areas during the 1990s.

### 15.1.3 Definitions

**Migration:** Migration is a spatial mobility of people by changing usual place of residence to a well-defined destination. A migrant is a person who moves either from his place of birth to another area or keeps on moving stepwise or circular by changing his residence more or less frequently by being either seasonal, temporary, semi-permanent or permanent migrant depending upon the duration of migration and reasons for migration within a defined geographical area.

**Life-Time Migration:** A life-time migrant is one who has moved from his place of birth to the present place or destination where he is enumerated at the time of the census irrespective of the number of times he migrates.

**Migration Stream:** Number of migrants identified on the basis of their volume within a given period of time from one geographical area to another such as mountain to hill, hill to Tarai or Tarai to mountain and hill and mountain to Tarai. Another typical migration stream is usually measured on the basis of migration from rural to rural, rural to urban, urban to urban and urban to rural areas.

**In-Migrants:** In-migrants are defined as those internal migrants who have migrated to the destination from the origin. All migrants who may have migrated and settled in the destination from various origins are called in-migrants in the destination.

**Out-Migrants:** Out-migrants are those internal migrants who leave their place of origin and migrate to different destination areas. For the district or the place of origin, they are defined as out-migrants.

**Net-Migration:** Net-migration is the difference between out-migration and in-migration in any defined geographical areas within a specified period of time. Districts, for example, may have either negative or positive net-migration. With positive net-migration, the district gains more population than it sends out and with net negative migration, the district loses more population than it receives. Net-migration makes difference in the size of the population in a particular district but nationally the balance between in and out migration is zero.

**Gross Migration:** Gross migration indicates the magnitude of total mobility in a defined geographical area or district in this case. This is the sum total of in and out migration and measures the extent to which people are mobile within a certain period within the geographical boundary.

**Period Migration:** Period migration in the 2001 census of Nepal has been defined as those people 5 years and above prior to the census whose place of residence was different from the place of enumeration during the census period.

**Ecological Zones:** Census Bureau of Statistics has delimited ecological zones of Nepal on the basis of the boundary of administrative districts that are constructed with due consideration of local topography and drainage basins. The mountain has 16 districts, the hill has 39 and the Tarai has 20 districts. Inter-zonal migration here refers to migration occurring between these three zones. Thus larger the migration field, smaller is the volume of migration.

**Regions:** Regions in this study consist of the cross product of three zones and five development regions or each of the five development regions split into three sub-regions belonging to the respective ecological zone. The three zones are mountain, hill and the Tarai and five development regions are eastern, central, western, mid-western, and far-western. The total inter-regional migration volume by 15 regions becomes greater than in the case of ecological zones. As the number of migration field increases, the volume of migration also increases. It is because inter-regional migration within the mountain, for example, becomes intra-regional for the mountain zone and vice versa.

**Districts:** Nepal has 75 districts. The present study frequently addresses the inter-district migration. This increases the volume of migration substantially and represents intra-regional migration because one region may have several districts.

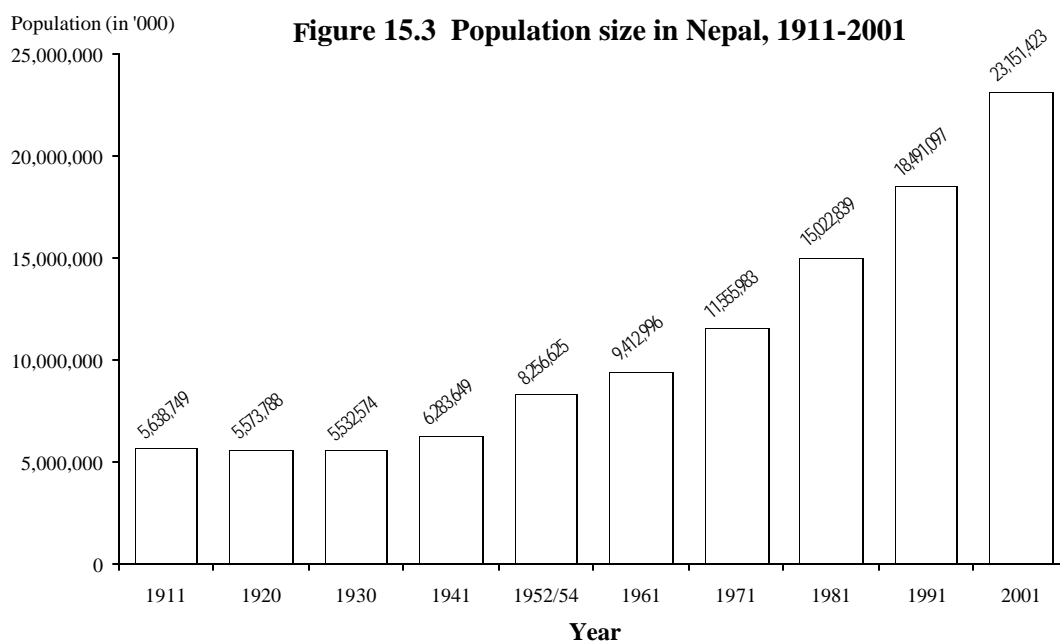
**Village and Towns:** Inter-village migration flow is not available in the 2001 census. One zone has five regions, one region has many districts, one district has many villages and one village has nine wards. Nepal has 58 designated urban areas. The census of 2001 collected migration data that are strictly defined by the district boundary. Hence, even if people moved from rural to urban and vice versa within that district, it is not recorded even though the rural and urban mobility does not get confined within the district boundary only. Smaller the field of migration, larger is the volume of migration.

## 15.2 Population Size and Growth

The first modern census of Nepal was conducted in two phases, eastern half in 1952 and the western half in 1954. This census recorded about 8.3 million people in the country (Table 15.1, Figure 15.3). The doubling time of the population based on the 1952/54 census results was 60 years but in 2001 it came down to only 32 years.

**Table 15.1 : Population size, growth rate and doubling time, Nepal, 1961-2001**

Census Year	Total Population	Growth Rate	Doubling Time
1911	5,638,749	-	-
1920	5,573,788	-0.13	-
1930	5,532,574	-0.07	-
1941	6,283,649	1.16	60
1952/54	8,256,625	2.30	31
1961	9,412,996	1.65	42
1971	11,555,983	2.07	34
1981	15,022,839	2.66	26
1991	18,491,097	2.10	33
2001	23,151,423	2.25	32



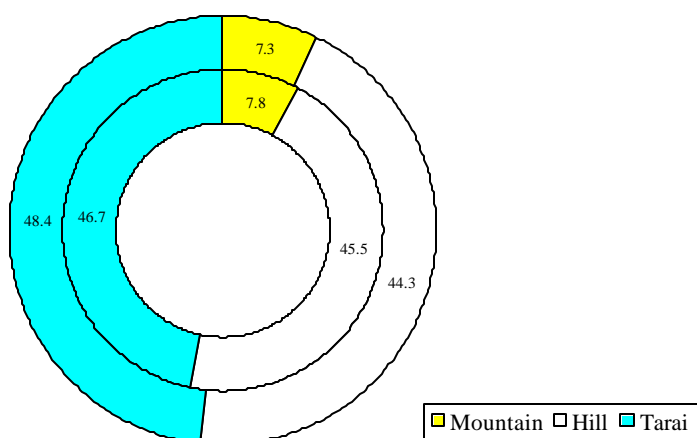
Source: CBS, 1995.

Source: Table 15.1.

### 15.2.1 Population Distribution and Density

According to 1991 population census the largest share of the population was found in the Tarai (46.7 %) followed by hill and mountain zones with 45.5 per cent and 7.8 per cent respectively (Figure 15.4).

**Figure 15.4: Distribution of population by ecological zones in Nepal, 1991 and 2001**



In terms of land area the Tarai has the lowest share of land (23.1 %), followed by hill (41.7 %) and mountain (35.2%). The mountain and hill zones had been losing their proportionate share of population while the Tarai had been gaining this share since 1950's (Table 15.2).

**Table 15.2 : Geographical distribution of population, Nepal, 1952/54-2001**

Region	1952/54	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001
Mountain	-	-	9.9	8.7	7.8	7.3
Hill	-	-	52.5	47.7	45.5	44.3
Tarai	35.2	36.4	37.6	43.6	46.7	48.4
<b>Total</b>	-	-	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: CBS, 1995.

The growth rate of population in the Tarai remained consistently higher since the inter-census period of 1961 and 1971 with a peak during 1971-1981. The growth rates of population in mountain and hill zones increased with a slight decline in the Tarai during 1991-2001 (Table 15.3).



**Table 15.3 : Population growth rate by ecological zones, Nepal, 1961-1971, 1971-1981, 1981-1991, and 1991-2001**

Intercensal	Ecological Zones			Nepal
	Mountain	Hill	Tarai	
1961-1971	-	-	2.42	2.07
1971-1981	1.36	1.67	4.20	2.66
1981-1991	1.02	1.62	2.79	2.10
1991-2001	1.58	2.00	2.65	2.25

Source: CBS, 1995.

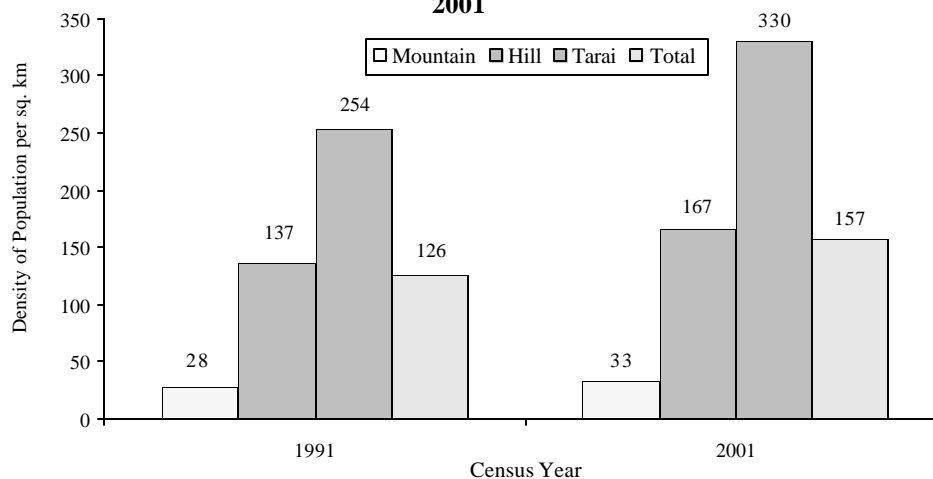
The uneven distribution of population has led to a high disparity in population density in different ecological zones. The Tarai zone had the highest density of population since 1952/54 followed by hills and mountains. Population density in Nepal increased dramatically over time reaching at 157 persons per square kilometer in 2001 (Table 15.4). But because of the run away population inside and outside the country, the density would probably reach at 200 persons per square kilometer by 2005. Increase in the density of population has been dramatically accelerated in all the ecological zones in 2001 (Figure 15.5).

**Table 15.4 : Population density (persons per square kilometre) of Nepal in different censuses by ecological zones**

Census Year	Mountain	Hill	Tarai	Total
1952/54	-	-	85	56
1961	-	-	101	64
1971	22	99	128	79
1981	25	117	193	102
1991	28	137	254	126
2001	33	167	330	157

Source: CBS, 1987, 1995.

**Figure 15.5: Density of population by ecological zones, Nepal, 1991 and 2001**



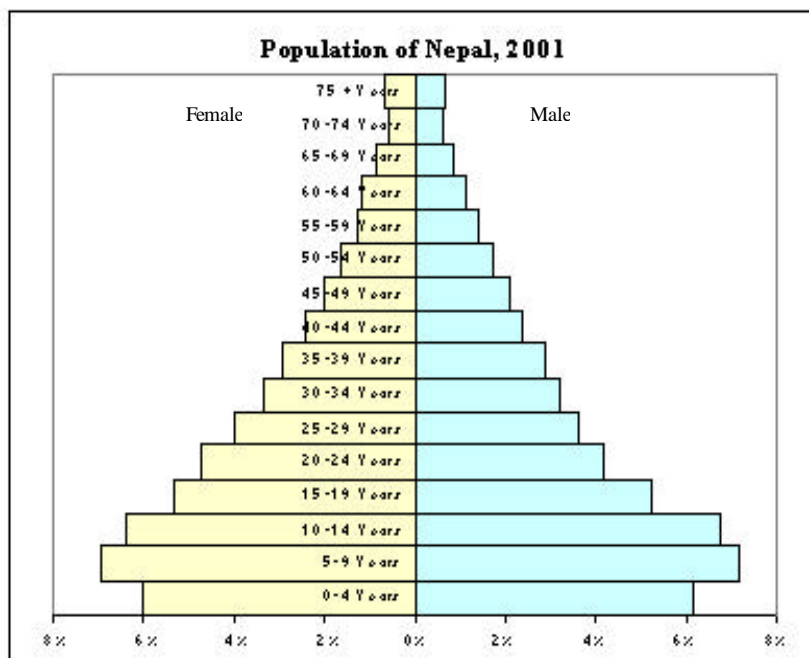
## 15.3 Internal Migration

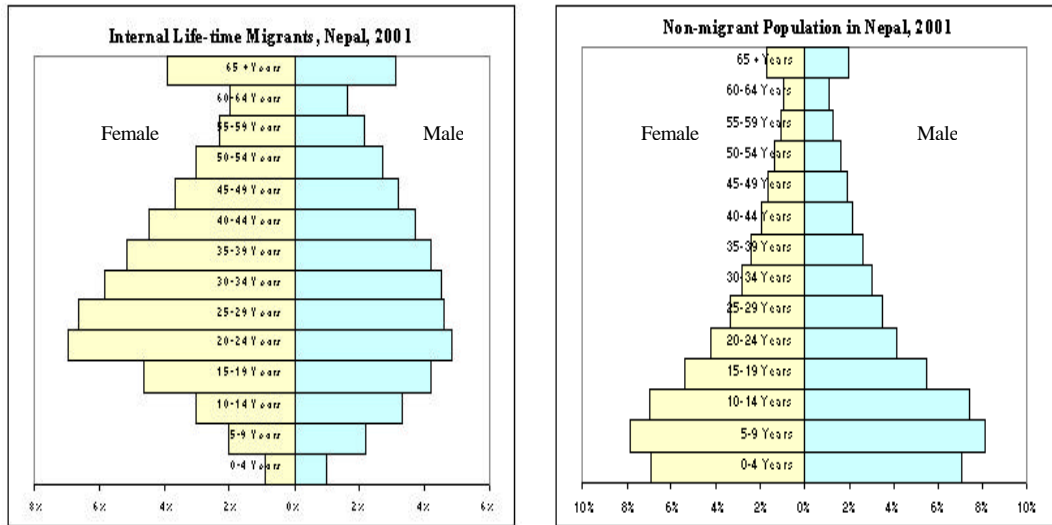
Migration has been an important component of population redistribution in Nepal. People have been migrating from rural-to-rural and rural-to-urban areas in search of employment and educational opportunities. Occasional natural calamities like floods and landslides have also forced people to flee from their birth place to other potential areas for their livelihood. Internally displaced persons have remained in vulnerable situations expecting urgent rescue and help. Important causes of internal migration in Nepal have been poverty, inequitable distribution of income, unemployment, difficult livelihood, and food insecurity.

### 15.3.1 Age and Sex Structure of Migrants and Non-migrants

Figure 15.6 shows that the age sex structure of the total population of Nepal is broad based. The 0-4 years age group is relatively narrower than the successive two age groups belonging to 5-9 and 10-14 years of age. The pyramid tapers upward getting narrower and narrower demonstrating a typical pyramid of most developing countries. The large percentage of adolescents and youth especially, among women indicates that the population in the reproductive age is both ready and about to be ready for entering reproductive years. This kind of pyramid does not allow population growth to reduce rapidly unless a vigorous population programmes are implemented for a sustained period of time.

**Figure 15.6 Age-sex structure of total population, non-migrants and migrants, Nepal, 2001**





There is a significant difference between the pyramid of the total population and those of migrants and non-migrants. There is also a significant difference between the age and sex composition of migrants and non-migrants. The pyramid of non-migrants is broad based like that of the total population and it tapers upward but with a cap of 65+ years. The pyramid of migrants is narrow-based. As expected, migrants are positively selected in term of both age and sex. Especially 20-34 years age group dominates among migrants with domination of males. Surprisingly a proportion of 65+ age group looks similar to the age group 45-49 years. More economically active population, higher proportion of elderly (mostly retired) and narrow base of the pyramid among migrants are quite contrasting to the age and sex composition of non-migrants. Further analysis is needed to examine in detail the regional and district level variation in the population pyramid. However, the present picture of the age and sex composition of migrants shows that still there is a high demand for primary and secondary level schools in the rural areas of origin of migrants.

Nepal has been experiencing increasing volume of internal migration after the control of endemic malaria in the Tarai (Plain) and Inner Tarai Valleys since the early 1950s. Table 15.5 provides the volume and percentage of native-born, foreign born and inter-district and inter-regional migration from 1961 to 2001. From 1961 onward, the absolute volume of inter-district migration increased by 7 times during the last 40 years and that of inter-regional migration volume increased by 4 times since 1971. Despite broad base of native born population, the percentage increase in both inter-district and inter-regional migration has been substantial.

**Table 15.5 : Inter-district and inter-regional life-time migration trends, Nepal, 1961-2001**

Year	Districts	Regions	Native Born	Foreign Born	Inter-District	Inter-Regional	Inter-District	Inter-Regional
1961	55	10	9,075,376	337,620	422,402	-	4.65	-
1971	75	10	11,218,535	337,448	-	506,925	-	4.52
1981	75	15	14,788,800	234,039	1,272,288	1,038,862	8.60	7.02
1991	75	15	18,046,302	439,488	1,736,808	1,418,206	9.60	7.80
2001	75	15	22,128,842	608,092	2,929,063	2,047,350	13.24	9.25

Source: Niraula, 1995: Table 2 and CBS, 2002.

### 15.3.2 Inter-Zonal Life-Time Migrants

The census data of 1961 showed 170,137 as inter-zonal migrants [KC, 1998], which increased to 445,128 in 1971 (Table 15.6). The loss of population due to net-migration in the mountain and hill zone was respectively 39,959 and 359,966, all gained by the Tarai (399,925).

**Table 15.6 : Inter-zonal life-time migrants, Nepal, 1971**

Place of Birth	Place of Enumeration				% Out-Migration	Net-Migration
	Mountain	Hill	Tarai	Total		
Mountain	-	15,667	33,990	49,657	11.1	-39,959
Hill	9,258	-	376,074	385,332	86.6	-359,966
Tarai	440	9,699	-	10,139	2.3	399,925
Total	9,698	25,366	410,064	445,128	100.0	
% In-migration	2.2	5.7	92.1	100.0		

Source: CBS, 2002.

In 1981, Inter-zonal migration volume more than doubled that of the inter-zonal migration volume of 1971. Out-migration from the mountain increased from 11.1 per cent to 32 per cent and that of the hill decreased from 86.6 per cent to 64 per cent (Table 15.7). Consequently, the proportion of in-migration in Tarai decreased in 1981 from the level of 1971 due to increased volume of in-migration in the hill.

**Table 15.7 : Inter-zonal life-time migrants, Nepal, 1981**

Place of Birth	Place of Enumeration				% Out-Migration	Net-Migration
	Mountain	Hill	Tarai	Total		
Mountain	-	134,254	162,832	297,086	32.0	-261,467
Hill	33,423	-	561,211	594,634	64.0	-424,711
Tarai	2,196	561,211	-	37,865	4.1	686,178
Total	35,619	169,923	724,043	929,585	100.0	
% In-migration	3.8	18.3	77.9	100.0		

Source: CBS, 2002.

In 1991, the inter-zonal migration volume was 1,228,356. The Tarai gained additional 915,578 persons from the mountain and hill, whereas the mountain and the hill lost 161,655 and 653, 923 persons as result of out-migration to the Tarai (Table 15.8). The comparative picture of the magnitude of inter-zonal migration from 1971 to 2001 is presented in Figure 15.7.

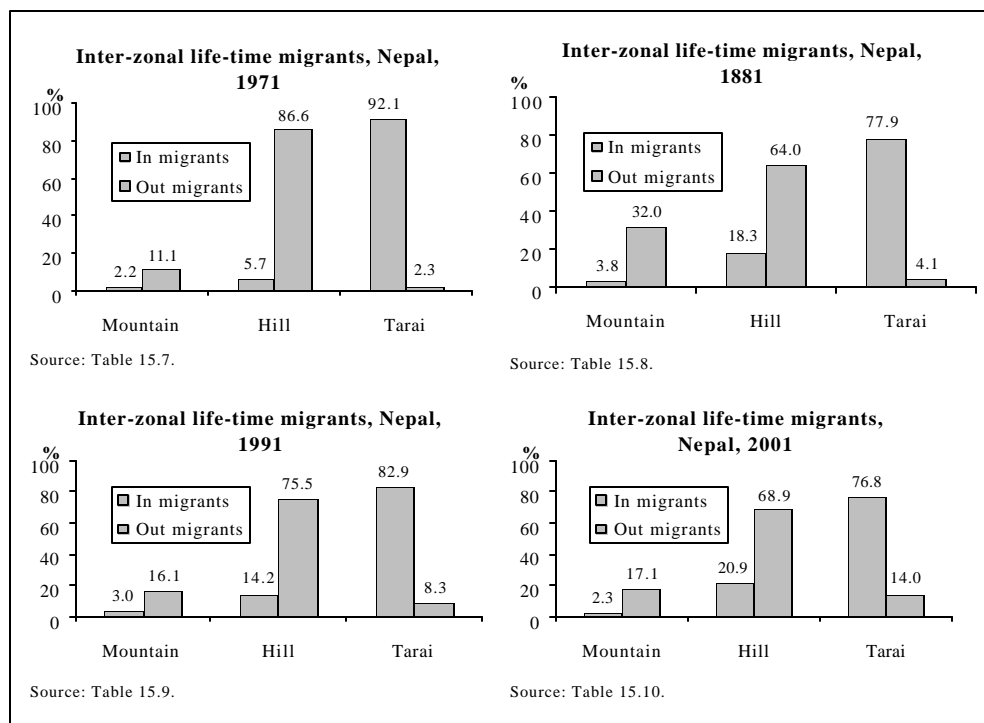
**Table 15.8 : Inter-zonal life-time migrants, Nepal, 1991**

Place of Birth	Place of Enumeration				% Out-Migration	Net-Migration
	Mountain	Hill	Tarai	Total		
Mountain	-	76,503	121,826	198,329	16.1	-161,655
Hill	32,003	-	895,888	927,891	75.5	-753,923
Tarai	4,671	97,465	-	102,136	8.3	915,578
Total	36,674	173,968	1,017,714	1,228,356	100.0	
% In-migration	3.0	14.2	82.9	100.0		

Source: CBS, 2002.

In 2001 the total volume of inter-zonal migration by three ecological zones increased to 1,727,350 persons (Table 15.9). Females constituted 51 per cent of the total inter-zonal migrants between 1991-2001 [CBS, 2003]. In 2001, mountain (-14.8 net-migration) and hill (-48 net-migration) lost 1,085,862 persons, all gained by the Tarai (+62.8 net migration). Unlike in earlier decades, the total volume of out-migration from the Tarai zone (14%) has been increasing, especially to the hills by 2.5 times than in the previous decade. In 2001, the proportion of out-migrants and in-migrants by gender is similar. Volume of inter-regional migration by 15 regions would be 2,047,350. The difference between in-and-out migration is presented in Figure 15.8 and Appendix 15.1.

**Figure 15.7 Percentage of life-time migration by ecological zones, Nepal, 1971-2001**

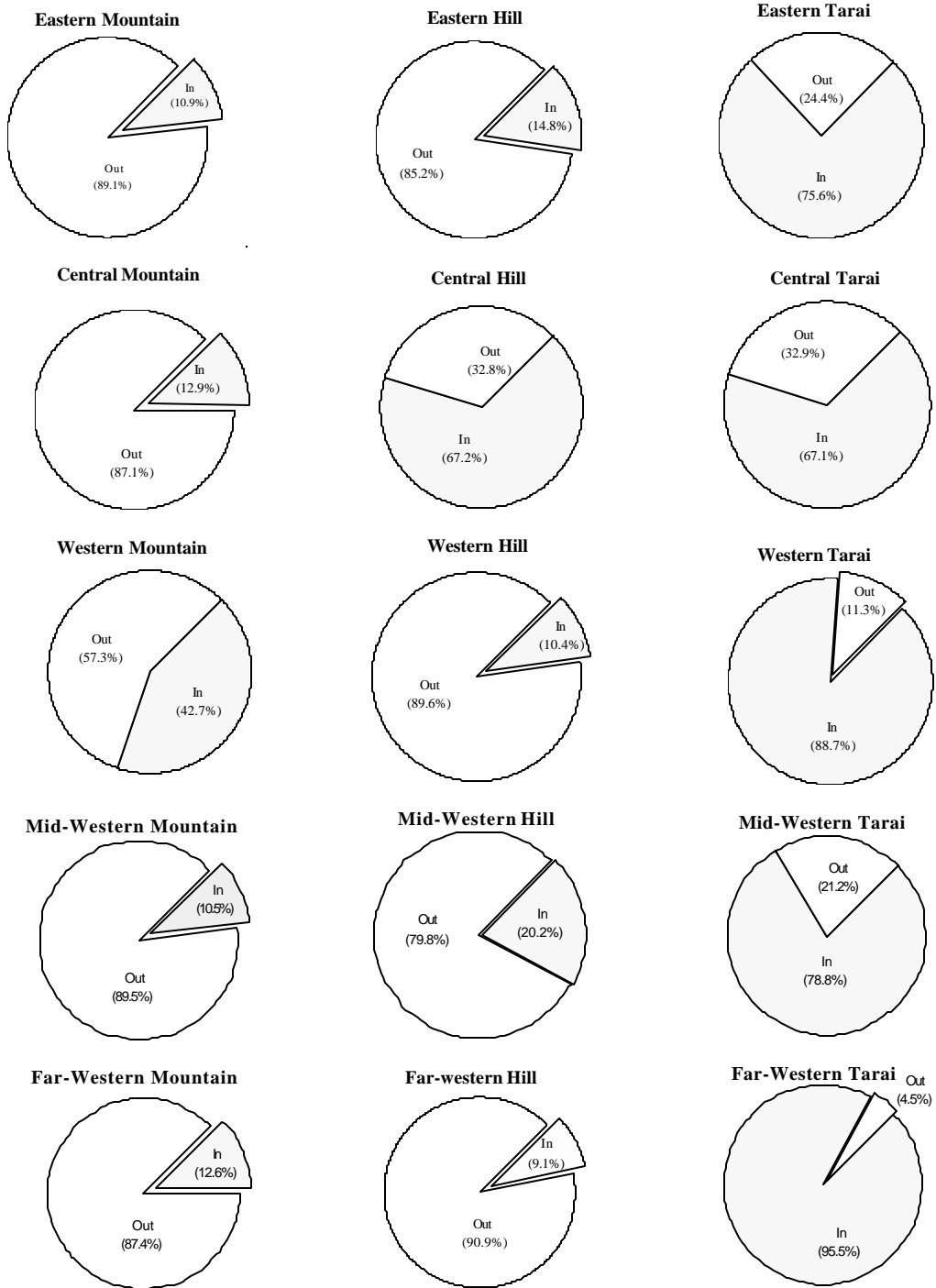


**Table 15.9: Inter-zonal migrants for both sexes, Nepal, 2001**

Origin	Destination			Total	% Out-Migration	Net-Migration
	Mountain	Hill	Tarai			
<b>Nepal</b>						
Mountain	-	125,597	169,825	295,422	17.1	-255,103
Hill	33,895	-	1,157,035	1,190,930	68.9	-830,759
Tarai	6,424	234,574	-	240,998	14.0	1,085,862
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,319</b>	<b>360,171</b>	<b>1,326,860</b>	<b>1,727,350</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
% In-migration	2.3	20.9	76.8	100.0		
<b>Male</b>						
Mountain	-	57,170	84,783	141,953	16.8	-127,610
Hill	10,822	-	567,513	578,335	68.4	-400,001
Tarai	3,521	121,164	-	124,685	14.8	527,611
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,343</b>	<b>178,334</b>	<b>652,296</b>	<b>844,973</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
% In-migration	1.7	21.1	77.2	100.0		
<b>Female</b>						
Mountain	-	68,428	85,040	153,468	17.4	-127,511
Hill	23,061	-	589,528	612,589	69.4	-430,746
Tarai	2,896	113,415	-	116,311	13.2	558,257
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,957</b>	<b>181,843</b>	<b>674,568</b>	<b>882,368</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
% In-migration	2.9	20.6	76.4	100.0		

Source: CBS, 2002.

**Figure 15.8 Percentage of in and out-migration by 15 sub-regions, census 2001**



### 15.3.3 Inter-Regional Life-Time Migrants, 1981-2001

In 1981, the total volume of lifetime migrants by 15 regions constituted 1,038,862 (Table 15.10). Among the out-migrants from these 15 regions, the highest proportion originated from eastern hill (25.5%) followed by eastern mountain (22.7), central hill (14.4%), and western hill (11.5%). The major destination regions were eastern Tarai (29%), central Tarai (20.6%), western Tarai (10.7%) and far-western Tarai (8.9). The interrelationship between origin and destination is very obvious among these 15 regions. Eastern mountain sent highest number of migrants to eastern Tarai (69,869), western hill (33,890) and central hill (32,602). Majority of migrants from the central mountain was destined to central hill (10,186) and central Tarai (8,651). Migrants from the western mountain concentrated in western Tarai (22,659), central Tarai (5,953) and western hill (5,526). Majority of migrants from the mid-western and far-western mountain had their destination in far-western Tarai. Out-migrants from each of the five mountain regions have created a definite migration trajectory through which they tend to migrate to their respective hill and Tarai regions. This trajectory changed its direction in case of the mountain out-migrants were destined to central and western hill because these two regions are relatively more developed than other hill regions.

Major destination areas of the migrants from the eastern hill were eastern Tarai (76.3%) followed by eastern mountain (8%), central Tarai and central hill (3.7%). Migration trajectory from central hill to central Tarai (69.8%) and eastern Tarai (10.7%) is the most dominant. This is even more dominant in case of migrants from the western hill destined to central Tarai (42.9%) and central Tarai (42.1%). An overwhelming majority of the migrants from mid-western and far-western hill migrated to mid-western Tarai (57.1%) and far-western Tarai (22.9%), whereas far-western Tarai is the single most dominating region for receiving 87.2 per cent of the total out-migrants from far-western hill.

The case of Tarai is different in the sense that horizontal mobility from one region to another within Tarai is prevalent in the case of eastern to central Tarai, central to eastern Tarai, and mid-western to far-western Tarai. Otherwise, out-migrants from eastern Tarai to eastern hill and central hill and from central Tarai to central and western hill created a dominant trajectory. The total magnitude of out-migration from the western and far-western Tarai is very small in number indicating that these regions are at the receiving end.

A clear migration trajectory is clearly seen in the case of the inter-regional life-time migrants in 1981. If the same trend is persisting in the successive decades can be seen in the successive periods.



**Table 15.10: Life-time migrants by place of birth and place of enumeration for 15 Sub-regions, Nepal, 1981**

Region	Mountain					Hill					Tarai					Out-Migration	Per Cent
	EDR	CDR	WDR	MWDR	FWDR	EDR	CDR	WDR	MWDR	FWDR	EDR	CDR	WDR	MWDR	FWDR		
<b>Mountain</b>																	
Eastern	-	5,558	126	4,655	6,183	18,220	32,602	33,890	18,282	7,971	69,869	16,939	9,567	6,402	5,723	235,987	22.7
Central	53	-	17	12	21	411	10,186	400	102	90	1,146	8,651	224	241	182	21,736	2.1
Western	15	29	-	49	21	96	1,377	5,526	138	100	415	5,953	22,659	1,174	667	38,219	3.7
Mid-Western	12	8	3	-	651	37	185	508	1,153	846	96	163	133	651	1,466	5,912	0.6
Far-Western	6	8	2	580	-	33	131	61	65	1,844	248	197	52	114	9,900	13,241	1.3
<b>Hill</b>																	
Eastern	21,290	408	58	354	1,352	-	9,766	5,411	2,622	887	202,592	15,270	1,654	1,368	2,328	265,360	25.5
Central	1,047	3,800	101	149	149	3,815	-	4,448	767	440	12,803	83,290	4,010	1,976	2,480	119,275	11.5
Western	65	124	648	158	97	343	5,512	-	1,638	300	2,627	63,210	64,328	6,968	4,086	150,104	14.4
Mid-Western	621	34	9	859	649	121	607	1,537	-	910	327	709	4,549	31,110	12,486	54,528	5.2
Far-Western	17	11	4	145	1,274	52	330	134	2,364	-	347	264	173	971	41,285	47,371	4.6
<b>Tarai</b>																	
Eastern	639	213	13	142	371	7,414	4,206	2,399	2,351	349	-	18,140	970	672	1,076	38,955	3.7
Central	108	174	18	138	57	713	5,123	6,884	653	195	9,715	-	2,651	1,889	735	29,053	2.8
Western	23	39	78	34	32	99	761	1,174	253	91	332	843	-	613	300	4,672	0.4
Mid-Western	9	16	2	46	13	44	994	158	1,014	95	189	742	430	-	9,486	13,238	1.3
Far-Western	2	3	1	9	16	25	93	42	98	441	129	102	35	215	-	1,211	0.1
In-Migration	23,907	10,425	1,080	7,330	10,886	31,423	71,873	62,572	31,500	14,559	300,835	214,473	111,435	54,364	92,200	1,038,862	100.0
Percent	2.3	1.0	0.1	0.7	1.0	3.0	6.9	6.0	3.0	1.4	29.0	20.6	10.7	5.2	8.9	100.0	

Source: KC, 1998.

In 1991, the total volume of the inter-regional migration was 1,418,206, which was bigger by 379,344 migrants than in 1981 (Table 15.11). This represented an annual growth rate of 3.1 per cent. Some significant differences have been noticed in the in-and out-migration pattern between 1981 and 1991. Out-migration from the eastern mountain was the second most dominant phenomenon from the eastern hill in 1981. The scenario of out-migration changed in 1991. The magnitude of out-migration was dominated by eastern (22.3%), western (21.6%) and central hill (21.6%). Even mid-western and far-western hill exceeded other regions in the total volume of out-migration in 1991.

Out-migrants from eastern mountain heavily concentrated in eastern Tarai (71.9%) and eastern hill (15.8). This is the first trajectory. From the central mountain, the trajectory was towards central hill (62.4%) and central Tarai (30%).

In 2001, the total volume on inter-regional migration was 2,047,350 persons with a gross migration of twice this number (4,094,700). Like in the earlier decades, the migration streams from one region to another were directed towards their own neighbouring regions (Table 15.12). Migration from eastern mountain was directed towards eastern hill (21,887), central hill (16,589) and eastern Tarai (86,028). Migration from the central mountain was directed to central hill (59,282) and central Tarai (15,123). Similarly, the destination areas for the out-migrants of mid-western and far-western mountain were mid-western and far-western hill and Tarai. The stream of out-migration from far-western mountain to far-western hill (59,282) and far-western Tarai (45,670) was much bigger than in other regions.

Migration from the eastern hill was directed, to a lesser extent, to eastern (12,499) and central mountain (8,237) and, to a greater extent, to central hill (55,212), eastern Tarai (298,929), and central Tarai (26,667). From central hill, the migration stream was dominantly directed to central Tarai (99,563) and was spread moderately to central mountain (8,237), eastern hill (6,213), western hill (15,490) and eastern (18,458), western (12,706), mid-western (6,659) and far-western Tarai (5,671). Migration from western hill was heavily concentrated in central hill (66,459) and central (106,791), western (242,852) and mid-western Tarai (29,071). Mid-western to mid-western Tarai (96,355) and far-western hill to far-western Tarai (162,316) were the dominant migration streams between neighbouring regions.

Like in the preceding decades, out-migration from five regions of Tarai was directed more to the eastern (55,798) and central hill (74152). Tarai to Tarai migration through sub-regions has been moderate with relatively more concentration in central (29,008), western (13,942) and far-western Tarai (17,797).

**Table 15.11: Life-time migrants by place of birth and place of enumeration for 15 sub-regions, Nepal, 1991**

Region	Mountain					Hill					Tarai					Out-Migration	Per Cent
	EDR	CDR	WDR	MWDR	FWDR	EDR	CDR	WDR	MWDR	FWDR	EDR	CDR	WDR	MWDR	FWDR		
<b>Mountain</b>																	
Eastern	-	321	53	34	20	14,923	7,719	378	119	93	67,987	1,309	302	360	950	94,568	<b>6.7</b>
Central	91	-	29	17	22	309	32,802	628	87	57	1,902	15,555	412	418	231	52,560	<b>3.7</b>
Western	1	4	-	15	3	14	2,160	1,807	46	21	38	254	625	94	58	5,140	<b>0.4</b>
Mid-Western	8	9	60	-	1,260	24	462	154	3,808	570	73	72	80	2,808	3,323	12,711	<b>0.9</b>
Far-Western	1	8	0	1,121	-	17	440	92	161	9,612	71	91	88	439	24,286	36,427	<b>2.6</b>
<b>Hill</b>																	
Eastern	9,738	574	40	68	59	-	26,222	1,339	267	217	256,797	16,701	1,140	710	1,794	315,666	<b>22.3</b>
Central	729	8,575	210	173	122	4,764	-	9,505	822	355	13,805	100,964	7,163	3,996	4,115	155,298	<b>11.0</b>
Western	94	492	1,978	795	147	537	27,971	-	4,253	612	3,050	71,691	165,367	21,504	8,330	306,821	<b>21.6</b>
Mid-Western	12	23	29	1,419	102	55	1,397	4,565	-	2,029	220	675	9,031	84,080	20,493	124,130	<b>8.8</b>
Far-Western	6	11	3	444	6,160	56	1,444	244	6,494	-	213	210	293	2,819	100,727	119,124	<b>8.4</b>
<b>Tarai</b>																	
Eastern	1,542	531	45	295	135	17,924	22,094	1,454	750	341	-	23,934	1,774	1,514	2,306	74,639	<b>5.3</b>
Central	183	698	86	228	98	1,581	28,217	4,927	738	498	17,430	-	8,816	5,040	3,096	71,636	<b>5.1</b>
Western	10	49	44	56	21	116	3,495	4,391	410	93	463	3,076	-	2,198	788	15,210	<b>1.1</b>
Mid-Western	14	33	6	232	52	75	2,265	821	4,133	197	230	577	2,620	-	16,896	28,151	<b>2.0</b>
Far-Western	10	5	1	34	263	38	747	147	359	1,654	207	204	204	2,252	-	6,125	<b>0.4</b>
In-Migration	12,439	11,333	2,584	4,931	8,464	40,433	157,435	30,452	22,447	16,349	362,486	235,313	197,915	128,232	187,393	1,418,206	<b>100.0</b>
Percent	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

Source: CBS, 2002

**Table 15.12: Life-time migrants by place of birth and place of enumeration for 15 regions, Nepal, 2001**

Region	Mountain					Hill					Tarai					Out-Migration	Per Cent
	EDR	CDR	WDR	MWDR	FWDR	EDR	CDR	WDR	MWDR	FWDR	EDR	CDR	WDR	MWDR	FWDR		
<b>Mountain</b>																	
Eastern	-	220	81	6	9	21,887	16,589	886	174	95	86,028	1,599	752	681	1,439	130,446	<b>6.4</b>
Central	203	-	37	26	8	824	59,282	1,049	206	160	2,390	15,123	659	638	540	81,145	<b>4.0</b>
Western	0	19	-	3	0	8	2,039	1,584	113	15	26	220	738	150	62	4,977	<b>0.2</b>
Mid-Western	0	5	150	-	1,032	13	1,006	190	7,993	510	29	140	262	5,972	5,837	23,139	<b>1.1</b>
Far-Western	0	1	1	607	-	31	1,661	80	295	8,907	51	62	81	676	45,670	58,123	<b>2.8</b>
<b>Hill</b>																	
Eastern	12,499	689	58	44	76	-	55,212	3,111	434	276	298,929	26,667	1,802	860	2,723	403,380	<b>19.7</b>
Central	863	8,237	353	113	82	6,213	-	15,490	1,659	815	18,458	99,563	12,706	6,659	5,671	176,882	<b>8.6</b>
Western	88	626	2,578	432	178	1,263	66,459	-	6,486	810	4,272	106,791	242,852	29,071	9,088	470,994	<b>23.0</b>
Mid-Western	31	75	147	745	218	191	6,038	4,914	-	1,926	343	906	9,338	96,355	15,756	136,983	<b>6.7</b>
Far-Western	16	20	7	45	5,675	135	3,869	208	4,733	-	559	321	527	4,502	162,316	182,933	<b>8.9</b>
<b>Tarai</b>																	
Eastern	2,001	691	92	207	192	35,268	55,798	3,369	1,030	530	-	29,008	4,001	2,598	5,755	140,540	<b>6.9</b>
Central	220	1,269	110	151	117	3,876	74,152	11,409	1,868	1,024	22,432	-	13,942	7,152	5,109	142,831	<b>7.0</b>
Western	16	73	62	40	32	312	9,820	10,077	980	165	960	8,158	-	5,262	1,619	37,576	<b>1.8</b>
Mid-Western	20	54	40	265	81	177	7,935	1,648	7,779	411	647	1,749	5,514	-	17,797	44,117	<b>2.2</b>
Far-Western	0	12	0	26	653	132	2,676	427	961	2,750	535	761	638	3,713	-	13,284	<b>0.6</b>
In-Migration	15,957	11,991	3,716	2,710	8,353	70,330	362,536	54,442	34,711	18,394	435,659	291,068	293,812	164,289	279,382	2,047,350	<b>100.0</b>
Percent	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

Source: CBS, 2002

All regions of Tarai received out-migrants from mountain and hill with net positive migration. Among the mountain and hill regions, only the central hill region had net positive migration because of the location of the Kathmandu Valley. Other mountain and hill regions had all net negative migration. The magnitude of total out-migrants and in-migrants from 1981 to 2001 is presented in Appendix 15.1.

### **15.3.4 Inter-District Life-Time Migration**

The volume of life-time migration at the district level increased from 1.7 million in 1991 to 2.9 million in 2001. This constituted 13.2 per cent of the total native born population in Nepal [CBS, 2002: Table 7] as against 22 per cent (Inter- VDC) reported in the National Migration Survey of 1996 (KC et al., 1997: 86). This very wide margin was due to the fact that data were collected in 1996 at the village level, whereas the census considered migration phenomenon occurring only at the district level. When the migration field becomes smaller from the district to the village level, the total volume of lifetime migration increases dramatically because of the dominance of intra-district migration involving a relatively short distance. For example, the percentage of life-time migrants among females as the percentage of the total native born population in 1996 was 32.7 as against only 14.6 in 2001. The similar figure for males in 1996 was 12.1 against 11.9 in 2001 indicating probably the trend of inter-district migration among males. The differences have resulted in that the 1996 survey reported data by smaller level of spatial unit, VDC, whereas the census reported the migration data by district. The incidence of higher mobility among females as revealed in the 1996 survey was that intra-district migration of females for the purpose of marriage was very prevalent. Most of the mid-western and far-western regions and districts have more out-migrants than in-migrants with net loss of population. These areas are largely rural and the most vulnerable with rampant poverty. Also these areas were hard hit by the Maoist insurgency during the last seven years. Regions and districts of net gain of migration are the districts with large urban areas like the Kathmandu valley and the Tarai region of Nepal (Appendix 15.4). It means that migration and poverty are associated with rural-to-urban migration. Details on the magnitude of in-migration at the district level are presented in Appendix 15.2.

### **15.3.5 Migration Streams**

The 2001 census of Nepal has provided enough information to calculate four streams of migration within the country (Table 15.13). In Nepal, the major streams of internal migration are rural-to-rural (68.2%) and rural-to-urban (25.5% in 2001 and 31.2% in 1996). Urban-to-urban (2.8%) and

urban-to-rural (3.5) are of lesser importance. Migration streams at the district level are provided in Appendix 15.3.

**Table 15.13 : Rural-urban, urban-urban, rural-rural and urban-rural migration streams by sub-regions, Nepal, 2001**

Region	Migration Streams								Total Stream
	Rural-Urban		Urban-Urban		Rural-Rural		Urban-Rural		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>Mountain</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>42,364</b>	<b>89.0</b>	<b>2,884</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>47,586</b>
Eastern	1,523	9.1	81	0.5	14,522	86.5	656	3.9	16,782
Central	627	4.7	107	0.8	11,483	85.6	1,204	9.0	13,421
Western					3,516	93.7	237	6.3	3,753
Mid-Western					3,999	95.2	200	4.8	4,199
Far-Western					8,844	93.8	587	6.2	9,431
<b>Hill</b>	<b>424,801</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>60,031</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>565,527</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>44,851</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>1,095,210</b>
Eastern	16,500	11.4	1,529	1.1	118,905	82.2	7,659	5.3	144,593
Central	334,951	52.3	53,097	8.3	225,908	35.3	26,246	4.1	640,202
Western	61,673	29.4	4,495	2.1	136,518	65.1	6,860	3.3	209,546
Mid-Western	9,107	12.8	580	0.8	58,657	82.6	2,677	3.8	71,021
Far-Western	2,570	8.6	330	1.1	25,539	85.6	1,409	4.7	29,848
<b>Tarai</b>	<b>319,334</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>21,206</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1,389,956</b>	<b>77.8</b>	<b>55,770</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>1,786,266</b>
Eastern	114,262	20.5	7,927	1.4	420,504	75.4	14,841	2.7	557,534
Central	74,202	17.5	6,232	1.5	328,274	77.5	14,846	3.5	423,554
Western	44,475	13.8	2,930	0.9	265,278	82.0	10,714	3.3	323,397
Mid-Western	27,480	14.2	1,876	1.0	157,394	81.2	7,022	3.6	193,772
Far-Western	58,915	20.5	2,241	0.8	218,506	75.9	8,347	2.9	288,009
<b>Total</b>	<b>746,285</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>81,425</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>1,997,847</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>103,505</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>2,929,062</b>

Source: CBS, 2002.

The magnitude of these streams can not be compared with data provided in the previous censuses as the number of urban centres have drastically increased with many of the newly designated urban centres being rural in character. Therefore, Nepal still has an overwhelming rural-to-rural migration. Rural-to-urban migration is gaining more visibility in districts with large urban areas such as Kathmandu (71.8%), Kaski (82.7%), Lalitpur (56.6%), and Bhaktapur (44.6%). Internal migrants to urban areas has increased over time from 13.4 per cent in 1971, 16.3 per cent in 1981, 17.2 per cent in 1991 (KC, 1998:20) and 26.8 per cent (746,285 VDC+81,425 municipality) in 2001 (CBS, 2002: Table 21).

### **15.3.6 Migration to Urban Areas**

Nepal has at present 58 designated urban centres with a total population of 3,227,879. Out of this total, 95.6 per cent are native born and 4.4 per cent are foreign born (Table 15.14). Out of the total native born (3,085,104), 73.2 per cent (2,257,392) were internal migrants from other districts in rural areas, whereas 24.2 per cent migrated from other municipalities. These numbers and associated proportions are strictly based on the definition of internal migrants migrating or crossing the boundary of one district of birth place to another district of enumeration at the time of the census in 2001.

**Table 15.14: Population by place of birth by municipalities, Nepal, 2001**

Towns	Total Population	Native Born Population	Native Born as % of Total Population	Non-Migrants in the Same District	Non-Migrants as % of Native Born	Internal Migrants from VDC of Other Districts	Internal Migrants as % of Native Born	Internal Migrants from Towns of Other Districts	% of Internal Migrants from Towns of Other Districts	Foreign Born Population	Foreign Born Population as % of Total Population
Mountain Towns (2)	43,705	43,539	99.62	41,201	94.63	2,150	4.94	188	0.43	166	0.38
Col. %	1.4	1.4		1.8		0.3		0.2		0.1	
Hill Towns (22)	720,311	706,113	98.03	574,307	81.33	119,348	16.90	12,457	1.76	14,198	1.97
Col. %	22.3	22.9		25.4		16.0		15.3		9.9	
Valley Towns (5)	995,966	965,809	96.97	612,781	63.45	305,453	31.63	47,574	4.93	30,157	3.03
Col. %	30.9	31.3		27.1		40.9		58.4		21.1	
Tarai Towns (29)	1,467,897	1,369,643	93.31	1,029,103	75.14	319,334	23.32	21,206	1.55	98,254	6.69
Col. %	45.5	44.4		45.6		42.8		26.0		68.8	
All Towns (58)	3,227,879	3,085,104	95.58	2,257,392	73.17	746,285	24.19	81,425	2.64	142,775	4.42
Total %	100.0	100.0		100.0		100.0		100.0		100.0	

Source: Appendix 15.4.



Tarai has 29 urban centres with 45.5 per cent of the total urban population of Nepal. The Kathmandu Valley with five urban centres including Kathmandu (the capital) has 30.9 per cent of the total urban population. The hill except the Kathmandu Valley has only 22.3 per cent of the total urban population even though it has 22 urban centres. The mountain zone has only two urban centres possessing only 1.4 per cent of the urban population in the country. Detail examination of the growth and development of urbanization in Nepal has been included in chapter 10 of this monograph. Aspect of international migration that includes the magnitude and growth of foreign born population has also been examined in chapter 14 of this monograph.

For the sake of simplicity, four groups of towns belonging to three ecological zones and one separate region of Kathmandu Valley have been referred here. Ninety five per cent of populations living in two urban areas of mountain were non-migrants. Internal migrants from rural areas of other districts constituted 31.6 per cent in Kathmandu Valley towns followed by 23.3 per cent in Tarai towns and 16.9 per cent in hill towns. Internal migrants to Kathmandu Valley towns from urban areas of other districts were only about 5 per cent. Internal migrants coming from urban areas of other district to other zones constituted less than two per cent.

Looking at individual towns in the hill, almost one quarter of the population in Illam, Dhankuta, and Udayapur comprised of internal migrants from both rural and urban areas of other districts. Hetauda (33.5%), Pokhara (30.9%) and Birendranagar (29.5%) have been the destination of migrants from their neighbouring districts (See Appendix 15.4).

In Kathmandu Valley, Kathmandu city had almost 42 per cent internal migrants from both rural and urban areas of other districts (44% with foreign born) in 2001. If intra-district migration were to be considered, this city had more than 50 per cent in-migrants in 2001. Of the total Valley in-migrants, Kathmandu city alone received 78.6 per cent of the total rural migrants and 64.8 per cent of the urban migrants from other districts (Column percentage from Appendix 15.4 not shown). Except Bhaktapur, other cities of the Kathmandu Valley such as Lalitpur (32%), Madhyapur (27.6) and Kirtipur (23.2%) have been receiving increasing proportion of in-migrants during the last decade.

Among the 22 hill towns, Pokhara in the western hill has 36.4 per cent of all rural in-migrants and 24.6 per cent of all urban in-migrants of other districts followed by Hetauda with 16.1 per cent from rural and 23.7 per cent from urban. Biratnagar, Dharan and Butwal are the Tarai towns with more proportion of in-migrants among the Tarai towns. Among towns in the Tarai zone, Butwal (49%), Bharatpur (42.6%), Dharan (41.3%) and Itahari (41.6%) have been the most dominant in receiving internal migrants. Many other towns in the Tarai zone have internal migrants exceeding 25 per cent. Birgunj, Gaur, Siddarthanagar, Bhadrapur, Nepalgunj, Kapilbastu, Kalaiya,

Malangwa, Jaleswor, Bhadrapur, Mechinagar, Biratnagar, Lahan, Siraha, Janakpur and Damak have foreign born migrants exceeding five per cent of their respective total population. Even Lalitpur in the Valley has 7.5 per cent foreign born migrants. In the hill towns Banepa and Hetauda have about 5 per cent foreign born migrants.

### 15.3.7 Reasons for Migration

The 2001 census included five main reasons for migration such as trading, agriculture, employment, study/training and marriage (CBS, 2002: Table 4; See also Niraula, 2003). The category in other reasons comprised 31.3 per cent (Table 15.15). Marriage (27%), agriculture (15.8%), employment (10.6%), study and training (9.3%) and trading (6%) follow this. The dominant reason for migration of females was marriage (47.1%). As a result of this, all other reasons for migration were dominantly in favour of males because males did not report marriage as one of their reasons for migration. Among the inter-district migrants, similar proportions in terms of gender were reported by the 2001 census. However, when the reason in other category for both sexes and especially, marriage for females assumed such a high proportion that other reasons were significantly underrated in the response during the census operation. One high proportion but not unusual is the reason of marriage among foreign born females (65.8%).

**Table 15.15: Percentage distribution of internal and foreign migrants by reasons of residence, Nepal, 2001**

<b>Reasons</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Inter-District Migrants</b>	<b>Foreign Born</b>
Trading	6.03	5.53	8.43
Agriculture	15.79	18.08	4.77
Employment	10.58	11.50	6.13
Study/Training	9.33	10.34	4.47
Marriage	26.95	22.99	45.99
Others	31.32	31.55	30.21
Total Number	3,537,155	2,929,064	608,092
<b>Males</b>			
Trading	10.26	8.61	22.24
Agriculture	21.25	22.84	9.66
Employment	20.65	21.13	17.12
Study/Training	13.89	14.69	8.06
Others	33.96	32.72	42.91
<b>Females</b>			
Trading	2.87	2.97	2.49
Agriculture	11.71	14.12	2.66
Employment	3.05	3.49	1.40
Study/Training	5.92	6.72	2.92
Marriage	47.10	42.13	65.79
Others	29.35	30.58	24.74

Source : CBS, 2002.

### 15.3.8 Duration of Migration

Internal migration in Nepal has been very much a permanent phenomenon as 44.1 per cent of the total inter-district migrants were living in the destination for more than 10 years in 2001 (CBS, 2002: Table 3). Those staying in the destination for 1-5 and 6-10 years respectively comprised 28.3 and 22.7 per cent (CBS, 2002: Table 3). Migrants staying less than 1 year were 4.9 per cent. Two third of the total migrants were living in the destination for more than 6 years, whereas 56 per cent had been living since the last ten years (Table 15.16). Especially, females in Tarai (51.4%) reported to have resided at the place of enumeration for more than ten years. Generally, migration in Tarai is more permanent than in other regions.

**Table 15.16: Internal migration by duration of stay for ecological zones, Nepal, 2001**

Ecological Zones	Duration of Stay				Total
	< 1 Year	1-5 Years	6-10 Years	> 10 Years	
<b>Both sexes</b>					
Mountain	7.7	33.4	21.6	37.3	47,587
Hill	6.5	34.1	24.2	35.3	1,095,210
Tarai	3.8	24.7	21.9	49.7	1,786,266
Nepal	4.9	28.3	22.7	44.1	2,929,063
<b>Males</b>					
Mountain	5.3	29.0	21.3	44.4	31,420
Hill	5.5	31.1	24.1	39.3	609,116
Tarai	3.5	25.3	23.0	48.1	958,183
Nepal	4.3	27.6	23.4	44.7	1,598,719
<b>Females</b>					
Mountain	12.3	42.1	22.1	23.5	16,167
Hill	7.8	37.7	24.3	30.2	486,094
Tarai	4.1	24.0	20.5	51.4	828,083
<b>Nepal</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>1,330,344</b>

Source : CBS, 2002.

Internal migration by duration of stay in the western mountain is relatively a recent phenomenon in that almost 62 per cent were residing there for less than 5 years in 2001 (Table 15.17). In all regions of mountain, the duration of stay for majority of migrants was either temporary (less than one year) or semi-permanent (1-5 years). For other regions in the mountain, it was either semi-permanent (1-5 years) or permanent (more than 10 years). In all the regions, duration of stay of internal migrants was either of semi-permanent of 1-5 years or permanent for more than 10 years.

**Table 15.17: Internal migration by duration of stay for eco-development regions, Nepal, 2001**

Region	Duration of Stay				Total
	< 1 Year	1-5 Years	6-10 Years	> 10 Years	
<b>Mountain</b>					
Eastern	6.5	31.8	20.9	40.9	16,782
Central	6.2	35.8	24.1	34.0	13,422
Western	20.5	41.4	18.8	19.3	3,753
Mid-Western	7.7	33.0	25.6	33.6	4,199
Far-Western	6.9	30.1	18.5	44.4	9,431
<b>Hill</b>					
Eastern	6.5	32.7	22.3	38.4	144,593
Central	6.4	34.4	25.9	33.2	640,202
Western	6.4	34.1	21.7	37.8	209,546
Mid-Western	8.0	33.2	20.1	38.7	71,021
Far-Western	6.4	34.5	21.9	37.2	29,848
<b>Tarai</b>					
Eastern	3.5	23.4	22.2	50.9	557,535
Central	3.5	24.9	22.0	49.6	423,554
Western	4.3	26.9	21.5	47.3	323,397
Mid-Western	5.8	28.7	22.2	43.3	193,772
Far-Western	2.7	21.8	21.3	54.2	288,008
<b>Total N</b>	<b>142,547</b>	<b>830,259</b>	<b>665,408</b>	<b>1,290,849</b>	<b>2,929,063</b>
<b>Total %</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>44.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: CBS, 2002.

### 15.3.9 Characteristics of Migrants

#### 15.3.9.1 Literacy Status and Educational Attainment of Migrants and Non-Migrants

A comparison between the literacy status of migrants and non-migrants revealed that among male migrants 75.8 per cent were literate in 2001, whereas the literacy status among male non-migrants was 63.2 per cent (Table 15.18). This meant there were more illiterate people among non-migrants in 2001 (36.6%). Literacy level among female migrants was higher (44.2%) than among female non-migrants (42%). The proportion of migrants among males having no schooling (12.1%), primary level of education (21.6%), secondary level of schooling (28.4%) and SLC and equivalent (14.1%) appeared lower compared to their female counterparts. However, higher proportion of male migrants than female migrants in certificate and equivalent (11.3% vs. 7.6%), graduate and equivalent (8.9% vs. 3%), and post-graduate and equivalent (3% vs. 0.7 %) indicated that female migrants were highly discriminated in higher education above the SLC

level. A comparison between the literacy status of male migrants and non-migrants revealed that higher proportion of male migrants had no schooling (12.1%) than male non-migrants and that higher proportion of male non-migrants had primary (43.1% vs. 21.6%) and secondary level of education (31.3 vs. 28.4%). Migrant males were consistently better off in SLC and above level of education than male non-migrants. A higher proportion of female non-migrants had no schooling (14.7%) than female non-migrants (7%). However, among non-migrant females, 51.2 per cent had acquired primary level of education compared to 26 per cent among female migrants. Female non-migrants were only one per cent better off than female migrants in secondary level of education (29.5% vs. 28.4%). The position of female migrants was proportionately better than female non-migrants in education above the SLC level. The reason behind this can be examined only by cross tabulating literacy variable with age, duration of stay, ethnicity and other background variables, which is beyond the scope of this chapter. The literacy status and educational attainment of both migrants and non-migrants presented here revealed that a significant discrimination between males and females among both migrants and non-migrants exists in education. The status of women among both migrants and non-migrants has somewhat improved in 2001 compared to earlier decades (See Niraula, 1995).

**Table 15.18: Distribution of population 6 years and above by literacy, educational attainment and migration status, 2001**

Educational Attainment	Migrants				Non-Migrants			
	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
Literate	1,110,062	75.80	875,509	44.24	5,132,898	63.15	3,229,960	42.03
Illiterate	346,945	23.69	1,097,177	55.45	2,947,609	36.26	4,395,681	57.20
Not Reported	7,524	0.51	6,096	0.31	47,530	0.58	58,813	0.77
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,464,532</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,978,782</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8,128,037</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7,684,454</b>	<b>100.0</b>
No Schooling	134,605	12.13	129,062	14.74	394,043	7.68	246,720	7.64
Primary (1-5)	239,642	21.59	229,570	26.22	2,211,271	43.08	1,653,484	51.19
Secondary (6-10)	315,057	28.38	290,819	33.22	1,606,238	31.29	952,171	29.48
SLC & Equivalent	156,420	14.09	124,784	14.25	442,522	8.62	207,858	6.44
Certificate Level & Equivalent	125,271	11.29	66,392	7.58	253,645	4.94	86,925	2.69
Graduate & Equivalent	98,393	8.86	26,215	2.99	125,466	2.44	27,090	0.84
Post Graduate & Equivalent	33,436	3.01	6,389	0.73	29,418	0.57	5,837	0.18
Others	2,003	0.18	1,043	0.12	19,165	0.37	2,904	0.09
Level Not Stated	5,236	0.47	1,235	0.14	51,132	1.00	46,970	1.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,110,062</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>875,509</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>5,132,898</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>3,229,960</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: CBS, 2002.

### 15.3.9.2 Migration and Occupational Status

In 2001, male migrants were reported to be better off than female migrants as well as male and female non-migrants in various occupational categories such as senior officials, professionals, technicians, clerks and office assistants, and service workers. Both male and female non-migrants were better off than their migrant counterparts in skilled and semi-skilled jobs (Table 15.19). However, except for skilled and semi-skilled jobs, crafts and related trade and elementary occupation, female migrants were far behind male migrants in other occupational categories. Among non-migrant females, 71.1 per cent were involved in skilled and semi-skilled jobs, 14.5 per cent in elementary occupation and 8.7 per cent in craft and related trade. Male non-migrants were more involved in service work than their female counterparts. Females in both categories of migrants and non-migrants were less involved in high paying job than the males. Further research is needed to unravel the real extent of gender discrimination by migration status between males and females in various occupational groups.

**Table 15.19: Distribution of economically active population 10 years of age and over by migration status, major occupation and sex, 2001**

Major Occupation	Migrants				Non-Migrants			
	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
Legislators, Senior Officials	24,103	2.38	3,834	0.43	24,610	0.54	3,988	0.12
Professionals	58,309	5.75	23,498	2.63	128,480	2.80	33,376	0.98
Technicians and Associates	58,278	5.74	10,910	1.22	87,398	1.90	13,599	0.40
Clerks and Office Assistants	59,821	5.90	10,457	1.17	115,405	2.51	15,370	0.45
Service Workers and Shop	183,510	18.09	78,275	8.75	404,681	8.81	114,539	3.37
Skilled and Semi-Skilled	330,611	32.59	493,108	55.14	2,662,369	57.97	2,415,289	71.06
Craft and Related Trade	126,104	12.43	113,778	12.72	381,624	8.31	295,339	8.69
Plant and Machine Operators	39,002	3.84	6,447	0.72	83,991	1.83	11,915	0.35
Elementary Occupation	133,717	13.18	152,818	17.09	700,659	15.26	492,623	14.49
Not Reported	1,037	0.10	1,118	0.13	3,065	0.07	3,135	0.09
Total	1,014,492	100.00	894,243	100.00	4,592,282	100.00	3,399,174	100.00

Source: CBS, 2002.

### 15.3.9.3 Ethnic Composition of Migrants

Table 15.20 presents ethnic composition of migrants in relation to the total population of Nepal by gender. Among the males, a high proportion of Brahmin (27.6%) and Chhetri (19.3%) were shown to be migratory as against only 13.8 and 16.1 per cent in the total population. A higher proportion of Brahmin than Chhetri among both male and female migrants contrary to the proportion of these two groups in the total population might have resulted from a very high proportion of male population grouped in other category (23.8%). The proportion among male migrants in other category was reported to be only 13.8 per cent, a ten percentage point difference between the proportion of migrations and that of the total population. In case of total population of females, the other category was 22.6 per cent, whereas other category among female migrants was only 20.6 per cent, only two percentage point difference. Since the ethnic distribution by migration status can be examined only in relation to the ethnic distribution of the total population, the proportions allocated for other caste and ethnic groups could have been severely distorted [See chapter on ethnicity in this monograph]. For example, Brahmin and Chhetri together constituted 30 per cent of the total male population, whereas these two groups constituted 46.9 per cent of the total male migrants. Similarly, these groups comprised of 30.5 per cent of the total female population, similar to the proportion of total male population. Among female migrants, these two groups constituted 39.2 per cent. The spurious nature of data tends to convey that Brahmin and Chhetri among males were 16.9 percentage point more migratory than their actual distribution in the total population. Similarly, females tend to be more migratory by 8.7 percentage points than their actual distribution in the total population. This leads one to believe that males are more migratory than females by discounting the effect of a huge proportion of marriage migration by females.

**Table 15.20: Ethnic composition of migrants and total population by gender**

Caste/Ethnic Group	Male				Female			
	Migrants	%	Total	%	Migrants	%	Total	%
Brahmin (hill)	414,263 (26.48)	27.63	1,564,365	13.77	446,553 (28.22)	22.40	1,582,369	13.91
Chhetri	289,192 (15.82)	19.29	1,827,628	16.09	334,089 (17.75)	16.76	1,881,636	16.54
Newar	98,277 (12.69)	6.55	774,560	6.82	141,996 (18.92)	7.12	783,487	6.89
Magar	95,437 (13.26)	6.36	719,650	6.34	112,067 (14.46)	5.62	775,120	6.81
Tamang	66,098 (11.76)	4.41	562,220	4.95	72,805 (12.85)	3.65	566,733	4.98
Kami	42,766 (10.57)	2.85	404,621	3.56	56,419 (12.98)	2.83	434,599	3.82
Rai	44,3361 (15.28)	2.96	290,150	2.55	50,159 (16.66)	2.52	301,140	2.65

Caste/Ethnic Group	Male				Female			
	Migrants	%	Total	%	Migrants	%	Total	%
Gurung	43,688 (17.04)	2.91	256,381	2.26	54,123 (18.99)	2.72	285,028	2.51
Tharu	37,976 (5.96)	2.53	637,399	5.61	46,872 (7.47)	2.35	627,084	5.51
Thakuri	33,071 (19.71)	2.21	167,797	1.48	41,269 (23.83)	2.07	173,168	1.52
Damai	21,158 (11.41)	1.41	185,491	1.63	30,184 (15.18)	1.51	198,804	1.75
Limbu	22,439 (14.24)	1.50	157,604	1.39	33,050 (19.73)	1.66	167,477	1.47
Yadav	18,695 (4.27)	1.25	438,164	3.86	46,150 (11.97)	2.32	385,681	3.39
Sanyashi	15,789 (15.39)	1.05	102,606	0.90	22,634 (21.14)	1.14	107,047	0.94
Mushlim	31,489 (6.80)	2.10	462,985	4.08	68,453 (15.83)	3.43	432,366	3.80
Brahmin( <i>Tarai</i> )	17,811 (17.96)	1.19	99,144	0.87	26,990 (30.73)	1.35	87,818	0.77
Others	207,045 (7.64)	13.81	2,708,614	23.84	409,552 (15.83)	20.55	2,588,000	22.75
Total	1,499,532 (13.52)	100.0	11,359,378	100.0	1,993,364 (17.52)	100.0	11,377,556	100.0

Source: CBS, 2002.

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate column percentage.

In 1991, the other category for total male population was 22.4 per cent and that of the total population of females was 19.8 per cent (See Niraula, 1995: 161). The proportion of male migrants among Chhetri as being only 19.3 per cent in 2001 as against 22.2 per cent in 1991 and that of female migrants being 16.8 per cent in 2001 as against 21.1 per cent in 1991 indicates that during the 1990s, a large number of Chhetri caste among both males and females might have migrated to urban areas of Nepal for work and education. Some of them even might have migrated abroad.

Table 15.20 also shows migrants as proportion of the total population for both males and females. Hill Brahmin (26.5%), exceeded 25 per cent among male migrants followed by Thakuri (19.7%), Tarai Brahmin (18%), Gurung (17%), Chhetri (15.8%), Sanyashi (15.4%) and Rai (15.3%). Other migrant groups among males exceeding 10 per cent were Newar, Magar, Tamang, Kami, Damai and Limbu. The least migratory group among male migrants belonged to Tharu, Muslim and Yadav. Among female migrants, Tarai Brahmin was the most dominant caste (30.7%) followed by hill Brahmin (28.2%), Thakuri (23.8%), Sanyashi (21.1%), Limbu (19.7%), Gurung (19%), Newar (18.9%), Chhetri (17.8%) Rai (16.7%), Mushlim (15.8%), and Damai (15.2%). Tharu and Yadav were the least migratory among female migrants.



### 15.3.10 Period Migration

Period migration simply indicates the mobility patterns of internal migrants five years ago in terms of where they were living then. The magnitude of period migration representing those native born population 5 years and above by place of residence five years ago for 15 regions is presented in Table 15.21. Five years ago 95 per cent of those destined to foreign countries went to India. Internally, the migration pattern was overwhelmingly rural, especially in the Tarai. Urban bound migration five years ago was dominant among internal migrants in the mountain and hill. In 1991 census, this period migration was limited to one year ago and hence can not be compared with the period migration in 2001 census.

**Table 15.21: Native born population 5 years of age and above by place of residence 5 years ago for regions, Nepal, 2001**

Region	Non-Migrant as % of Native Born	Different District			Foreign Country		
		Total	Rural	Urban	Total	India	Other Countries
<b>Mountain</b>							
Eastern	98.7	4,631	89.7	10.3	536	80.8	19.2
Central	99.2	3,770	80.2	19.8	399	92.2	7.8
Western	92.7	1,655	85.2	14.7	39	69.2	30.8
Mid-Western	99.1	1,283	88.1	11.9	80	81.3	18.8
Far-Western	99.2	2,571	80.0	20.0	645	90.2	9.9
<b>Hill</b>							
Eastern	97.4	37,845	87.5	12.6	2,699	90.7	9.3
Central	94.4	176,039	84.1	15.9	11,259	88.2	11.8
Western	97.7	57,118	89.9	10.1	9,076	90.0	10.0
Mid-Western	98.3	18,731	89.2	10.8	1,637	88.3	11.7
Far-Western	98.9	7,637	85.4	14.6	1,722	93.3	6.7
<b>Tarai</b>							
Eastern	97.0	86,327	90.4	9.6	18,375	97.0	3.0
Central	98.1	64,937	89.4	10.6	19,585	97.3	2.7
Western	95.8	63,700	92.4	7.6	13,406	97.0	3.0
Mid-Western	96.2	40,265	92.7	7.3	4,640	94.7	5.3
Far-Western	95.7	36,852	93.7	6.3	4,070	98.2	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>97.0</b>	<b>603,361</b>	<b>88.6</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>88,168</b>	<b>94.5</b>	<b>5.6</b>

Source: CBS, 2002.

In all, 88.6 per cent internal migrants five years ago were living in the rural areas of Nepal and only 11.4 per cent were living in the urban areas. After 1996, 23 more urban centres were added to the list of 33 urban areas in 1991 and 3 in 1992. Hence, the period migration is indicative of rural and urban residence five years ago based on 36 urban areas. Any conclusive analysis on the volume and pattern of the period migration based on this limited information can not be carried out at this stage, nor can it be compared with the volume, trends and characteristics of life-time migration. A separate analysis on period migration based on the census data of 2001 is suggested.

Internal migration has led to both positive and negative social and economic implication for the place of origin and destination. Initially, low density and economic potentialities in Tarai area prompted migration from the mountain and hill to the Tarai. However, at present Tarai has low capacity to absorb additional population. Urban areas are also overcrowded through rural-to-urban migration. The Tenth Plan has emphasized on balanced spatial distribution of population by promoting socio-economic development both in the sending and receiving areas.

## **15.4 Migration and Development**

A number of development variables are found useful for interpreting both internal and international migration. Three levels of development indicators such as an overall composite index, composite indices, and individual indices related to poverty and deprivation, socio-economic development, and women's empowerment have been used to examine their interrelationships with migration variables (See ICIMOD, 1997; KC, 2003).

Gross mobility is positively associated with development. More developed districts in terms of socio-economic development, women's empowerment, and other development variables have higher inter-district migration. Among the composite indices, HDI, GDI, OCI, and SEIDI are the ones which have correlation coefficients of .50 or higher. At the individual level, all the development variables are positively correlated with migration variables. The deprivation variables such as child illiteracy rate ( $r=-.4185$ ), child labour rate ( $r=-.3421$ ), households without land and with a marginal farm ( $r=-.2788$ ), infant mortality rate ( $r=-.3778$ ), and share of girls dropouts at primary school ( $r=-.2471$ ) are negatively correlated with gross mobility. Among the variables used, gender imbalance ratio in literacy, mean years of schooling, and per capita income are significantly correlated with migration variables. Except three deprivation variables, all other variables are positively correlated with in-migration. Negative correlation coefficients indicated that non-migration of a district is associated with lower level of development.

## **15.5 Summary and Conclusion**

### **15.5.1 Summary**

In 2001, Nepal had a population of 23.15 million with an annual growth rate of 2.25 per cent. High fertility rate of 4.1 children per woman and a huge population in the reproductive age will continue to exasperate poverty and increase migration in Nepal.

In 2003, Nepal's population is estimated to have reached 25.1 million with a density of 179 persons per square kilometer. Nepal ranked 143<sup>rd</sup> in human development index of 2003. Every two in five persons in Nepal lives below absolute poverty line and every other person in the rural area is poor. Poverty, high unemployment and underemployment (17.4 and 32.3%) have compelled people to remain either under severe poverty or migrate to other places within and outside the country for better opportunity for livelihood.

The uneven distribution of population has led to a high disparity in population density in different ecological zones. The Tarai zone had the highest density of population since 1952/54 followed by hills and mountains. Population density in Nepal increased dramatically over time reaching 157 persons per square kilometer in 2001 and would reach 200 persons per square kilometer by 2005 at the present rate of population growth rate.

The absolute volume of inter-district migration increased by 7 times during the last 40 years and that of inter-regional migration volume increased by 4 times since 1971. The volume of life-time migration at the district level increased from 1.7 million in 1991 to 2.9 million in 2001. This constituted 13.2 per cent of the total native born population in Nepal. Migration streams from one region to another were directed towards their own neighbouring regions.

Preliminary analysis suggests that there is a high incidence of poverty in the regions experiencing net negative migration and that regions of in-migration are relatively better off in development indicators. People in Nepal are migrating from poverty stricken rural areas of low density to urban areas of high density and to areas of fertile agricultural land in the Tarai.

In Nepal, the major streams of internal migration are rural-to-rural (68.2%) and rural-to-urban (25.5% in 2001 and 31.2% in 1996). Urban-to-urban (2.8%) and urban-to-rural (3.5) are of lesser importance. Nepal has at present 58 designated urban centres with a total population of 3,227,879. Out of this total, 95.6 per cent were native born and 4.4 per cent were foreign born in 2001. Out of

the total native born (3,085,104), 73.2 per cent (2,257,392) were internal migrants from other districts in rural areas, whereas 24.2 per cent migrated from other municipalities. Internal migrants from rural areas of other districts constituted 31.6 per cent in Kathmandu Valley towns followed by 23.3 per cent in Tarai towns and 16.9 per cent in hill towns.

The 2001 census included five main reasons for migration such as trading, agriculture, employment, study/training and marriage. The category in other reasons comprised 31.3 per cent. Marriage (27%), agriculture (15.8%), employment (10.6%), study and training (9.3%) and trading (6%) follow this. The dominant reason for migration of females was marriage (47.1%). Important causes of internal migration in Nepal not captured by the census data have been poverty, inequitable distribution of income, unemployment, difficult livelihood, and food insecurity.

Internal migration in Nepal has been very much a permanent phenomenon as 44.1 per cent of the total inter-district migrants were living in the destination for more than 10 years in 2001. Those staying in the destination for 1-5 and 6-10 years respectively comprised 28.3 and 22.7 per cent. Migrants staying less than 1 year were 4.9 per cent. Two third of the total migrants were living in the destination for more than 6 years, whereas 56 per cent had been living since the last ten years.

A comparison between the literacy status of migrants and non-migrants in 2001 revealed that among male migrants 75.8 per cent were literate in 2001, whereas the literacy status among male non-migrants was 63.2 per cent. Literacy level among female migrants was higher (44.2%) than among female non-migrants (42%). Higher proportion of male migrants than female migrants in certificate and equivalent (11.3% vs. 7.6%), graduate and equivalent (8.9% vs. 3%), and post-graduate and equivalent (3% vs. 0.7 %) indicated that female migrants were highly discriminated in higher education above the SLC level.

In 2001, male migrants were better off than female migrants as well as male and female non-migrants in various occupational categories such as senior officials, professionals, technicians, clerks and office assistants, and service workers.

A high proportion of Brahmin (27.6%) and Chhetri (19.3%) were reported to be migrants in 2001. Hill Brahmin exceeded 25 per cent among male migrants followed by Thakuri (19.7%), Tarai Brahmin (18%), Gurung (17%), Chhetri (15.8%), Sanyashi (15.4%) and Rai (15.3%). Other migrant groups among males exceeding 10 per cent were Newar, Magar, Tamang, Kami, Damai and Limbu. The least migratory group among male migrants belonged to Tharu, Muslim and Yadav. Among female migrants, Tarai Brahmin was the most dominant caste (30.7%) followed

by hill Brahmin (28.2%), Thakuri (23.8%), Sanyashi (21.1%), Limbu (19.7%), Gurung (19%), Newar (18.9%), Chhetri (17.8%) Rai (16.7%), Muslim (15.8%), and Damai (15.2%). Tharu and Yadav were the least migratory among female migrants.

In all, 88.6 per cent internal migrants five years ago were living in the rural areas of Nepal and only 11.4 per cent were living in the urban areas. A number of development variables are found to be associated with migration variables. The correlation coefficients show significant relationships of development indices with migration variables. In-migration and net positive migration show positive signs of development. Even emigration tends to be good for the country in terms of reducing unemployment and increasing remittances. Any poverty strategy in Nepal is bound to be more successful with a strong component of migration policy integrated with it.

Further research in this area should focus on developing more recent indicators of development and relating these with migration at the very district level and below. Poverty mapping exercise should be incorporated with spatial distribution of in- and-out-migrants as well as foreign born and absentee population with special focus on gender and children. Migration and the spread of HIV/AIDS should be examined in relation to its effect on non-migrant population.

### **15.5.2 Conclusion**

In 2003, Nepal's population is estimated to have reached 25.1 million with a density of population approaching 200 persons per square kilometer by 2005.

Every two in five persons in Nepal lives below absolute poverty line and every other person in the rural area is poor. Even if the present level of poverty (38%) were reduced to 30 per cent, the absolute number of people below the poverty line will not decrease because of runaway population growth rate. Only those under extreme poverty will remain in the villages but a large majority will migrate.

High unemployment and underemployment will force people to remain either under severe poverty or migrate to other places within and outside the country for better opportunity for livelihood.

The volume of inter-district migration may double in the next census from the present 2.9 million. Urban areas will be the destination of more than 50 per cent in-migrants. This will create a severe shortage of services and security in urban areas, especially in the valley towns.

- ?? Important causes of internal migration in Nepal in the present decade will poverty, inequitable distribution of income, unemployment, difficult livelihood, and food insecurity. This will push more and more people to foreign countries.
- ?? Internal migration in Nepal has been very much a permanent phenomenon as 44.1 per cent of the total inter-district migrants were living in the destination for more than 10 years in 2001. Those staying in the destination for 1-5 and 6-10 years respectively comprised 28.3 and 22.7 per cent. Migration for less than five years is picking up and will dominate in the future.

Migrants are more literate than non-migrants and the level of education in general among migrant males is higher than that of female migrants. Female migrants will increase in the future for aspiration of higher education in order to bridge the gap of gender discrimination or face the consequences of severe social and economic problems in the origin, especially among adolescents. If the latter occurs, there will be an increasing number of child labour migrations in the urban areas.

Out-migration of hill ethnic groups both to urban areas and abroad will dominate with both negative and positive consequences. In urban areas, poor and non-migrants will not compete with returnees for space with extremely high land value and exorbitant cost of other services. This will benefit the government as a source of revenue. It will, however, exacerbate urban population density unless the government initiates alternate urban land use zoning for accommodating in-migrants. The present scheme of commercial housing in urban areas is only for the rich people with a price twice greater than the actual cost which the middle class and the poor can not afford. Economy housing scheme heavily subsidized by the government for the middle class and the poor will be inevitable in order to avoid public unrest and increase confidence in the government.

In-migration and net positive migration show positive signs of development. Even emigration tends to be good for the country in terms of reducing unemployment and increasing remittances. Any poverty strategy in Nepal is bound to be more successful with a strong component of migration policy integrated with it.

Further research in this area should focus on developing more recent indicators of development and relating these with migration at the village and the district level. Consequences rather than causes of migration in the urban areas, especially in the Kathmandu Valley would be an important topic for further investigation.

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**Appendix 15.1: In-migration, out-migration, net-migration and gross-migration by regions, Nepal, 1981-2001**

Region	2001				1991				1981			
	In-Migrants	Out-Migrants	Net-Migration	Gross Migration	In-Migrants	Out-Migrants	Net-Migration	Gross Migration	In-Migrants	Out-Migrants	Net-Migration	Gross-Migration
<b>Mountain</b>												259,894
Eastern	15,957	130,446	-114,489	146,403	12,439	94,568	-82,129	107,007	23,907	235,987	-212,080	
Central	11,991	81,145	-69,154	93,136	11,333	52,560	-41,227	63,893	10,425	21,736	-11,311	32,161
Western	3,716	4,977	-1,261	8,693	2,584	5,140	-2,556	7,724	1,080	38,219	-37,139	39,299
Mid-Western	2,710	23,139	-20,429	25,849	4,931	12,711	-7,780	17,642	7,330	5,912	1,418	13,242
Far-Western	8,353	58,123	-49,770	66,476	8,464	36,427	-27,963	44,891	10,886	13,241	-2,355	24,127
<b>Hill</b>												
Eastern	70,330	403,380	-333,050	473,710	40,433	315,666	-275,233	356,099	31,423	265,360	-233,937	296,783
Central	362,536	176,882	185,654	539,418	157,435	155,298	2,137	312,733	71,873	119,275	-47,402	191,148
Western	54,442	470,994	-416,552	525,436	30,452	306,821	-276,369	337,273	62,572	150,104	-87,532	212,676
Mid-Western	34,711	136,983	-102,272	171,694	22,447	124,130	-101,683	146,577	31,500	54,528	-23,028	86,028
Far-Western	18,394	182,933	-164,539	201,327	16,349	119,124	-102,775	135,473	14,559	47,371	-32,812	61,930
<b>Tarai</b>												
Eastern	435,659	140,540	295,119	576,199	362,486	74,639	287,847	437,125	300,835	38,955	261,880	339,790
Central	291,068	142,831	148,237	433,899	235,313	71,636	163,677	306,949	214,473	29,053	185,420	243,526
Western	293,812	37,576	256,236	331,388	197,915	15,210	182,705	213,125	111,435	4,672	106,763	116,107
Mid-Western	164,289	44,117	120,172	208,406	128,232	28,151	100,081	156,383	54,364	13,238	41,126	67,602
Far-Western	279,382	13,284	266,098	292,666	187,393	6,125	181,268	193,518	92,200	1,211	90,989	93,411
<b>NEPAL</b>	<b>2,047,350</b>	<b>2,047,350</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,094,700</b>	<b>1,418,206</b>	<b>1,418,206</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,836,412</b>	<b>1,038,862</b>	<b>1,038,862</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,077,724</b>

Source: KC, 1998; CBS, 2002.

**Appendix 15.2: In-migration by sex and district, Nepal, 2001**

S. No.	Districts	Population			In-Migration as a Percentage of District Population					
		Total	Male	Female	Total		Male		Female	
		No.	No.	No.	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1.	Taplejung	134,698	66,205	68,493	3,972	2.95	821	1.24	3,152	4.60
2.	Sankhuwasabha	159,203	77,853	81,350	8,450	5.31	3,140	4.03	5,311	6.53
3.	Solukhumbu	107,686	53,173	54,513	4,358	4.05	1,382	2.60	2,978	5.46
4.	Panchthar	202,056	99,042	103,014	12,350	6.11	3,055	3.08	9,297	9.02
5.	Ilam	282,806	142,434	140,372	32,039	11.33	14,388	10.10	17,651	12.57
6.	Dhankuta	166,479	81,841	84,638	22,181	13.32	9,839	12.02	12,342	14.58
7.	Terhathum	113,111	54,932	58,179	9,350	8.27	1,735	3.16	7,615	13.09
8.	Bhojpur	203,018	97,762	105,256	7,021	3.46	1,722	1.76	5,299	5.03
9.	Okhaldhunga	156,702	75,361	81,341	4,736	3.02	673	0.89	4,062	4.99
10.	Khotang	231,385	112,821	118,564	5,769	2.49	1,210	1.07	4,559	3.85
11.	Udayapur	287,689	143,756	143,933	51,149	17.78	24,713	17.19	26,436	18.37
12.	Johanna	633,042	314,627	318,415	162,293	25.64	78,453	24.94	83,839	26.33
13.	Mooring	843,220	422,895	420,325	181,981	21.58	84,505	19.98	97,476	23.19
14.	Sensor	625,633	315,530	310,103	159,785	25.54	74,388	23.58	85,399	27.54
15.	Spatter	570,282	291,409	278,873	18,679	3.28	5,600	1.92	13,079	4.69
16.	Siraha	569,880	292,679	277,201	34,796	6.11	10,941	3.74	23,855	8.61
17.	Dolakha	175,912	86,110	89,802	4,383	2.49	1,877	2.18	2,507	2.79
18.	Sindhupalchok	293,719	146,341	147,378	6,222	2.12	1,459	1.00	4,763	3.23
19.	Rasuwa	44,731	23,355	21,376	2,817	6.30	1,280	5.48	1,537	7.19
20.	Sindhuli	277,259	138,037	139,222	27,393	9.88	12,936	9.37	14,457	10.38
21.	Ramechhap	212,408	100,853	111,555	6,109	2.88	1,022	1.01	5,087	4.56
22.	Kavre	385,672	188,947	196,725	33,514	8.69	8,741	4.63	24,772	12.59
23.	Lalitpur	337,785	172,455	165,330	68,512	20.28	30,620	17.76	37,892	22.92
24.	Bhaktapur	225,461	114,798	110,663	40,645	18.03	17,967	15.65	22,678	20.49
25.	Kathmandu	1,081,845	576,010	505,835	346,191	32.00	187,466	32.55	158,724	31.38
26.	Nuwakot	288,478	142,731	145,747	12,366	4.29	4,027	2.82	8,339	5.72
27.	Dhading	338,658	165,864	172,794	13,949	4.12	3,072	1.85	10,878	6.30
28.	Makwanpur	392,604	199,144	193,460	91,523	23.31	45,396	22.80	46,126	23.84
29.	Dhanusha	671,364	349,422	321,942	71,014	10.58	31,017	8.88	39,997	12.42
30.	Mahottari	553,481	287,905	265,576	30,241	5.46	7,490	2.60	22,753	8.57
31.	Sarlahi	635,701	329,182	306,519	51,874	8.16	20,814	6.32	31,061	10.13
32.	Rautahat	545,132	282,246	262,886	26,229	4.81	7,500	2.66	18,728	7.12
33.	Bara	559,135	289,397	269,738	49,624	8.88	17,144	5.92	32,481	12.04
34.	Parsa	497,219	260,411	236,808	32,044	6.44	13,702	5.26	18,342	7.75
35.	Chitwan	472,048	235,084	236,964	162,528	34.43	80,343	34.18	82,185	34.68
36.	Manang	9,587	5,034	4,553	1,253	13.07	879	17.46	373	8.19
37.	Mustang	14,981	8,180	6,801	2,500	16.69	1,896	23.18	604	8.88
38.	Gorkha	288,134	134,407	153,727	11,667	4.05	4,214	3.14	7,453	4.85
39.	Lamjung	177,149	83,406	93,743	10,877	6.14	2,929	3.51	7,948	8.48

S No.	Districts	Population			In-migration as a percentage of district population					
		Total	Male	Female	Total		Male		Female	
		No.	No.	No.	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
40.	Tanahu	315,237	146,788	168,449	32,482	10.30	13,009	8.86	19,472	11.56
41.	Syangja	317,320	143,619	173,701	15,545	4.90	4,334	3.02	11,212	6.45
42.	Kaski	380,527	184,995	195,532	59,507	15.64	26,842	14.51	32,664	16.71
43.	Myagdi	114,447	53,178	61,269	3,965	3.46	1,293	2.43	2,672	4.36
44.	Parbat	157,826	72,942	84,884	12,685	8.04	2,263	3.10	10,422	12.28
45.	Baglung	268,937	123,528	145,409	17,668	6.57	5,607	4.54	12,061	8.29
46.	Gulmi	296,654	133,771	162,883	13,105	4.42	2,064	1.54	11,041	6.78
47.	Palpa	268,558	125,068	143,490	24,483	9.12	9,457	7.56	15,026	10.47
48.	Arghakhanchi	208,391	96,349	112,042	7,560	3.63	1,228	1.27	6,332	5.65
49.	Nawalparasi	562,870	278,257	284,613	97,539	17.33	43,038	15.47	54,500	19.15
50.	Rupandehi	708,419	360,773	347,646	189,327	26.73	93,507	25.92	95,820	27.56
51.	Kapilbastu	481,976	247,875	234,101	36,532	7.58	16,288	6.57	20,243	8.65
52.	Dolpa	22,071	11,137	10,934	773	3.50	510	4.58	263	2.41
53.	Jumla	69,226	35,759	33,467	1,449	2.09	631	1.76	819	2.45
54.	Kalikot	11,510	6,291	5,219	358	3.11	143	2.27	215	4.12
55.	Mugu	31,465	16,134	15,331	724	2.30	376	2.33	348	2.27
56.	Humla	40,595	20,962	19,633	896	2.21	146	0.70	749	3.82
57.	Pyuthan	212,484	98,390	114,094	4,376	2.06	864	0.88	3,512	3.08
58.	Rolpa	210,004	101,592	108,412	2,854	1.36	802	0.79	2,053	1.89
59.	Rukum	188,438	95,432	93,006	956	0.51	266	0.28	690	0.74
60.	Salyan	60,643	30,958	29,685	1,185	1.95	469	1.51	715	2.41
61.	Surkhet	269,870	133,941	135,929	55,822	20.68	29,144	21.76	26,677	19.63
62.	Dailekh	225,201	110,125	115,076	4,873	2.16	2,061	1.87	2,812	2.44
63.	Jajarkot	134,868	68,508	66,360	955	0.71	82	0.12	873	1.32
64.	Dang	462,380	228,958	233,422	60,592	13.10	30,700	13.41	29,892	12.81
65.	Banke	385,840	198,231	187,609	69,146	17.92	34,542	17.43	34,606	18.45
66.	Bardiya	382,649	192,655	189,994	64,032	16.73	30,877	16.03	33,156	17.45
67.	Bajura	100,626	49,813	50,813	2,901	2.88	491	0.99	2,409	4.74
68.	Bajhang	167,026	80,676	86,350	3,029	1.81	433	0.54	2,598	3.01
69.	Darchaula	121,996	59,791	62,205	3,500	2.87	703	1.18	2,797	4.50
70.	Achham	231,285	108,998	122,287	4,941	2.14	893	0.82	4,048	3.31
71.	Doti	207,066	103,521	103,545	8,981	4.34	4,046	3.91	4,935	4.77
72.	Dadeldhura	126,162	60,965	65,197	10,944	8.67	4,815	7.90	6,129	9.40
73.	Baitadi	234,418	113,538	120,880	4,983	2.13	830	0.73	4,154	3.44
74.	Kailali	616,697	312,311	304,386	164,242	26.63	83,182	26.63	81,059	26.63
75.	Kanchanpur	377,899	191,910	185,989	123,767	32.75	64,053	33.38	59,713	32.11
Total		22,736,984	11,359,378	11,377,556	2,929,061	12.88	1,330,345	11.71	1,598,722	14.05

**Appendix 15.3 : Rural-urban, urban-urban, rural-rural and urban-rural migration streams by district, Nepal, 2001**

S. No.	Districts	Four Streams of Migration								Total No.
		Rural-Urban		Urban-Urban		Rural-Rural		Urban-Rural		
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
1.	Taplejung	-	-	-	-	3,847	96.8	126	3.2	3,973
2.	Sankhuwasabha	1,523	18.0	81	1.0	6,451	76.3	396	4.7	8,451
3.	Solukhumbu	-	-	-	-	4,224	96.9	135	3.1	4,359
4.	Panchthar	-	-	-	-	11,729	95.0	622	5.0	12,351
5.	Ilam	2,883	9.0	267	0.8	27,225	85.0	1,664	5.2	32,039
6.	Dhankuta	3,371	15.2	603	2.7	15,955	71.9	2,252	10.2	22,181
7.	Terhathum	-	-	-	-	9,042	96.7	308	3.3	9,350
8.	Bhojpur	-	-	-	-	6,560	93.4	461	6.6	7,021
9.	Okhaldhunga	-	-	-	-	4,472	94.4	263	5.6	4,735
10.	Khotang	-	-	-	-	5,504	95.4	265	4.6	5,769
11.	Udayapur	10,246	20.0	659	1.3	38,417	75.1	1,826	3.6	51,148
12.	Jhapa	24,811	15.3	1,076	0.7	132,170	81.4	4,235	2.6	162,292
13.	Morang	29,869	16.4	2,895	1.6	145,966	80.2	3,250	1.8	181,980
14.	Sunsari	53,970	33.8	3,292	2.1	98,845	61.9	3,679	2.3	159,786
15.	Saptari	1,235	6.6	241	1.3	15,478	82.9	1,726	9.2	18,680
16.	Siraha	4,377	12.6	423	1.2	28,045	80.6	1,951	5.6	34,796
17.	Dolakha	627	14.3	107	2.4	3,226	73.6	423	9.7	4,383
18.	Sindhupalchok	-	-	-	-	5,662	91.0	561	9.0	6,223
19.	Rasuwa	-	-	-	-	2,595	92.2	221	7.8	2,816
20.	Sindhuli	4,423	16.1	326	1.2	21,384	78.1	1,259	4.6	27,392
21.	Ramechhap	-	-	-	-	5,860	95.9	249	4.1	6,109
22.	Kavre	4,541	13.5	1,928	5.8	20,551	61.3	6,493	19.4	33,513
23.	Lalitpur	38,784	56.6	11,910	17.4	15,671	22.9	2,147	3.1	68,512
24.	Bhaktapur	18,118	44.6	3,789	9.3	15,672	38.6	3,066	7.5	40,645
25.	Kathmandu	248,551	71.8	31,875	9.2	63,398	18.3	2,366	0.7	346,190
26.	Nuwakot	1,294	10.5	314	2.5	9,160	74.1	1,599	12.9	12,367
27.	Dhading	-	-	-	-	12,999	93.2	950	6.8	13,949
28.	Makawanpur	19,240	21.0	2,955	3.2	61,212	66.9	8,116	8.9	91,523
29.	Dhanusha	11,003	15.5	902	1.3	55,352	77.9	3,757	5.3	71,014
30.	Mahottari	945	3.1	149	0.5	27,400	90.6	1,747	5.8	30,241
31.	Sarlahi	835	1.6	105	0.2	49,476	95.4	1,458	2.8	51,874
32..	Rautahat	714	2.7	48	0.2	24,536	93.5	931	3.5	26,229
33.	Bara	2,188	4.4	314	0.6	44,100	88.9	3,022	6.1	49,624
34.	Parsa	12,491	39.0	3,026	9.4	16,356	51.0	171	0.5	32,044
35.	Chitwan	46,026	28.3	1,688	1.0	111,053	68.3	3,761	2.3	162,528
36.	Manang	-	-	-	-	1,195	95.4	58	4.6	1,253
37.	Mustang	-	-	-	-	2,321	92.8	179	7.2	2,500
38.	Gorkha	1,216	10.4	156	1.3	9,543	81.8	752	6.4	11,667
39.	Lamjung	-	-	-	-	10,497	96.5	380	3.5	10,877

S. No.	Districts	Four streams of migration								Total No.
		Rural-Urban		Urban-Urban		Rural-Rural		Urban-Rural		
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
40.	Tanahu	3,416	10.5	272	0.8	27,402	84.4	1,392	4.3	32,482
41.	Syangja	2,197	14.1	249	1.6	12,150	78.2	950	6.1	15,546
42.	Kaski	49,227	82.7	3,264	5.5	7,454	12.5	-438	-0.7	59,507
43.	Myagdi	-	-	-	-	3,627	91.5	338	8.5	3,965
44.	Parbat	-	-	-	-	11,979	94.4	706	5.6	12,685
45.	Baglung	2,433	13.8	250	1.4	13,882	78.6	1,103	6.2	17,668
46.	Gulmi	-	-	-	-	12,908	98.5	198	1.5	13,106
47.	Palpa	3,184	13.0	304	1.2	19,549	79.8	1,446	5.9	24,483
48.	Arghakhanchi	-	-	-	-	7,528	99.6	32	0.4	7,560
49.	Nawalparasi	1,842	1.9	173	0.2	92,710	95.0	2,814	2.9	97,539
50.	Rupandehi	41,355	21.8	2,643	1.4	138,241	73.0	7,088	3.7	189,327
51.	Kapilbastu	1,278	3.5	114	0.3	34,328	94.0	811	2.2	36,531
52.	Dolpa	-	-	-	-	764	99.0	8	1.0	772
53.	Jumla	-	-	-	-	1,373	94.8	75	5.2	1,448
54.	Kalikot	-	-	-	-	307	86.0	50	14.0	357
55.	Mugu	-	-	-	-	671	92.7	53	7.3	724
56.	Humla	-	-	-	-	884	98.7	12	1.3	896
57.	Pyuthan	-	-	-	-	4,237	96.8	140	3.2	4,377
58.	Rolpa	-	-	-	-	2,599	91.1	255	8.9	2,854
59.	Rukum	-	-	-	-	931	97.4	25	2.6	956
60.	Salyan	-	-	-	-	1,151	97.1	34	2.9	1,185
61.	Surkhet	8,613	15.4	483	0.9	44,965	80.6	1,761	3.2	55,822
62.	Dailekh	494	10.1	97	2.0	3,836	78.7	446	9.2	4,873
63.	Jajarkot	-	-	-	-	939	98.3	16	1.7	955
64.	Dang	11,834	19.5	523	0.9	46,500	76.7	1,736	2.9	60,593
65.	Banke	9,682	14.0	1,221	1.8	54,414	78.7	3,830	5.5	69,147
66.	Bardiya	5,964	9.3	132	0.2	56,481	88.2	1,456	2.3	64,033
67.	Bajura	-	-	-	-	2,820	97.2	81	2.8	2,901
68.	Bajhang	-	-	-	-	2,981	98.4	49	1.6	3,030
69.	Darchaula	-	-	-	-	3,042	86.9	458	13.1	3,500
70.	Achham	-	-	-	-	4,875	98.7	66	1.3	4,941
71.	Doti	1,327	14.8	118	1.3	7,009	78.1	526	5.9	8,980
72.	Dadeldhura	876	8.0	169	1.5	9,346	85.4	553	5.1	10,944
73.	Baitadi	367	7.4	43	0.9	4,309	86.5	264	5.3	4,983
74.	Kailali	31,130	19.0	1,574	1.0	125,088	76.2	6,450	3.9	164,242
75.	Kanchanpur	27,785	22.4	667	0.5	93,418	75.5	1,897	1.5	123,767
<b>Total</b>		<b>746,285</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>81,425</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>1,997,847</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>103,506</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>2,929,063</b>

**Appendix 15.4: Population by place of birth by municipalities, Nepal, 2001.**

S. N.	District	Areas	Total Population	Total Native		Same District		Other District			Foreign Born		
				No.	%	No.	%	VDC	%	Municipality	%	No.	%
	Mountain Districts	Mountain Towns	43,705	43,539	99.62	41,201	94.63	2,150	4.94	188	0.43	166	0.38
		Col. %	1.4	1.4		1.8		0.3		0.2		0.1	
1	Sankhuwasabha	Khandbari	21,789	21,673	99.47	20,069	92.60	1,523	7.03	81	0.37	116	0.53
2	Dolakha	Bhimeswor	21,916	21,866	99.77	21,132	96.64	627	2.87	107	0.49	50	0.23
	Hill Districts	Hill Towns	720,311	706,113	98.03	574,307	81.33	119,348	16.90	12,457	1.76	14,198	1.97
		Col. %	22.3	22.9		25.4		16.0		15.3		9.9	
3	Ilam	Ilam	16,237	15,969	98.35	12,820	80.28	2,883	18.05	267	1.67	268	1.65
4	Dhankuta	Dhankuta	20,668	20,452	98.95	16,477	80.56	3,371	16.48	603	2.95	216	1.05
5	Udayapur	Trijuga	55,291	54,436	98.45	43,530	79.97	10,246	18.82	659	1.21	855	1.55
6	Sindhuli	Kamalamai	32,838	32,536	99.08	27,787	85.40	4,423	13.59	326	1.00	302	0.92
7	Kavre	Banepa	15,822	15,727	99.40	13,549	86.15	1,302	8.28	876	5.57	95	0.60
8	Kavre	Dhulikhel	11,521	11,416	99.09	9,746	85.37	1,299	11.38	371	3.25	105	0.91
9	Kavre	Panauti	25,563	25,408	99.39	22,787	89.68	1,940	7.64	681	2.68	155	0.61
10	Nuwakot	Bidur	21,193	21,091	99.52	19,483	92.38	1,294	6.14	314	1.49	102	0.48
11	Makawanpur	Hetauda	68,482	66,248	96.74	44,053	66.50	19,240	29.04	2,955	4.46	2,234	3.26
12	Gorkha	Prithbinarayan	25,783	25,661	99.53	24,289	94.65	1,216	4.74	156	0.61	122	0.47
13	Tanahu	Byas	28,245	27,676	97.99	23,988	86.67	3,416	12.34	272	0.98	569	2.01
14	Syangja	Putalibazar	29,667	29,291	98.73	27,597	94.22	1,476	5.04	217	0.74	376	1.27
15	Syangja	Waling	20,414	20,295	99.42	19,542	96.29	721	3.55	32	0.16	119	0.58
16	Kaski	Lekhnath	41,369	40,404	97.67	34,440	85.24	5,769	14.28	195	0.48	965	2.33
17	Kaski	Pokhara	156,312	150,356	96.19	103,829	69.06	43,458	28.90	3,069	2.04	5,956	3.81
18	Baglung	Kalika	20,852	20,580	98.70	17,897	86.96	2,433	11.82	250	1.21	272	1.30
19	Palpa	Tansen	20,431	20,060	98.18	16,572	82.61	3,184	15.87	304	1.52	371	1.82
20	Surkhet	Birendranagar	31,381	30,843	98.29	21,748	70.51	8,613	27.93	483	1.57	538	1.71
21	Dailekh	Narayan	19,446	19,394	99.73	18,803	96.95	494	2.55	97	0.50	52	0.27
22	Doti	Dipayal	22,061	21,810	98.86	20,365	93.37	1,327	6.08	118	0.54	251	1.14
23	Dadeldhura	Amargadhi	18,390	18,331	99.68	17,286	94.30	876	4.78	169	0.92	59	0.32
24	Baitadi	Dashrathchand	18,345	18,129	98.82	17,719	97.74	367	2.02	43	0.24	216	1.18

S. N.	District	Areas	Total Population	Total Native		Same District		Other District				Foreign Born	
				No.	%	No.	%	VDC	%	Municipality	%	No.	%
	Valley Districts	Valley Towns	995,966	965,809	96.97	612,781	63.45	305,453	31.63	47,574	4.93	30157	3.03
		Col. %	30.9	31.3		27.1		40.9		58.4		21.1	
25	Lalitpur	Lalitpur	162,991	158,665	97.35	107,971	68.05	38,784	24.44	11,910	7.51	4,326	2.65
26	Bhaktapur	Bhaktapur	72,543	72,204	99.53	63,363	87.76	7,062	9.78	1,779	2.46	339	0.47
27	Bhaktapur	Madhyapur	47,751	47,510	99.50	34,444	72.50	11,056	23.27	2,010	4.23	241	0.50
28	Kathmandu	Kathmandu	671,846	646,882	96.28	375,854	58.10	240,207	37.13	30,821	4.76	24,964	3.72
29	Kathmandu	Kirtipur	40,835	40,548	99.30	31,149	76.82	8,344	20.58	1,054	2.60	287	0.70
	Tarai Districts	Tarai Towns	1,467,897	1,369,643	93.31	1,029,103	75.14	319,334	23.32	21,206	1.55	98,254	6.69
		Col. %	45.5	44.4		45.6		42.8		26.0		68.8	
30	Jhapa	Bhadrapur	18,145	16,032	88.35	12,621	78.72	3,003	18.73	407	2.54	2,113	11.65
31	Jhapa	Damak	35,009	32,975	94.19	21,205	64.31	11,384	34.52	386	1.17	2,034	5.81
32	Jhapa	Mechinagar	49,060	45,151	92.03	34,444	76.29	10,424	23.09	283	0.63	3,909	7.97
33	Morang	Biratnagar	166,674	152,363	91.41	119,599	78.50	29,869	19.60	2895	1.90	14,311	8.59
34	Sunsari	Dharan	95,332	87,632	91.92	51,416	58.67	33,883	38.67	2333	2.66	7,700	8.08
35	Sunsari	Inaruwa	23,200	22,327	96.24	17,556	78.63	4,506	20.18	265	1.19	873	3.76
36	Sunsari	Itahari	41,210	39,201	95.12	22,927	58.49	15,581	39.75	694	1.77	2,009	4.88
37	Saptari	Rajbiraj	30,353	28,990	95.51	27,514	94.91	1,235	4.26	241	0.83	1,363	4.49
38	Siraha	Lahan	27,654	26,100	94.38	22,452	86.02	3,281	12.57	366	1.40	1,554	5.62
39	Siraha	Siraha	23,988	22,757	94.87	21,604	94.93	1,096	4.82	57	0.25	1,231	5.13
40	Dhanusha	Janakpur	74,192	68,912	92.88	57,007	82.72	11,003	15.97	902	1.31	5,280	7.12
41	Mahottari	Jaleswor	22,046	20,277	91.98	19,183	94.60	945	4.66	149	0.73	1,769	8.02
42	Sarlahi	Malangawa	18,484	17,168	92.88	16,228	94.52	835	4.86	105	0.61	1,316	7.12
43	Rautahat	Gaur	25,383	22,707	89.46	21,945	96.64	714	3.14	48	0.21	2,676	10.54
44	Bara	Kalैया	32,260	30,261	93.80	27,759	91.73	2,188	7.23	314	1.04	1,999	6.20
45	Parsa	Birgunj	112,484	98,013	87.14	82,497	84.17	12,491	12.74	3,026	3.09	14,471	12.86

S. N.	District	Areas	Total Population	Total Native		Same District		Other District				Foreign Born	
				No.	%	No.	%	VDC	%	Municipality	%	No.	%
46	Chitwan	Bharatpur	89,323	85,240	95.43	48,913	57.38	34,880	40.92	1,448	1.70	4,083	4.57
47	Chitwan	Ratnanagar	37,791	36,173	95.72	24,787	68.52	11,146	30.81	240	0.66	1,618	4.28
48	Nawalparasi	Ramgram	22,630	21,168	93.54	19,153	90.48	1,842	8.70	173	0.82	1,462	6.46
49	Rupandehi	Butwal	75,384	69,682	92.44	35,532	50.99	32,602	46.79	1,548	2.22	5,702	7.56
50	Rupandehi	Siddharthnagar	52,569	46,728	88.89	36,880	78.92	8,753	18.73	1,095	2.34	5,841	11.11
51	Kapilbastu	Kapilbastu	27,170	25,534	93.98	24,142	94.55	1,278	5.01	114	0.45	1,636	6.02
52	Dang	Tribhuvannagar	43,126	42,231	97.92	34,332	81.30	7,552	17.88	347	0.82	895	2.08
53	Dang	Tulsipur	33,876	33,357	98.47	28,899	86.64	4,282	12.84	176	0.53	519	1.53
54	Banke	Nepalganj	57,535	53,317	92.67	42,413	79.55	9,682	18.16	1,221	2.29	4,218	7.33
55	Bardiya	Gulariya	46,011	43,995	95.62	37,899	86.14	5,964	13.56	132	0.30	2,016	4.38
56	Kailali	Dhangadhi	67,447	65,463	97.06	43,559	66.54	20,475	31.28	1,428	2.18	1,984	2.94
57	Kailali	Tikapur	38,722	37,670	97.28	26,869	71.33	10,655	28.29	146	0.39	1,052	2.72
58	Kanchanpur	Mahendranagar	80,839	78,219	96.76	49,768	63.63	27,785	35.52	667	0.85	2,620	3.24
	Total %		100.0	100.0		100.0		100.0		100.0		100.0	
	Grand Total		3,227,879	3,085,104	95.58	2,257,392	73.17	746,285	24.19	81,425	2.64	142,775	4.42

Source: CBS, 2002.