

Received Date: January 2023

Revised: March 2023

Accepted: June 2023

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3126/jpd.v4i1.64237>

Changing Status of Women in Nepal

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Abstract

The study attempts to examine the trend in socio- demographic, economic and political situation of Nepalese women, and tries to explain the changes in these areas throughout time. It also tries to review the initiatives taken by the government to improve the lives women in Nepal. The study employs an exploratory and descriptive research design using the published data sheets from National Population Censuses and other National Surveys. The analysis found noticeable changes in all the social, demographic, economic and political areas in favor of women across the years. More than half of total population belongs to female (51%). With the socio-political transformations of the country, the role and status of women have also been dramatically changed in community and household and thinning the barrier to gender inequality. Over the last four decades (1991-2021), they have experienced significantly increased life expectancy (55.5 years - 72.7 years), reduced fertility (5-2.1children), and maternal mortality (575-151/000 live births) and raised the singulate mean age at marriage from 18 to 22 years. They have also significantly improved their educational attainment at all levels. A substantial proportion (52%) of Nepalese women are economically active. Female-headed households and fixed property owners have also been raised to 32 and 24 percent, respectively, which is a significant step toward enhancing women's status and bargaining power in society. After provision of the new Constitution, they experience remarkable progress in the political sphere and at the levels of decision-making. In addition to these achievements, the trend in the values of the GDI, GII, GEM, and HDI also confirms the significant improvements in their socioeconomic and political roles, and the gap in gender inequality between males and females has narrowed over time. These developments and achievements could be the outcome of government initiatives and women's struggles to secure their rights.

Key words: Womens' Status, changes, & improvement

Introduction

According to the latest census 2021, the population of Nepal stood at 2,91,64,578 an

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increase of 2,670,074 (10%) from 2011. The population has increased by 10.08% during the past decade, with an average annual growth rate of 0.92 percent, far lower than the 1.35% growth rate recorded in the 2011 census. The census also revealed that the sex ratio i.e. males per 100 females was 95.8. as well as of the total population, female population comprised 51.13 percent as compared to 48.18 percent of male population (NSO, 2021).

Historically, Nepal has predominantly been a patriarchal society where women are generally subordinate to men in virtually every aspect of life. Men were considered to be the leader of the family and superior than women. He is the owner of family property and right. In this society women face systematic discrimination, and restricted women's liberation i.e., freedom of expression, mobility, decision making, choices and rights. It has been as one of the main obstacles for women's equal participation in social, economic activities and the decision-making process. They have faced the partiality in the field of economic, political and social sectors (Rajkarnikar, 2019).

Male and female are two sides of a coin. It means that both of them get the equal chance of opportunity and feel the equal responsibility towards the nation. Woman are the back bone of their family, pillar of community life and primary care taker of next generation. Although female population is covered by more than 50 percent in Nepal their representation in various sectors of the nation is very low. They remains poor in terms of health care, education, income, decision-making, and access to policy making. They had limited access to markets, productive services and resources and local government. Women usually worked harder and longer than men but compelled to face malnutrition and poverty. Violence against women is still common in Nepal, they are frequently subjected to a regime of rape and domestic abuse, and young women risk being trafficked to the brothels of India. Also, there are many superstitions and taboos related to caste and mensuration leading to discrimination of women (Dhakal, 2019).

In the past four decades, women's situation in western countries has undergone dramatic and remarkable changes. After the World War II, many changes took place and empowerment of women was one of them. Society realized that women are indispensable pillars for development and success; thus various policies were brought in action to promote women's empowerment. Human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birth right privileges of all the human beings. Their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of all governments. Apart from the preliminary policies such as those against female trafficking, promoting gender equality, women's rights, right to food, employment and the abolition of child marriages, more laws are promulgated and enacted to enhance

the status of women all over the world. With the development in technology, women have maximum opportunities to rule the world in different ways (Achrya, 2020).

The International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo 1994) has emphasized women empowerment as a basic tool for country's overall development and improving the quality of life. It also defined reproductive rights as the basic right of couples and individual. The fourth world conference on women (Beijing1995) has also followed the theme of Cairo Conference as improving women's access to and control over economic resources can be a key lever for lifting families and communities out of poverty. Nepal is a signatory to the international declarations and conventions on equal opportunity and non-discrimination between men and women (Dhakal, 2019).

Nepal has been undergoing tremendous socio-political transformations over the past two decades, from civil war to negotiated peace, unitary to federal and monarchical government, and ultimately to the current republican political system, where the role of women is prominent. Historically, despite unfavorable circumstances, Nepali women have established themselves as key actors of socio-political changes. Under the leadership of Yogmaya Neupane (1860-1941), Nepali women began their struggle for their socio-economic and political freedom and rights during the Rana Regime and advanced since the 1950s, by engaging both in popular peaceful political movements to armed insurgency and parliamentary competition with their male political counterparts. As a result, the new constitution of Nepal in 2015, guarantees women's right to participate in all structures and bodies of the State based on the principle of proportional inclusion, with the 33 percent reservation applying to government positions and parliamentary seats (Upreti et al, 2020).

Over the decades, there has been a dramatic positive change in the role and status of women in Nepal, and thinning the barrier to gender inequality. Today, Nepalese women are defying cultural traditions, and are becoming community leaders, environmentalists, politicians and business owners. In October 2015, Nepal elected its first female president, Bidhya Devi Bhandari. Other famous Nepali women include CNN Hero of the Year winners Anuradha Koirala, Pushpa Basnet, first female to climb Mt. Everest Pasang Lamu Sherpa, international award-winning athletes Mira Rai, Phupu Lhamu Khatri, and first female chief justice Sushila Karki (Wikipedia, 2021).

This paper tries to explain how the role and socio-demographic, economic and political status of Nepalese women have changes over the years, on the basis of secondary data.

Objectives

The main objective of the study is to assess how the demographic socio- economic and political situation of Nepalese women have been changing over the years?

The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

- a. To examine the trend of demographic, social, economic and political situation of women in Nepal.
- b. To review the governments' efforts for the betterment of women's' status in Nepal.
- c. To assess the parameter that explain the achievement in gender equality in Nepal.

Significance

The finding of this study plays a significant role to provide additional information about the changing status of Nepalese women in their socio- economic, and political life over the period, for individual, researcher and students. Furthermore the research will be good reference and clues for the NGOs, INGOs, and CBOs who are working for the enhancement of Nepalese women as well as it will provide reference material for those who are interested about it. This study will work as a basis for further research.

Methodology

The paper has adopted both descriptive and exploratory research methodology based on the published data from National Population Census, 2021 and other previous censuses data collected by CBS and NSO and the data from national surveys and reports. The information gathered from these various sources is used to explore the trend in socio-demographic, political, and economic circumstances of Nepalese women and how it has changed over time. Additionally, this paper is based on review of existing policy documents, literature- mainly books, journal, article reports and websites.

Interpretation of the Data

Demographic and Social Status of Women in Nepal

Social status determines a person's place in the intricate system of social relationships. In the Nepalese social system and in Hindu lifestyle, patriarchal values and norms are predominant (UNDP, 2004). Under this topic the study deals with sex composition, marital

status, fertility, health status, and educational attainment, which are directly linked with the changing role and status of women.

Sex Ratio and Percentage Distribution of Women

The sex composition of a population is indicated by sex ratio and percentage distribution of population by sex. Sex ratio indicates the number of males per 100 females. In normal populations sex ratio of 103-105 is obtained at birth. As the age increases i.e. by the age of five, the sex ratio is considered to be more or less equal. As the age increases, sex ratio gets in favor of females as mortality for males are higher than females (MoHP, 2011). It is also an important indicator to reflect women's status in society, which also impacts on the development of a country.

The data on sex ratio and percentage distribution of women shows, slightly shift in favor of women over the decades. The sex ratio decreased from 105:100 in 1981 to 94.2 in 2011 and 95.59 in 2021 along with increased percentage of women in population from 50.13 percent in 1991 to 51.13 percent in 2021. This type of the situation may be seen due to the rising number of absentee male population, death of more men than women during the armed conflict, an expansion in health facilities and a longer life expectancy for females.(Table 1)

Marital Status

Marriage plays an import role in woman's life, it is almost universal for all men and women in Nepal. The event of marriage determines almost all her life options and subsequent livelihood. For women, besides the social need to give birth to children, marriage is also seen as a primary means of livelihood in almost all communities (CBS, 2014). Under this topic it talks about the trend in ever married women who have been married at least once in their lives, never married, singulate mean age at first marriage and child marriage.

Data analysis shows the universality of marriage still prevails in Nepal, although the proportion of single persons is growing. The mean age at marriage for females has increased, but child marriage seems to be persistent in the country. Overall the percentage married women fell from 73 percent in 1991 to 64 percent in 2021, with increased in the percentage of never married women from 25 to 41 percent in 2011and 28.4 percent in 2021. Child marriage is popular and still practiced in Nepal but the trend suggests that it is gradually declining over the years. The percentage of married girls under the age of 20 has declined from 54 percent in 1991 to 24 percent in 2011, with largest increase in the singulate mean age at marriage from 18 to 21.8 years of age during four decades.

It is because of increased literacy and education of women, increased the employment opportunity in non-agricultural sectors and government support and policy. (Table 1)

Total Fertility Rate (TFR)

The high level of fertility is one of the major cause of women's death and also plays a significant role in limiting their life option. More fertile women have less time for other types of activity besides child bearing. Here, the total fertility rate (TFR), is used as an indicator to assess the level of fertility among Nepali women, which is defined as the number of children of a woman would bear during her childbearing period under prevailing age specific fertility rates.

Data shows the level of fertility has been declining at a faster rate over the last decade. It has been declining since 1971 and decline has accelerated during the nineties (CBS, 2014). In 2001, the total fertility rate (TFR) of a woman throughout her lifetime is expected to be around 3.25 children per woman as against more than 5 in 1991 and further declined to 2.5 per woman in 2011. However, in 2021, the TFR has declined to two children, replacement levels (2.1). It may be due to increasing in mean age at marriage and proportion of never married women, higher education levels, employment opportunities, increasing contraceptive prevalence rates and health facilities for women. (Table 1)

Health Status of Women

Health is a biological phenomenon in human struggle for surviving. It is an essential part of human and social development which emphasizes the qualitative improvement in a person's ability to live a decent and healthy life. It is a human right, including the rights of reproductive health. The health of Nepalese women and adolescent girls is extremely poor due to inadequate intake of calories, protein and poor access to health services. Despite these facts, Nepal has made significant progress in reducing maternal and child mortality, adolescent pregnancy, nutrition status, health-seeking behavior, family planning, and other core aspects of reproductive health and rights. As a result, women's life expectancy has risen considerably (CBS, 2003). The overall state of women's health can be measured by the level mortality and life expectancy.

Maternal Mortality and life Expectancy

Maternal death is the female deaths from any causes related to pregnancy and childbirth or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy per 100,000 live births and the term “life expectancy” refers to the number of years a person can expect to live. Both of these indicators are the major in assessing the health situation of women in the country. Trends of these indicators shows Nepal has significantly improved in overall health situation of women. Maternal mortality has declined significantly from 575 per 100,000 live births in 1991 to 151 per 100,000 live births in 2021, with considerably increased in the life expectancy, reaching nearly 73 years now compared to 53.5 years in 1991. This could be the result of improved nutrition, social and health services, and use of family planning, and other core aspects of women's reproductive health and rights. (Table 1)

Table: 1 Trends in Demographic and Social Status of Women in Nepal, 1991-2021

Major Indicators	1991	2001	2011	2021
Sex ratio	99.47	99.8	94.2	95.59
Percentage of women	50.13	50.05	51.51	51.13
Marital Status				
Never married	25.7	30.3	31.13	28.4
Ever married	74.3	69.2	68.9	64.3
Child marriage (<20 years of age)	53.7	35.3	24.3	
Singulate mean age at marriage	18.1	19.5	20.6	21.83
Fertility and Mortality				
Total fertility Rate	5.16	4.1	2.3	2.1*
Maternal mortality	575	-	281	151
Life expectancy at birth	55.5	-	69.3	72.74**

Source; CBS, 2014, NSO, 2021 NDHS, 2022* & NPC,2021**

Note in this study child marriage is analysed below 20 years of age

Education

Education is the most important means of empowering women with knowledge, skill and self-confidence. It determine their status and position in the society. Education is a fundamental human right and, is essential for the exercise of all other human rights (CBS, 2014). The constitution of Nepal offers women equal educational opportunities but there

are many social, economic, and cultural obstacles in ensuring that girls can finish and receive an education (CBS, 2014). Despite this, the educational status of Nepalese women have increased noticeably throughout time. They enjoy greater access to education, and have achieved higher educational qualification in increased number. The female literacy rate (6+ years) has increased from only 25 per cent in 1991 to 69 percent in 2021 where as adult literacy (15 years and above) has increased to 63.9 percent from 35 percent in 2001.

Data also indicates that the Nepalese women have made remarkable achievements in the educational attainment at all levels from primary to post graduate, with narrowed the gender gap over the years. (Table, 2)

Table 2: Trend in Literacy Rate and Educational Attainment of Population by Sex, Nepal 1991-2021

Measure Indicators	1991		2001		2011		2021	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Literacy rate	54.5	25.0	65.1	42.5	76	57.8	83.6	69.4
Adult Literacy Rate	-	-	62.7	34.9	71.7	48.8	81*	63.3*
Primary level (1-5)	21.2	11.2	25.7	19.6	29.2	23.5	28.8	28.6
Secondary level(6-10)	12.9	5.0	20.1	13.0	25.1	19.2	35.7	35.1
Higher S. Level	4.5	1.3	10.3	5.1	13.7	9.4	22.0	22.6
Graduate and post graduate	1.1	0.2	3.0	0.7	3.8	1.6	7.3	6.0

Source ;CBS 2011, NSO 2021& WB 2022

Economic Status of Women in Nepal

The changing status of women is not represented only by demographic and social factors alone, it has to consider in terms of economic empowerment as well. Woman's access to and control over fixed asset is an important means of raising women's status and power and influence within households and communities. Ownership over the asset can play a significant role in combating gender discrimination by enhancing the bargaining power of women and helps to become an independent in the society (Rijal, 2017).

Women play a very important role in the economy of the country visibly and invisibly. Even though there are laws that entitle women to property rights, Nepalese women do not benefit from these laws in reality. The data and the legal provisions also reflects that women don't have equal access to economic resources which restrict them to make

decisions on the property and economy and leaving them behind in society. Therefore, the status of women's property, whether earned by women or received from parents, is an indicator of women's economic empowerment and their changing status (CBS, 2014).

There is a huge number of economically active women in Nepal who have no access to economic resources. As most women in Nepal are working as the unpaid labor force in the family and nearly 68 percent of them are involved in agriculture sector, there is no recognition of their contribution to the economic advantages that the family gets in return. In Nepal almost 24 percent of women have ownership of the fixed assets doubled from 2001 (10.8%) whereas 32 percent of women are head of households increased more than two times from 2001(15%). However, women's engagement in the non-agriculture sector has increased by about 12 percentage points in 2021 compared to 2011. Hence, Women's labour force participation rate, employment status and overall situation in the labour market show their economic status has improved over the decades. (Table 3)

Table: 3 Trend in Economic Status of Women in Nepal 1991-2021

Measure Indicators	1991	2001	2011	2021
Labour force participation rate	45.5	55.3	46.8	51.9
Agriculture and forestry	90.5	72.8	76.6	64.8
Non agriculture	8.9	27.0	23.4	35.2
Ownership of house/land	-	10.8	19.7	23.8
Female headed household	-	14.87	25.73	31.55

Source: CBS,2003, & 2014 and NSO,2021

Political Situation of Women in Nepal

Women's participation at various levels of decision-making is an essential element of political empowerment and a prerequisite for an equitable society. Political area is one of the important platforms to establish the presence and access of women at the policy level. Access to political power and decision-making process are considered as an index of the overall status of women in society. Women's participation at various levels of decision-making is an essential element of political empowerment and a prerequisite for an equitable society. In Nepal, an area of remarkable progress after the Constitution has been in women's political empowerment (HDR, 2020). The Constitution of Nepal reserves 33 percent representation of women in the Central and Federal Parliament, 40 percent in local government, and 34 percent in Provincial assemblies. The Constitution

also provisions that women must hold at least one of the two leadership positions, among the highest positions of the nation, hold one representative position as the head or deputy head of local government and be represented at least 33 percent in the State structure (Upreti et. al., 2018)

The political representation of women in Nepal has improved markedly since the overthrow of the monarchy and the implementation of a federal system. Legal provisions implemented by the Government of Nepal can be largely attributed to this increase in women’s political representation. Women’s representation in the Constituent Assembly dramatically increased to 31 percent in the May 2022 elections from 3.4 percent in 1991. There are only 91 women in the 275-member in Nepal Parliament, which constitutes only 31.10 percent lower than the 33 percent constitutionally mandated reservation for women. Female candidates performed slightly better in Provincial assemblies though, they only secured 200 of the 550 seats or 36.36 percent of the total all elected members. In local elections women made up 41.21 percent of the total elected representatives, slightly higher than 2017 local-level elections, of 40.95 percent. (Table 4)

Table 4: Overview of Womens’ Participation in Election

Election	Results for Women Candidates
1959 parliamentary election	6 women contesting in election lost where total 109 men were elected (suwal, 2013)
Rastiya Panchayat1986 (legislative) Election	Out of total 140 members,3 women were elected(Mongbay, 2013)
Parliamentary,1991	Out of 205 legislative representatives only 7 (3.4%) women were elected (Yami, 2010)
Parliamentary and local bodies,1999	out of total 205 member of parliaments 12 (5.85%) were women and of total 4146 local elected representatives 806 (19.4%) were women (UNESCO, 2001)
Constituent Assembly, 2008	30 out of 240 elected CA members were women of the total 601 CA members (Election Commission, 2008)
Constituent Assembly, 2013	out of 240 elected candidates total 10 (4.1%) candidates were women (Shahi, 2013)

Election	Results for Women Candidates
Federal, Provincial, and local level Election, 2017	17 in the House of Representatives, 6 in the Provincial Assembly and 21 in National Assembly and in local election Out of 3504 elected representatives, 40.96% were women. Women were won 91%dupty position and 25% mayers/chairpersons position of total position. (Election Commission, 2017).
Federal, Provincial and local level Election, 2022	Out of 275 newly elected members in HoR, 91(31.10%) are women and 200 (36.36%)out of the 550 seats in Provincial Assemblies are women(Election Commission, 2008) and in local election 41.21 percent of the total elected representatives are women, (Election Commission, 2022) .

Note; all of these above mentioned sources are cited in (Upreti ,2020) except the election of 2022.

Government Efforts in Increasing Women’s Status

Government of Nepal has implemented a number of laws, policies, programs, and action plans to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, guarantee that women and girls benefit more equally from national development initiatives such as;

Nepal has ratified 23 international human rights treaties and instruments, with the legal system in Nepal largely supporting GESI. It has also adopted significant normative frameworks for women's human rights, such as the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 2005 SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating the Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). These promises are embodied in Nepal's Constitution, and steps are being done to guarantee that all laws and policies uphold the gender equality clauses (GESI, 2017).

The Constitution of Nepal has emerged as a milestone in the advancement of women's empowerment and gender equality. It has granted women specific rights, such as the fundamental rights to equality, justice, and social security, and established daughters' rights to ancestral property. Similarly, the constitution introduced affirmative action measures for women's representation and promoted special provisions for women’s employment, health care, and education for increased participation of women in national development.

Additionally, it strictly prohibits violence and all forms of discrimination and inequality against women and girls (cited in MoWCSC, 2020).

The Civil Service Amendment Act 2014 embraces inclusivity and provides quotas for 45 percent of all civil service positions. Employees of these allocated 45 percent positions must comprise 33 percent women, 27 percent Adivasi Janajatis, 22 percent Madhesis, 9 percent Dalits, 5 percent persons with disabilities and 4 percent from other excluded groups. In addition, the provisions of the Local Government Operation Act make it mandatory to ensure the participation of women and excluded groups in the planning and implementation of development programmes (NLC, 2014).

GoN has implemented the gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) policies and gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) to make the development programmes and budgets more gender-responsive with the aim of increasing women's access to sector of resources (GESI, 2017). GoN has also implemented various periodic development plans and attempts to address the issues facing women in Nepal.

GoN recently endorsed the Gender Equality Policy (2077) developed under the leadership of the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen (MoWCSC). The Policy prioritizes the economic empowerment of women, ensuring their meaningful participation in all parts of society, and the elimination of gender based violence and harmful practices (MFGA, 2021).

The government of Nepal has developed different institutions and mechanisms for protection and realization of women's rights, including the National Women Commission, Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens, Women's Division in the National Planning Commission, Department of Women and Children, Social Development Ministries in seven provinces, Women Development Units in 753 local bodies, Gender Responsive Budget Committee in the Ministry of Finance, 240 Women and Children Service Centres (WCSC) in Police Offices in all 77 districts, and 10 Rehabilitation Centers for women and girls victims of trafficking and those affected by trafficking (MoWCSC, 2020).

Hence all of these efforts are done so that women can be in the mainstream in all spheres of activity.

Achievements, and Indicators of Changing Gender Status.

There are some important indicators used to measure in inequality and the achievements of changes in the gender status, they are the Human Development Index (HDI), the Gender Development Index (GDI), Gender Empowerment Measures (GEM), and the Gender

Inequality Index (GII). HDI is the combination of per capita income, life expectancy and adult educational attainment, the Gender Development Index (GDI) uses the same variables as the HDI, but takes into consideration inequality in achievements between women and men. The Gender Empowerment Measures (GEM) uses to measure the relative empowerment of women and is a combination of political and economic participation by gender. And the Gender Inequality Index is used to measure the inequality between female and male achievements in three dimensions i.e reproductive health (maternal mortality and adolescent fertility rates), empowerment (the share of parliamentary seats held by each gender; and attainment of secondary and higher education by each gender), and economic activity (labour market participation rate for each gender) The higher the GII value, the greater the discrimination by gender. In fact, the GII replaced the previous Gender Related Development Index and Gender Empowerment Index (CBS, 2014).

Trends in these indicators shows, in all socio economic and political sector the gap of gender inequality has been narrowed down. As per the overall HDI, Nepal has made substantial progress, by 203 percentage points in three decades. In this achievement, trend in value of GDI shows gender inequality has declining over the years, it increased from 0.770 in 2000 to 0.942 in 2021 as well as the value of GII also indicates the narrow down in the inequality between male and female and it declined to 0.452 in 2021 as compared to 0.668 in 2000. In Nepal, with the political change and concept of social inclusion, GEM has shown progress of 172 percentage points within one decade from 2000 to 2010. It also conforms there is great achievement of women in the social, economic, and political sector.

Table 5: Trends in Achievements, and Indicators of Changing Gender Status, 1990-2021

Indicators	1990	2000	2010	2020	2021
Human Development Index (HDI)	0.399	0.467	0.543	0.604	0.602
Gender Development Index (GDI)	-	0.770	0.880	-	0.942
Gender Empowerment Measures (GEM)	-	0.391	0.563	-	-
Gender Inequality Index (GII)	-	0.668	0.526	-	0.452

Source; NHDR, 2000, HDR, 2010 and HDR, 2021

Conclusion

Of the total population female population comprised 51.13 percent, more than male population. Due to the patriarchal society women are generally considered as subordinate to men. They have faced the partiality in the field of economic, political and social rights and also victims of oppressive cultural, religious and social practices which has been the major barrier to women's equal participation and the decision-making process in these sectors. Despite these unfavorable circumstances, Nepali women emerged as key actors in fighting for and securing their rights. Achieving the 33 percent quota in the Parliament and other political and bureaucratic structures is an example of such success. With the socio-political transformations of the country, the role and status of women has also been dramatic positive changed and thinning the barrier to gender inequality. They have made significant gains in demographics, social, political and economic sectors such as the rate of female literacy (6 years and above) and the educational attainment have increased, singulate mean age at marriage has increased with declined in child marriage and fertility, and maternal mortality has decreased with a significant improvement in life expectancy, now reaching 72 years. As in economic indicators substantial proportion of Nepalese women (52 %) is economically active, and gradually increased in non-agriculture sector over the years. There has been arise in female-headed households, and ownership of fixed property, which is an important means of raising women's status. After the end of the armed conflict and provision of the new Constitution, Nepali women have also gain remarkable progress in political empowerment. They succeed to gain the roles in high political authority as a female president, female Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and the first female Speaker of the Nepalese Parliament in 2015. In addition to these successes, trends in gender achievement measures like the HDI, GDI, GEM, and GII also confirms that the women's roles, socio-economic and political status, and demographics, have positively changed over the decades. This may be the result of women's struggle for their rights and government initiatives to enhance the status of women.

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