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KEY WORD: DESIRE FOR ADDITIONAL CHILDREN/ NEPAL/ GENDER COMPOSITION OF THE EXISTING CHILDREN/ RELIGION/ EDUCATION/ OCCUPATION. EARNING OF CASH

SARITA SHARMA: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GENDER OF EXISTING CHILDREN AND DESIRE FOR ADDITIONAL CHILDREN BY NEPALESE WOMEN THESIS ADVISOR: ALAN NOEL GRAY, Ph.D.. SUREEPORN PUNPUENG, Ph.D. 59p. ISBN 974-661-468-1

The main objective of this study was to examine the relationship between gender of existing children and desire for additional children by Nepalese women. This study utilizes data from Nepal Family Health Survey 1996. The study also aims to identify the socio-demographic characteristics of the women who desire additional children. Cross tabulations, chi-square test and logistic regression were used in the analysis. The dependent variable in this study is desire for additional children. The explanatory variables were gender of existing children, number of children, place of residence, religion, education, occupation, and earning of cash. Findings of the bivariate analysis suggest that all the independent variables with the exception of religion have significant relationships with desire for additional children. Results of multivariate analysis also reveal that gender of existing children, number of children, place of residence, religion, education and occupation have significant association with desire for additional children.

The findings reveal that women who have more daughters than sons are more likely to desire additional children. Similarly, those who have no education or have low level of education are more likely to desire additional children. The desire for children is found to be greater among people engaged in agricultural work. In the multivariate analysis, earning of cash was not significantly associated with desire for additional children.