

Fertility Decline



In Nepal, the **total fertility rate** has fallen to almost replacement level at **2.1 children per woman** over the years, especially in the urban population as the majority of couples do not wish to have more than two children. As the number of children declines, many couples want to have at least **one son** leading to **gender-biased sex selection**.



Challenges/ Opportunities

Weak law enforcement

Social norms that discriminate against women and girls

Rapid decline in fertility rates

Gender-biased sex selection:

Nepal

Policies/Framework/Government Response

In 1991

Nepal signed the **Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)** and as such pledges to **eliminate discrimination against the girl child**, including son preference.

The **Children's Act (1992)** and **Regulations (1995)** as well as the **Nepal's Children's Act 2011** specifically **prohibit any type of segregation amongst girls and boys**.



The **Constitution of Nepal (2015)** guarantees

equal rights to **both male and female child**.

In 1994

Nepal ratified the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**.

Nepal's political will to tackle and bring about an end to **gender-based violence and harmful practices** is strong.

The recently formulated **Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health and Rights Act 2075** safeguards women's rights to **safe and free abortion** while the 2074 Penal Code re-stresses the **illegality of sex determination and sex-selective abortion**.

In **October 2013**, Nepal co-sponsored the historic **Human Rights Council Resolution on Child, Early and Forced Marriage (A/HRC/24/2)**.



2002 National Safe Abortion Policy in Nepal **outlaws ex-selective abortions/GBSS**.



Sex Ratio at birth

110.6 boys for every **100 girls**

born between **2018-2016**

