

# SNAPSHOTS OF GENDER DYNAMICS IN THE KOSHI RIVER BASIN

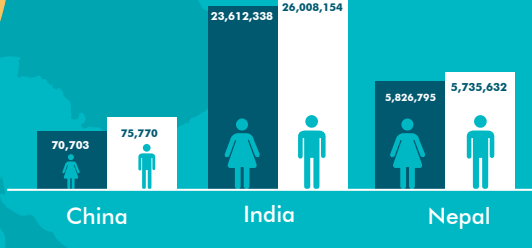
The Koshi River flows through a rich tapestry of mountains, forests, farmlands and settlements as it winds its way through one of the most diverse landscapes in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH), from the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) in China, through Nepal, down to the floodplains of Bihar, India. Gender relations in the Koshi River basin are not only shaped by patriarchal systems, but also complicated by caste, ethnicity, class, and age, among other factors. Unequal gender and social relations are characterized by women's lack of access to and control over resources, limited mobility, and low decision-making power and participation in social and political institutions.

## Geographical Spread

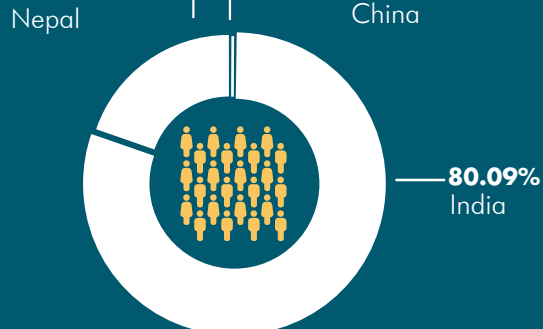
**Nepal** 27 Districts  
**India** 16 Districts  
**China** 5 Counties



## Demography in the Basin



## Basin Level Population Size

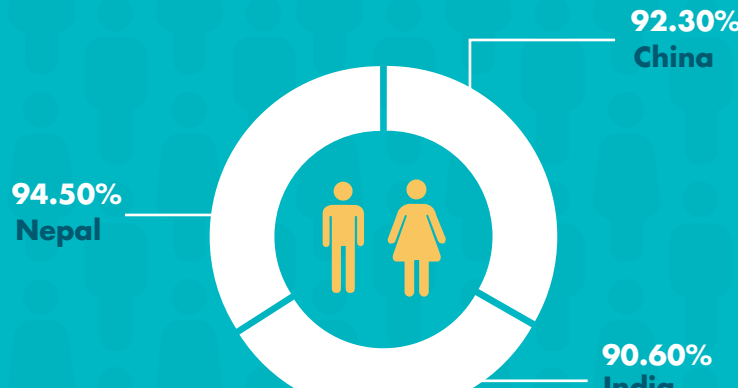


## Proportion of Female to Male Population in the Basin



## Sex Ratio in the Basin

**China** 93 women for 100 men  
**India** 90 women for 100 men  
**Nepal** 101 women for 100 men



## Household Heads in the Koshi Basin (India and Nepal)

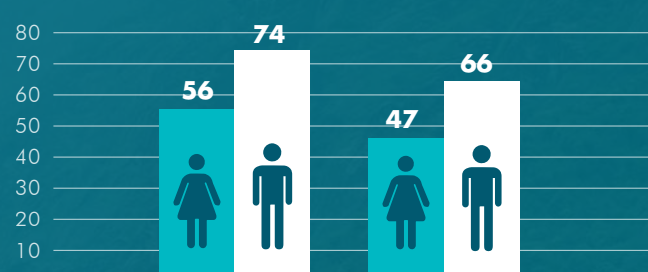


State level National Family Health Survey (NFHS) data from Bihar (2015–2016) indicates more than 24% are female headed households, which is higher than the national average of 15%.

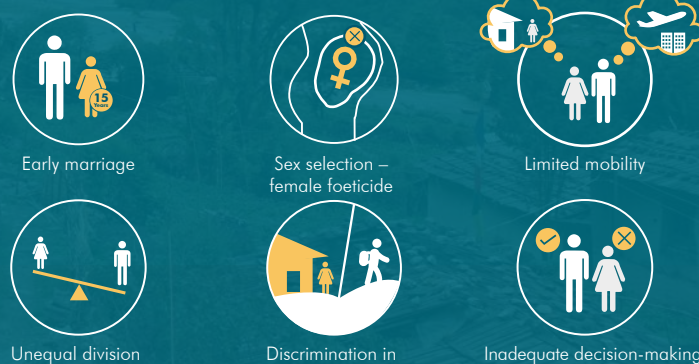


National data from Nepal indicates the average for female headed households is 25.73% (Census 2011), an increase from 14.87% in the 2001 Census.

## Literacy Rate in the Koshi Basin (India and Nepal)



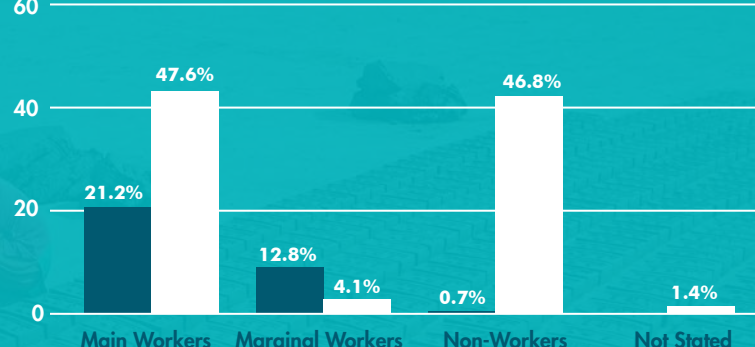
## Inequalities between Women and Men



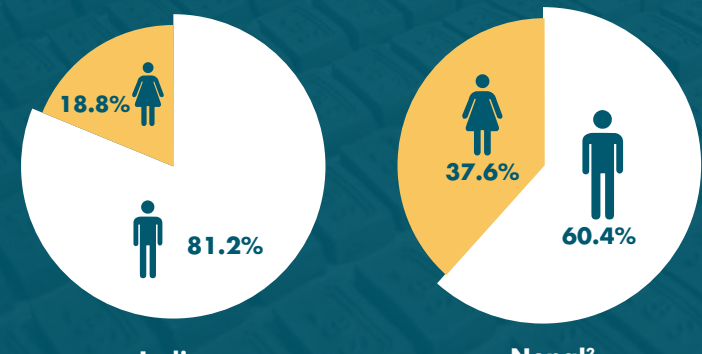
## Work Participation in the Koshi Basin (India and Nepal)

	India	Nepal
Main Workers	10499515	4292792
Marginal Workers	6334961	370975
Non-workers	32786016	4220438
Not Stated	Not applicable	126638

## Percentage-wise Work Participation in the Koshi Basin (India and Nepal)



## Main Workers\*



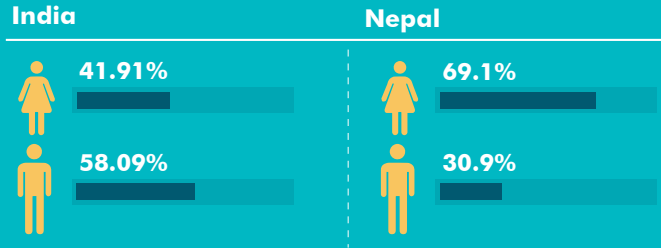
**India**: For every 100 men there are about 23 women engaged in economic activities for more than six months.

**Nepal**: For every 100 men there are about 61 women economically active for more than six months

\*Engaged in economic activity for more than six months

\*Census data from India and Nepal

## Marginal Workers\*

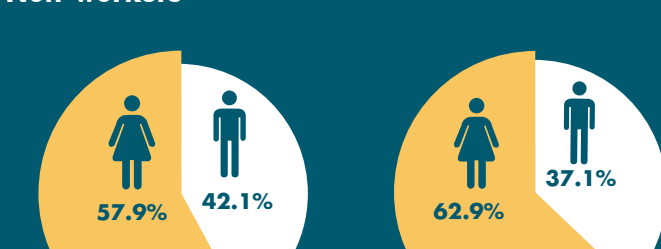


## Female to Male Work Ratio for Marginal Workers

**India**: For every 100 men there are **72 women** who are economically active for less than six months

**Nepal**: For every 100 men there are **224 women** who are economically active for less than six months

## Non-workers\*



## Female to Male Work Ratio for Non-workers

**India**: For every 100 men there are **137 women** unemployed

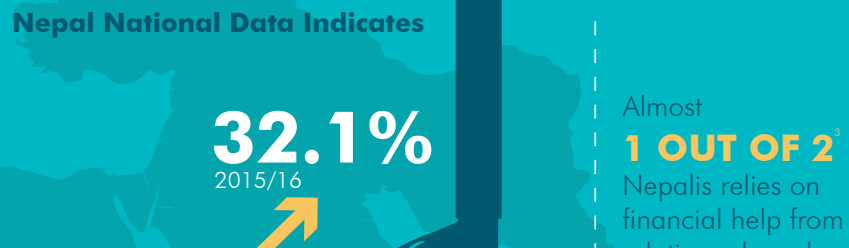
**Nepal**: For every 100 men there are **169 women** unemployed

\*Those who do not engage in at least one month of economic activity

## Migration in the Koshi Basin (Nepal)



## Nepal National Data Indicates



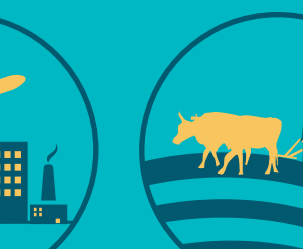
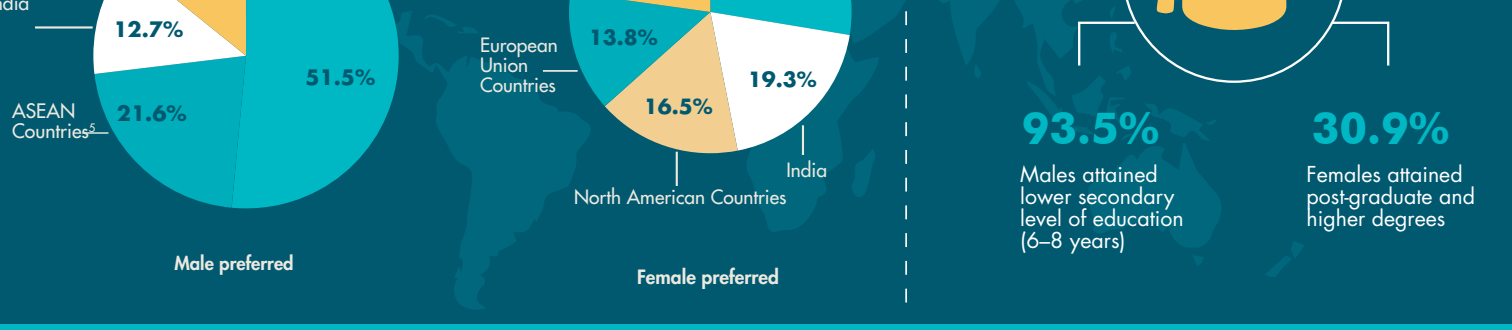
## Country of Destination



## Educational Attainment of Male/Female Absentee Population



## Implications



Most studies reflect on women either as victims or as solutions to problems but very little attention is paid towards understanding gender differential priorities, preferences, challenges and opportunities. This requires better understanding of women's and men's lives.

There is a need to make clear gender commitment in programmes and policies, and understand the different drivers of change and heterogeneity of impacts for enhancement of livelihoods and economic opportunities.

## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> The work participation of male and female population from the Koshi basin India and Nepal is computed based on the following criteria used by respective countries in the Census. Main Worker in Indian Census 2011 and Usually Economically Active Population in Nepal Census 2011 indicate performance of work for more than 6 months (180 days) in the reference period of the census. Similarly, the Marginal Worker or Not Usually Economically Active Population are those who perform economic activities for less than 6 months in the given reference period, and Non-workers or Non-economically Active Population are those who do not engage in at least one month of economic activity.

<sup>2</sup> 2% of the main workers are currently unemployed and the proportion is 1.5% male and 0.5% female.

<sup>3</sup> International Labour Organisation (ILO). 2017. Nepal Labour Market Update. ILO Country Office for Nepal, January 2017. Available at: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-kathmandu/documents/publication/wcms\\_543497.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-kathmandu/documents/publication/wcms_543497.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Middle Eastern Countries – Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman, also represents the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

<sup>5</sup> ASEAN Countries include Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

## Disclaimer

The analysis presented in the Snapshots of Gender Dynamics in the Koshi Basin are statistical data from Government Sources: China (Census 2010), India (Census, 2011), and Nepal (CBS Census 2011). Only a small portion of data from Districts in India (Sauria, Bhagalpur, Purba Champaran, Samastipur districts) and Nepal (Bara district) fall within the Koshi basin, but the analysis of data is for the entire district for statistical purposes. The views and interpretations in this publication are those of the author(s). They are not attributable to International Centre for Territory Mountain Development (ICTMOD) and do not imply the expression of any opinion concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or areas of its authorities or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries, or the endorsement of any product.