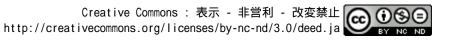
# Support from Absent Migrants after Earthquake 2015 in Gorkha, Nepal

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# Support from Absent Migrants after Earthquake 2015 in Gorkha, Nepal

# KOBAYASHI Masao

#### 要 旨

海外への出稼ぎ者は、ネパール・ゴルカ地域で起きた震災後1年間の復興過程で以下のような関わりをもつ傾向が見える。1)発災後、インターネットを中心に留守家族と情報交換し早めの帰省 を心がけた。2)立場によるが、募金や在留先NGOとの連携を通して出身集落への支援を行ったり、 政府支援の弱さ・遅さを補う行動が散発的にみられた。3)出稼ぎ層は年齢的に若く、SNSによる 情報交換やNGOによるコミュニティ支援への親和性が比較的高い。

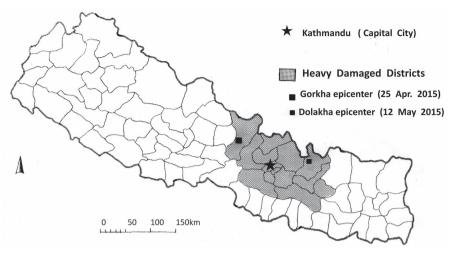
#### 1. Point of View

Nepal is one of the source countries of out-migration for labor in the world, after late 1980's. During the fiscal year of 2013/14, 538,000 Nepalese worker departed to abroad, and remittance from other countries value to 543.3 billion Nepalese Rupees, equal with 28.2% of National GDP value. According to the National Population Census of Nepal in 2011, 7.2% of total population has been absent from their families in whole Nepal. The ratio in 2001 Census was only 3.29%. In such out-bound region, huge national disaster occurred in 2015. Table 1 placed at the end of this paper shows District-wise data of out-migration to labor from Nepal in 2011 according to the Population Census 2011.

In this paper, social effects by the family network of global scale (transnational family) for the recovering process in Nepal will be discussed, according to the field research in August 2015, in February 2016 and also in August-September 2016.

#### 2. Nepal Earthquake 2015

About noon of Saturday, 25 April, 2015, severe earthquake of M7.9 occurred. The center place located in the southwestern part of Gorkha District, about 100km west from Kathmandu, the capital city of the country. Then the biggest aftershock of M7.3 struck again on 12 May in Dolakha district, about 90km east from Kathmandu. Due to that two major quakes and many small aftershocks, 8,790 people died, 22,300 were injured and 510,000 houses were completely destroyed and 280,000 houses were partly broken all over Nepal. Mention to administrative region of Nepal, damage is concentrated into 14 Districts which government of Nepal designated "Heavy Damaged Districts", those are Okhaldhunga, Sindhuli, Ramechhap, Dolakha, Sindhupalchok, Kavrepalanchowk, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Kathmandu, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Dhadin, Makuwanpur and Gorkha District. Geographically those districts locates in the central part of ecologically Himalayan and Hill Zone (see Map 1).



Map 1 : Nepal Earthquake 2015

#### 3. Field Research and its Findings

#### 1) Research outline

The author visit Gorkha District after the earthquake in August 2015 at first, and in February 2016. From 31 August to 3 September 2016, the author visited Pritbhinarayan Nagarparika, the capital city of the District on the research supported by JSPS KAKENHI Grant Number JP16H05692, to monitor life strategy of residents.

In this note, changing basic situation of local residents are reported according to the interview on the field research in Aug-Sep 2016. Informants are total seven families living in the suburb area of the capital town. Five families (named A/B/C/D/E) are living in Ahare area (5 km from the city center), and two families (F/G) are living in Dhungagadhe area (8 km remote).

#### 2) Situation in August 2015

In August 2015, about 100 days after the first quake to Gorkha, many people are always nervous to aftershock quakes still frequently. In Kathmandu, life recovered peaceful without tourism sector. As for international tourism, very few travelers visit Nepal at that time.

In Gorkha, all seven families were damaged in their residence or their private buildings. Family A and B in Ahare and family G in Dhungagadhe were living in temporary huts build by tin roof delivered to all damaged residents, woods and bricks collected by themselves (some from broken old houses) and blue-sheet of plastic bought in bazar, because their traditional brick houses were severely destroyed or main structure were broken by the quakes. But houses of family C, D and E in Ahare were not very damaged because their houses were built also with cements. Family C and D built their houses in recent 10-15 years invested remittance from their son abroad.

Secondly, the water slot was changed by the effect of quakes, and all families complained they could not expect well rice production in 2015 because some rice field could not planted due to lack of irrigation water ever managed. In Dhungagadhe destroyed local drinking water base (for 5 families of the limited small area) was the most severe problems to be solved, but not easy because they don't have their own capacity for any



Photo 1 : Damaged house (back) and temporary hut (near) in Ahare. (August 2015)

civil machine nor fund to call external technicians. Public help of civil engineering is important for industrial recovering, but not well supported by the local administration in that time.

As for social infrastructure, situation was same. In Ahare, secondary school (public) is not severely broken but some classroom was danger for use. In Dhungagadhe, most of lower secondary school (public) buildings were broken (photo 4), and schoolyard is narrow so school classroom built by International NGO and Chinese Aid Fund with tinroof, woods and bamboo timber, was moved on the empty dry farm field temporary (Photo 5).

Member of Family A is working at urban area of Chitwan District (Nepal), two sons of family C is working in United Arab Emirates and in Australia, and husband of family D is transportation worker in Iraq. They all agreed that communication mainly via computer (skype etc.) or mobile (viber etc.) became more frequently after the earthquake, and conversation solve mental tension both transnational family members. And all out-migrated members came back to Gorkha till November 2015, and they carried many information about earthquake or redevelopment process, foreign goods for disaster protection, or private funds for re-build their residence, industry and life. At that time, international flight for Nepal was few foreign



Photo 2 : Light Damaged house (left), animal shed (central: back of a man) and temporary hut (right) in Dhungagadhe (Feb. 2016)



Photo 3 : Inside the temporary hut of photo 2 in Dhungagadhe (August 2015) Electric cable is linked, backside of the tin wall is kitchen.



Photo 4 : Dhungagadhe Lower Secondary School 5 of all 7 classroom, teachers room buildings were broken. Only 3 rooms built by Japanese Aid in 1990's (left) are remained but need repairing for use. (August 2015)

travelers but Non-Residential Nepalese (NRN: Nepalese living abroad with foreign based life) visitors gave energy for re-development process from earthquake damage.

#### 3) Situation in February 2016

10 months after the earthquake, I visit again to Gorkha. Inthat time, variety of recovering process was seen. As for school re-building, most of private schools were prepared to re-build pr move to nondamaged buildings. Nepal government was still discussing about public school restructuring plan, effected by the decrease of student number especially in primary level, due to out-migration in young generation and developing private sector school education (discussed in Kobayashi (2015)), and re^building process of public school had been delayed. However, in some villages including Tapre VDC, neighboring with PritbhiNarayan Nagarparika, new school buildings were under construction. Tapre school was funded from South Korean NPO introduced by a transnational resident living 20 years in that country. That means private network of out-migrated citizen contributed to the mother village. He contacted with the NPO by introduction by another Korean NPO for foreign labors' welfare to that he had added for 10 years to service for Nepalese society in that country.



Photo 5 : Temporary Dhungagadhe Lower Secondary School built on farm-land. (August 2015)



Photo 6 : Building New Classrooms (left), remainded crassrooms (backward) and temporary classrooms (right) of Tapre Secondary School. Building cost was donated from South Korean foundation. (February 2016)

In private houses, some people started re-building process but others still remained. For example husband of family D, his wife and two children are living in the village, and his house was not damaged, sending money to purchase land in Kathmandu. He said that that was not for migration to the capital, but preparing 'safety-net' for village declining. He recognized that center of Gorkha (capital of District) will develop by in-migration from rural district-residents in young generation, and he want to invest that area in future.

#### 4) Situation in August 2016

More than one year from the earthquake, delayed public-help process like school restructuring and distributing grant for every damaged household (250,000 Nepalese Rupees per family, government commitment in June 2015) was started. However, public-help in Nepal was poor and delaying, because of weak national finance and political struggle between political parties and regional conflict of anti-/pro India. Thus public-help delayed and poor contributed, then importance of private and community help was focused on this time. In that situation, transnational migrated members are the most strong supporter for rural village.

In Gorkha, some out-migrants members visited with his foreign friends to show his mother village situation after the earthquake. That may be a chance for networking rural with foreign region.

Dhungagadhe school moved again to the old site of convenient central place from temporary site. Light damaged classroom was repaired by Japanese support (JICA School re-building Program), other rooms were still temporary, but enough for declined student number. On the other hand, Tapre school new building was opened. The Korean foundation donate not only classroom but also well computer facilities. Teachers said, remaining problem is human resource of teacher who show blight future for their students. Irrigation system around the area also repaired, and rice field was green again.

Two sons of family C had married and wives and families are not living here. They had not decided to the future relation with Gorkha. The same situation, son of teacher, family F was seeking his future plan. He is learning at secondary school, and he said that with whom he will marry that he may decide his place of life – that means where his future wife and child live, that place will be his 'home-place'. He said educational situation for small child it is right here, but if school declining trend proceed, and other village youth will outmigrate, another situation will come.

#### 4. Discussion

Nepal is typical source country of out-migration for labor in the world, and now many Nepalese families have its member living abroad. In discussion, the main issue is social value of that network of such "transnational family" in such rural developing region.

In the field of rural development, valance of "self-help", "public-help" and "community-help" is vary from various countries of societies. "Self-help" means recovering effort by every private families depending on their own funds or on the profitable services provided by the private sectors. "Public-help" means political and administrative supports provided by local administration or government. "Community-help" means local residents' mutual support between neighbourhoods.

For example of Japan including damaged area of East Japan Earthquake 2011 where public-help is important, Hashimoto & Kawawaki (2015) shows that temporary housing policy provided by the local administration have a impact for peoples' migration trend, as well as their economic and job situation (self-help factor) or social network (communication) of local residence (community-self factor).

In developing countries like Nepal, public sector is weaker than developed countries because of

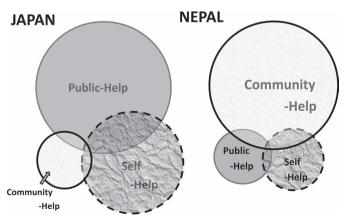


Fig. 1 : Contribution of Social Factor to Rural Development (Concepturl Scheme)

economic and technical weakness. Private sector or individual income is also poor. So development process depends on community-help well. In the social welfare field, Kudo et al (2012) said that in Nepal, "Community Based Rehabilitation" plays important parts.

Just after Earthquake, when Gorkha people lives outside broken residents, mutual communication and support (for example male support to female family, young support to elder family etc.) contribute well for peaceful life, many respondents said. In Nepalese language, "gaph" means chat, "has" means laugh. Nepalese people enjoy everyday life with "gaph and has" with village friends even if that very hard work is needed. In rural village, many farmers built their temporary "hut" (not so well as "residence") at their garden or farm field, not empty zone rather remote from their local residence, so that kind of "community-help" functioned well.

On the other hand, from economic view, Gorkha District is on of heavy out-migrating districts in Nepal. Table 1 show that about one-third of household in Gorkha have any family member staying abroad from Nepal. Just like family C or D, enough remittance from young male (in general) generation had supported other family members left at their village, and built good strong residents with electric or computer facilities of modern types of kitchen, just like a showroom of new life style in rural village. The social characters of such out-migrated family member, I think, are as follows;

- 1. Young generations take important parts or position in developing countries like Nepal, than in developed countries especially like Japan, for social revolution.
- 2. Young generation is closed to new trends of global, technical and volunteer spirits.
- 3. Young generation have communication skill of today using English and SNS / Internetby.
- 4. Young generation still have traditional communication skill, human to human relation, also.

They said that after leaved Nepal, they recognized themselves as Nepalese strongly, and they seek to build up their life strategy as Nepalese with foreign experience. This time, they realized their foreign network, knowledge as their advantage for re-building their own village – someone brought their foreign friends to their village, someone gather funds for recover, and some introduce their knowledge for earthquake earned through their staying abroad.

However, out-migration is not full opened for whole rural residents. Initial cost for agent, educational background over campus level, such factors are difficult for lower income families or social group. That means contribution of transnational family to rural village may enlarge social fragmentation.

And another factor for expanding social gap is migration trend. In general young generation prefer urban lifestyle and rich educational environment from preschool education. If damage of residence or industrial, agricultural background is severe, disaster become beginning of huge out-migration flow of not only limited member but whole household members. Then, transnational members lead familywise out-migration not only to Kathmandu or domestic urban center but till foreign countries. As for Nepal earthquake, damage is most severe in eastern area like Sindhupalchouk or Dolakha coused by the second quake on 12 May 2015 than in Gorkha. What kind of life strategy they create and realize, where the stage of future life they choose especially after marriage and educating their child? Damage situation in Gorkha and in Eastern area is different, then the social trend is same or not? The trend is similar to Japanese rural disaster-damaged area like Hashimoto & Kawawaki (2015) analyzed or is original type for Nepal? Those are the research topics remained to be observed in the future.

S.N.	Area	Population 2011			Sex Ratio 2011	Absent Population 2011		Absent Population Ratio (%) 2011		Total Household 2011	Absent Household 2011	Absent Household Ration (%) 2011
		Total	Male	Female		Male	Female	Male				
	Nepal	26,620,809	12,849,041	13,645,463	94.2	1,684,029	237,400	13.1	1.7	5,423,297	1,378,678	25.4
1	Taplejung	128,547	60,552	66,909	90.5	9,114	679	15.1	1.0	26,471	7745	29.3
2	Panchthar	198,362	90,186	101,631	88.7	16,605	1,237	18.4	1.2	41,176	14,041	34.1
3	Ilam	295,824	141,126	149,128	94.6	18,949	2,537	13.4	1.7	64,477	16,846	26.1
4	Jhapa	810,636	385,096	427,554	90.1	68,928	11,697	17.9	2.7	184,384	59,545	32.3
5	Morang	964,709	466,712	498,658	93.6	62,064	8,398	13.3	1.7	213,870	54,220	25.4
6	Sunsari	751,125	371,229	392,258	94.6	43,381	6,894	11.7	1.8	162,279	37,984	23.4
7	Dhankuta	164,133	76,515	86,897	88.1	13,538	876	17.7	1.0	37,616	11,804	31.4
8	Terhathum	101,709	47,151	54,426	86.6	9273	518	19.7	1.0	22,084	7832	35.5
9	Sankhuwasabha	159,649	75,225	83,517	90.1	11,335	863	15.1	1.0	34,615	9,589	27.7
10	Bhojpur	183,918	86,053	96,406	89.3	13,822	1,041	16.1	1.1	39,393	11,559	29.3
11	Solukhumbu	106,772	51,200	54,686	93.6	4,730	887	9.2	1.6	23,758	4,238	17.8
12	Okhaldhunga	148,320	68,687	79,297	86.6	9,371	1,184	13.6	1.5	32,466	7,712	23.8
13	Khotang	209,130	97,092	109,220	88.9	16,504	1,158	17.0	1.1	42,647	13,644	32.0
14	Udayapur	321,962	149,712	167,820	89.2	20,036	2,024	13.4	1.2	66,514	17,758	26.7
15	Saptari	646,250	313,846	325,438	96.4	25,676	752	8.2	0.2	25,676	21,712	84.6
16	Siraha	643,136	310,101	327,227	94.8	45,293	490	14.6	0.1	117,929	36,787	31.2
17	Dhanusa	768,404	378,538	376,239	100.6	59,570	815	15.7	0.2	138,225	47,663	34.5
18	Mahottari	646,405	311,016	316,564	98.2	39,621	911	12.7	0.3	111,298	31,500	28.3
19	Sarlahi	768,649	389,756	379,973	102.6	19,747	1,654	5.1	0.4	132,803	16,980	12.8
20	Sindhuli	294,621	142,123	154,069	92.2	14,003	1,284	9.9	0.8	57,544	12,355	21.5
21	Ramechhap	205,312	93,386	109,260	85.5	9,742	1,457	10.4	1.3	43,883	8,340	19.0
22	Dolakha	188,186	87,003	99,554	87.4	8,266	1,855	9.5	1.9	45,658	7,587	16.6
23	Sindhupalchok	289,455	138,351	149,447	92.6	13,035	6,677	9.4	4.5	66,635	13,778	20.7
24	Kavrepalanchowk	389,959	182,936	199,001	91.9	12,565	1,966	6.9	1.0	80,651	11,782	14.6
25	Lalitpur	466,784	238,082	230,050	103.5	17,573	6,813	7.4	3.0	109,505	16,563	15.1
26	Bhaktapur	303,027	154,884	149,767	103.4	8,077	2,138	5.2	1.4	68,557	7,990	11.7
27	Kathmandu	1,740,977	913,001	831,239	109.8	71,837	27,967	7.9	3.4	435,544	69,521	16.0
28	Nuwakot	278,761	132,787	144,684	91.8	12,466	1,844	9.4	1.3	59,194	11,091	18.7
29	Rasuwa	43,798	21,475	21,825	98.4	2,236	892	10.4	4.1	9,741	2,423	24.9
30	Dhading	336,250	157,834	178,233	88.6	20,207	2,330	12.8	1.3	73,842	17,055	23.1
31	Makwanpur	427,494	206,684	213,793	96.7	14,374	2,173	7.0	1.0	86,045	13,566	15.8
32	Rautahat	696,221	351,079	335,643		8,999	330	2.6	0.1	106,652	7,413	7.0
33	Bara	701,037	351,244	336,464	104.4	11,900	629	3.4	0.2	108,600	10,264	9.5
34	Parsa	601,701	312,358	288,659	108.2	7,456	597	2.4	0.2	95,516	6,287	6.6
35	Chitawan	566,661	279,087	300,897	92.8	43,728	6,693	15.7	2.2	132,345	38,423	29.0
36	Gorkha	269,388	121,041	150,020	80.7	25,375	2,729	21.0	1.8	66,458	21,258	32.0
37	Lamjung	169,104	75,913	91,811	82.7	19,242	1,918	25.3	2.1	42,048	15,970	38.0
38	Tanahu	330,581	143,410	179,878	79.7	43,141	3,245	30.1	1.8	78,286	34,119	43.6
39	Syangja	288,040	125,833	163,315	77.0	46,024	4,451	36.6	2.7	68,856	34,207	49.7
40	Kaski	490,429	236,385	255,713	92.4	48,304	9,001	20.4	3.5	125,459	40,531	32.3
41	Manang	6,527	3,661	2,877	127.3	166	113	4.5	3.9	1,148	161	14.0
	Mustang	13,799	7,093	6,359	111.5	986	439	13.9	6.9	3,305	871	26.4

 Table 1. Migrate Population of Nepal by District (2011)

43Myagdi113,73151,39562,26482.513,2991,01525.91.627,72711,444Parbat147,07665,30181,28980.319,7831,95230.32.435,69815,445Baglung270,009117,977150,61678.338,1804,44232.42.961,48229,146Gulmi283,577120,955159,16576.051,2227,33942.34.664,87735,147Palpa269,372115,840145,34079.735,7873,71730.92.659,26027,048Nawalparasi635,793303,675339,83389.458,6436,69219.32.0128,76047,749Rupandehi886,706432,193448,00396.555,7857,11912.91.6163,83546,550Kapilbastu570,612285,559286,33799.727,1002,6809.50.991,26420,951Arghakhanchi200,44686,266111,36677.535,4554,47441.14.046,82625,2	22       43.2         33       47.4         31       54.2         10       45.6         65       37.1         62       28.4         74       23.0
45Baglung270,009117,977150,61678.338,1804,44232.42.961,48229,146Gulmi283,577120,955159,16576.051,2227,33942.34.664,87735,147Palpa269,372115,840145,34079.735,7873,71730.92.659,26027,048Nawalparasi635,793303,675339,83389.458,6436,69219.32.0128,76047,749Rupandehi886,706432,193448,00396.555,7857,11912.91.6163,83546,550Kapilbastu570,612285,559286,33799.727,1002,6809.50.991,26420,9	33       47.4         31       54.2         10       45.6         65       37.1         62       28.4         74       23.0
46         Gulmi         283,577         120,955         159,165         76.0         51,222         7,339         42.3         4.6         64,877         35,1           47         Palpa         269,372         115,840         145,340         79.7         35,787         3,717         30.9         2.6         59,260         27,0           48         Nawalparasi         635,793         303,675         339,833         89.4         58,643         6,692         19.3         2.0         128,760         47,7           49         Rupandehi         886,706         432,193         448,003         96.5         55,785         7,119         12.9         1.6         163,835         46,5           50         Kapilbastu         570,612         285,559         286,337         99.7         27,100         2,680         9.5         0.9         91,264         20,9	3154.21045.66537.16228.47423.0
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49         Rupandehi         886,706         432,193         448,003         96.5         55,785         7,119         12.9         1.6         163,835         46,5           50         Kapilbastu         570,612         285,559         286,337         99.7         27,100         2,680         9.5         0.9         91,264         20,9	6228.47423.0
50         Kapilbastu         570,612         285,559         286,337         99.7         27,100         2,680         9.5         0.9         91,264         20,9	74 23.0
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51 Arghakhanghi 200 446 86 266 111 366 77 5 25 455 4 474 41 1 4 0 46 926 25 2	56 54.0
51         Arghakhanchi         200,446         86,266         111,366         77.5         35,455         4,474         41.1         4.0         46,826         25,2	
52 Pyuthan 235,165 100,053 128,049 78.1 33,067 3,791 33.0 3.0 47,716 24,1	24 50.6
53 Rolpa 227,075 103,100 121,406 84.9 21,485 2,112 20.8 1.7 43,735 17,0	47 39.0
54 Rukum 210,878 99,159 109,408 90.6 11,774 1,276 11.9 1.2 41,837 9,8	54 23.6
55 Salyan 243,575 115,969 126,475 91.7 12,876 1,337 11.1 1.1 46,524 10,6	73 22.9
56 Dang 557,852 261,059 291,524 89.5 39,328 3,830 15.1 1.3 116,347 32,6	86 28.1
57 Banke 493,017 244,255 247,058 98.9 18,890 2,469 7.7 1.0 94,693 15,8	47 16.7
58 Bardiya 426,946 205,080 221,496 92.6 21,719 3,325 10.6 1.5 83,147 17,9	56 21.6
59 Surkhet 360,104 169,421 181,383 93.4 N.A. N.A. N.A. N.A. N.A. N.A.	. N.A.
60 Dailekh 263,835 126,990 134,780 94.2 9,697 1,524 7.6 1.1 48,915 7,6	38 15.6
61 Jajarkot 172,565 85,537 85,767 99.7 3,524 650 4.1 0.8 30,468 2,8	66 9.4
62 Dolpa 36,701 18,238 18,462 98.8 360 87 2.0 0.5 7,466 3	08 4.1
63 Jumla 108,734 54,893 54,023 101.6 1,122 341 2.0 0.6 19,291 9	00 4.7
64 Kalikot 141,620 68,833 68,115 101.1 1,723 373 2.5 0.5 23,008 1,4	36 6.2
65 Mugu 55,311 28,025 27,261 102.8 542 157 1.9 0.6 9,600 4	33 4.5
66         Humla         51,008         25,833         25,025         103.2         415         267         1.6         1.1         9,437         4	35 4.6
67 Bajura 135,506 65,806 69,106 95.2 6,044 2,010 9.2 2.9 24,888 4,4	15 17.7
68 Bajhang 196,277 92,794 102,365 90.7 16,292 6,553 17.6 6.4 16,292 10,2	48 62.9
69 Achham 258,022 120,008 137,469 87.3 24,638 6,377 20.5 4.6 48,318 17,2	50 35.7
70 Doti 211,827 97,252 114,494 84.9 20,860 2,684 21.4 2.3 41,383 15,8	84 38.4
71 Kailali 770,279 378,417 397,292 95.2 50,441 12,202 13.3 3.1 142,413 34,5	52 24.3
72 Kanchanpur 444,315 216,042 235,206 91.9 32,873 5,518 15.2 2.3 82,134 23,8	48 29.0
73 Dadeldhura 141,543 66,556 75,538 88.1 10,408 1,262 15.6 1.7 27,023 7,9	12 29.3
74 Baitadi 252,116 117,407 133,491 88.0 17,299 3,740 14.7 2.8 45,167 12,1	67 26.9
75 Darchaula 133,464 63,605 69,669 91.3 5,956 908 9.4 1.3 24,604 4,6	88 19.1

Data source: CBS Nepal, "Population Census" 2011

## Notes:

 According to "Nepal Economics Diagram 2015" on the website of Japanese Embassy in Nepal. http://www.np.emb-japan.go.jp/jp/pdf/economy2015.pdf

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