

Individual, household, and community factors of adolescent girls' aspirations in Nepal

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Background

Adolescents' aspirations can be engines of progress through positively steering behaviour. Limited knowledge exists on adolescent girls' aspirations and their drivers in low-resource contexts.

Objectives

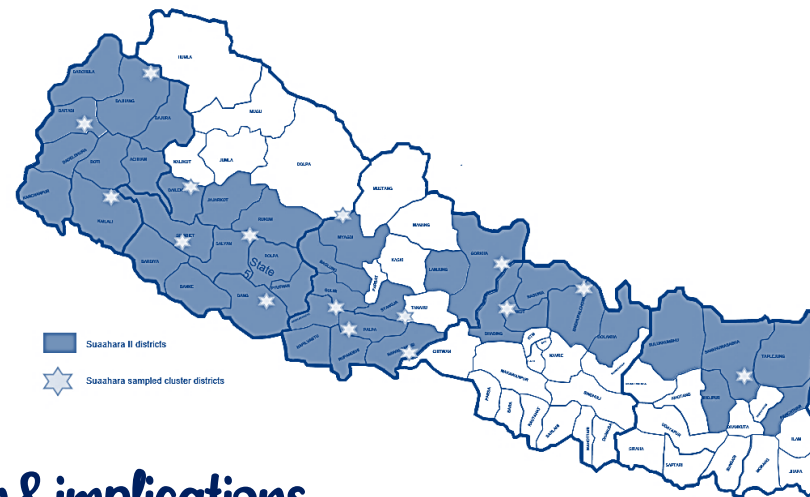
This study aimed to explore:

- adolescent girls' aspirations in key life domains of education, occupation, marriage, fertility, health and nutrition;
- associations between these aspirations and **individual, household** and **community** factors; and
- differences between younger (10-14 years) and older (15-19 years) adolescent girls in Nepal.



Methods

- Data: 2nd wave (2018) from the Suaahara II (2017-2023) Adolescent Girls Panel in Nepal (N=975).
- Descriptive and bivariate analyses for all aspirations.
- Binomial logistic regression: educational and occupational aspirations.
- Linear regression: fertility and marital aspirations.



Conclusion & implications

Findings underscore the curtailing effect of poverty on aspirations and the dynamic nature of aspirations, with differences between younger and older girls and specific life stage. Staying in school is key to fostering aspirations. Initiatives working with girls to sustain and grow girls' aspirations must address individual and contextual factors.

Key results

	Education (>class 12=1) aOR	Occupation (prof. skilled =1) aOR	Marriage (age) Std.beta	Fertility (age) Std.beta
Age group (ref=10-14 yrs)	1.73**	n/a	0.52**	-0.04
School status (ref=out of school)	n/a	7.64***	0.45	2.20***
Maternal status (ref=not a mom)	n/a	0.92	n/a	n/a
Self-efficacy (total score)	1.06**	1.04*	0.03	0.02
Decision-making (ref=no/some input)	1.44	0.97	n/a	n/a
Hh size (total no.)	0.97	1.00	-0.03	-0.01
Hh wealth (total score)	1.56***	1.30**	0.48***	0.46**
Hh head sex (ref=male)	0.95	0.89	-0.04	0.49
Hh head education (ref=no education)	1.27	1.24	-0.04	0.34
Hh food security (ref=food insecure)	1.20	1.31	0.24	-0.04
Caste/ethnicity (ref=socially-excluded)	Brahmin/Chettri	1.68**	1.41	0.22
	Other	0.66	1.33	-0.50
Agro-ecological zone (ref=hills)	Mountains	1.54	1.41	0.21
	Terai	0.55*	0.66	-0.03
Disadvantaged community (ref=no)	0.65	0.78	-0.32	-0.33

Notes: $p < 0.05^*$; $p < 0.01^*$; $p < 0.001^{**}$; hh=household; Colours indicate: **individual, household, community**. No estimations for health & nutrition aspirations since >89% of girls perceived health and nutrition as highly important.

Disaggregated by age-group:

- hh wealth & caste/ethnicity associated with older girls' aspirations.
- self-efficacy & hh size associated with younger girls' aspirations.