A Survey of the Nepali People in 2020

Photo Credit: Ramesh Dulal
Fieldwork for this survey was conducted in February-March 2020, just before the Government of Nepal (GON) decided to impose a national lockdown to contain the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The findings, therefore, capture the national mood right before the influence and impacts of the pandemic-induced crises were felt by the country and potentially serve as a baseline for future research, comparing the national mood before and after the national lockdown.
Top reasons for optimism (%):

- Better roads: 73.8%
- Improved supply of electricity: 46.0%
- Increase in access to health services: 31.8%
- Increase in access to education: 30.7%
- Drinking water services/facilities have improved: 27.6%
- Conditions of women have improved: 24.4%

Biggest problems in Nepal (%):

- Increase in corruption: 51.9%
- Increasing prices of basic commodities: 43.2%
- Increase in taxation: 37.9%
- Difficulty finding work or jobs: 35.5%
- Poverty has increased: 18.6%
- Roads/Trails are worse: 17.1%

Preferred avenues for dispute resolution, by dispute type (%):

- Dispute on land
  - Ward chairperson/members: 32.0%
  - Police: 11.3%
  - Traditional justice: 15.8%
  - Mayor/rural municipality chair: 12.1%
  - Land revenue office: 8.5%
  - Friends and family: 5.6%
  - Village/municipal assembly: 5.1%

- Dispute on debt
  - Ward chairperson/members: 29.1%
  - Police: 24.4%
  - Traditional justice: 15.1%
  - Mayor/rural municipality chair: 10.9%
  - Land revenue office: 0.2%
  - Friends and family: 5.6%
  - Village/municipal assembly: 4.9%

- Domestic violence
  - Ward chairperson/members: 22.4%
  - Police: 24.7%
  - Traditional justice: 14.3%
  - Mayor/rural municipality chair: 9.4%
  - Land revenue office: 0.1%
  - Friends and family: 6.5%
  - Village/municipal assembly: 4.1%

- Crime
  - Ward chairperson/members: 23.7%
  - Police: 49.6%
  - Traditional justice: 7.7%
  - Mayor/rural municipality chair: 9.2%
  - Land revenue office: 0.1%
  - Friends and family: 2.0%
  - Village/municipal assembly: 4.1%

*Overall respondents are ‘reasonably confident’ about attaining justice through their chosen institutions when it comes to debt (62.3%), land disputes (61.1%), crime (60.8%), and domestic violence (60.0%).*
Views on inter-group relations across different caste groups & ethnicities (%)

- 69.4% Improving
- 6.9% Getting worse
- 21.9% Same as before

Perceptions of disadvantages due to caste and ethnicity (%)

- 4.9% Interacting with other people at workplace
- 4.4% Report a problem in police station
- 4.2% Obtain government services
- 3.6% Accessing health services
- 2.4% Studying at a school or university

Views on gender roles and gender equality (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Views</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Somewhat agree</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It is more important for a family to have a son than a daughter</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>74.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A higher education is more important for a boy than a girl</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>79.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women should not have control over her income, movement and decisions</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>59.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A woman should not have the right to decide how many children she should bear</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
<td>76.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is not suitable for women to engage in politics</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>78.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Acceptable leadership positions in different organizations/institutions (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Regardless of man or woman, the person should be capable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chief executive position of federal government</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>74.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief executive position of provincial government</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>76.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief executive position of local government</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>77.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal parliamentarians</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>80.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State parliamentarians</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>80.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local assembly members</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>79.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward chairperson</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>74.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairperson of political party</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>78.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairperson of user groups (like community forests user groups, consumer groups)</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>73.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairperson of saving and credit cooperatives</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>72.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairperson of school management committee</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>76.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEO of private company/organization</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>79.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Position of women in Nepal in the last five years (%)

- 86.7% Improving
- 2.4% Getting worse
- 10.1% Same as before
Willingness to pay more local taxes for better services (%)

- 2018: Yes 64.1%, No 30.9%, Don't know 5.0%
- 2020: Yes 63.7%, No 31.7%, Don't know 4.6%

Awareness of any local government development projects in current fiscal year (%)

- National: Yes 28.4%, No 71.6%
- Province 1: Yes 70.5%, No 29.5%
- Province 2: Yes 74.6%, No 25.4%
- Bagmati Province: Yes 78.0%, No 22.0%
- Gandaki Province: Yes 71.4%, No 28.6%
- Lumbini Province: Yes 65.9%, No 34.1%
- Karnali Province: Yes 71.9%, No 28.1%
- Sudurpashchim Province: Yes 63.6%, No 36.4%

Views on local economic condition (%)

- Economic conditions are improving: 2018 - 31.4%, 2020 - 40.1%
- Economic conditions are staying the same: 2018 - 40.9%, 2020 - 45.1%
- Economic conditions are getting worse: 2018 - 1.7%, 2020 - 4.3%

Views on responsiveness of the government (%)

- 58.9% say the responsiveness of their local government has increased.
- 44.2% say the responsiveness of their province government has increased.
- 43.6% say the responsiveness of the federal government has increased.

Employment and income generation opportunities in 2020 (%)

- Employment: More Opportunities 59.7%, Same as the last year 22.0%, Less opportunities 15.1%, Don't know 3.2%
- Income Generation: More Opportunities 58.3%, Same as the last year 24.2%, Less opportunities 14.2%, Don't know 3.2%

Sources of information for local government activities (plans, programs, budgets) (%)

- Friends, family, and neighbors: 59.9%
- Community radio: 32.5%
- Television: 29.4%
- Local community leaders: 28.4%
- Social media: 14.4%