# GENDER STATISTICS REPORT

**SOCIAL STATISTICS DIVISION**
**NATIONAL STATISTICS BUREAU**
**ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN**

# CONTENTS

# LIST OF TABLES

# LIST OF FIGURES

# LIST OF ACRONYMS

| | |
|---|---|
| BMIS | Bhutan Multiple Indicator Survey |
| CBR | Crude Birth Rate |
| CEDAW | Convention on the elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women |
| CMR | Child Mortality Rate |
| CRC | Convention on the Rights of the Child |
| ESP | Elementary Service Personnel |
| FYP | Five Year Plan |
| GER | Gross Enrolment Ratio |
| GPI | Gender Parity Index |
| GSP | General Service Provider |
| IMR | Infant Mortality Rate |
| LFPR | Labour Force Participation Rate |
| MMR | Maternal Mortality Ratio |
| NCWC | National Commission for Women and Children |
| NER | Net Enrolment Ratio |
| NKRA | National Key Result Area |
| NSB | National Statistics Bureau |
| PHCB | Population & Housing Census of Bhutan |
| RUB | Royal University of Bhutan |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goal |
| SSD | Social Statistics Division |
| TFR | Total Fertility Rate |

# FOREWORD

Ever since Bhutan ratified Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Royal Government of Bhutan has strong commitment to promote gender equality and wellbeing of the children. The effort has been further strengthened with the adoption of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which has the standalone goal on "Gender equality", that is very much integrated in National Key Result Area (NKRA) 10 of the 12 Five Year Plan (FYP). Without realizing this goal, rest of goals both in SDG and NKRA is almost impossible to achieve as the gender inequality remains one of the cross-cutting issues.

As such, formulation of all polices, plans and programs requires gender mainstreaming to achieve all kind of development goals. Further, to facilitate the evidence-based policies and decision making it is critical to account both men and women in the country. Therefore, it is of paramount importance to have timely and reliable sex disaggregated data.

The gender statistics report which is first of its kind published by National Statistics Bureau, presents the sex-disaggregated data on key indicators to highlight the progress in promoting gender equality and empowerment of the women in the country.

The aim of this report is not only to encourage policy debates around gender gaps but also to provide quantitative evidence for planning, monitoring and evaluation of programs.

The report contains the sex-disaggregated data on 6 different fields: Population & Youth, Education, Health & Nutrition, Economic Activity, Decision making & Public Life, and Domestic Violence. We are hopeful that this will greatly benefit the policy makers, planners, academia and researchers to a large extent.

**Director**
**National Statistics Bureau**

# GENDER AT GLANCE

| Sl No | Indicators | Figure | Source |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Female Population | 3,46,692 | 2017 PHCB |
| 2 | Sex Ratio | 110 males per 100 females | |
| 3 | Total Dependency Ratio | 47.0 | |
| 4 | Maternal Mortality Ratio | 89.0 | |
| 5 | Infant Mortality Rate-Female (%) | 13.5 | |
| 6 | Child Mortality Rate-Female (%) | 18.4 | |
| 7 | Total Fertility Rate (%) | 1.7 | |
| 8 | Female Life Expectancy at Birth (Years) | 71.7 | |
| 9 | Disability Prevalence Rate (Female) (%) | 2.3 | |
| 10 | Female Literacy Rate (%) | 63.9 | |
| 11 | Youth Literacy Rate-Female (%) | 92.9 | |
| 12 | Net Enrolment Ratio in Secondary (VII-XII) | 80.2 | Annual Education Statistics, 2020 |
| 13 | Gross Enrolment Ratio in Secondary (VII-XII) | 97.6 | |
| 14 | Female Labour Force Participation Rate (%) | 63.5 | 2020 Labour Force Survey |
| 15 | Female Employment Rate (%) | 94.0 | |
| 16 | Female Unemployment Rate (%) | 6.0 | |
| 17 | Youth Unemployment Rate-Female (%) | 25.4 | |
| 18 | Women's Representation in the Parliament (%) | 15.3 | Study on Gender & Climate Change in Bhutan, NCWC 2020 |
| 19 | Women's Representation in the Local Government (%) | 11.9 | |
| 20 | Female in Executive and Specialist Category (%) | 15.1 | Civil Service Statistics, 2020 |
| 21 | Female in Professional and Management Category (%) | 38.7 | |
| 22 | Prevalence of Partner Physical Violence -Lifetime (%) | 13.9 | A Study on Violence Against Women and Girls in Bhutan, 2017 NCWC |
| 23 | Prevalence of Partner Physical Violence -Current (%) | 5.1 | |
| 24 | Prevalence of Partner Sexual Violence -Lifetime (%) | 4.5 | |
| 25 | Prevalence of Partner Sexual Violence -Current (%) | 2.3 | |

# I.    POPULATION & YOUTH

## 1.1 POPULATION

The population of Bhutan according to Population and Housing Census of Bhutan (PHCB), 2017 is estimated at 735,553. This includes 8,408 non-Bhutanese/tourists found in hotels and those on move on the census reference day.
The analysis for the 2017 PHCB was based on 727,145 persons since no detailed information was collected from 8,408 non-Bhutanese /tourists found in hotels on the census day.

Out of 727,145 persons, 52% are male and 48% are female. The urban population consists of 274,967 (37.8%) persons of which 47.7% are female, while the rural population consists of 452,178 (62.2%) persons and 47.7% are female. The male to female sex ratio in 2017 was about 110 male for every 100 female.

As presented in the table 1.2, the productive aged population (aged between 15-64 years) is estimated at 494,664 persons, while dependent population is estimated at 232,481 persons *(child dependent: 189,417, old age dependent: 43,064)*. Thus, the total dependency ratio for the year 2017 is 47.0, this means that for every 100 productive population, there are 47 dependents.
For the year 2021, the total population is projected at 756,129 out of which 393,324 are male and 361,806 are female.

Comparing by the age group, a huge variation between male and female is observed in the age group of 25-49 years. This could be due to the presence of a male expatriate workers in the construction sectors.

The median age of the population in 2017 was 26.9 years, which was up by 4.6 years from the 2005. The median age indicates that half of the population is older than age 26.9 years and other half is younger. The mean age of the population was 29.2 years which was an increase of 2.9 years from 2005. The mean and median age for female in 2005 and 2017 were slightly lower than male (Table 1.1).

**Table 1. 1    Mean Age, Median Age and Ageing Index, 2005 and 2017**

| Indicator | 2005 | | | 2017 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Mean Age | 26.6 | 26 | 26.3 | 29.3 | 29.1 | 29.2 |
| Median Age | 22.9 | 21.4 | 22.3 | 27.2 | 26.6 | 26.9 |
| Aging Index | 14.5 | 13.8 | 14.2 | 22.8 | 22.7 | 22.7 |

*Source: 2017 PHCB*

The ageing index for Bhutan was 22.7 in 2017, which means that for every 23 elderly persons of age 65 years and above, there were100 persons below 15 years of age.

**Table 1. 2      Population by Sex and Age Group (2017-2021)**

| Age Group | 2017 | | | 2018 | | | 2019 | | | 2020 | | | 2021 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| 0-4 | 29,176 | 28,298 | 57,474 | 29,039 | 28,269 | 57,308 | 29,041 | 28,357 | 57,398 | 29,208 | 28,557 | 57,765 | 29,618 | 28,913 | 58,531 |
| 5-9 | 32,035 | 30,956 | 62,991 | 31,506 | 30,300 | 61,806 | 31,021 | 29,746 | 60,767 | 30,495 | 29,235 | 59,730 | 29,801 | 28,676 | 58,477 |
| 10-14 | 34,656 | 34,296 | 68,952 | 34,351 | 33,874 | 68,225 | 33,825 | 33,206 | 67,031 | 33,159 | 32,388 | 65,547 | 32,484 | 31,552 | 64,036 |
| 15-19 | 34,679 | 33,607 | 68,286 | 34,204 | 33,737 | 67,941 | 34,151 | 33,968 | 68,119 | 34,343 | 34,200 | 68,543 | 34,517 | 34,295 | 68,812 |
| 20-24 | 41,075 | 34,340 | 75,415 | 39,746 | 33,893 | 73,639 | 38,209 | 33,591 | 71,800 | 36,655 | 33,428 | 70,083 | 35,329 | 33,373 | 68,702 |
| 25-29 | 42,802 | 36,478 | 79,280 | 43,175 | 36,566 | 79,741 | 43,071 | 36,167 | 79,238 | 42,547 | 35,456 | 78,003 | 41,706 | 34,696 | 76,402 |
| 30-34 | 35,059 | 30,121 | 65,180 | 36,529 | 31,374 | 67,903 | 38,217 | 32,841 | 71,058 | 39,913 | 34,311 | 74,224 | 41,323 | 35,484 | 76,807 |
| 35-39 | 29,689 | 25,860 | 55,549 | 30,703 | 26,755 | 57,458 | 31,527 | 27,441 | 58,968 | 32,294 | 28,047 | 60,341 | 33,197 | 28,770 | 61,967 |
| 40-44 | 22,274 | 19,221 | 41,495 | 23,408 | 20,241 | 43,649 | 24,779 | 21,515 | 46,294 | 26,259 | 22,904 | 49,163 | 27,685 | 24,233 | 51,918 |
| 45-49 | 18,865 | 16,668 | 35,533 | 19,311 | 17,006 | 36,317 | 19,718 | 17,282 | 37,000 | 20,171 | 17,597 | 37,768 | 20,784 | 18,074 | 38,858 |
| 50-54 | 15,456 | 13,861 | 29,317 | 15,995 | 14,311 | 30,306 | 16,553 | 14,797 | 31,350 | 17,115 | 15,289 | 32,404 | 17,653 | 15,751 | 33,404 |
| 55-59 | 12,379 | 11,519 | 23,898 | 12,760 | 11,750 | 24,510 | 13,212 | 12,055 | 25,267 | 13,709 | 12,419 | 26,128 | 14,229 | 12,821 | 27,050 |
| 60-64 | 10,498 | 10,213 | 20,711 | 10,764 | 10,469 | 21,233 | 10,959 | 10,601 | 21,560 | 11,132 | 10,667 | 21,799 | 11,337 | 10,741 | 22,078 |
| 65 and above | 21,810 | 21,254 | 43,064 | 22,418 | 21,920 | 44,338 | 23,119 | 22,703 | 45,822 | 23,877 | 23,556 | 47,433 | 24,660 | 24,427 | 49,087 |
| Total | 3,80,453 | 3,46,692 | 7,27,145[1] | 3,83,909 | 3,50,465 | 7,34,374 | 3,87,402 | 3,54,270 | 7,41,672 | 3,90,877 | 3,58,054 | 7,48,931 | 3,94,323 | 3,61,806 | 7,56,129 |

*Source: Population Projection report, NSB*

[1] Excludes 8,408 tourists and those on the move during the census reference day

## 1.1 YOUTH POPULATION

The youth population is defined as persons aged between 15 to 24 years. The youth population for the year 2021 is estimated at 137,514 persons (69,846 male and 67,668 female youth). The figure 1.1 shows that the share of female youth has increased over the years while the male youth has decreased for the same period.

**Figure 1. 1     Population Age Between 15 and 24 Years (2017-2021)**
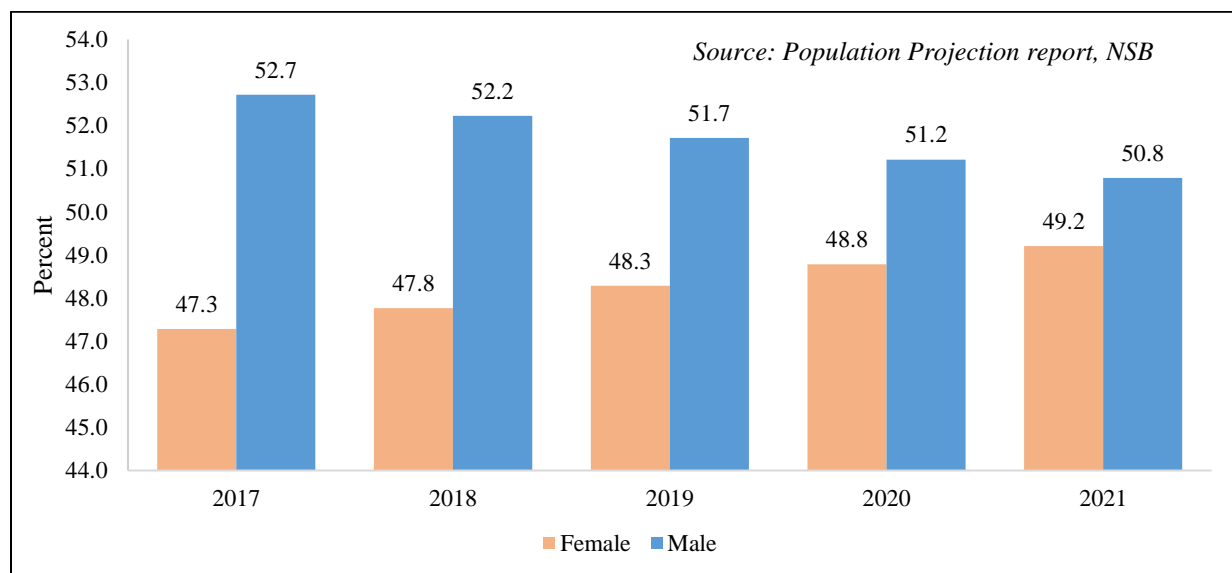


Among the school going age (3-5, 6-12 and 13-16 years), the female population is showing the declining trend over the five years.

However, among the school going age 17-18 and 19-22 years, the female population shows an increasing trend over the period of five years as compared to their male counterparts. The table 1.3 presents the selected school going age for the period of five years.

**Table 1. 3                    Selected School Going Age Population, 2017-2021**

| Age Group | 2017 | | 2018 | | 2019 | | 2020 | | 2021 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Female | Total | Female | Total | Female | Total | Female | Total | Female | Total |
| 3-5 | 18,752 | 38,006 | 17,347 | 35,429 | 16,961 | 34,498 | 16,434 | 33,174 | 16,631 | 33,532 |
| 6-12 | 44,716 | 90,579 | 44,424 | 90,145 | 43,405 | 88,292 | 42,464 | 86,547 | 41,608 | 84,887 |
| 13-16 | 28,008 | 56,001 | 27,542 | 55,237 | 27,571 | 55,376 | 27,353 | 55,023 | 26,877 | 54,178 |
| 17-18 | 13,472 | 27,376 | 13,394 | 26,895 | 13,494 | 26,999 | 13,639 | 27,311 | 13,780 | 27,626 |
| 19-22 | 26,348 | 57,022 | 26,848 | 56,875 | 26,754 | 55,502 | 26,717 | 54,457 | 26,770 | 53,937 |

*Source: Population Projection report, NSB*

## II.   EDUCATION

Education is considered as one of the important dimensions in measuring the multidimensional poverty index, gender gap index and human development index. It also plays an important role in getting quality job with decent income. Therefore, it is very important to produce sex-disaggregated data in education related indicators to monitor the progress of the achievement.

### 2.1  LITERACY

The general literacy rate for the year 2017 is estimated at 71.4% which is 11.9 percentage point up from the year 2005. Over the past 12 years, the female literacy rate has gone up 15 percentage point as compared to their male counterparts (9%). Similar pattern is observed in adult (age 15 years and above) literacy rate with an increase of 18 percentage point for female and 10 percentage point for male.

The literacy rate for age 6 to 14 years for 2017 is estimated at 93.1%. The literacy rate for male and female stands at 93.3% and 92.9% respectively and the rate has increased by same proportion for both male and female from the year 2005. This indicates that there is less gender disparity among the youths.  The figure 2.1 presents the literacy rate for different age group from the 2005 and 2017.

**Figure 2. 1      Literacy Rate by Sex, 2005 & 2017**
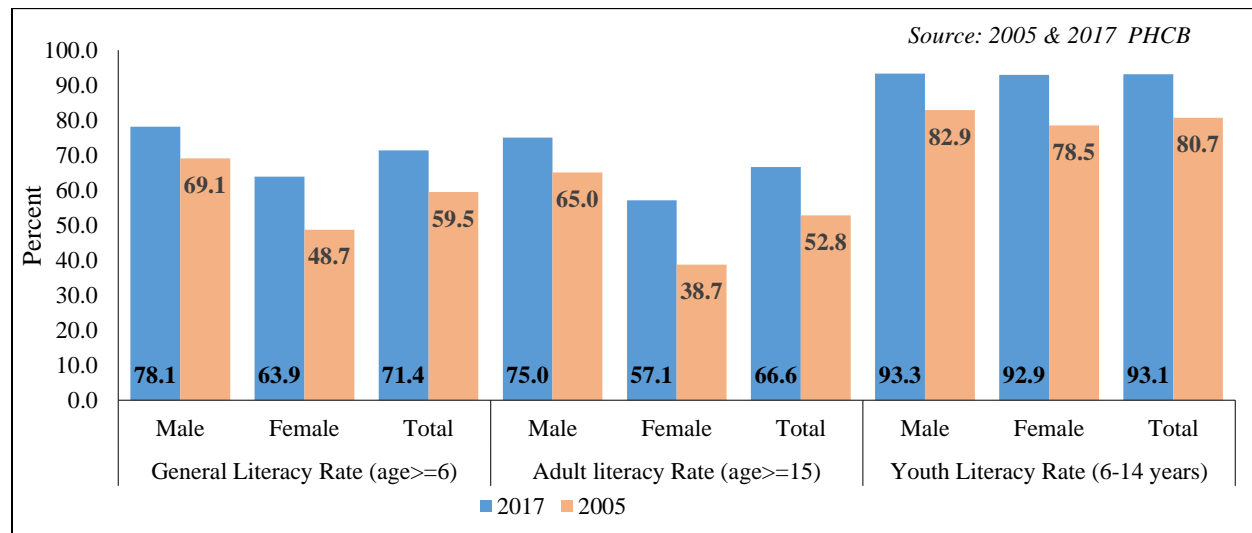


### 2.2   SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

School enrolment is total number of students that currently attend a school or a course. It includes those who are currently enrolled in ECCD, primary, secondary, tertiary, and other form of education.

Table 2.1 presents the total number of students and learners currently enrolled in school, NFE and monastic education in the year 2020. The number of students attending ECCD in 2020 is 8,026, out of which 49% are girls and 51% are boys. Similarly, the number of girls attending the primary education is less compared to the boys. While in lower, middle and higher secondary education, the share of girls (51% in middle and 52% in high school) is higher as compared to the boys.

**Table 2. 1**          **Total Number of Students and Learners, 2020**

| Level of Education | Sex | | | Female to Male Ratio | Share of Female (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** | | |
| **Early Childhood Development** | | | | | |
| ECCD Centres | 4,090 | 3,936 | 8,026 | 1.0 | 49.0 |
| **School Education** | | | | | |
| Primary Education | 47,449 | 46,716 | 94,165 | 1.0 | 49.6 |
| Lower Secondary Education | 12,279 | 13,020 | 25,299 | 1.1 | 51.5 |
| Middle Secondary Education | 12,545 | 14,268 | 26,813 | 1.1 | 53.2 |
| Higher Secondary Education | 11,482 | 13,047 | 24,529 | 1.1 | 53.2 |
| **Other Forms of Education** | | | | | |
| Monastic Education (Lobdra, Shredra,etc)[3] | 4,695 | 296 | 4,991 | 0.1 | 5.9 |
| Non-Formal Education Centres | 1,277 | 3,651 | 4,928 | 2.9 | 74.1 |

*Source: Annual Education Statistics 2020, MoE.*

About 6% of the of the learners enrolled in monastic education are females and about 74% of the NFE learners are females.

## 2.2.1 GENDER PARITY INDEX (GPI) FOR SCHOOL ENROLMENT

The Gender Parity Index (GPI) is ratio of female to male values of the different indicators. It measures progress towards gender parity in education participation and or learning opportunities available for women in relation to those available to men. It also reflects the level of women's empowerment in society[2].

The figure 2.2 presents the GPI for the tertiary[3], technical & vocational education, secondary, and primary education. The Gender parity index for primary education has declined from 101 in 2018 to 98 in 2019 and has remined same in the year 2020. While, for secondary education, the trend has been increasing over the past three years. This indicates that there are more female students than male in secondary education (class VII to XII).

A huge gender disparity is observed in the technical and vocational education for the same period. The GPI for this category is 0.41 in the year 2020, which states that for every 100 males, there are about 41 females participating in this education. While women's participation in tertiary education has increased over the past three years. The upward trend of GPI in tertiary education indicates

---

[2] Definition from Annual Education statistics
[3] Tertiary education within Bhutan

that a greater number of women are getting access to tertiary education and having the better learning opportunities. The GPI for tertiary education in 2020 is 0.95, which shows that for every 100 males, there are 95 females in tertiary education.

**Figure 2. 2     Gender Parity Index for the Different Level of Education (2018-2020)**



Source: Annual Education Statistics 2020, MoE
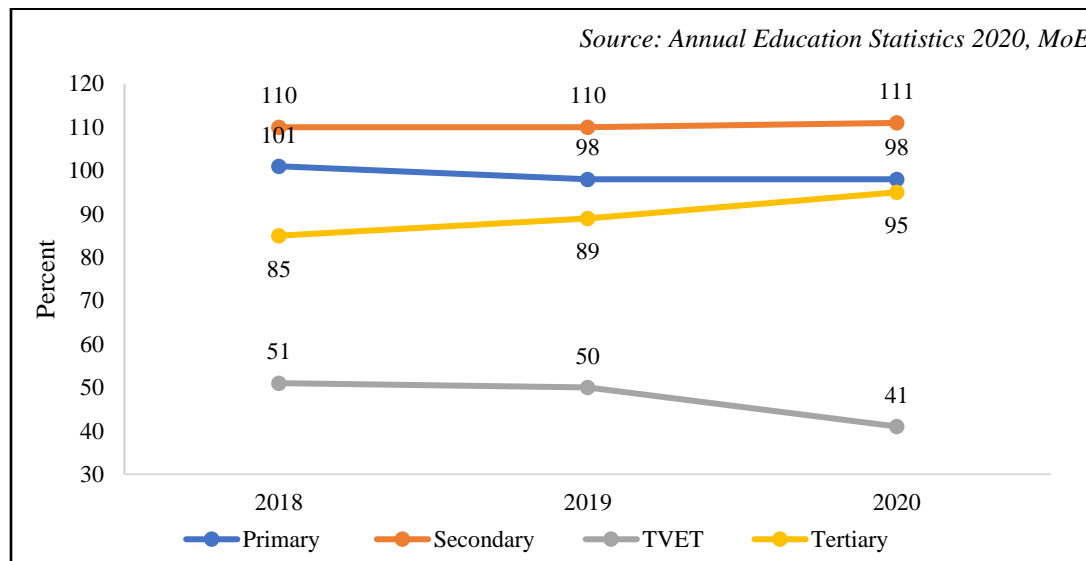
## 2.2.2 GROSS ENROLLMENT AND NET ENROLMENT RATIO

United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) defines Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) is defined as total number of students enrolled in specific level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school age-population corresponding to the same level of education.  The Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) is defined as total number of students in the official age group for a given level of education enrolled in that level, expressed as a percentage of the total population in that age group. Higher GER and NER generally shows higher degree of participation in that level of education.

The official school age are 6-12 years for primary education (class PP-VI), 13-14 years for Lower Secondary Education (class vii-viii), 15-16 years for Middle Secondary Education (class ix-x), 17-18 years for Higher Secondary Education (class xi-xii) and 19-23 years for Tertiary Education[4]. The    NER for ECCD for male is higher than female, while NER for Primary and Secondary education is higher for females. This shows that larger proportion of women of the specific age-group are enrolled in primary and secondary education.

Similarly, the GER for female is higher than male at all the levels of education, except for tertiary education and ECCD where the GER for male is higher than female. This shows that larger proportion of women irrespective of their age has participated in primary and secondary education, while man has larger participation in ECCD and tertiary education[5] (Table 2.2).

---

[4] Annual Education Statistics
[5] Tertiary Education within and outside Bhutan (age 19-23 years)

**Table 2. 2          Gross and Net Enrolment Ratio, Dropout Rate, Transition Rate by Sex, 2019 and 2020**

| INDICATOR | 2019 | | | 2020 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Net Enrolment Ratio in ECCD | 20.5 | 20.6 | 20.5 | 23.9 | 23.5 | 23.7 |
| Net Enrolment Ratio in primary (PP-VI) | 90.3 | 92.2 | 91.2 | 91.6 | 94.3 | 92.9 |
| Net Enrolment Ratio in basic (PP-X) | 87.6 | 92.1 | 89.8 | 88.0 | 93.3 | 90.6 |
| Net Enrolment Ratio in Secondary (VII-XII) | 68.9 | 79.4 | 74.1 | 71.2 | 80.2 | 75.7 |
| Gross Enrolment Ratio in ECCD | 25.3 | 25.4 | 25.3 | 24.4 | 24.0 | 24.2 |
| Gross Enrolment Ratio in Primary (PP-VI) | 101.3 | 102.3 | 101.8 | 107.6 | 110.0 | 108.8 |
| Gross Enrolment Ratio in Basic (PP-X) | 97.9 | 102.8 | 100.3 | 100.7 | 106.0 | 103.3 |
| Gross Enrolment Ratio in Secondary (VII-XII) | 88.5 | 98.2 | 93.3 | 88.6 | 97.6 | 93.1 |
| Gross Enrolment Ratio in Tertiary within Bhutan (19-23 years) | 17.0 | 16.6 | 16.8 | 17.8 | 17.9 | 17.9 |
| Gross Enrolment Ratio in Tertiary within and outside Bhutan (19-23 years) | 25.6 | 24.1 | 24.9 | 23.6 | 23.5 | 23.6 |
| Adjusted Net Enrolment Rate (6-12 years) | 96.1 | 96.9 | 96.5 | 97.3 | 101.5 | 99.4 |
| Net Intake | 54.7 | 58.1 | 56.4 | 52.2 | 51.5 | 51.9 |
| Apparent Intake | 98.1 | 99.4 | 98.7 | 137.2 | 140.6 | 138.9 |
| Dropout Rate (Primary) | 2.3 | 0.7 | 1.5 | 2.4 | 0.3 | 1.4 |
| Dropout Rate (Basic) | 2.6 | 1.3 | 2.0 | | | |
| Repetition Rate (Primary) | 9.3 | 6.4 | 7.9 | 9.2 | 6.3 | 7.8 |
| Repetition Rate (Basic) | 10.3 | 7.7 | 9.0 | 10.4 | 7.8 | 9.1 |
| Survival Rate to Grade VI | 76.2 | 90.7 | 83.2 | 79.2 | 94.9 | 86.8 |
| Survival Rate to Grade X | 73.3 | 86.8 | 79.9 | 76.3 | 92.9 | 84.3 |
| Completion Rate (Primary) | 84.3 | 90.7 | 87.5 | 73.7 | 84.6 | 79.1 |
| Completion Rate (Basic) | 84.8 | 102.3 | 93.5 | 77.2 | 93.4 | 85.3 |
| Transition Rate (Primary to Lower Secondary) | 93.0 | 94.5 | 93.8 | 87.5 | 92.9 | 90.2 |
| Transition Rate (Lower Secondary to Middle Secondary) | 85.8 | 88.2 | 87.1 | 85.4 | 89.2 | 87.4 |
| Transition Rate (Middle Secondary to Higher Secondary) | 89.7 | 89.7 | 89.7 | 83.7 | 83.0 | 83.3 |

*Source: Annual Education Statistics, 2020*

The completion rates for both primary education (PP-VI) and basic education (PP-10) has decreased from 87.5% and 93.5% in 2019 to 79.1% and 85.3% in 2020. The completion rates in 2020 is higher for female than male for both primary and basic education.

The transition rate from primary to lower and middle to higher secondary has decreased in 2020, while transition rate from lower to middle has slightly increased. The table 2.2 presents the enrolment ratio, transition rates, dropout rates and survival rates by sex for the year 2019 and 2020.

## 2.3    TERTIARY EDUCATION

There are 18 institutes that provides the tertiary education in the country. Ten institutes are under Royal University of Bhutan, three are under Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences, two are autonomous, and three are private.

In the year 2020, there are 13,012 students enrolled in tertiary education institutes, out of which 48% are female and 52% are males. In the private and autonomous institutes, the number of female students are higher compared to male students, while in the university of medical sciences, the number of male students dominates the female students.

The share of female students in the colleges like College of Language and Culture Studies, College of Natural Resources and Paro College of Education are higher than male, while other colleges under Royal University of Bhutan (RUB) has high number of male students. The table 2.3 presents the sex disaggregated data of the students by institutes in the country.

**Table 2. 3        Number of Students by Sex and Universities, 2020**

| Type of institutes | Tertiary Education Institutes | Sex | | | Female to Male Ratio | % share of females |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male | Female | Total | | |
| Royal University of Bhutan | College of Language and Culture Studies | 478 | 626 | 1,104 | 1.3 | 56.7 |
| | College of Natural Resources | 450 | 597 | 1,047 | 1.3 | 57.0 |
| | College of Science and Technology | 632 | 253 | 885 | 0.4 | 28.6 |
| | Gedu College of Business Studies | 782 | 661 | 1,443 | 0.8 | 45.8 |
| | Gyalpozhing College of Information Technology | 159 | 125 | 284 | 0.8 | 44.0 |
| | Jigme Namgyel Engineering College | 1,049 | 430 | 1,479 | 0.4 | 29.1 |
| | Samtse College of Education | 413 | 336 | 749 | 0.8 | 44.9 |
| | Paro College of Education | 669 | 861 | 1,530 | 1.3 | 56.3 |
| | Yonphula Centenary College | 16 | 14 | 30 | 0.9 | 46.7 |
| | Sherubtse College | 601 | 620 | 1,221 | 1.0 | 50.8 |
| Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan | Faculty of Nursing and Public Health (KGUMSB) | 271 | 239 | 510 | 0.9 | 46.9 |
| | Faculty of Postgraduate Medicine (KGUMSB) | 34 | 27 | 61 | 0.8 | 44.3 |
| | Faculty of Traditional Medicine (KGUMSB) | 46 | 37 | 83 | 0.8 | 44.6 |
| Autonomous Institutes | Royal Institute of Management | 111 | 120 | 231 | 1.1 | 51.9 |
| | Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law | 30 | 57 | 87 | 1.9 | 65.5 |
| Private Institutes | Norbuling Rigter College | 175 | 257 | 432 | 1.5 | 59.5 |
| | Arura Academy of Health Sciences | 29 | 76 | 105 | 2.6 | 72.4 |
| | Royal Thimphu College | 823 | 908 | 1,731 | 1.1 | 52.5 |
| | **Total** | **6,768** | **6,244** | **13,012** | 0.9 | 48.0 |

*Source: State of Higher Education of Bhutan, 2020*

[11]

## 2.4    TECHNICAL & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

As of 2020, there are 8 institutes offering technical and vocational education under Ministry of Labour and Human Resources. There are 394 male trainees compared to 161 female trainees in the country availing technical and vocational education in various fields under MoLHR.

The number of trainees in technical and vocational education has been fluctuating over a period of six years. The lowest is observed in the year 2020, while the highest is observed in the year 2015 (Figure 2.3).

**Figure 2. 3    Trainees in Technical Training Institutes by Sex (2015-2020)**



*Source: Annual Education Statistics , 2020*
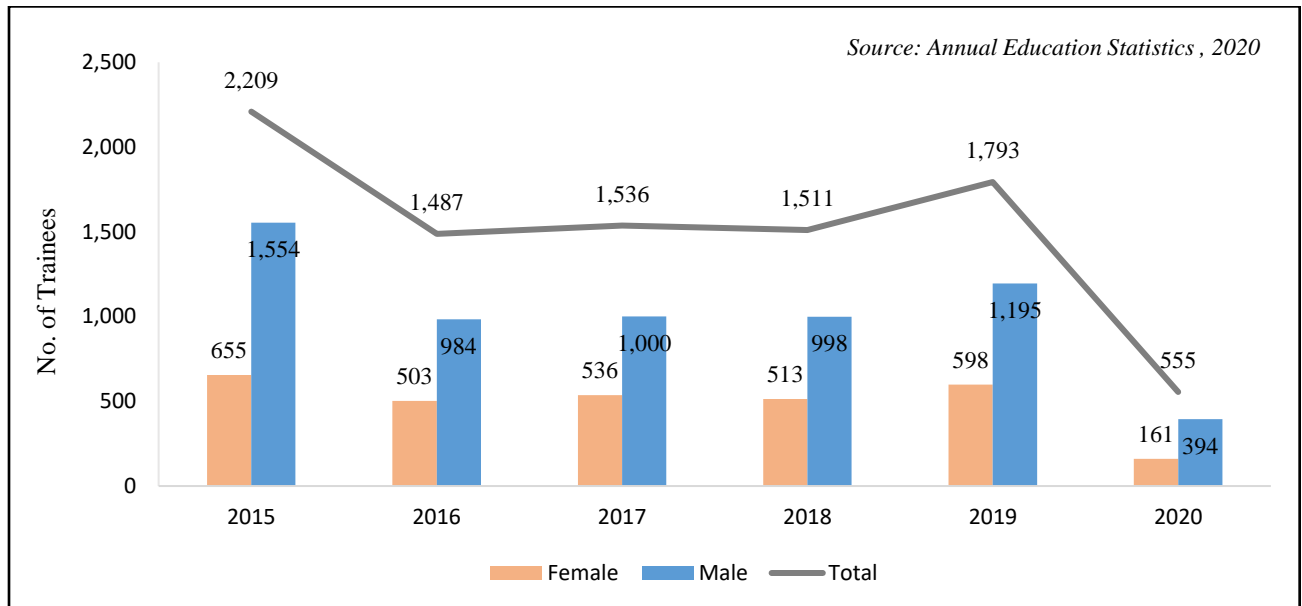
# III.  HEALTH

Health is an integral part of any human development and the need for timely and reliable health indicators data is crucial. This section presents the health-related indicators by sex and different age group. The indicators are all based on the united nation minimum set of gender indicators.

## 3.1    FERTILITY

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in 2017 is 1.7, this means that a women would bear on an average 1.7 children in her entire reproductive life.  The TFR for urban area is 1.7 and rural area is 1.8. The General Fertility Rate is 57.3, indicating that there are about 57 births per 1,000 women in the reproductive age. There GFR for urban and rural area is almost at par (urban 58.2 and rural 56.5).

The Crude Birth Rate (CBR) of Bhutan is 15.5, indicating that there were about 16 live births for every 1000 population. The CBR for urban (17.8) is higher than rural area (14.0)
The child survival rate in urban (96.2%) area is higher than rural area (93%). The overall child survival rate stands at 94.1%.

**Table 3. 1            Fertility and Birth Related Indicators**

| Indicators | Area | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Urban** | **Rural** | **Both Area** |
| Total Fertility Rate (TFR) | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.7 |
| General Fertility Rate (GFR) | 58.2 | 56.5 | 57.3 |
| General Marital Fertility Rate | 104.0 | 85.0 | 92.4 |
| Crude Birth Rate (CBR) | 17.8 | 14.0 | 15.5 |
| Child Survival Rate | 96.2 | 93.0 | 94.1 |
| Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel in one year | 99.2 | 95.7 | 97.2 |
| Delivery in Health Facility | 97.2 | 90.5 | 93.4 |
| Mean Age at First Birth | 22 | 21 | 21 |

*Source: 2017 PHCB*

The mean age at first birth for women aged 15-49 year is 21 years. It is slightly higher in the urban areas (22 years) as compared to the rural areas (21 years).  About 93% of the women gave birth in a health facility. The women who gave birth in a health facility is high in urban (97.2%) than in rural (90.5%) areas.

Similarly in 2017, about 97% of the women who gave birth in the last 12 months were attended by health professional. The attendance of birth by health professional in the urban areas is higher (99.2%) than in rural areas (95.7%) (Table 3.1).

## 3.2 MORTALITY

The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) as per the 2017 PHCB is estimated at 15.1 deaths per 1000 live births. The IMR for male is higher than female. Similarly, the Child Mortality Rate (CMR) and Under 5 Mortality Rate (U5MR) for male are higher than female. Comparing by the area, the rural area has the higher rate compared to their urban counterparts and there is huge variation between rural male and rural female (Table 3.2).

The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) is estimated 89 deaths per 100,000 livebirths. The Crude Death Rate (CDR) is estimated at 6.7 deaths per 1000 population with 7.1 in urban and 6.3 deaths per 1000 population in rural areas.

**Table 3. 2          IMR, CMR & U5MR by Area and Sex, 2017**

| Indicators | Urban | | | Rural | | | Both Area | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) | 12.6 | 11.4 | 12.0 | 19.7 | 15.1 | 17.5 | 16.6 | 13.5 | 15.1 |
| Child Mortality Rate (CMR) | 13.0 | 13.6 | 13.3 | 24.6 | 22.0 | 23.3 | 19.4 | 18.4 | 19.0 |
| Under 5 Mortality Rate (U5MR) | 25.6 | 25.0 | 25.3 | 44.3 | 37.1 | 40.8 | 36.0 | 31.9 | 34.1 |

*Source: 2017 PHCB*

The overall life expectancy of Bhutan in 2017 is 70.2 years. This is an increase by 3.9 years from 66.3 years in 2005 (figure 3.1). The female life expectancy (71.7 years) is higher than that of males (68.8 years). In 2005, the life expectancy for female and male were 69.9 years and 65.7 years respectively.

**Figure 3. 1     Life Expectancy at Birth, 2005 and 2017**
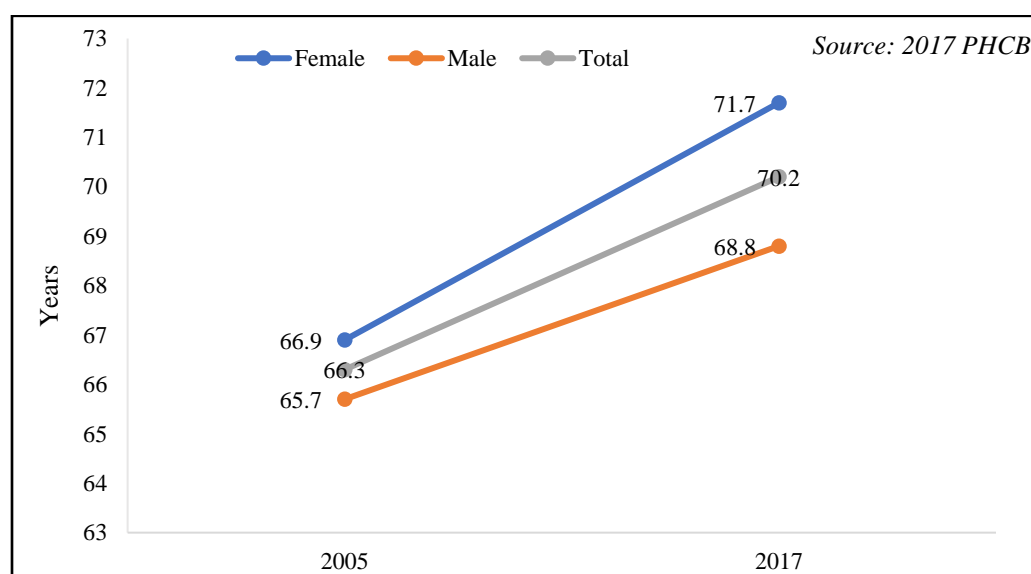
## 3.3 DISABILITY

The disability prevalence rate in Bhutan in 2017 is 2.1%, which corresponds to 15,567 persons. Out of which 8,111 are female and 7,456 are male. The disability prevalence rate increases with increase in age for both male and female, but the rate of increase is higher for females. The highest disability prevalence rate is observed in the age group 85 years and above with 33.9% having a lot of difficulty or completely unable to carry out activities in any of the six domains. The disability prevalence rate for female in the same age group is 34.8%, while it is 32.8% for males (Table 3.3).

**Table 3. 3        Disability Prevalence Rate by Age Group and Sex, 2017**

| Age Group | Persons with Disability | | | Population | | | Disability Rate | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Both Sex | Male | Female | Both Sex | Male | Female | Both Sex |
| 0-4 | 28 | 30 | 58 | 29,176 | 28,298 | 57,474 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| 5-9 | 175 | 140 | 315 | 32,035 | 30,956 | 62,991 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| 10-14 | 199 | 167 | 366 | 34,656 | 34,296 | 68,952 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| 15-19 | 216 | 227 | 443 | 34,679 | 33,607 | 68,286 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.6 |
| 20-24 | 203 | 234 | 437 | 41,075 | 34,340 | 75,415 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.6 |
| 25-29 | 263 | 254 | 517 | 42,802 | 36,478 | 79,280 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| 30-34 | 263 | 305 | 568 | 35,059 | 30,121 | 65,180 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 0.9 |
| 35-39 | 310 | 356 | 666 | 29,689 | 25,860 | 55,549 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 1.2 |
| 40-44 | 339 | 393 | 732 | 22,274 | 19,221 | 41,495 | 1.5 | 2.0 | 1.8 |
| 45-49 | 370 | 447 | 817 | 18,865 | 16,668 | 35,533 | 2.0 | 2.7 | 2.3 |
| 50-54 | 440 | 510 | 950 | 15,456 | 13,861 | 29,317 | 2.8 | 3.7 | 3.2 |
| 55-59 | 563 | 638 | 1,201 | 12,379 | 11,519 | 23,898 | 4.5 | 5.5 | 5.0 |
| 60-64 | 684 | 747 | 1,431 | 10,498 | 10,213 | 20,711 | 6.5 | 7.3 | 6.9 |
| 65-69 | 651 | 678 | 1,329 | 7,585 | 7,069 | 14,654 | 8.6 | 9.6 | 9.1 |
| 70-74 | 825 | 802 | 1,627 | 5,876 | 5,592 | 11,468 | 14.0 | 14.3 | 14.2 |
| 75-79 | 715 | 758 | 1,473 | 3,965 | 3,906 | 7,871 | 18.0 | 19.4 | 18.7 |
| 80-84 | 644 | 749 | 1,393 | 2,651 | 2,746 | 5,397 | 24.3 | 27.3 | 25.8 |
| 85+ | 568 | 676 | 1,244 | 1,733 | 1,941 | 3,674 | 32.8 | 34.8 | 33.9 |
| All Ages | 7,456 | 8,111 | 15,567 | 3,80,453 | 3,46,692 | 7,27,145 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 2.1 |

*Source: 2017 PHCB*

Among people who experienced some difficulty in functioning in their everyday lives, problem encountered with seeing (2.9%) was the most prevalent, followed by hearing and walking with a prevalence rate of 2.2%.

Among those who have experienced a lot of difficulty in the six domains, problem with walking (0.6%) were the most prevalent. The prevalence rates in all domains were higher for females than males. By area of residence, all forms of disability were higher in rural areas than in urban areas. For all the domains, the prevalence rate decreases with increasing degree of difficulty (Table 3.4).

**Table 3. 4**          **Disability by Domain and Degree of Difficulty by Sex and Area, 2017**

| Domain | No Difficulty | Some Difficulty | A Lot of Difficulty | Cannot Do at All | Not Reported |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Seeing** | **96.5** | **2.9** | **0.4** | **0.1** | **0.2** |
| Male | 96.7 | 2.6 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| Female | 96.2 | 3.2 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Urban | 97.5 | 2.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| Rural | 95.8 | 3.4 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| **Hearing** | **96.9** | **2.2** | **0.5** | **0.2** | **0.2** |
| Male | 96.9 | 2.1 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| Female | 97.0 | 2.2 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Urban | 98.3 | 1.2 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Rural | 96.1 | 2.8 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| **Walking** | **96.9** | **2.2** | **0.6** | **0.2** | **0.2** |
| Male | 97.3 | 1.8 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| Female | 96.6 | 2.6 | 0.6 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Urban | 98.1 | 1.3 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Rural | 96.2 | 2.7 | 0.7 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| **Cognitive** | **97.8** | **1.7** | **0.2** | **0.1** | **0.2** |
| Male | 98.0 | 1.4 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| Female | 97.7 | 1.9 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Urban | 98.6 | 1.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| Rural | 97.4 | 2.0 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| **Self-Care** | **98.3** | **1.0** | **0.3** | **0.3** | **0.2** |
| Male | 98.3 | 0.9 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Female | 98.2 | 1.1 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| Urban | 98.9 | 0.6 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Rural | 97.9 | 1.2 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| **Communication** | **98.9** | **0.6** | **0.2** | **0.2** | **0.2** |
| Male | 98.8 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| Female | 99.0 | 0.6 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Urban | 99.3 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Rural | 98.7 | 0.7 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |

*Source: 2017 PHCB*

## 3.4    NUTRITION

The status of children's nutrition reflects their overall health. When the children have access to adequate food supply, they reach their growth potential and are considered well nourished. The table 3.5 presents the percentage of children under age 5 by nutritional status according to three anthropometric indices: weight for age, height for age and weight for height.

More than one third of children (33.5%) were moderately stunted or too short for their age, out of which 13.3% are severely stunted. The proportion of boys (33.4%) who were moderately stunted is slightly lower than the girls (33.6%).
About 13% of the children under five are moderately underweight and 3.2% were classified as severely underweight. The cases of underweight are higher among the boys (13.3%) than the girls (12.0%).
Overall, the 5.9% of the children under age five are classified as moderate wasting, out of which 2% are severe wasting. The moderate wasting for the male and female is estimated at 6.2% and 5.5% respectively (Table 3.5).

**Table 3. 5**          **Percent of Children Underweight, Stunted and Wasted by Sex, 2010**

| INDICATOR | UNIT | SUB-GROUP | FIGURES |
|---|---|---|---|
| Proportion of stunted children under the age of 5 years | Percent | Male | 33.4 |
| | | Female | 33.6 |
| | | Total | 33.5 |
| Proportion of wasted children under the age of 5 years | Percent | Male | 6.2 |
| | | Female | 5.5 |
| | | Total | 5.9 |
| Prevalence of children under age 5 who are underweight | Percent | Male | 13.3 |
| | | Female | 12.0 |
| | | Total | 12.7 |
| Proportion of overweight children under the age of 5 years | Percent | Male | 7.5 |
| | | Female | 7.6 |
| | | Total | 7.6 |

*source: BMIS, 2010*

# IV. ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

The economic activity is one of the measures of the gender equality. The sex-disaggregated data are needed to monitor the gender gaps in economic activity with a view to establishing policies for gender equality and facilitating employment creation in the economy.
The statistic on economic activity is also used in the calculation of the Human Development Index (HDI), Gender Gap Index, and Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI).

This section presents the key indicators of the labour market such as labour force participation rate, unemployment rate, youth unemployment rate, type of economic activity and the employment status. The statistics presented in this chapter are all sourced from the 2020 Labour Force Survey.

## 4.1    ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE AND INACTIVE POPULATION

**Economically Active Population** (**Labour force**): are those persons available for the production of goods and services during the survey reference period. It is the total number of employed and unemployed persons. The indicators that are generated from this population is **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR).**

The LFPR for the 2020 is estimated at 67.8%, up by 1.4 percentage point compared to 2019. The female LFPR (63.5%) in 2020 has increased by 2.3 percentage point from 2019 (61.2%), while the male LFPR has very minimal increment with 0.7 percentage point (72.5% in 2020 and 71.8% in 2019).

**Figure 4. 1    Labour Force Participation Rate and Economically Inactivity Rate by Sex (2018-2020)**
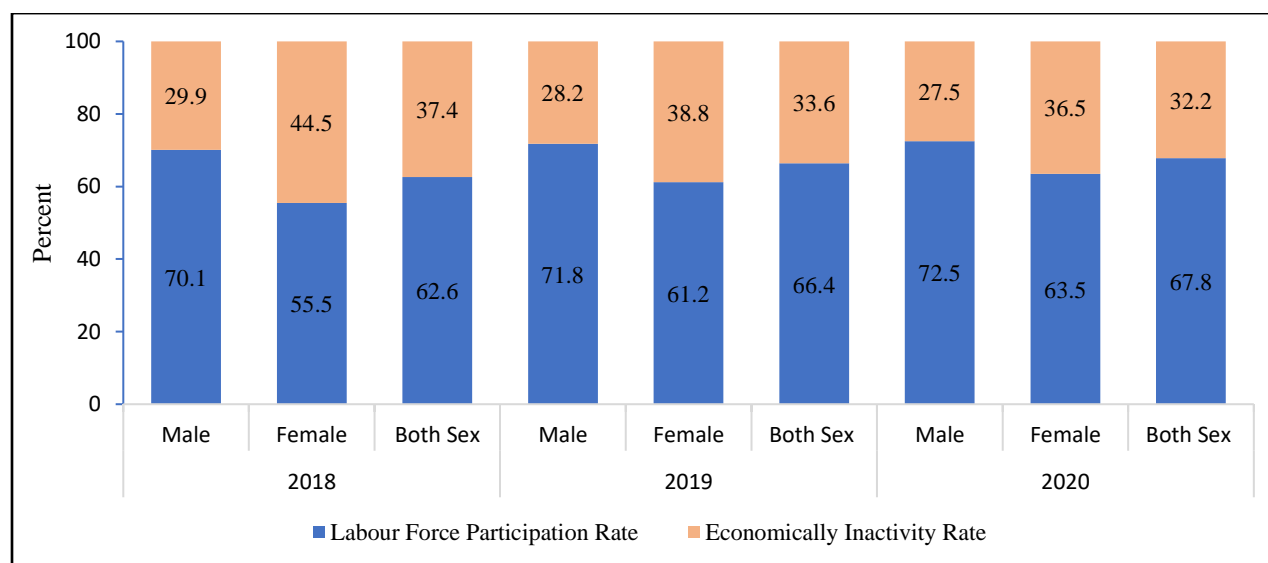


On other hand, economic inactivity rate of Bhutan has dropped to 32.2% in 2020 from 33.6% in 2019. The inactivity rate for female has decreased by 2.3 percentage point in 2020 (36.5%) from 2019 (38.8%), while inactivity rate for male has decreased by 0.7 percentage point in 2020 (27.5%)

from 2019 (28.2%). Figures 4.1 presents the labour force participation rate and inactivity rate for the year 2018, 2019 and 2020.

The figure 4.2 depicts the labour force participation rate for both male and female in 2020 by age group. The LFPR for both the sex is low at age group 15-19 years, this indicates that both man and women in this age group are currently enrolled in school, colleges, and training institutes.

In urban areas, the LFPR for male is comparatively higher compared to female across all the age groups except for the ages 15 to 24 where the LFPR is almost equal. In rural areas, though the male LFPR is high, female LFPR follows the same pattern across all the age groups.

**Figure 4. 2    Labour Force Participation Rate and Economically Inactivity Rate by Area and Sex, 2020**
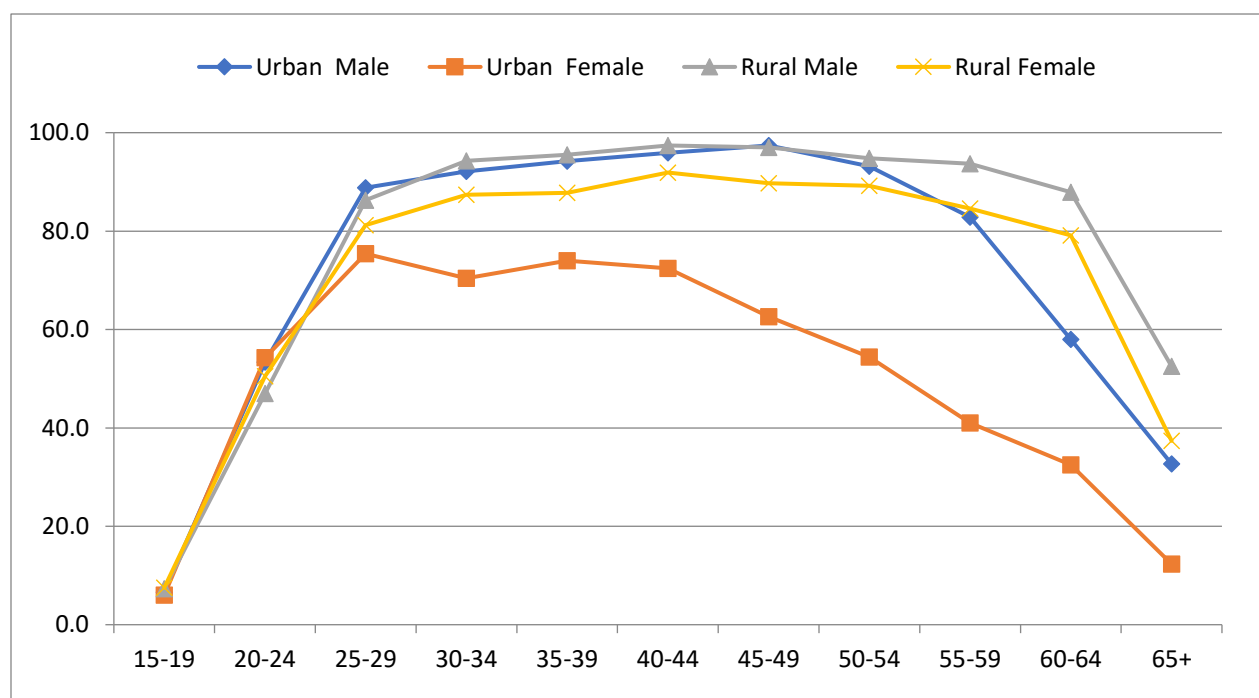


## 4.2    EMPLOYMENT

The employment rate for Bhutan in 2020 is estimated at 95.0% with male 95.9% and female 94.0%. The employment rate for female has fluctuated over the five years, while rates for male have seen slight variation over the years until it has decreased to 95.9% in 2020. The highest female employment rate is observed in 2020 (98.0%), while lowest is reported in 2020 with 94.0% (Figure 4.3).

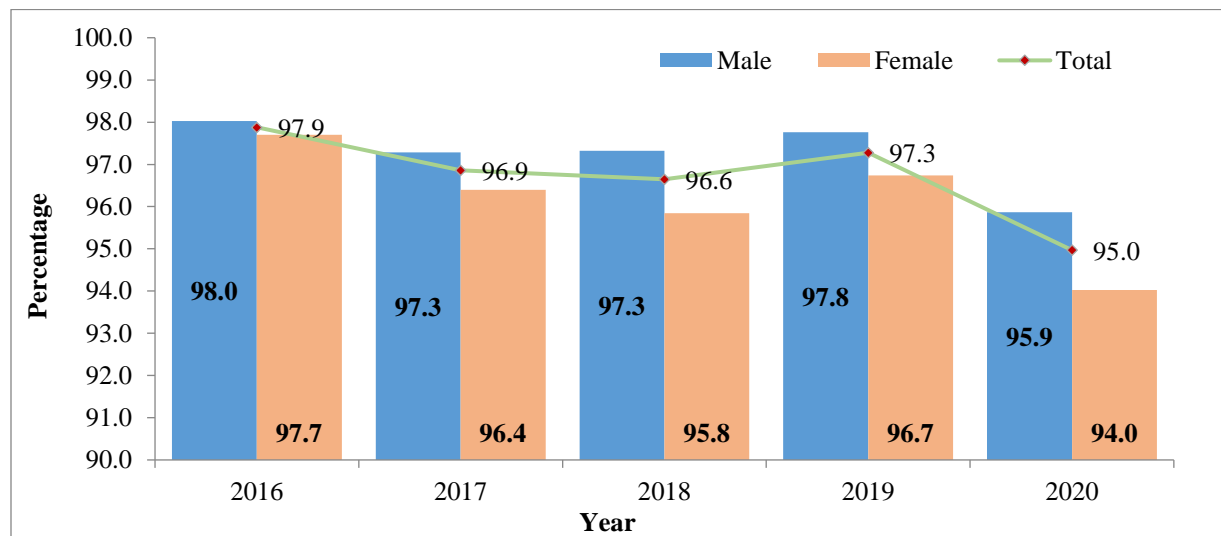**Figure 4. 3    Employment Rate (2016- 2020)**



Table 4.1 shows the proportion of employed persons by major economic activity. Of the total employed person, half of them (49.9%) are engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing. About one-tenth of the employed persons are engaged in Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security.

**Table 4. 1            Proportion of Employed Person by Major Economic Activity, Area and Sex, 2020**

| Major Economic Activity | Total | Sex | | Total | % Contribution of Females to the Total Employment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male | Female | | |
| Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing | 1,57,015 | 41.7 | 58.8 | 49.9 | 56.9 |
| Mining and Quarrying | 1,743 | 0.9 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 15.2 |
| Manufacturing | 24,685 | 4.9 | 11.0 | 7.9 | 67.6 |
| Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply | 4,146 | 2.0 | 0.6 | 1.3 | 22.9 |
| Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities | 157 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 26.9 |
| Construction | 16,010 | 8.6 | 1.3 | 5.1 | 12.6 |
| Wholesale & Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles | 25,233 | 6.3 | 9.9 | 8.0 | 59.5 |
| Transportation and Storage | 8,847 | 5.2 | 0.3 | 2.8 | 4.8 |
| Accommodation and Food Service Activities | 10,480 | 2.2 | 4.6 | 3.3 | 66.1 |
| Information and Communication | 2,661 | 1.0 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 37.1 |
| Financial and Insurance Activities | 2,936 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 48.7 |
| Real Estate Activities | 60 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 16.9 |
| Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities | 1,005 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 24.3 |
| Administrative and Support Service Activities | 1,471 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 29.7 |
| Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security | 26,787 | 13.3 | 3.4 | 8.5 | 19.1 |
| Education | 14,048 | 4.7 | 4.2 | 4.5 | 45.7 |
| Human Health and Social Work Activities | 8,002 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 48.2 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arts, Entertainment and Recreation | 1,944 | 0.9 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 21.0 |
| Other Service Activities | 6,129 | 3.3 | 0.5 | 2.0 | 11.8 |
| Activities of Households as Employers | 784 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 81.4 |
| Activities of Extraterritorial Organizations and Bodies | 419 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 27.9 |
| **Total** | **3,14,562** | **100.0** | **100.0** | **100.0** | **48.3** |

Among the employed women, 58.8% are engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing sector followed by 11.0% in manufacturing, 9.9% in Wholesale & Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles, 4.6% in Accommodation and Food Service Activities and 4.2% in Education.

About 42% of the employed male are engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing sector followed by 13.3% Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security, 8.6% in construction, 6.3% in Wholesale & Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles, 4.9% in manufacturing and 4.7% in education industry.

The table 4.1 also shows the contribution of females to the total employment within each major economic activity. Overall, the percentage of female contribution to the total employment is 48.3%. Among the major economic activity, the female contribution is highest in 'Activities of Households as Employers', while the lowest is in 'Transportation and Storage'.

According to the employment status of the employed persons, 44.3% of the employed male are working as paid employees (regular, casual, piece paid), while 55.7% are self-employed. Among the employed female, 78.8% are self-employed, while 21.2% are paid employees. This shows that a greater number of women are engaged in informal sectors.

Figure 4.4 illustrates the details of the employment status of the employed persons. For male, regular paid employees account the largest proportion with 37% followed by own-account worker agriculture and family worker agriculture with 23% and 18% respectively.

**Figure 4. 4    Employment Status of the Employed Persons, 2020**
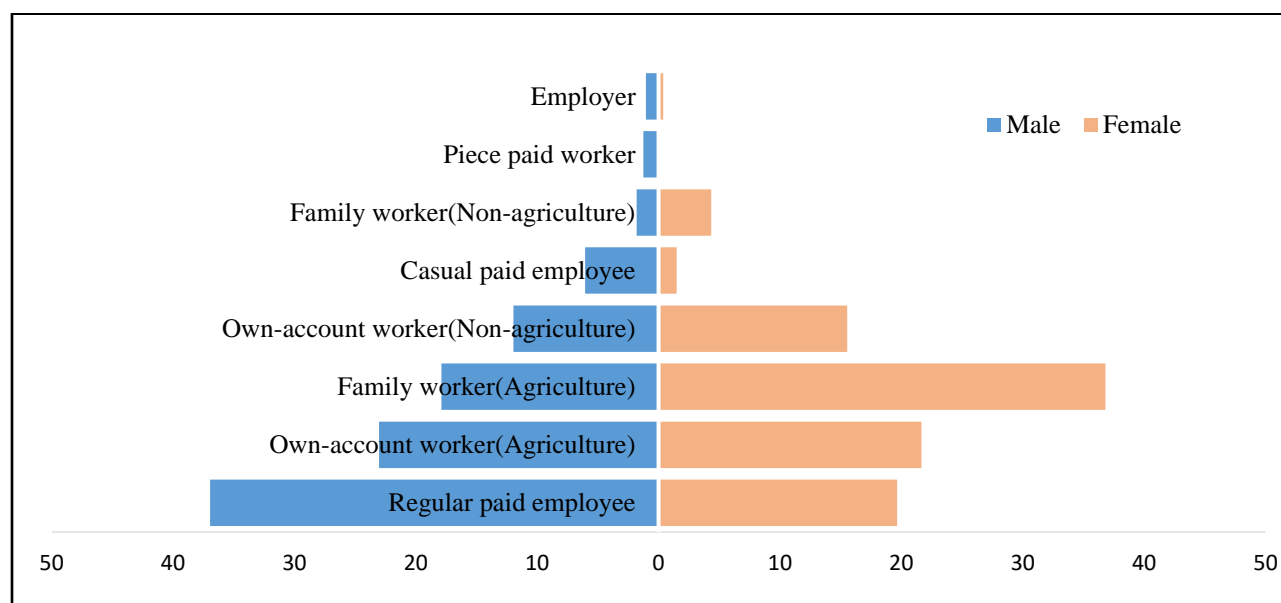
On contrary, more than half (58%) of the employed female are working either as family worker or own account worker in agriculture sector which is more of informal sector. Only 20% of them are working as a regular paid employee and 16% are working as own-account worker (non-agriculture).

## 4.3  UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment rate is the most used indicator for gauging the economic performance or health of an economy. It is also a good measure for employment creation and participation in economic activities. A lower unemployment rate indicates a growing economy, while a higher rate indicates a declining economy and its inability to absorb people of working age.

According to the Labour Force Survey conducted in 2020, there were 16,660 persons classified as unemployed, which translates to an unemployment rate of 5.0%. The unemployment rate for female is 6% (9,657 persons) and male is 4.1% (7,004 persons).

**Table 4. 2**                     **Unemployment Rate by Age Group & Sex, 2020**

| Age Group | Employed | | | Unemployed | | | Unemployment Rate | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| 15-24 | 11,276 | 12,455 | 23,731 | 2,676 | 4,245 | 6,922 | 19.2 | 25.4 | 22.6 |
| 25-34 | 42,902 | 43,534 | 86,436 | 2,799 | 3,851 | 6,650 | 6.1 | 8.1 | 7.1 |
| 35-44 | 43,072 | 40,398 | 83,470 | 922 | 1,230 | 2,152 | 2.1 | 3.0 | 2.5 |
| 45-54 | 32,342 | 29,690 | 62,032 | 424 | 331 | 756 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.2 |
| 55-64 | 19,806 | 17,346 | 37,153 | 181 | 0 | 181 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.5 |
| 65+ | 13,156 | 8,584 | 21,740 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| **All Ages** | 1,62,555 | 1,52,007 | 3,14,562 | 7,003 | 9,657 | 16,660 | 4.1 | 6.0 | 5.0 |

The unemployed persons are concentrated within the age group 15-24 years, which is classified as youth population. The youth unemployment rate is estimated at 22.6% with 19.2% for male and 25.4% for female. The unemployment rate of female dominates from the ages 15 to 44 years, while male dominates from the ages 45 to 64 years (Table 4.2).

**Table 4. 3**          **Unemployed Persons by Level of Education, 2020**

| Level of Education | Numbers | | | Percent | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| None | 443 | 795 | 1,239 | 6.3 | 8.2 | 7.4 |
| Primary | 348 | 607 | 956 | 5.0 | 6.3 | 5.7 |
| Lower Secondary | 457 | 413 | 870 | 6.5 | 4.3 | 5.2 |
| Middle Secondary | 781 | 1,794 | 2,574 | 11.1 | 18.6 | 15.5 |
| Higher Secondary | 1,897 | 3,113 | 5,011 | 27.1 | 32.2 | 30.1 |
| TVET Graduate | 191 | 162 | 354 | 2.7 | 1.7 | 2.1 |
| Diploma | 348 | 258 | 606 | 5.0 | 2.7 | 3.6 |
| Bachelor's Degree | 2,292 | 2,198 | 4,489 | 32.7 | 22.8 | 26.9 |
| Master's Degree & Above | 104 | 50 | 154 | 1.5 | 0.5 | 0.9 |
| Monastic education | 140 | 0 | 140 | 2.0 | 0.0 | 0.8 |
| NFE | 0 | 267 | 267 | 0.0 | 2.8 | 1.6 |
| Total | 7,003 | 9,657 | 16,660 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Among the unemployed persons, 26.9% has a bachelor's degree, 30.1% has higher secondary education, 15.5% has middle secondary education. Comparing by sex, a huge variation is observed among the unemployed persons in bachelor's degree with male 32.7% and female 22.8%.

The proportion of unemployed female below higher secondary education is higher than male (Table 4.3).

# V. DECISION MAKING AND PUBLIC LIFE

The size of the Civil Service as on 31st December 2020 is 31,219 persons, out of which of 26,698 are regular civil servants and 4,433 are on contract. Most civil servants on contract are in the teaching and education sector. The female civil servant constitutes 39% of the total civil servants. The statistics in the table 5.1 excludes 3,622 Elementary Service Personnel (ESP) and 3,122 General Service Personnel (GSP).

About 1% or 305 civil servants are in executive and specialist category, out of which only 15% are female and 85% are male. In professional and management category (P1-P5), there are 14,760 (39% male and 61% female) civil servants. In supervisory and support category, there are 13,648 civil servants out of which 44% are female and 56% are male.
About 18% of the civil servants in operational category are female, while 82% are male.

**Table 5. 1          Civil Servants by Position Level and Gender, 2020**

| Position Level | Sex | | | Female to male ratio | % Share of Female |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Total | | |
| No level[1] | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1.0 | 50.0 |
| EX1 | 25 | 0 | 25 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| EX2 | 46 | 5 | 51 | 0.1 | 9.8 |
| EX3 | 64 | 12 | 76 | 0.2 | 15.8 |
| ES1 | 10 | 2 | 12 | 0.2 | 16.7 |
| ES2 | 24 | 8 | 32 | 0.3 | 25.0 |
| ES3 | 88 | 18 | 107 | 0.2 | 16.8 |
| P1 | 860 | 417 | 1,288 | 0.5 | 32.4 |
| P2 | 1,524 | 742 | 2,284 | 0.5 | 32.5 |
| P3 | 2,360 | 1,381 | 3,764 | 0.6 | 36.7 |
| P4 | 2,217 | 1,393 | 3,615 | 0.6 | 38.5 |
| P5 | 2,024 | 1,784 | 3,809 | 0.9 | 46.8 |
| SS1 | 74 | 50 | 124 | 0.7 | 40.3 |
| SS2 | 331 | 78 | 409 | 0.2 | 19.1 |
| SS3 | 770 | 336 | 1,106 | 0.4 | 30.4 |
| SS4 | 1,059 | 626 | 1,685 | 0.6 | 37.2 |
| S1 | 1,702 | 1,134 | 2,836 | 0.7 | 40.0 |
| S2 | 1,501 | 1,117 | 2,618 | 0.7 | 42.7 |
| S3 | 1,001 | 832 | 1,834 | 0.8 | 45.4 |
| S4 | 372 | 475 | 847 | 1.3 | 56.1 |
| S5 | 873 | 1,316 | 2,189 | 1.5 | 60.1 |
| O1 | 698 | 157 | 855 | 0.2 | 18.4 |
| O2 | 345 | 170 | 515 | 0.5 | 33.0 |
| O3 | 241 | 27 | 268 | 0.1 | 10.1 |
| O4 | 775 | 92 | 868 | 0.1 | 10.6 |
| **Grand Total** | **18,985** | **12,173** | **31,219** | **0.6** | **39.0** |

*Note: [1]Eminent members of the National Council*
*Source: Civil Service Statistics, 2020*

In the national parliament, there are 72 members, out of which 35% of the member are in National Council and 65% are in National Assembly. Overall, women hold about 15% of the seats. Out of 47 members in national assembly, there 7 (14.9%) female and 40 (85.1%) male, while in National council, there are 4 female (2 eminent members) and 21 (3 eminent) male.

**Table 5. 2          Women's Representation in the Parliament, 2018**

| Parliament Members | Sex | | | Female to Male Ratio | % share of females |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Total | | |
| National Council | 21.0 | 4.0 | 25.0 | 0.2 | 16.0 |
| National Assembly | 40.0 | 7.0 | 47.0 | 0.2 | 14.9 |
| Total | 61.0 | 11.0 | 72.0 | 0.2 | 15.3 |

*Source: Study on Gender & Climate Change in Bhutan, NCWC 2020*

Similarly, the women's participation in local governance is about 12%. There are 2 women holding the position of Gups, 24 Mangmis, 140 chiwog Tshogpas, 9 Thromde Tshogpas and 3 Thromde Ngotshabs, while man constitutes 88% of the total position in local governance.

**Table 5. 3          Women's Representation in the Local Government, 2016**

| Elective Post | Sex | | | Female to Male Ratio | % share of females |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Total | | |
| Thrompon | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Gups | 203 | 2 | 205 | 0.0 | 1.0 |
| Mangmi | 181 | 24 | 205 | 0.1 | 11.7 |
| Chiwog Tshogpas | 901 | 140 | 1,041 | 0.2 | 13.4 |
| Thromde Tshogpas | 16 | 9 | 25 | 0.6 | 36.0 |
| Thromde Ngotshab | 11 | 3 | 14 | 0.3 | 21.4 |
| Total | 1,316 | 178 | 1,494 | 0.1 | 11.9 |

*Source: Study on Gender & Climate Change in Bhutan, NCWC 2020*

# VI.  DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

This section presents the prevalence of different forms of violence experienced by women and girls and perpetrated by their intimate partner.

In general, the prevalence rate of the physical violence among the ever-partnered women and girls in lifetime was 13.9% and 5.1% in the last 12 months (*A Study on Violence Against Women and Girls in Bhutan, NCWC*). The prevalence of physical violence in lifetime and in the last 12 months were higher among the rural women and girls than their urban counterparts.

Similarly, the prevalence of partner sexual violence for both the lifetime and last 12 months were higher among rural female than urban female.

The lifetime prevalence of emotional violence is higher among urban women and girls, while current prevalence of emotional violence in the last 12 months were higher among the rural women and girls.

**Table 6. 1       Lifetime and Current Prevalence Violence Among Ever-Partnered Women and Girls, 2017**

| Prevalence | Type of Violence | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Physical | Sexual | Emotional | Controlling Behaviours |
| Lifetime | 13.9 | 4.5 | 15.8 | 35.3 |
| Urban | 13.6 | 4.3 | 16.4 | 31.3 |
| Rural | 14.0 | 4.6 | 15.6 | 37.5 |
| Current | 5.1 | 2.3 | 8.6 | 24.3 |
| Urban | 4.9 | 1.9 | 8.5 | 21.7 |
| Rural | 5.1 | 2.5 | 8.7 | 25.6 |

*Source: A Study on Violence Against Women and Girls in Bhutan, NCWC*

A little more than one-third (35.3%) of women and girls experienced one or more controlling behaviours during their lifetime and about one-fourth (24.3%) experienced it in the last 12 months. The lifetime prevalence of controlling behaviours is higher in rural (37.5%) than urban (31.3%) areas. Likewise, the current prevalence of controlling behaviour is higher in rural (25.6%) than urban (21.7%) areas (Table 6.1).

The proportion of women and girls who experienced all the three types of violence was 2.7%. A little more than one-fifth (22%) of women and girls reported either sexual violence alone, physical violence alone, emotional violence alone or a combination of the three types of violence (Figure 6.1).

**Figure 6. 1     Combination of Lifetime Physical, Sexual and/or Emotional Partner Violence, 2017**



Source: A Study on Violence Against Women and Girls in Bhutan, NCWC
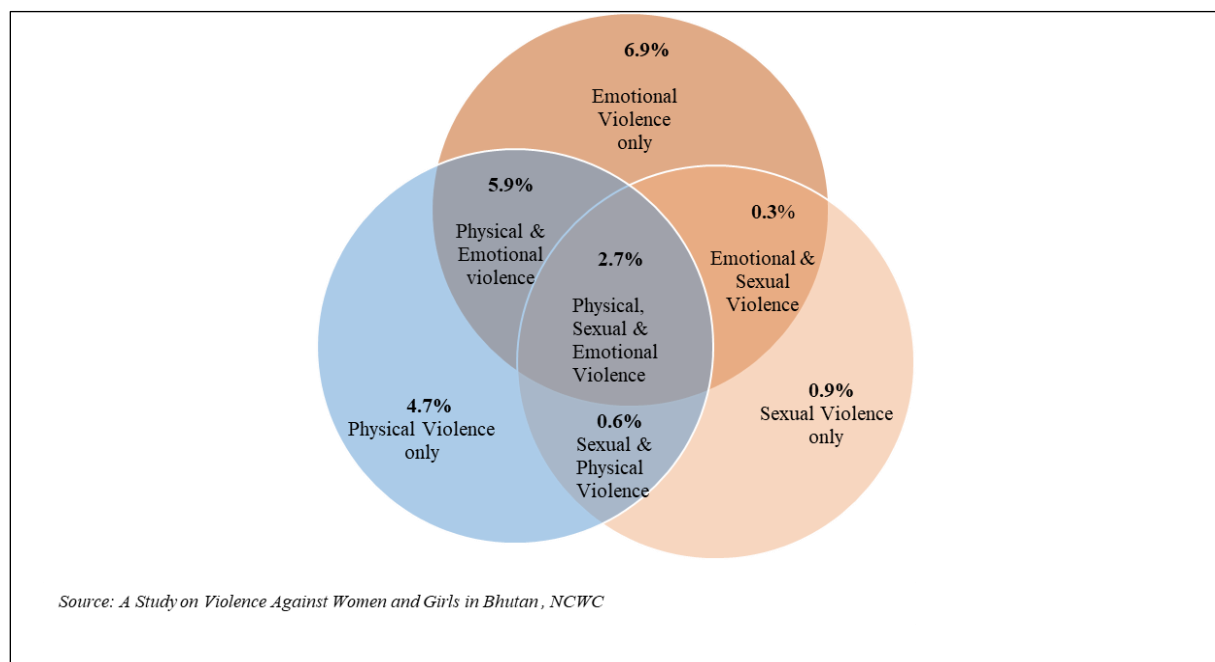
The prevalence of physical violence by husbands/partners among ever-partnered women and girls was the highest among the 30-34 years old (15.8%), while the lowest lifetime rate was for girls aged 15-19 years (5.5%). Women aged 25-29 years had the highest current prevalence at 7.8% followed by women aged 30-34 years (7.3%).

The lifetime partner sexual violence was the highest among the women aged 20-24 (6.9%), while the lowest lifetime prevalence was among women aged 40-44 (1.9%). The girls aged 15-19 reported no partner sexual violence.
The current prevalence rate was also the highest among women aged 20-24 (3.3%) followed closely by women aged 25-29 (3.2%). The lowest current prevalence rate was recorded among women aged 40-44 (0.6%).

The prevalence of both lifetime (58.9%) and current (43.8%) controlling behaviours was higher among age group 15-19 years, while the lowest lifetime prevalence is observed in the age group 45-49 years and current prevalence in age group 50-64.

Lifetime prevalence of partner emotional violence was the highest among women and girls aged 20-24 (21.1%) and the lowest among women and girls aged 15-19 (11.0%). Similarly, the current prevalence was the highest among women and girls aged 20-24 (13.0%) and the lowest among women aged 50-64 (6.1%). Table 6.2 presents lifetime and current prevalence of different types of violence by age group.

**Table 6. 2    Prevalence of Different Type of Violence for Current and Lifetime by Age Group, 2017**

| Age Group | Physical | | Sexual | | Emotional | | Controlling Behaviour | | Economic Violence | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Lifetime | Current | Lifetime | Current | Lifetime | Current | Lifetime | Current | Lifetime | Current |
| 15-19 | 5.5 | 2.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 11.0 | 11.0 | 58.9 | 43.8 | 5.5 | 2.7 |
| 20-24 | 12.1 | 5.1 | 6.9 | 3.3 | 21.1 | 13.0 | 52.9 | 42.9 | 17.2 | 13.3 |
| 25-29 | 14.7 | 7.8 | 5.4 | 3.2 | 16.4 | 11.2 | 34.3 | 24.4 | 14.5 | 10.1 |
| 30-34 | 15.8 | 7.3 | 4.0 | 3.1 | 13.4 | 7.0 | 31.6 | 21.3 | 9.9 | 6.6 |
| 35-39 | 12.8 | 4.7 | 6.2 | 3.0 | 16.3 | 9.1 | 34.7 | 21.7 | 10.3 | 4.7 |
| 40-44 | 13.7 | 4.7 | 1.9 | 0.6 | 14.7 | 6.2 | 34.1 | 22.5 | 7.2 | 4.7 |
| 45-49 | 12.2 | 1.9 | 3.1 | 1.1 | 14.5 | 6.5 | 26.0 | 18.3 | 7.3 | 5.0 |
| 50-64 | 15.6 | 2.3 | 4.3 | 1.6 | 15.8 | 6.1 | 30.5 | 17.2 | 8.8 | 2.5 |
| Total | 13.9 | 5.1 | 4.5 | 2.3 | 15.8 | 8.6 | 35.3 | 24.3 | 10.9 | 6.7 |

# REFERENCES

GNHC, 2010. *Gender Statistics, Bhutan, 2010*, Thimphu: Gross National Happiness Commission

MoE, 2020. *Annual Education Statistics, 2020*, Thimphu: Ministry of Education.

MoE, 2020. *State of Higher Education of Bhutan, 2020*, Thimphu: Ministry of Education.

NCWC, 2020. *Gender and Climate Change in Bhutan with focus on nationality Determined Contribution Priority Areas: Agriculture, Energy and Waste*, Thimphu: National Commission for Women and Children.

NCWC, 2017. *A Study on Violence Against Women and Girls in Bhutan, 2017*, Thimphu: National Commission for Women and Children.

NISR, 2016. *National Gender Statistics Report, 2016*, National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, Republic of Rwanda.

NSB, 2010. *Bhutan Multiple Indicator Survey, 2010*, Thimphu: National Statistics Bureau.

NSB, 2020. *Labour Force Survey, 2020*, Thimphu: National Statistics Bureau.

NSB, 2017. *Population & Housing Census of Bhutan, 2017*, Thimphu: National Statistics Bureau.

RCSC, 2020. *Civil Service Statistics, 2020*, Thimphu: Royal Civil Service Commission.