



NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR EDUCATION - NEPAL

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NCE Nepal's Press Release Regarding United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)'s Concluding Observation on Nepal's Report

(Kathmandu, 13 June 2016). In 9th June, 2016, the Committee on the Rights of the Child made some crucial concluding comments in education to its review of the Nepal's government report – urging the government for appropriate financing strategies to ensure free quality education for all. It has the deepest concern on the decreases in the proportion of the budget allocated to public education and in emergence of private schools, which exacerbates segregation and discrimination in the education system while reducing overall quality of education available to children.

In light its concern, the CRC recommended the government to enact legislation to ensure the effective implementation of the Constitutional right to education and ensure appropriate financing strategies, so as to ensure the effective and actual provision of free quality education to all without discrimination, in all parts of the country, in particular for children in most marginalized situations. Besides, it recommended to take appropriate regulatory measures to ensure that private providers of education do not undermine social cohesion, or exacerbate segregation and discrimination, in particular by effectively regulating fees, syllabus, admission criteria and diversity of student backgrounds, and other barriers to access, and ensure the adequate implementation of the legislation, as well as ensure child friendly school infrastructure in private schools. Hence, it further stressed to ensure regulatory and enforcement frameworks, including reporting mechanisms, to combat the phenomenon of schools and/or teachers subjecting children to hidden costs for attending school.

NCE Nepal heartily welcomes the recommendations of the CRC which has endorsed the concern of NCE Nepal to increase the education budget, strengthening public schools in Nepal and taking ownership of public school strengthening by the state to improve, strengthen public education in Nepal, and also regulate the private schools to enhance the social cohesion. A brief scrutiny of the plans and policies of the government picturizes that some of policies regarding their financing decisions, recently declared voucher system in this year's budget speech, funding gap to improve the quality of the Early Childhood Care Development (ECCD) and blurred modality in Public Private Partnership (PPP) clearly contradicts with the constitutionally provisioned rights of free and compulsory basic education and free secondary education. Hence, NCE Nepal anticipates that the important CRC observations and recommendations would lead the government to timely revise its contradictory plans and policies and introduce the complementary one along with the coordination and collaboration of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

Thank you.

Rajkumar Gandharba
President, NCE Nepal