



Edu-eNewsletter

## NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR EDUCATION NEPAL

**“Making the right to an inclusive, equitable, quality, free public education a reality”**

GAW Special Newsletter

May, 2019

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NCE Nepal is a platform for sharing experiences and learning among the members who have common issues of concern. NCE Nepal mainly focuses on holding the government agencies accountable for their role in providing quality ‘Education for All’ and in monitoring the service delivery at the grassroots and national level. Being a national chapter of GCE, the NCE Nepal also acts locally, regionally and internationally. Global Action Week is one of the major focal points for the education movement. It provides every national and regional education campaign with an opportunity to highlight one area of the Education For All agenda and make targeted efforts to achieve change on the ground, with the added support of education campaigners and millions of members of the public worldwide joining together for the same cause.

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### Quality Public Education: Who to deliver & When?

The year 2019 is the historic year for the attainment of the SDG4 as a child enrolled in school in this April 2019 will complete his/her school education by the end of 2030. 2019 is the fourth year of the implementation of SDGs. Constitution of Nepal envisions for free and compulsory education for all and Free and Compulsory Education Act is in place for the implementation of education related fundamental rights. A part from this, federal, provincial and local governments are in the process of preparation of federal, provincial and local education Acts respectively. The Education Acts being prepared at all three levels of governments should align with the provisions of the Constitution, targets and indicators set by SDG4/E2030, SSDP as well as other different commitments made by the government in local, national, regional and international forums.

However, there are some serious and notable concerns in the education sector of Nepal. Public education has been under-financed and its quality has been in question day by day. As a result, the public education has been losing its trust of the people and private education is being mushroomed. Sufficient education financing along with the efficient and effective utilization of the funds is the key to achieve the goals and targets set by SDG4, Education 2030 and SSDP. However, there is a problem of under-utilization and the inefficient utilization of the allocated budget. Moreover, education governance and accountability is also a severe matter of concern so as to attain the SDG4. The problems of child friendly infrastructure, teacher’s management, safe and secure learning environment, local curriculum, examination and evaluation patterns etc. are still the serious concerns for the educational transformation in the nation.

Thus, with the objective of making the strong and collective lobby and advocacy of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) so as to ensure that the government has credible, transparent and efficient mechanism for the attainment of SDG4 and SSDP and accountable in its commitments, NCE Nepal organized the week long campaign of Global Action Week for Education, 2019 with the major theme of “Making the right to an equitable, inclusive, quality, free public education a reality”. Several programs, debates, discussions, protest, appeal as well as media collaboration was done as the part of this campaign and program..

## *Coordination for Celebration*

The GAWE campaign aims for the collective CSOs efforts to make the government accountable for fulfilling their commitment made at the local, national, regional and the international level. With this notion, NCE Nepal brought together different educational stakeholders in one platform for solidarity in this campaign.

The coordination meeting held with these wide ranges of stakeholders provided a pathway for creating a momentum during the week as well as throughout the year 2019. The coordination meeting also defined the working task groups that worked together for making the different campaign activities on the GAWE 2019 a lively CSOs momentum. As a result of this, more than a ten dozens of organizations working for the education and child rights in Nepal joined hands with NCE Nepal for the celebration of the GAWE with their solidarity.



Fig: CSOs during the coordination meeting

## *Public Protest for making the Education Rights a Reality!*

After almost two and half years of the formation of the federal government, Federal Education Act is still not formulated in the nation and because of which Provincial Act as well as Local Act has also not been formulated in most of the province and local units. This has resulted for difficult situation in public education transformation. Sensitizing the general public about the need of the Federal Education Act and also drawing the attention of the government and policy makers about the probable consequences due to the delay in the Federal Education Act accounted most in this regard. Thus, with the objective of creating pressure to the government and policy makers for formulating the Federal Education Act and making public the report of High Level Education Commission, NCE Nepal led a CSOs protest program at Maitighar Mandala with the participation of more than 300 civil society activists. .

During the protest, activists chanted the slogan like; i.e. Making the report of High level National Education Commission Public and Formulation of the Federal Education Act urgently as per its recommendations ; Allocating at least 20% of the total national budget and 6% of the GDP to the education sector and Ensuring the proper implementation of the Free and Compulsory Education Act. CSOs and education activists during the demonstration program provided their views regarding the different alternative ways that the government should adopt for making the right to free quality public education for all a reality in case of Nepal.

Representative from youths expressed the need of transparent and accountable government so that citizens can rely with the government's vision of prosperity in the nation. For this, fulfillment of the commitments made accounted most. Similarly, representative from Teacher's federation highlighted that the overall notion of SDG4 relies in quality education for all which cannot be attained by highly motivated and quality teachers. However, government does not have focus on it and budget of education sector is also not sufficient enough for teacher's management. Thus, he highlighted the need of Federal Education Act that shall address the concerns of teacher's management, equitable distribution of the resources and also the good governance in the overall education system.



### *CSOs analysis and appeal on Need of Federal Education Act*

Analysis of the need of the Federal Education Act and also the impact caused by delay in the enforcement of this Act was made and published as an advocacy flyer by NCE Nepal on the occasion of GAWE 2019. The flyer was massively distributed to over 5000 people including government, policy makers, parliamentarians, academicians, CSOs, parents, teachers and all the other stakeholders related to education. The analysis highlighted the fact that delay in the enforcement of Act is against the notion and spirit of the Constitution and also has resulted in the dilemma situation for the division of the collective roles of the Federal, Province and Local government regarding the education. Besides it has paved the way for creating problems for the local government to prepare the Local Education Act and plans, problems in the management of the school teachers leading to deteriorating performance of students in the public schools, problems of school governance and accountability as well as added risk of education sector being centralized again. The analysis was eye opening for the government so as to internalize the relevancy and importance of bringing the Federal Education Act on time.

*“Pratidhoni”- reiterating the voice of voiceless.*

With the objective of making all the educational stakeholders accountable and responsible for the fulfillment of the SDG 4 and Education 2030 goals, NCE Nepal organized a national level program called “Pratidhoni”. More than 1500 participants including leaders of the major political parties, representatives of the federal and national parliament, local government representatives, representatives from government agencies including Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, representatives from bilateral and multilateral agencies, representatives from private sectors and institutions, artists, representatives from corporate houses & associations, journalists, CSOs, education and human rights activists, experts, students, parents, teachers, social workers and all the other associated with the education participated in the

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program. The overall program created a momentum to reiterate the need of collective efforts from individuals of each and every sectors; be it policy makers or students or journalists or even the parents, so as to ensure the real educational transformation in the nation.

The program basically focused on making the local, province, federal government, students, teachers, parents and other educational stakeholders responsible and accountable for attaining the educational rights as envisioned in the SDG4 and constitution of Nepal. The program remained effective so as to showcase the major problems of the public education in the forms of dance, drama, poem and songs. The program highlighted issues of inclusive education (challenges faced by person with disabilities, dalits, marginalized communities, girls, youths etc for attaining quality public education). It strongly depicted the message that privatization in education has created segregation in the society. Also, the program was able to bestow teacher's problems, problem of safe and secure learning environment, access to education, governance challenges in education, challenges in terms of education financing and the responsibility of local, provincial and federal government in education transformation.

In the avenue where nation is moving ahead with the slogan of "Prosperous Nepal; Happy Nepali", the program has drawn attention of all three tiers of government in enhancing of the capacity of the local government so as to provide the free and compulsory quality public education, lobby for fulfilling the commitments made by the parliamentarians and political parties in the election manifestoes, preparation of the Federal Education Act as per the recommendations provided by the High Level National Education Commission in their report and also making the sufficient investment in the education sector. The artistic way of presentation of the educational issues was heart touching and interesting for the participants.

Former deputy prime minister and leader of Nepali Congress Party Mr. Krishna Situala also highlighting the need of keeping the education sector above than the personal or political vested interest and the need of providing the education that ensures the production of competent manpower who is committed for the welfare of the nation. He expressed his commitment on behalf of his party in making the educational transformation at the local as well as national level. Similarly, deputy general secretary and leader of Sawajbadi Party Nepal Hon. Dambar Khatiwada highlighting the need of allocating atleast 20% of the national budget to the education sector, focused on the commitment of his party for ensuring that every child in the nation gets free and quality public education.

Senior Education Expert and former Vice Chancellor of Tribhuvan University of Nepal Mr. Kedar Bhakta Mathema focused on the need of party politic free education sector, teacher's honesty and integrity as well as the child friendly school infrastructures that focus on learning and skills generation in the students. Dr. Hari Lamsal, Joint Secretary from Ministry of Education, Science and Technology also highlighted the current gaps education sector faces in terms of quality, learning achievement and school infrastructures. He requested the CSOs, parents, teachers and students to join hand together with the government for making the goal of SDG4 a reality.

During the program, Ms. Sashikala Yadhav, an adolescent girl from marginalized community of Terai region of Nepal also expressed real story of her and girls of her community on how the girls are being deprived of education because of the social norms, culture, and even due to lack of girls friendly infrastructures and proper education about sex and menstrual hygiene.



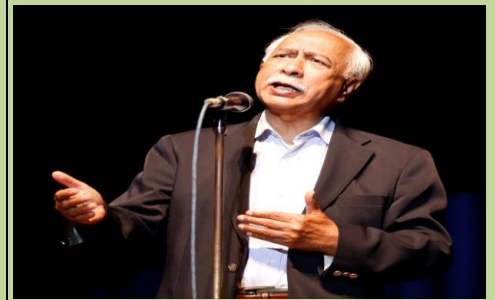
Fig: Performance by artists on the poem about Child's suffering in Private School



Former deputy prime minister and leader of Nepali Congress Party Mr. Krishna Situala expressing his commitment for educational transformation.



Deputy General Secretary and leader of Sawajbadi Party Nepal Hon. Dambar Khatiwada highlighting the need of increasing investment in the education sector.



Senior Education Expert and former Vice Chancellor of Tribhuvan University of Nepal Mr. Kedar Bhakta Mathema focusing on the need of politics free education sector.



Dr. Hari Lamsal, Joint Secretary from Ministry of Education, Science and Technology requesting CSOs to join hand together for attainment of SDG4.



Ms. Sashikala Yadhav, Adolescent girl from marginalized community of Rupandehi district expressing problems she faced for regular school attainment.



Participants in the main hall during the program



Some other performance during the program

## *Submission of the CSOs Appeal to Minister of Finance*

Education sector has been in the priority of the government plans and policies however, it is the least prioritized sector in terms of the investment. The investment for education sector has been decreasing since last seven years in case of Nepal and this has resulted in the rapid mushrooming of private sector investment in education. Since, June is the period of the budget announcement in case of Nepal, NCE Nepal made an effort for lobby with the Ministry of Finance (MoF) for increasing the education budget for the coming fiscal year.

A CSOs delegation led by NCE Nepal hold meeting with Hon. Finance Minister Dr. Yubraj Khatiwada and they urged him to increase budget for education sector as per the commitment by the government in different forums and also to meet the policy commitments made in the Constitution.

CSO delegation also submitted memorandum with the evidences on need to increase the budget in education sector. Dr. Khatiwada expressed his commitment for making the need based allocation of the education budget.



**Fig: CSOs delegation with Finance Minister  
Hon. Yubraj Khatiwada**

### **Major highlights of CSOs demand:**

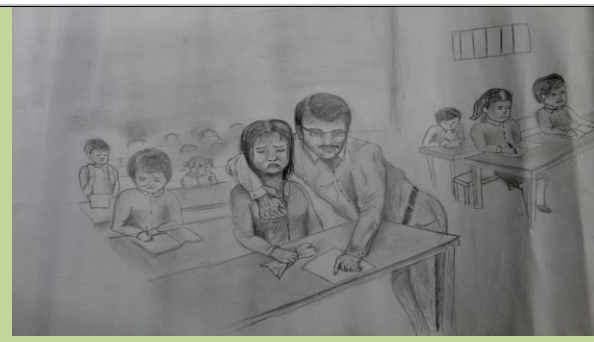
#### **Why additional Funds for Education Sector?**

1. *Investment in education is a pre-requisite for building a equitable and just society.*
2. *Making the public schools more competitive with quality.*
3. *Fulfilling the commitments made by nation in the national and international forums*
4. *Mitigate the current funding gap in the education sector:*
  - *Additional 13 billion for minimum salary of ECD faclitators and materials in 30,000 ECD centres being operated in the nation.*
  - *Additional 27 billion to provide mid-day meal*
  - *Additional 11 billion for insurance*
  - *Additional 17 billion for uniform to students as envisioned by free education*
  - *Additional 25 billion for recruiting additional 75 thousand teachers in the school education which is a current teacher's gap.*
  - *Additional 11 billion for support staffs in schools*
  - *Additional 16 billion for the teaching learning materials.*
  - *Many other additional cost for the health facilities, good learning environment etc.*

## *Students Voices via pictures.*

A nationwide campaign on “My Education; My Rights” organized via collection of pictorial messages from the students also remained useful in identifying the real educational scenario from the perspective of a children. The drawings made by students studying in the basic levels of schools remained a useful advocacy tool for NCE Nepal so as to withdraw the attention of parents, teachers as well as policy makers. The pictures drawn by the students highlighted the problems prevalent in the schools such as corporal punishment, lack of disable friendly infrastructures, sexual abuse, no access to education, discrimination etc. The pictures were disseminated via social medias.





*Pictures drawn by students regarding Public Education Strengthening*

### ***District level momentum during GAW 2019.***

The momentum of making the rights to free, quality, equitable, inclusive education a reality was spread out in the district and local levels too. On the occasion of Global Action Week for Education 2019, district coordination committees (district coalitions) of NCE Nepal in 23 districts also engaged with the local leaders and government at the local level so as to increase the accountability of these stakeholders towards fulfilling the responsibilities enshrined by the constitution to the local level. The district coalitions conducted the dialogue and discourse program to remind the political leaders and local government regarding the educational scenario of their own locality and also discuss on the challenges, prospects and opportunities ahead. Mapping of the possible alternative options for the improvement of quality of public schools in the local level along with the improvement of the Madarsha Schools was made in the Parbat district via dialogue and discourse. A part from it, interaction with the parents from the Chepang community so as to encourage the Chepang girls to go to the school was also made at Makwanpur district.

A part from it, training about the grievance handling mechanism at the school was provided to the Head teacher and gender focal person of the schools in the Rupandehi and Kapilvastu district. The training remained useful in an attempt for ensuring the safe learning environment in the school with good governance.

NCE Nepal district coalitions also led the door to door school enrollment campaign in collaboration with the Education Development and Coordination Unit of the respective local units so as to enroll the out of school children into the school. Door to door programs, rally, parental awareness programs etc were organized at Jhapa, Lamjung, Banke, Parsa,

Makwanpur, Rupandehi, Parbat, Palpa, Kapilvastu, Kalikot, Dhanusha, Siraha and Mahottari districts of Nepal. During this occasion, NCE Nepal District coordination committee Parbat took the guardianship of two students for providing them education upto the secondary level. Textbooks, uniform and the learning materials were also provided to these two students from the marginalized community.

### *Some Glimpses of Campaigns at District Level*



*Picture drawing and demonstration: Jhapa*



*Taking guardianship of two students: Parbat*



*Picture drawing Program: Parsa*



*Discourse on Safe and Secure Education: Kapilvastu*



*School Enrollment Campaign: Makwanpur*



*Grievance handling training program: Rupandehi*

### **Media Mobilization**

Media has always played a crucial role in the social transformation and there is always a strong collaboration of NCE Nepal with the media so as to join hands in the campaign for educational transformation. NCE Nepal disseminated about the major importance of celebration of the GAW 2019 together with the planned programs and activities under the campaign via press conference. Several online and print medias as well as FMs also joined hand in this campaign of making the educational rights a reality which ultimately enhanced the mass solidarity for the campaign. A part from this, the media partnership was also ensured at the district and local levels via press conference and press release.

The issues raised by NCE Nepal during this GAW were covered by the national and local level by the print as well as online medias, radios, television etc. Besides, television interaction program, radio interaction programs were also done at the district level for making the local units and the local leaders accountable for their responsibilities. Radio jingle programs at some districts also remained a strong advocacy and awareness tool at the local level.

The links of the media coverage are as below:



[http://annapurnapost.com/news/126065?fbclid=IwAR20D1n\\_O3yN0ffzUMxfHg0KTRWheNd54KInVjHJEIQeHULJcXnY8cMyzps](http://annapurnapost.com/news/126065?fbclid=IwAR20D1n_O3yN0ffzUMxfHg0KTRWheNd54KInVjHJEIQeHULJcXnY8cMyzps)

<https://mayadevionline.com/2019/04/29931>

[https://www.loksambad.com/news/1718?fbclid=IwAR2T0sIBjfAL-DDlzlIECKVNSoWPCWa0IrYkc18Vf2pDAkiwIeu43\\_obzQ5c](https://www.loksambad.com/news/1718?fbclid=IwAR2T0sIBjfAL-DDlzlIECKVNSoWPCWa0IrYkc18Vf2pDAkiwIeu43_obzQ5c)

<http://www.edukhabar.com/news/13438?fbclid=IwAR1JA4YKL5sTSsm0vpJmz7iek71OfZ68aywzLuTDphAsYbxQ5dZoGhDXsjY>

<https://farakdhar.com/story/13643/?fbclid=IwAR12aA3lsDz3US3fL32PiWBJITInAvGMew8qSbiTjrI05URxm4GCPP7WC-4>

[https://pokharanews.com/2019/04/71406/?fbclid=IwAR3WOqhmSo\\_aYCS0j-CP-eVjboLk2PQdU5LPCKqeM650XHqQiy9ktHSLX8Y](https://pokharanews.com/2019/04/71406/?fbclid=IwAR3WOqhmSo_aYCS0j-CP-eVjboLk2PQdU5LPCKqeM650XHqQiy9ktHSLX8Y)

<http://www.edukhabar.com/news/13539?fbclid=IwAR0ESEu3yUWHO-wwYzSgtYtq1jydmVamPmBjZXFZc6sSj0DENuoHDNR20E0>

<http://mayadevionline.com/2019/04/28204>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GInotQe6HZA&t=398s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LgVIHoGUGs>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9jsW\\_xF8eGM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9jsW_xF8eGM)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MQy9xFcU8Q&feature=youtu.be>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oe3bT\\_pmGUA&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oe3bT_pmGUA&feature=youtu.be)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IbV9lp3BnY&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqolI88Mu7o&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyeg0-ZIcwU&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwBrDnI7X1c&feature=youtu.be>