

National Campaign for Education Nepal

Short Report on

Capacity Building Training on Advocacy for Budget, Privatization and HR mechanisms

17th -19th July, 2017
Tuki Resort, Pokhara

The capacity building training on Advocacy for Budget, Privatization and HR mechanisms organized by National Campaign for Education Nepal (NCE Nepal) in coordination with Open Society Foundations, and collaboration of NCE Nepal Kaski coalition, enhanced the knowledge of the coalitions and partners regarding the human rights mechanism that can be used to advance the right to education within the context of privatization. NCE Nepal coalition and other education stakeholders were able to learn about the potential impacts of privatization in education and education financing on the right to education knowledge through the meaningful participation in the training.



Participants in the inauguration session of the training

Privatization in education is a growing global trend, particularly in developing countries like Nepal, however limited attention is paid to its impact on the right to education and specifically the achievement of quality and accessible education for all. The programs, plans and policies of Nepal government also focuses some strategic interventions towards privatization in education. A part from this, the percentage share of Education Sector in the overall National budget is in the decreasing trend with the share of 9.91% in fiscal year 2017/18. Huge percentage of this allocated education budget is for the teacher's salary and management. Hence, the overall commitment of the government regarding 20% of

National Budget and 4-6 % of GDP to Education Sector has remained all in the vain. Privatization in education has been creating inequalities in the quality of and access to education, particularly for lower socio-economic and marginalized groups.

Moreover, in the federal structure of the nation, annex 8 of constitution where the local authority i.e. village council and municipal council are mandated for the management and of basic and secondary education meaning from the effectiveness of constitution, the local body is responsible for the management of school education including the curriculum and financing provision. Hence, in such scenario, the training was aimed to strengthen capacities NCE Nepal's members so as to leverage effective advocacy engagement on international human rights mechanisms to address privatization and education financing in education. More specifically, the training aimed to contribute on the Human Rights Mechanisms discourses on education with sharing of learning, experiences, approaches, methodologies and tools which may bring change in the present education situation.

During the inauguration session of the training, Mr. Nanda Lal Paudel, district Education Officer, Kaski, expressed the need of research and analysis on the outreach and quality of education in the international market provided by the private and public schools. He also expressed the fact that the



Mr. Nanda Lal Paudel, DEO Kaski expressing the need of increasing the financing in education and strong collaboration of Government and CSOs for Public Education Strengthening.



Mr. Rajendra Pahadi, Board Member, NCE Nepal highlighting the overall objectives and setting the ground rules for the training.



Mr. Shubhendra Man Shrestha highlighting the aims of education and discussing on the various international human rights treaties containing the provision of Right to Education.



Participants in the training working in the group.

current budget allocation of 9.91 % of the national budget and 3 % of the GDP to the education sector remains inadequate one and hence there should be the collective efforts from the government and the CSOs so as to bring the 3.5 % out of school children to the light of education.

Similarly, other participants in the program also expressed the need of making the education practical and civilized one so that it could reflect the Nepalese civilization, culture and could add up to the livelihood.

Followed by the inauguration session, Mr. Rajendra Pahadi, Board Member, NCE Nepal, highlighting the overall objectives and modality of the training created a friendly atmosphere to welcome all the participants and facilitated for setting out the ground rules and understanding the expectations of the participants. Mr. Shubhendra Man Shrestha, Vice-President of NCE Nepal led the overall two days training session which gyrated upon the discussions on Right to Education, Privatization in Education, State's obligations and HR standards, applying human rights and human rights response to privatization. Participants were divided into the various groups and were focused upon sharing their experiences as well as generating new ideas and innovations via group works.

Discussion regarding the 4 A's of education namely acceptable, available, accessible and adaptable helped the participants to know the state's obligation to respect, protect and fulfill each of these essential features (4 A's) of the right to education. Participants were also made aware regarding the main international human rights treaties containing right to education. Group exercises on the education related provisions regarding Universal Declarations on Human Rights (Article 26), International Covent on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966 (General Comment 13 and 14), Convention on the Rights of the Child (General Comment 1) , Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Article 5 and 7), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Article 10) , Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (article 24) etc. enhanced the

knowledge of the participants regarding the the violation of human rights with respect to the right to education. Participants enjoyed a lot in this exercise as it provided them a new lens of looking to the right to education and the human rights.

Defining more regarding the educational freedoms and the aims of education, Mr. Shrestha also clarified the participants regarding the difference between privatization and private education. Furthermore, the nature of state's obligation to respect, protect and fulfil was also clarified through the group discussions.



Mr. Ram Gaire, Program Manager, NCE Nepal highlighting the advocacy initiatives of NCE Nepal on privatization in education and budget tracking.



Participant presenting after the group work regarding privatization.



Participants identifying the trends of privatization in the community through the group works.

Moreover, discussing on the privatization and its effects, the advocacy campaign of NCE Nepal against the privatization was shared by Mr. Ram Gaire, Program Manager, NCE Nepal. He highlighted the fact that NCE Nepal had submitted a spot light report regarding the privatization in education so as to compliment the data of the government to the United Nation Convention on Rights of Child (UN CRC) committee. As a result of the evidence based lobby and advocacy campaign of NCE Nepal in this international forum, the UN CRC committee has provided its concluding observations to the Nepal government exactly in line to the recommendations provided by NCE Nepal which highlights the need of public education strengthening, increasing education financing and proper monitoring mechanisms of the private schools. Participants provided their commitment for the evidence based advocacy against the privatization with the case citation of NCE Nepal. Group works regarding the sharing of the privatization in the own community also helped the participants to understand the various forms of privatization existing in the community and the collective efforts to advocate against this issue.

The current decreasing trend of educational budget was also picturized by Mr. Ram Gaire, in the training. Highlighting the major points of the National budget 2017/18 analysis, published recently by NCE Nepal, Mr. Gaire presented the fact that out of the total share of education, local level has received 47.85 % (60.666 billion) whereas the central level holds 52.15 % (66.12 billion) budget which clarifies that still large proportion of the budget is being centralized which highlights the fear of central monopoly again. A part from this, he also highlighted the fact that out of the total central level

budget, 99.4 % has been allocated for the current expenditure and remaining 0.6% is for the capital expenditure which again makes the notion of strengthening the education sector in the vain. He also presented the fact that the less is the priority of the government for the education sector, the more is the mushrooming of the informal alternatives and private sectors to fulfill the gaps. With all these facts, participants in the training provided their strong commitment for being engaged in the budget tracking process and tracing out the true and fair scenario of the budget allocation and implementation at the local level for the public education strengthening of their own locality in the current federal structure of the nation.

The overall training session ended up with the reflection from the participants regarding the training. Participants appraised the participatory approach of the training and were highly committed to reflect the knowledge, ideas, skills and information obtained from the training in their workplace, locality and other members of the coalition. Participants also provided their commitment for continuous monitoring of the budget implementation and the steps for privatization of the education in their current localities through the collective efforts of their member organizations working for right to education in their own locality.

Major Glimpses of the program

