

NCE Nepal Efforts During COVID-19 Pandemic

COVID-19 Special Newsletter

Vol.-5



A student giving speech during an event organized on the occasion of 16 Days Activism against Gender Based Violence by NCE D.C.C. Dolakha

Context

NCE Nepal has been regularly advocating and providing constructive suggestions to the government for ensuring learning of the children through various discourse and dialogue at central, provincial and local level. The advocacy initiatives based on the research and evidence have helped in figuring out the ways to address the challenges and issues in ensuring education during the pandemic. The efforts of NCE Nepal, during the COVID-19 context has been regular disseminated among its member organizations and district coalitions. This is the 5th volume of newsletter published by NCE Nepal highlighting its initiatives during the month of November and December.

During this time, NCE Nepal with the coordination of the district coordination committees has conducted various radio and online discourses as

well as interaction programs with the stakeholders for promoting educational rights as well as making them accountable towards the learning during pandemic. It is the fundamental human right to acquire education for the children which is also provisioned by the constitution of Nepal. With the motto of spreading the message that right to education should not be hindered in any situation and that children's learning should be considered as the basic human right, **International Human Rights Day** was celebrated massively as a campaign in the community and local level where 23 district coordination committees conducted various interaction meetings, workshops and seminars as well as delegation meetings with the local level representatives.

Impact of COVID-19 in Public School Education in Nepal: Civic Monitoring and Research

NCE Nepal has conducted a research to show how COVID-19 has affected the learning continuity of students in the public schools of Nepal and effectiveness of the alternative learning strategies carried out by the government. The research also focused on the initiatives taken by the local governments, the engagement of teachers, parents and civil society organizations for children's learning.

The research was conducted through the participation of schools, parents, students, teachers, local governments and civil society organizations of Jhapa, Chitwan, Parsa, Rupandehi, Parbat, Dailekh and Bajura districts covering the different geographical areas and all seven provinces of Nepal. The research has highlighted on the issues such as the digital divide in learning, students' participation and challenges in alternative learning methods, effect on the family's socio-economic condition, parental awareness and participation in the children's learning process and the leadership of teachers for the continuation of learning of the children.

The study revealed that 66% children had no access to any kind of technology for alternative learning and 64% children found the alternative learning methods less effective than face-to-face learning. Similarly the research also showed that there is less coordination of local level governments and civil society organizations regarding the learning continuity of the students, only 55% teachers have been trained for the alternative teaching methods, 25% parents have not contributed to the children's learning at all and 94% parents have not received any kind of parental education to support their children in learning during the pandemic. The research has helped in evidence based advocacy works for ensuring the children's learning from grass root to national level.

Research Sharing Program on Impact of COVID-19 in Public School Education in Nepal



NCE Nepal with the objective of disseminating the findings of COVID-19 research to the wide stakeholders and making them accountable has conducted a discourse program to disseminate the findings from the research conducted on the impact of COVID-19 on the public school education in Nepal. There was participation of various government representatives, teachers, parents, civil societies, journalists, researchers and education experts as well as the representatives from NCE district coordination committees. On behalf of the research team, Dr. Suresh Gautam and Dr. Indra Yamphu presented the major findings of the research. Education expert Prof. Dr. Bidhyanath Koirala, past presidents of NCE Nepal Mr. Babukaji Shrestha and Mr. Raj Kumar Gandarbh highlighted on the need for coordination between the civil society organizations, schools, community, local governments, and increase in access to learning resources and technology for the children.



Chairperson of Hupsekot Rural Municipality, Nawalpur sharing the initiatives of the local government

Ms. Laxmi Pandey, Chairperson of Hupsekot Rural Municipality, Nawalpur shared that the local government has prepared a twenty-point education plan for effective implementation of education program during pandemic which included classes being run in three shifts, computer training for the teachers, educational program through radio and student-parent counseling.

Similarly, Ms. Urmila Thami, Vice-Chairperson of Gauri Shankar Rural Municipality, Dolakha shared that the local government had prepared the various education related program and project works and mobilized the teachers in learning activities in the community and had also supported the students from the low income groups. In the program, Mr. Hom Bahadur B.K., Vice-Chairperson of Marshyangdi Rural Municipality, Lamjung also shared that the geographical challenges had hindered in the learning of children, however the local government had organized learning in small groups in the community through the local teachers and that the special priority and support was given to the students of grade 8,9 and 10 to connect them in regular virtual classes.

Engagement of NCE Nepal District Coordination Committees

Radio Discourse



Radio Dialogue Program - NCE D.C.C Kapilvastu

NCE District Coordination Committees Palpa, Nawalpur, Kapilvastu, Dhanusha, Makwanpur, Dailkeh and Bajura, conducted 66 radio dialogues with the stakeholders for ensuring learning during the pandemic and public education strengthening. The civil society organizations advocated on important

issues including the situation of school reopening, good initiatives taken by the local governments regarding it, alternative methods of learning, mental health of children during the pandemic, girl's education and gender based violence.

Such programs and initiations in the grass root level had helped to increase the coordination among the stakeholders like local level representatives, members of municipal level education committees, education focal persons from the local level, representatives of district coordination committee, representatives of the school management committees, head teacher, child rights activists, teachers, parents, representatives of civil society organizations, journalists, education experts and social activists which further contributed in the promoting educational agenda and solving issues from local level through collective efforts.

Online Discourse



Online Discourse Program - NCE D.C.C. Palpa

Education during emergencies, education financing with local resource management, teachers management, youth empowerment, availability of local opportunities for income generation, Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) etc. were the major themes of discussion during the online discourse organized by NCE Palpa, Parsa and Dailekh district coordination committees. There was an active participation of representatives from Education Development and Coordination Unit (EDCU), education focal person from the local governments, local level representatives, youth leaders, school management committees, head teachers, teacher associations, Child Helpline, Child

Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) representative, journalists, advocates, psychosocial counselors, Nepal Police, various civil society organizations and NCE Nepal members. Such discourses and discussions have helped to increase coordination with the local government representatives for the effective implementation of the alternative methods for continuous learning of children.

Interaction Program on Education and Child Rights

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Online Discourse Program on International Children's Day - NCE D.C.C. Dailekh

With the coordination of local governments and various civil society organizations, NCE District Coordination Committee Palpa and Dailekh have organized virtual dialogues with the stakeholders on the occasion of 31st International Child Rights Day so as to discuss on the educational status of children, child rights, child related violence in the district, implementation status of policies related to children in the districts, child friendly environment, etc. The role of the stakeholders in the program was also discussed along with their commitment for cooperation and collaboration for promoting child rights.

These programs can be viewed through the link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/chhabilal.subedi.14/videos/2717608861789805>

https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=897030834163117&ref=watch_permalink

Education Right: Human Right



Meeting with the stakeholders- NCE D.C.C. Surkhet

The 72nd International Human Rights Day was celebrated as a massive campaign of NCE Nepal in 23 districts with a collective theme and advocacy message to establish education as a human right and ensure the educational rights of the children during the pandemic. District coordination committees and member organizations in Udaypur, Bara, Siraha, Parsa, Dhanusha, Makwanpur, Chitwan, Sindhupalchowk, Dolakha, Nawalpur, Parbat, Banke, Lamjung, Dang, Dailekh, Surkhet, Kapilvastu, Palpa, Kalikot, Doti, Bajura, Kailali and Achham organized various interaction programs, policy dialogues and meetings at the district and local levels to discuss on the situation of children and education from the perspective of human rights, on issues of gender equality and violence, initiatives taken by the local governments for ensuring the educational rights during the pandemic, further improvement strategies for educational transformation etc. Diverse group of participants from local level representatives, educational stakeholders, municipal education committee, human rights activists and its networks, journalists groups, civil society organizations, child rights activists was made during the programs. Local government representatives were made accountable on the procedure of school reopening and its monitoring mechanism, political interventions at public schools, and the overall situation of child rights, education and violence against children in the district.

Role of Education in Addressing Gender Based Violence



Awareness Raising Program on Gender Based Violence- NCE D.C.C. Bajura

Education plays a major role in combating any violence issues in the society. Lack of proper education and awareness may result to increase in the violence in the society. Thus, with the purpose of discussing on issues of gender based violence prevalent in the society and how the children, youths and adults can be empowered to fight against these practices, NCE Dolakha and Nawalpur have organized interaction program on legal provision and practical challenges of addressing the gender based violence, workshop related to menstrual health awareness and speech competition on the role of children and youth for fighting against such violences. These events were organized on the occasion of 16 Days of Activism Against the Gender Based Violence. Similarly, in Achham, Kailali and Bajura the interaction programs on women violence, safe learning and the impact of alcohol on women violence and learning of children were organized. These programs have helped to draw the attention of concerned stakeholders regarding the situation of violence against children, women and girls during the pandemic and make necessary actions to address them from the community level. The programs were also instrumental in bringing awareness on women related violence along with spreading the message that violence should not be tolerated.



Interaction on Adult Learning and Education (ALE)



Interaction on ALE - NCE D.C.C. Parbat

Adult Learning and Education is limited in literacy and is the least priority agenda of the local government. Lifelong learning opportunities for bringing equitable and inclusive education should be promoted. Hence, generating awareness for prioritizing on the issues of ALE and related acts and policies the interaction programs were organized in Parsa, Palpa, Parbat, Nawalpur, Kailali, Bajura and Achham.

There were participants from community learning centers, adult literacy classes, vocational training and other informal learning classes in the program who discussed on the contribution of these programs in increasing employment opportunities, poverty reduction, its role in achieving other sustainable development goals and how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the ALE related programs.



Youth Empowerment



Participants discuss on the role of youths in the educational campaign - NCE D.C.C. Parsa

The youths need to be capacitated to engage and ensure their participation in the campaign for public education strengthening in Nepal. Hence, with that purpose, NCE district coalitions Palpa, Parsa and Parbat have conducted orientation to the youths for ensuring their participation in the educational campaign. The programs helped to identify the local education issues like lack of child friendly behavior in schools, technology-friendly education, investment in education, teachers' training, politics in education as well as the role of youths in addressing these issues. The youths also prepared an action plan for their further engagement in educational activities of their community which included discussion with the education stakeholders and visiting the schools in their community for necessary support.

Similarly in Dang, an interaction program on self-employment and entrepreneurship opportunities was organized by the district coalition to orient the youth who had returned from the foreign employment. The program helped the participants to be updated on the various programs of National Youth Council on entrepreneurship and income generating programs, the process for acquiring loans for these and other provisions of government.

Dialogue on Education and Politics

With the coordination of NCE Dhanusha and Palpa interaction programs with the political leaders were organized to discuss on how education can be made a political agenda and what are the roles of political parties and their leaders for strengthening the public

education sector of Nepal. In the program organized in Dhanusha, Mr. Ram Saroj Yadav, Member of Province 2 Parliament shared that education has been wrongly politicized during the formation of school management committees and teacher recruitment which needs to be improved. The student leaders in Palpa shared that politics should rightly guide education and education policies should be oriented towards the concept of socialism to include all the children in learning without any discrimination whereas the local level women representatives shared the initiatives taken by them for ensuring education, health and child rights at their local level and how the women should be promoted in the politics to uplift the status of women and children in the society.



Discourse with the political leaders - NCE D.C.C. Dhanusha

These programs can be viewed through the following links:

<https://www.facebook.com/chhabil.subedi.14/videos/2719217254962299>

<https://www.facebook.com/chhabil.subedi.14/videos/2722362614647763>

राजनीतिमा नाहेका : अबसर र चुनावों
(पाल्पाका नहिला जनप्रतिनिधिहस्तर स्वरो संवाद)

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Interaction with the female local level representatives - NCE D.C.C. Palpa

Localization of SDG 4.7



Discussion on SDG 4.7 – NCE D.C.C. Kailali

Orientation and discussion programs on SDG 4.7 were conducted in Bajura, Kailali and Achham districts for localization of SDG 4.7 targets and empowering local government and CSOs on it. The participants discussed on how the local governments could incorporate the targets in its plans and policies and what initiatives could be taken for the attainment of SDG 4. The participants stressed that the educational rights of children must be ensured during the pandemic and inclusive education should be given importance for quality life, poverty reduction and for bringing socio-economic uniformity from the community level.



Youth Initiated Campaigns



Awareness raising program related to corona virus organized by the youths of Dukuchhap

The youths of Dukuchhap community in Lalitpur district have proactively engaged in community level awareness raising programs like orientation on menstrual hygiene for youth and women in the Danuwar community, addressing the issues of drug abuse and mental health problems. Youths also initiated the sanitation campaign through stone tap cleaning program. Furthermore, for generating awareness regarding COVID-19 and its preventive measures to small children, the youths organized COVID-19 awareness raising programs in public schools of the community and appealed the government for safe learning. These youths were

the Youth Action Researchers of NCE Nepal and NCE Nepal has been regularly providing capacity enhancement trainings on contextual issues to them.

These activities conducted with the leadership of youths have increased the awareness of community people on safe menstrual hygiene, provided knowledge on different psychosocial problems and stress management skills and increase the leadership skills of the youths for team work to carry out community level initiatives for its development. Local governments also supported and praised the initiation of youths.



Appeal of NCE Nepal

On the Occasion of International Children's Day



On the occasion of International Children's Day, NCE Nepal has made an appeal to the federal, provincial and local governments to address the impact of COVID-19 in education and ensure continuous learning especially for the girls and children with disability by creating a safe learning environment, to monitor and ensure the effective implementation of school reopening guideline in the context of COVID-19 in both private and public schools, and also recommended to emphasize on parental education, as well as psychological counseling for students and provision of training for the teachers.

The appeal can be viewed from the following link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1URY7kZ1zXAOqENIQ-_3Czq5i-oB9BMmJ/view?usp=sharing



Submission of Appeal to the local government by NCE D.C.C. Makwanpur

NCE District Coalition Makwanpur has submitted an appeal to three local governments in the district drawing their attention to allocate at least 20% of total budget in education, to make education free and compulsory upto secondary level with complete authority under the local government, to revise education policies and guidelines of the local government as per the changing context, formation of child clubs and provision of online devices, capacity enhancement trainings for the teachers through various trainings, conduct specialized trainings on specific subjects, focus to be given on skillful, income generative and technical education etc. The appeal containing 24 points were acknowledged by the local level representatives and have committed to make positive improvements in the public education of the local level based on the suggestions provided in the appeal.



Submission of Appeal to the local government by NCE D.C.C. Kapilyastu

Similarly, NCE district coordination committee Kapilbastu had submitted an appeal in all ten local governments of the district with 18 points mentioning on the issues like providing psychosocial counseling to students and ensuring safe learning space, to ensure right to education through the collective effort of local governments, non-governmental

organizations, civil societies, teachers, parents and other education holders, to introduce programs and policies that enhance the learning achievement of the students, and also the allocation of 20% budget in education.

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issues of lack of proper infrastructures and buildings in schools to conduct classes safely maintaining physical distance, uncertainty of new curriculum of Grade 11, utmost need of teacher management, increased politics at the public schools, access of free and inclusive education to the disabled children, good practices of community learning centers, advocacy work of NCE Nepal etc.

प्रदेश ५ का सामुदायिक विद्यालयः कतिपय अलमलमा,
कही त्रैमासिक परीक्षा लिदै



Other Publications of NCE Nepal

- Other publications of NCE Nepal's published during the context of COVID-19 can be accessed through the link below in the NCE Nepal's website:

https://ncenepal.org.np/newsletters/?fbclid=IwAR2XURY_C8PQ0k8czcSn3C6SxEZ1EsvG08hM-X6v4iMOg29omErJXx51GU

NCE Nepal in Different Media

Publication of Feature Articles



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During this period, ten feature articles have been published by the district coalitions Dhanusha, Makwanpur and Kapilyastu highlighting on the

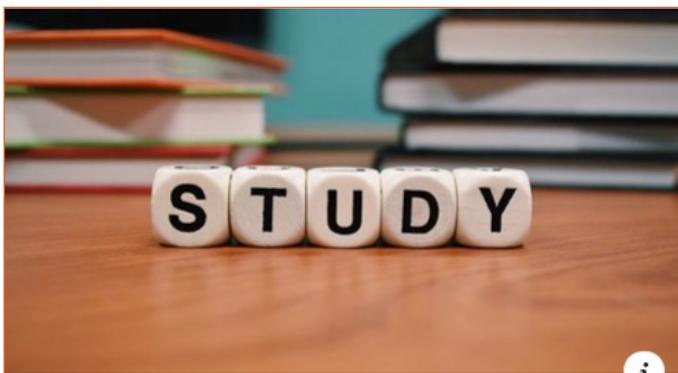


A composite image showing a newspaper page from 'Jankapur Today' with an inset photo of a man in a blue shirt, and a separate inset photo of a man in a white shirt and tie.

Similarly, news articles covering the various research, policy advocacy and other programs conducted by NCE Nepal have been featured widely in the media during this period.

An illustration of a female teacher with glasses and a brown jacket, holding a blue folder, pointing a stick at a large screen. The screen displays the text 'अनलाइन कक्षा' in black, with a small logo and 'www.ujyaaloonline.com' below it.

An illustration showing a young boy in a blue shirt and a woman in a red shirt sitting at a desk, both looking down at open books and eating from small bowls. There are stacks of books and papers on the desk.



EADARSHA.COM

Learning of 64.3% children under alternative method ineffective: Study



NEPALIPATRA.COM

वैकाल्पिक प्रणालीमा ६४ प्रतिशत विद्यार्थीको सिकाइ प्रभावहीनः अध्ययन



शिक्षा नीति कार्यान्वयन नभएको गुनासो - Pradesh Today

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अनलाइन कक्षा: प्रभावहीन

अस्त्रायनके चिटावन बाहेक अन्य निलकणका २५ प्रतिशत विद्युत्यापात्र मात्रे वैकल्पिक सिंक्राइक लागि विद्युत्यालीके साथ-योग पाएको देखाएको छ



प्रकाश लिल्लाल/राजा
कान्तारी, १५ मंगेत्रः

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