

NEPAL

Country Report

On

Educational supports for children with multiple disability with sensory impairment including deaf blindness in Nepal.

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1. Background

Nepal, one of the Hindu countries of the world and birthplace of the Lord Buddha, is situated in the lap of Himalayas. It is located between China and India. Nepal is a landlocked country with 147,181 square Kilometers in area. The northern range (Himalaya) is covered with snow over the year where highest peak of the world, the Mount Everest, stands. In the geographic diversity and varied climatic conditions, 23.2 million people of more than 60 caste/ethnic groups are accommodated in the country.

Administratively, Nepal is divided into five development regions and 75 districts. Districts are further divided into smaller units such as village development committees(VDC)and municipalities. Currently there are 3915 VDCs and 58 municipalities along with metropolitans as well. Kathmandu is the capital city of the country.

2 The present Scenario of multiple Disability in Nepal

From 1971 various surveys have been conducted in Nepal to find out the prevalence disability. 1971 census of Nepal estimated 1.5 percent of the total population over 10 years of age having disabilities. The disability sample survey 1980 shows that there were 30.03 disabled people per thousand populations. Among the disabled people more than 10 percent people have multiple disabilities. Likewise Disability Survey in Kanchanpur Districts 1995 reported there were 10 percent multiple disabled. Similarly Situation analysis of disability in Nepal (2001) study was done by National planning commission in collaboration with UNICEF. It was found that 1.63% as the national prevalence rate of disability. Among the disabled population, seems that there were 31 percent of people with multiple disabilities. We have no detail household survey, which can say how many population with sensory impairment including deaf blindness in all over the country. It is believed that there are huge number of people with multiple disability with sensory impairment are suffering from different kind of problems and barriers.

3. Provision for services to deaf blind persons in Nepal

The government has developed a new Guideline for running Special Education. The guideline has given priority and encouraged the non-governmental sectors and related organization to run the programmes for children with multiple disabled. Ministry of Education and Sport has developed different kind of awareness package for Parents, Management related personnel, Teachers training manual for all level teachers, community mobilization Guideline for NGOs, VDCs and social workers. Some of printed and visual documents contain information and support mechanisms for children with

sensory impairment. To find the situation and needs of the children Department of Education has already established assessment and support center in 47 districts having technical team in each district. The technical team is responsible for screening and assessment of the child, co-ordination with NGOs and other related organizations with in the district. Some NGOs have also started to support the children with sensory impairment including deaf blindness. They are:

i) Ankur Foundation for Inclusive Education (AFINED)

The association was established in 1997 to work for children with deaf blind and other multiple disabilities. This was the first organization in the country, which started services for the persons with deaf blindness. This organization is providing basic and primary services at homes through community based rehabilitation (CBR) approach. The service area of the organization is currently limited within Kathmandu valley and it has a plan to expand in the future .

ii) Nepal Association of the Blind (NAB)

The Association was established in 1993 with the initiation of the blind people themselves. In the beginning, it was limited only for the support of blind. Now the association has started working for people with other types of disability and multiple disability as well. NAB conducted a household survey in Chitawan and Dang district where CBR programme was launched. This study reported some of the deafblind have already cross seventy years. But most of the deafblind seems youth, child and even infant. According to survey report deafblind children are kept at home without proper care,

personal growth, mobility healthcare, physical fitness and communication. The field workers have found that the Association has started to support and Rehabilitation.

4. Conclusion

The government of Nepal is committed to provide Education for all. For achieving this goal it is needed to find out the baseline status of children with sensory impairment. Due to the lack of skilled manpower, necessary equipments and supporting technology, it has been difficult to meet the desired achievement in this particular field. For respecting their right to education, right to health, right to communication and so on of the persons with multiple disabilities, we should collaborate at least among the members countries of this seminar. I think our good co-operation can help sharing the problems, formulation of policy, program and implementation strategy in this fields that could be a milestone for Nepal. Therefore, I would like to request for making a common vision in Asia-pacific region for addressing this particular issue.

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