Girls Education & Gender Equity

Report

Inter ministry conference report

4th and 5th of December 2016
Kathmandu Nepal

Department of Education
Gender and Equity Section

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Gender Equity in Education

Inter ministry conference on Girls Education & Gender Equity

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Preface

Nepal is heading in the path of achieving the sustainable development goals. The entire country is sincerely working towards quenching its thirst of climbing up into categories of prosperous nation. There is no doubt that education is one of the mandatory prerequisite of prosperity. Hence, ministry of education is working hard to educate each and every citizen of the country. However, enabling quality education requires many other things. Good education demands good health, good sanitation, good economy, good infrastructure, and just and equitable society.

The afore-mentioned conditions of quality education essentially require well-built co-ordination from other ministries as well, such as Ministry of Health, Minister of Women & Children, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Drinking water and Sanitation& Ministry of Local Development.

For the purpose, In initiation of Department of Education& in co-ordination of Educational Pages with the support of UNICEF, Save the Children, Action Aid, Room to Read, Aasaman Nepal and other members of Girls Education Network, A national conference on 'Girls Education & Gender equity' with the special theme of Inter-ministry co-ordination was organized on 4th and 5th of December 2016 at Kathmandu. The conference was also aligned with the initiations taken by parliamentarian committee of Women, Children, Social Welfare and Elderly Citizen for Girls Education and Gender Equity.

This report consist the details of the conference with the aim of documenting the efforts of the ministries to come together for the common goal of education and equity and to setup further course of action.

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राष्ट्रिय सम्मेलन
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GETTING INTO THE CORE THEME

The conference kicked off on 04/11/2016 after inaugurated by Minister of Education Hon'ble D.R. Poudel. The opening session was designed in the way that the participants get acquainted with basic theme. President of Parliamentary Committee of Women, Children, Senior Citizens and Social Welfare Hon'ble Ranju Thakur presented the context of the conference. She explained about the joint visit in inter-ministry co-ordination during the preparatory phase of the conference in her presentation.

Dr. Mukund Mani Khanal; Under Secretory of Ministry of Education presented the gender equity strategies taken under school sector development plan-SSDP. These two presentations were helpful for participants to understand the core-theme of the conference.

Apart from that, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Women, Children & Social welfare Mr. Narayan Kafle and Mr. Tomoo Hoozomi; Country Representative of UNICEF Nepal also put their views on importance of inter-ministry co-ordination for Girls Education and Gender Equity.

EQUITY NOT ONLY IN QUANTITY BUT ALSO IN QUALITY

"We have made lots of achievement in education sector of Nepal. More children are attending school than before. Number of girl students is also increasing. The number of girl students is almost reaching equal to the number of boy students. However, expressing the achievement in quantity will not work anymore. Almost same number of boys and girls participate in SLC examination but among the passout students, number of boys are higher than girls. Hence, now it's the time to work for quality of education. We should be focus on producing the boy and girl students of same competency. I hope, the participants of this workshop will come up with best ideas to enhance equity in quality education with the inter-ministry co-ordination ."

Hon'ble DR Poudel
Minister for Education

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WHY AND WHERE THE INTER MINISTRY COORDINATION IS NECESSARY?

WHERE THE PROBLEM IS?

We went to Sapatari district with the objective of studying the ground situation of Girls Education, Gender Equity and Social Inclusion. We visited the schools and interacted with students and local stakeholders. We also took the notes of activities of Gender Equity Network. Discussion with chief of the government offices of the district and District Police Office was also held. After the filed visit, it has been realized that the following issues could be settled down only with inter-ministry co-ordination.

Mrs. Ranju Thakur
Chair, Women, Children, Senior Citizens and Social Welfare

Issues that requires Inter-Ministry Co-ordination

- Large number of children do not study because of poverty
- Lack of awareness against the discrimination between son & daughter
- Continuation of Dowry System
- Natural disaster creates obstacles in education and health of Dalits and poor citizens.
- Pregnancy in early age
- No sports for physically disabled children
- Duplication in scholarship
- Ineffective arrangement of information officers at offices
- Unfriendly infrastructure for disable people
- Child marriage (generally unregistered)
- Difficulties in admission to school because of not doing birth registra tion in time.
- Misuse of Budget that comes from center
- Lack of proper toilets and sanitation

After analyzing the situation of the filed, we drew the conclusion that co-ordination between Ministry of Local Development, Ministry of Women & Children, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Youth & Sports and Ministry of Water supply & Sanitation and Ministry of Education is indispensable.

Inter-ministry Co-ordination is indispensable for

- Brining poor students into schools
- Eliminating dowry system
- Availability of proper sanitation for girls students specially during men struation period
- Birth registration in time
- Arrangement of proper facilities for disabled children
- Proper distribution of scholarship
- Adequate infrastructure
- Timely availability of textbook& teaching learning
- Security of children from different kinds of abuse and harassment

WHAT POLICY SAYS?

When we see the afore-mentioned indicators and progress from the surface, we see that the number of boys and girls into classroom is equal. But equity in quantity is not equity. Equity requires many other things. There must be equity in learning achievements, equity in access to higher education, equity in participation in extra-curricular activities and, equity in each and every opportunity. For the purpose, gender equity strategies have been developed. The core of the strategy is being presented here.

Dr. Mukund Mani Khanal
Under-Secretory
Ministry of Education

Core Strategies

S. No.	Key Indicators	Progress
1	ECED GER	80.6%
2	Enrolment in Gr. 1 with ECD Expe	62.4 %
3	Primary (1-5) NER	96.6%
4	Basic (1-8) NER	88.7%
4	Secondary (9-10) NER	58.0%
5	Secondary (9-12) NER	38.0%
8	Survival Rate (Grade 5)	89.4%
9	Survival Rate (Grade 8)	78.0%
10	Survival Rate (Grade 10)	39.0%
11	Gender Parity (At all levels)	1:1
12	Promotion Rate (Grade 8)	90.0%

- Equity formula based targeting to ensure need based interventions to reduce disparities (targeted scholarships)
- Strengthening of inclusive education (special, integrated and re source class schools)
- Equity strategy and Equity Index
- Residential/Feeder hostels
- Mobile school/home-based education
- Small school
- Mid-day meal
- Health and nutrition program for girls and disadvantaged groups (minimizing the drop-out rate of adolescent girls)
- Life-skills education for adolescent girls
- Consolidated Equity Strategy and Equity Index - Excluded & disad vantaged groups
- Equity-based formula to strengthen needs-based allocation of re sources
- Project on Enhancing Quality and Relevance of Learning for Adoles cence Girls
- Develop annual equity strategy implementation plans as a part of

ASIP

- ❑ Establish different models of ECED/PPE services such as school-based, community-based and home-based program
- ❑ Special scholarship/grants to girls to enroll grade 11 in science stream
- ❑ Gender sensitive learning environment in schools

Strategies for Collaboration

1. Inter-ministerial gender networking mechanism (MoFALD, MoWCS, MoY, MoH)
2. Collaboration of all stakeholders including Government, Development Partners and NGOs/CSOs
3. SSDP Implementation - Technical Committees at District Level
4. Composition of NEC, DEC, VEC/MEC, SMC and PTA

WHAT IN PRACTICE?

EXPERIENCE FROM PARSA DISTRICT

GE Network is active in Parsa. This network is to develop inter agencies coordination for uplifting girl's education and gender equity. For that we do regular monitoring to the schools and solve the problems immediately whatever we find from monitoring. Regular meeting of network members, collaborative action plan and linking individual agencies activities with others are the key strategy that we have been practicing.

These are the achievements of the GE Network:

- No duplication in the program
- Decrease in drop out ratio of Girl students
- Decrease in child marriage and dowry system
- Development of trend of collaboration and co-ordination
- Development of joint monitoring system
- Increasing awareness of parent for girl education

For the above mentioned achievements, the collaboration of District Development Office, District Education Office, Drinking water and Sanitation Office, Women & Children Office, Public Health Office, Teachers Organizations, Representation of backward society and other social organizations working at district was important. Followings are efforts made by the different officers for girl education and gender equity.

EXPERIENCE FROM BAJURA DISTRICT

In Bajura, District Education Office, Women & Children Office, UNICEF, UNFPA, Civil Society, Media, Red Cross, Youth Network, Women Right's Forum, Child Right Forum, PCWIN, GIFT, HRC, Save The Children, Action Aid Nepal, Restless Development, Good Neighbours, Seto Gurans are working in collaboration for girl education and gender equity.

Achievements of the Joint Efforts

- Outreach increased. Most of the schools are benefited.
- Ease in mobilizing the human resources
- Ease in management of resources
- Development of environment of learning from each-other
- Enhancement in learning outcomes
- Social mainstreaming of education
- Negative reinforcement to untouchability, discrimination and violence
- Tackling the obstacle of education jointly
- Joint plan and operation

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WHAT THE SITUATION IS?

WHAT THE POLICY & BUDGET LOOK WISE?

Gender based budgeting is the milestone to promote gender equity and it has been in practice since long in Nepal. Based on the policy adopted by the government, ministries have started different programs addressing the issues of gender equity in their respective ministry. Government has been conducting lots of programs to promote equity in education and other areas. In education, agriculture, health, trade and industry, financing, land, property, entrepreneurship and so many areas are there for special provision to promote gender equity.

Providing oil to the parents who sends their daughters to school, day meal program in the food shortage districts, scholarship for girls and marginalized children, opportunity of technical education to girls from disadvantage community, residential school for girls, and special education opportunity for 'kamalary' are some excellent ideas of government to encourage girl's education.

Krishna Hari Baskota
Chief information commissioner
National Information Commission

Different ministries have focused programs to promote gender equity but due to lack of information people are not knowing whom has been the program intended for. So, due to lack of information many people have been deprived from receiving benefit of the program. There should be proper information dissemination system and establishment of right to information culture. Likewise, change in behavior is one of the major factors that effects on promoting gender equity. No program and policy works, if we do not change our self in to gender friendly/respective manner.

Response from Floor

(I) The information about privileges given by government for girl's education and women empowerment should be disseminated to each and every situation.

(II) The provision on constitution related to women rights should be disseminated

(III) Those girl's children who are facing problem to access the educa tion should be identified and given a special identity card so that the concerned authority can trace it out and help them.
Women should be the minister for women and children ministry. The higher level staffs of Women and Children ministry also should be female.

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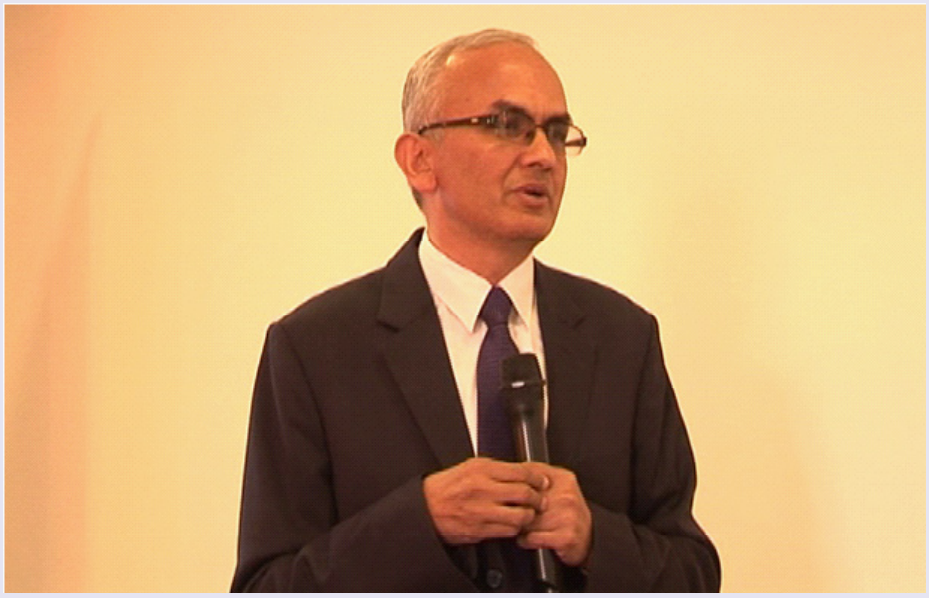
WHAT THE POLICY & BUDGET LOOK WISE?



Dr. Tirthraj Dhakal
Joint Secretary, National Planning Commission

PROGRAMS FOR GENDER EMPOWERMENT AND INCLUSION IN 14TH PLAN

- Capacity Development and empowerment
- Opportunities of employment and income generation
- Meaning participation in policy making level through positive dis crimination and reservation

STRATEGIES FOR GENDER EMPOWERMENT AND INCLUSION IN 14TH PLAN

- Considering Gender and Inclusion as inter-linked policy, GESI policy is being implemented in every area
- Implementing of GESI by allocating gender responsive budget.

EFFORTS MADE IN NEPAL FOR GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGET

- Nepal started to allocate gender responsive budget form 2006/07
- Guidelines for Gender Responsive Budget were issue in 2012
- More than 60 persons from NGO and Civil Societies and More than 200 government officials were trained for preparing Gender Respon sive Budget

Some issues found out from Gender and Inclusion audit of Ministry of Education and Ministry of Local Development

- GESI unit set up in District Education Offices
- Annual Plan being made on GESI basis
- 33 percent female participation on Consumers committees
- GESI is being included in the trainings conducted by local bod ies

However, there is still lack of co-ordination between different local bodies. There are no statistics collected on status of GESI oriented policies and programs.

Following agencies could play role in inter-ministry co-ordination.:

- Office of Prime Minister and the Cabinet
- National Planning Commission
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare
- Other concerned ministries
- District Development Committees at local levels
- The co-ordination committees related to GESI at local and cen ter level

Response from Participants

- The restructuring of National Planning Commission is neces sary.
- The political appointment in NPC is creating the problem
- Politician are more influential than experts, thus it's not working in desired way

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THE CORE OF COLLABORATION

WHAT THE MINISTRIES DOING ON?

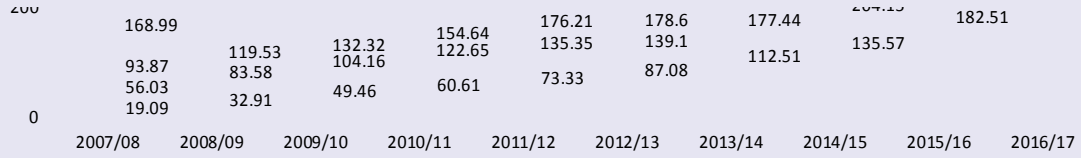
The concerned ministries made their presentations about the efforts made by them for gender equity and social inclusion. This session was designed in the way that each ministries will come up with the point where collaboration and co-ordination needed and the participants of the conference produces.

MINISTRY OF WOMEN, CHILDREN, SENIOR CITIZEN AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Ministry of women, children, senior citizen and social welfare is to do the following based on the work division directorate of government of Nepal.

- Formulation, actuation, monitoring and evaluation of policy, planning and program related to women, children and social welfare
- Conduct survey, research, study related to women, children and social welfare
- Developing coordination and contact at national, international and regional agencies on women, children and social welfare
- Orphaned children, widows, women, older, elderly, disabled and infirm protection
- Women welfare and skill development
- Child welfare
- Safety and welfare of senior citizens
- National, international non-governmental organizations and operational coordination
- Monitoring of the program related to Women, Children and Social welfare conducted by government and non-government organizations
- Adopted son and daughter
- Gender based violence
- National Women Commission
- Social welfare Council
- Social welfare Center
- Vrddhasrama
- Balmandir

Gender responsive budget tend



Programs and Coordination With Different Ministries

- Women's development program is in operation in 75 districts
- Good coordination with Agriculture development office, office of the livestock, domestic and forestry development
- The gender mainstreaming district committee in place
- Strategy on child marriage and created fund for child rescue
- Operation of OCMC services in 21 hospitals
- Adolescent development program is linked to the women devel opment program
- The Domestic and Sexual Violence control programs
- The psychosocial Counseling and Training to quake-affected districts. 24 counselor office in 16 districts.
- Drafting of Women's Act
- The concept of Female Friendly Space Guidelines has been brought
- Strategy of protection cluster has been in process

MINISTRY OF YOUTH & SPORTS

Ministries of Youth and Sports is conduction following programs under National Youth Mobilization Program, Sports Development Program, National Youth Council and National Sports Council.

The programs under National Youth Development and Mobilization program:

- Experience sharing of the youths
- Interaction and discussion on situation of GESI in program related to Youth and Sports.
- Honoring the national talents

The programs under Sports Development program:

- President Running Shield Tournament
- Awareness against use of prohibited medicines in Sports
- Honouring the national talents of sports

The programs under National Youth Council

- Youth Skill and leadership Development Program
- Rural youth entrepreneurship (In all 240 electoral constitune cies)
- Youth targeted National self-employment generation program.
- Youth experience sharing program
- Youth for Society - One day program (In 50 districts)
- Assistance distribution to 250 disabled youths
- Search of district based youth entrepreneurship and apprecia tion
- Youth
- Awareness against use of prohibited medicines in Sports
- Honoring the national talents of sports
- Investment of the Remittance brought by Youth and setting up the social security fund.
- Identification of Youth Talents - (In all 75 districts)

The programs under National Sport Council:

- Construction of Infrastructure (Play Ground)
- Sports trainings
- Creating and developing school level teams
- Organizing tournaments
- Participation in regional and International level competitions
- Honoring the winner players

The programs under Nepal Scout:

- Scout Trainings
- Mobilization of Volunteers
- Participation in community development
- Adult development program (200 Adults of Humla, Bajura, Achham, Mugu, Dhanusha and Sapatari)

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Gender Inequality in relation to Health

- Lower status/social value in the household
- Cultural factors such as lack of female health provider
- Being excluded from decision making on health actions and expen diture
- Lower literacy rates and reduced access to information
- High opportunity costs of women's labour time –distance, waiting time etc.
- Third gender issues: discrimination, stigma.

GESI Friendly Educational Activities in Health Sector

Promotional Activities

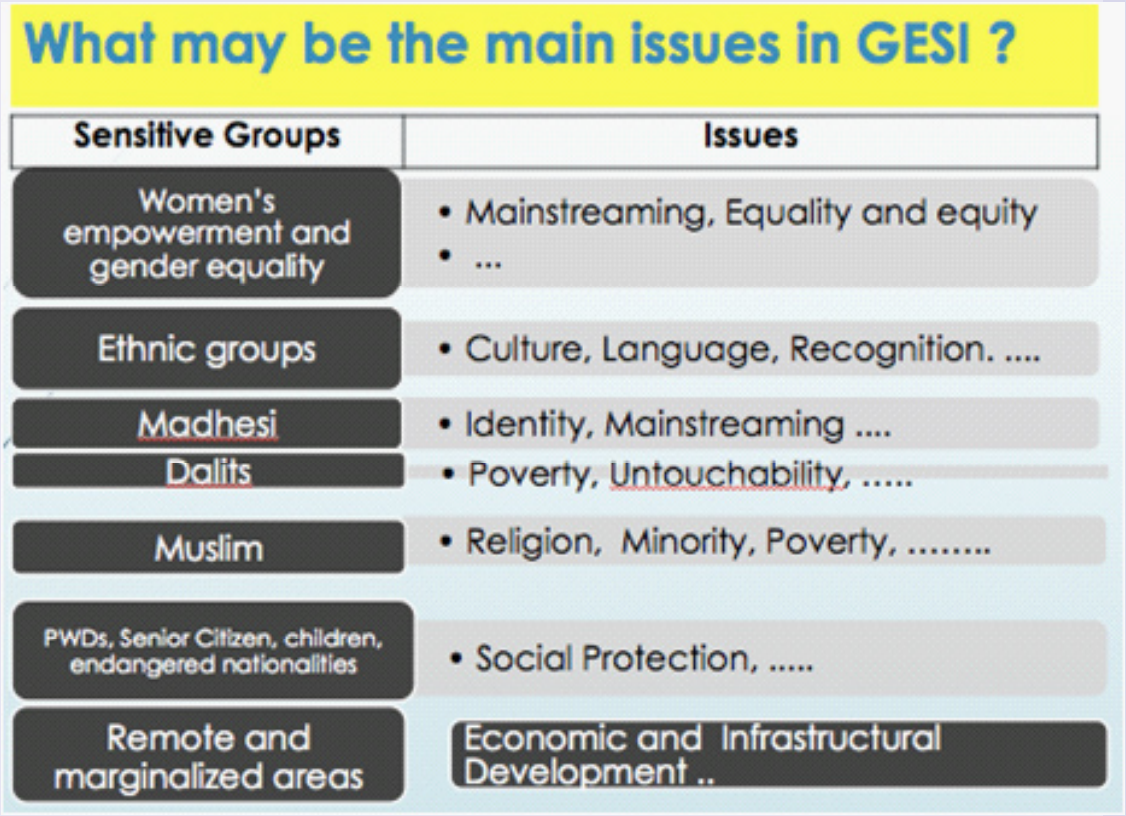
Sensitization

- Academic Program (School Health Programs, Peer Education)
- Street Play
- Radio/TV Program
- Essay Competition
- Creation Literature
- Media Coverage
- Dissemination of legal provisions
- Social awareness on effect of gender violence

Preventive Activities

Participation

- Reservation
- Positive Discrimination
- Leadership



Empowerment

- Education
- Training
- Income generation
- Rights
- Health security
- Providing value of works done
- Support

Curative Activities

- Providing Justice
- Rehabilitation
- Reparation

Programs by Ministry of Health

- Family Health Program
- School Health Program
- Children Health Program
- OCMC , SSU, Geriatric ward
- GBV, Clinical, Protocol, Psychosocial related program by Na tional Education Health Program

MINISTRY OF FEDERAL AFFAIRS AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

The ministry has been active role in GESI. The local governance act 2055 has given special focus in Gender mainstreaming. Each and every agency under this ministry has set up GESI branch. The ministry has been working in co-ordination with National Dalit Commission, Indigenous community development foundation, Federation of Indigenous community, and Local/District level women co-ordination committee.

Program by MoFALD

- A resource book of GESI for capacity development of local government bodies and partner organization has been devel oped. The programs are being conducted following the resource book.
- 44 percent participation of women has been ensured in 31,414 ward level citizen's four having 7,59,568 members.

Children focused programs:

- Social mobilization for capacity development of target group in all local agencies
- Implementation of Child friendly local governance national strategy 2068 and guidelines 2018
- According to concept of Child Friendly Local Governance,

Ministry is focused for protection, security & development of children and also to ensure their participation.

According to Local Agency Resource Mobilization and Management Guidelines 2069, 10 percent budget should be used for Children compulsory.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Policy and Programs

- Constitutional Provision: Education to All as fundamental rights
- Making all literature by creating access of all citizens to educa tion, Ensuring free and accessible basic education of equal quality to all and making all level of education equitable and inclusive are main objectives of Ministry
- The School Sector Development Project encourages ensurem net of inclusive participation of girls student and children from deprived community
- Education acts, rules and regulation is being amended regularly for increment of equitable access in education
- Equity strategy has been developed. Indicators for its imple mentation have been also marked
- Activities like providing merit scholarship & Dalit scholar ship, free distribution of textbook, girls encouragement proram, day meal program, mobile school, construction of classroom and toilets, arrangement of drinking water etc have been done to encourage the children
- Development of textbook in mother-tongue
- Development of open and optional school for drop-out students
- Literacy program for those who becomes unable to join formal eduction
- Special educational program for Karnali Zone
- Women literacy program, Income generation program
- Pre-primary education, Primary Education extension program, information classes, adult education
- Giving priority to women in appointment in education sector
- Awareness program for girls education

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WHAT THE CONFERENCE PRESIDED

During the conference a brainstorming work was done by all participants in a mixed type of sitting from different organization. The Group work of the conference has recommended the way forward for inter-ministry co-ordination for Girls Education and Gender Equity.

ANALYSIS OF SITUATION

- Every ministry has their own program but they are not unified because of which programs repeats in some places and do not reach in some places.
- Stakeholders are not aware of policies
- Negative effect because of frequent changes in officers
- Problems in implementation as ministries are developing policies in their own ways
- Lack of co-ordination between ministries
- Enough works are not done for gender equity
- Lack of local body
- Lack of budget for gender equity
- Effective Implementation of programs from centre to local level
- Duplication in programs
- Lack of information at local level
- Need based program not developed
- Budget is not enough and the allocated budget is scattered
- Lack of co-ordination and use of ICT
- Understanding that only District Education Office is responsible for co- ordination
- Officers are getting difficulties to work as committees are formed on each and every program
- Lack of co-ordination between committees
- Program are to be accomplished in hurry

WHAT TO DO?

At Policy Level

- While forming policies inter ministry coordination should be done by National Planning Commission.
- Coordination mechanism should be placed for inter-ministry coordina tion on crosscutting issues (Like Gender/Equity/Youth).
- Inter ministry thematic coordination should be done at a time of devel oping annual budget and program and at the time of implementation.
- Joint brainstorming before and after developing programs by the differ ent ministries on the crosscutting areas (Like Gender/Equity/Youth).
- Making a guideline /instruction or circulation for developing inter min istry coordination on crosscutting areas (Like Gender/Equity/Youth) at district and local level.
- Formation of monitoring committee for Inter-ministry co-ordination in leadership of National Planning Commission and Parliament Commit tee for Children, Women, Senior Citizen and Social Welfare.
- While forming policy, both government and non-government stakehold ers must consult each other and needs should be identified from the lo cal level and then send to central level
- Parliament Committee on Children, Women, Senior Citizen and Social Welfare should take initiation to bring together the common issues (like gender, equity and youth) and instruct the ministry to develop better coordination on the issues.
- GESI policy should be mandatory in every planning and implementa tion process
- Availability of gender focal point at each level from local to centra level of each ministry.
- Dissemination of information via gender focal points from central to local level of each ministry and also by means of public information system
- Ensuring the participation of stakeholders while discussing crosscutting matters and public hearing at different levels

At Implementation Level

- Every local body should function effectively on unified way under the instruction by ministries.
- Consultation and coordination with government and non-government bodies for avoiding duplication
- Co-ordination between stakeholders time to time while making implementation policy, programs and budget
- Effective monitoring, evaluation and reporting of planned program and its impact
- Identification, appreciation and sharing of best practices
  Regular feedback from stakeholders on basis of monitoring and evaluation

ACTION STEPS:

Following are the action steps for the execution of the recommendation in to reality.

- Inter–ministry meeting along with NPC representative to dis cuss on the conference report and its recommendation and find the way out
- Discourse with the Parliament Committee on Children, Women, Senior Citizen and Social Welfare
- Formal discourse on the issue of inter-ministry coordination on crosscutting issues (like gender and equity) and recom mendation to ministries
- Follow-up and situation updates by concern agencies and Parliament Committee on Children, Women, Senior Citizen and Social Welfare

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