

Liberal Education and Why It Matters

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Abstract

The concept of liberal education is widely misunderstood even in the countries where it has served as a basis of higher education for a long time. Quite often it is lumped together with liberal arts education at the expense of educating the students in modern sciences, social sciences, and vocational studies. Another source of misunderstanding lies in the confusion between the political meaning of the term liberal and its philosophical meaning. This presentation will explain the meaning and practice of liberal education in its proper philosophical context and make a case for how it can serve as a basis for higher education reform in Nepal and other non-Western countries.