

## **Non-Formal Education Policy, 2063 B.S. (2007 A.D.)**

Non-formal Education (NFE) has been delivering non-formal education services for various target groups which include illiterate people living in remote areas and hinterlands, those living below poverty line and the wage labourers working in factories and farms. NFEC basically conducts the literacy, post-literacy and awareness raising programmes and it also implements the programmes related to continuous education, skill development and income generation to the target groups. It has been providing alternative schooling opportunities to the out-of-school children and school drop-outs through open education mode. NFEC helps the out-of-school youths by providing training and support for developing technical and vocational skills useful for earning livelihood at the local level. NFEC has made efforts to pay special attention to the people who have problems caused by their gender, caste, specific, ethnicity, language and physical disabilities and make non-formal education programmes inclusive.

Non-formal Education (NFE) has been facing several problems and challenges in course of launching non-formal education programmes. They are those of vision, management and programme implementation. Some of the problems and challenges are those of building consensus on the extended features and dimensions of non-formal education; mobilizing human resource relative to extended resources feature; coordinating the NFE programmes; mainstreaming of the target groups and designing the informal education programmes for the persons having specific learning needs and abilities.

It was a felt need for long that the policies and strategies of non-formal education be specified and approved by the government. The Government of Nepal (GON) has recently approved the *Non-Formal Education Policy, 2063 on Magh 25, 2063* which clarifies the broad concepts of non-formal education with clearly formulated policies and strategies of non-formal education of the country. It is hoped that the Informal Education Policy, Working Policy and

strategies shall help as the guidelines for the concerned governmental as well as non-governmental agencies involved in conducting non- formal education programmes.

**1. Non-Formal Education shall be expanded to provide the academic and practical knowledge, skills and information to different age and levels of learners.**

The following policy actions shall be adopted for the implementation of the above policy:

- Adults, women and youths shall be made literate.
- Opportunity of vocational education shall be provided who are not able to go to alternative education.
- Provision of vocational education shall be made for those who are not able to obtain school education.
- Education equivalent to formal school shall be provided through open school system
- Continuing education opportunity shall be provided to people with different skill and education levels.
- Oral literacy campaign shall be launched for the purpose of awareness rising.
- Higher level equivalent education shall be provided through Open University.

**Strategies**

In order to implement the aforesaid policies and policy actions, the following strategies shall be adopted:

- Village and municipality education plan shall be prepared on the basis

of Non-Formal Education Management Information System (NFEMIS) and such plan shall be developed as a part of district periodic plan and district education plan.

- Educational institutes shall be encouraged to run open schools.
- Continuous education shall be arranged to people with different skills and ability levels through Non-governmental organizations, educational institutes, and Community Learning Centres (CLCs),
- Oral literacy programmes shall be conducted through discussion sessions and mobilization of various communication media.
- Post-literacy programmes shall be linked to income generation activities
- Livelihood developing skills shall be attached to both the contents and the pedagogy.
- Until a separate open university is established, the existing higher education institutes shall provide equivalent higher education.

**2. Non-formal education equivalent to Formal education shall be provided to those who are deprived of educational opportunity or who dropped out of education.**

The following policy actions shall be adopted for the implementation of the above policy:

- Alternative schooling programme shall be made equivalent to primary level.
- Adult and women's literacy programme shall gradually be made equivalent to primary level
- Alternative school programme shall be gradually upgraded to grade 12 of the formal system and its equivalency shall be ensured

- Lower secondary, secondary and higher secondary level education shall also be provided through open mode.
- The degrees obtained by Open University shall be made equivalent to the degrees of other universities.
- Occupational and vocational courses shall be developed as non-credit courses.
- The formal and non-formal education streams shall be made equivalent to each other with the support of condensed courses
- CLCs shall be expanded as a venue for different types of non-formal education programmes.

### **Strategies**

In order to implement the above policies and policy actions the following strategies shall be adopted:

- Appropriate NFE programmes shall be designed to suit the needs of children of various age groups, adolescents, and adult men and women.
- NFE curricula from primary to university level shall be synchronized with Formal Education (FE) curricula of the same levels.
- Condensed courses from primary to university levels shall be developed and implemented.
- A certified education institute shall assess, evaluate and provide equivalent certificate to the self learners on the basis of the learners' level of the study.
- Self learning materials shall be developed, implemented, publicized and disseminated.

### **3. Special provisions shall be made to increase access to education.**

The following policy actions shall be adopted for the implementation of the above policy:

- Need based intensive literacy programmes shall be implemented.
- Women shall be given priority in non-formal education
- Volunteers and aides shall be mobilized.
- Equivalent education programmes shall be executed through open school and Open University.
- Different agencies shall be given approval and support to run open school, and professional and vocational education institutes.
- Training materials to train volunteers and aides shall be developed.
- Livelihood development skill and occupational training shall be implemented
- Awareness programmes shall be conducted under the Oral Literacy Programme.
- Equivalent education shall be provided in formal education through non-formal education mode.
- Employers shall be encouraged to provide opportunities of non-formal education compulsorily to their employees based on their educational levels.
- Children, youths, *dalit*, women, religious groups, people of different castes and ethnicity and child labour living in the rural and interior urban areas shall be included in different types of non-formal education

according to their nature of works.

- All types of organizations, associations and mass media shall be mobilized for the promotion of non-formal education.
- Appropriate curriculum, teachers and facilitators shall be prepared in order to increase access to education for socially, economically and educationally disadvantaged community.
- Economically disadvantaged participants shall be made literate and attached to the income generation groups.

### **Strategies**

In order to implement the above policies and policy actions the following strategies shall be adopted:

- Village and municipality education plan shall be prepared through social mobilization programme.
- The implementing agencies of non-formal education shall identify the target groups within the households and design programmes accordingly.
- Literacy programmes shall be organized for smaller groups.
- Volunteers shall be prepared and mobilized to serve people living in remote and sparsely populated areas.
- Adult and women's literacy, oral literacy programme, alternative school, open school and Open University shall be extended in the targeted areas.
- Short term packages and programmes shall be developed and implemented.
- Non-formal education programmes shall be run in the learners' convenient time.

- Non-formal education programmes shall be focused on the geographical areas with low level of literacy rate.
- Non-formal education shall target the class, castes and ethnic group with low level of literacy rate.
- Programmes shall target the children in special conditions such as conflict victims, child labors.

**4. Development and distribution process of curriculum, textbooks and learning materials shall gradually be decentralized for making it localized.**

The following policy actions shall be adopted for the implementation of the above policy:

- All GOs, NGOs and private sectors involved in non-formal education shall develop, produce, and distribute the curriculum, textbooks and learning materials of literacy and primary level non-formal education programmes in coordination and partnership with the NFEC.
- The quality of the materials for the adult, women and children education, and alternative school programme shall be as per the standard set by NFEC.
- The standard of the curriculum, textbooks and learning materials of open school shall be as specified/determined by the concerned authority.
- Open University shall decide on the quality its college.
- Materials developed for NFE purpose should be appropriate when analyzed from gender, caste, ethnic and language perspectives. NFEC shall evaluate the appropriateness of such materials.
- Agencies and the NGOs associated with non-formal education shall be involved in the course of developing the framework of core curriculum and materials.

- Information and Communication Technology (ICT) shall be utilized in the development, production, and distribution of the curriculum, textbooks and learning materials.

## **Strategies**

In order to implement the aforesaid policies and policy action the following strategies shall be adopted:

- NFEC shall identify and make a list of expected learning outcomes for basic and post literacy programmes and makes it available to all the agencies involved in the development of NFE curriculum, textbooks and learning materials.
- Development skills shall be included in the learning materials.
- NFEC shall update the expected learning outcomes in consultation with programme implementers, decision makers, material developers and donors.
- Individuals and organizations shall prepare necessary educational materials as per the updated list.
- For the purpose of equivalency the curriculum, learning materials, supplementary materials and support materials of alternative school, open school and Open University shall be prepared in conscience with the expected learning outcomes of NFE.
- NFEC shall develop, revise and update all types of condensed curriculum for the alternative school programmes implemented by the centre.
- Interested agencies shall be encouraged to develop and implement the condensed curriculum and textbooks.
- Organizations and individuals involved in NFE the with approval and support of concerned agencies shall develop, print and distribute the local



curriculum, learning materials and support materials in different languages. Such organizations and individuals shall share the materials among themselves and implement them in their respective programmes.

- Learning outcomes and standard of such materials shall be determined by concerned agencies.
- The concerned authority should take care of whether the national curriculum, textbooks and other types of materials are available in the local market, these materials are updated, and they address gender, caste, ethnicity, religious, language, disability issues or not.
- The agencies involved in non-formal education shall provide learning materials free of cost for the economically disadvantaged and targeted population.

**5. Community Learning Centres shall be developed as the centre of educational activities to ensure accessible, standard and equitable non-formal education for all.**

The following policy actions shall be adopted for the implementation of the above policy:

- CLCs, NGOs, local groups, schools, local bodies, and government agencies shall conduct programmes as on their own or in groups.
- Various developmental programmes including educational activities shall be conducted community to cater for the needs and demands of the community.
- Youths and adults related livelihood development skill programme shall be conducted.
- CLCs shall be mobilized for community development, increased production, cultural preservation, and continuous education

## **Strategies**

In order to implement the aforesaid policies and policy actions the following strategies shall be adopted:

- Local bodies shall take care of the education of the targeted groups through the newly established CLCs.
- CLCs shall be developed as focal point for all forms of NFE extension activities.
- CLCs shall conduct literacy campaign by mobilizing both the individuals and groups of the community.
- CLCs shall operate child care centres for the organized women groups.
- CLCs shall conduct various development activities for the welfare of the community as per the need.

## **6. The implementation, monitoring, supervision and evaluation of NFE programmes shall be decentralized.**

The following policy actions shall be adopted for the implementation of the aforesaid policy:

- Supervision, monitoring and evaluation of NFE programmes shall be conducted by a single agency or by joint effort of GOs, NGOs and local agencies
- Participatory methods shall be applied in monitoring, supervision and evaluation of NFE activities
- The reports of monitoring, supervision and evaluation shall be presented in the post monitoring, supervision, and evaluation sessions for discussion

and sharing of ideas for further actions.

## **Strategies**

In order to implement the aforesaid policies and policy actions the following strategies shall be adopted:

- In order to monitor the activities of agencies which are involved in informal education, the NFC shall supervise them and conduct group discussions and micro-research programmes from time to time.
- Agencies involved in NFE should provide assistance to the NFE Unit of the District Education Office in their monitoring and evaluation activities.
- Head teacher of the mother school shall supervise alternative school programmes under their respective schools
- Community mobilizers shall monitor and supervise child, adult, and women's literacy programmes in their catchments areas
- NFE supervisors shall forward their monitoring report to their concerned organizations and Village Development Committees/Municipalities.
- Authorized individual/group shall supervise the open school programmes conducted by other agencies.
- Agencies involved in NFE shall appoint supervisors to supervise their NFE activities.
- Supervisors' academic qualification shall be as decided by the concerned authority.
- Facilitator shall develop and maintain individual profile to assess NFE learners' progress.
- District level agencies shall bear the responsibilities as stated in the Nepal Local Self-Governance Act, 2055.

**7. Networking and coordination and partnership shall be maintained with the agencies involved in NFE for resource generation and mobilization.**

The following policy actions shall be adopted for the implementation of the above policy:

- NFEC shall work as the central authority for collaborative undertaking, networking, and coordination.
- NGOs/INGOs shall equip Agencies involved in NFE with human, financial and physical resources.
- NFEC shall coordinate with other ministries to reduce duplication in preparing reading materials and content in accordance with the guidance of Non-Formal Education Council.
- Through NFE Council, efforts shall be made to coordinate with United Nations agencies, INGOs and other donor agencies in achieving the goals of set forth in 'Education For All' programme.
- VDC/Municipalities may mobilize national and international resources for the operation of non-formal education programmes
- Open school and Open University shall adopt the policy of maintaining partnership in sharing their human, financial, and physical resources.
- There shall be functional coordination and partnership at the field level to reduce the duplication in the programmes.

**Strategies**

In order to implement the aforesaid policies and policy actions the following strategies shall be adopted:

- Partnership shall be established with agencies and individuals involved in NFE to share the human resources.

- Partnership among NFEC and other partners of the programmes involved in NFE shall be adopted to utilize the available local resources.
- The NFE Unit of District Education Office shall compulsorily maintain a roster of the associations or organizations conducting NFE programmes in district.
- Shared programmes between and among Agencies involved in NFE in different fields of activities including research and innovations shall be undertaken.
- NFEC, in cooperation with national and international agencies, shall upgrade and update the ability of NFE personnel
- To exchange financial as well as physical resources at different levels of agencies involved in NFE.
- DEO shall establish functional coordination with Social Committee of DDC, and the District NFE Coordination Committee with NFE Unit of DEOs.
- Chairperson of the Social Committee shall be the member of District Non-Formal Education Committee.
- District NFE Committee shall monitor and evaluate all the NFE programmes of the districts.
- NFE organizing NGOs shall compulsorily share their experiences, expertise and concerns with District Non-Formal Education Committee through District NGO's Association
- District Non-Formal Education Committees and NFE Councils shall be strengthened with resources.
- In partnership with mass media, NFEC shall make newspapers and magazines available to all CLCs.

- NFEC shall collaborate with mass media to publicize NFE programmes.
- A system shall be created to exchange human, physical, and financial resources at national and local level.
- Social Welfare Council or Ministry of Education and Sports shall liaison for the mobilization of international resources.

## **8. Inclusive education policy shall be adopted to ensure access, quality and co-existence**

The following policy actions shall be adopted for the implementation of the above policy:

- Special educational and pedagogical measures shall be adopted to eliminate caste, ethnicity, gender, language, and disability related discriminations.
- Special arrangement shall be made to ensure access to quality education to the children with various disabilities.
- Special arrangements shall be made to ensure access to the quality education to the armed conflict affected children and adults.
- Special arrangements shall be made to ensure access to the quality education to the child labourers.
- Women and people having required minimum qualification and multilingual skills and those from disadvantaged community shall be appointed as the facilitators, supervisors, and resource persons for non-formal education programmes.
- The groups and community members shall be given power to make decision on the choice of the language of instruction and transfer approach shall be followed as it requires.
- Language co-existence approach shall be followed and learners shall be

encouraged for multicultural learning

- Literacy materials shall be developed in different mother tongues.
- Access to NFE shall be extended through the medium of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) shall be extended
- Agencies run by the disadvantaged communities shall be given priority to conduct non-formal education programmes

### **Strategies**

In order to implement the aforesaid policies and policy actions the following strategies shall be adopted:

- Trainers, facilitators, teachers, supervisors, and community mobilizers shall be trained in the methods of inclusive education.
- Trainers, facilitators, teachers, supervisors, and community mobilizers shall be given orientation about various ways of addressing the common and special problems and needs of the people from different castes, special caste (*dalits*, ethnic minorities, and those becoming extinct), women, linguistic communities, people with disability, child labour and armed conflict affected children.
- The Agencies involved in non-formal education shall disseminate the trainers, facilitators, teachers, supervisors, and community mobilizers about the local languages and common issues and problems of special groups.
- Facilitators and teachers shall be provided with the print materials developed in various local languages.
- Glossaries shall be included in the end of the text to facilitate the learning of different language groups.

**9. Common database shall be developed and shared among the agencies involved in NFE programmes.**

The following policy actions shall be adopted for the implementation of the above policy:

- NFE target area shall be identified by analyzing the data available at the centre, district, and local levels.
- Local bodies shall conduct survey and create the Non-Formal Education Management System (NFEMIS) and update the available data at the VDC and municipality levels.
- DEO's NFE Unit shall incorporate the information of child labour, out-of school children, illiterate males and females, *Dalits*, ethnic groups, and religious groups in its NFEMIS
- Arrangements shall be made to use common data base by all Agencies involved in NFE
- NFEC shall facilitate the process of creation and maintenance of district and central level NFE data base
- NFEC shall work together with Central Bureau of Statistics to ensure authentic data relating to literacy through national census.
- Organizations formed and operated by the people of disadvantaged community shall be given priority to conduct NFE programmes.
- While preparing database –disaggregate data shall be prepared.

**Strategies**

In order to implement the aforesaid policies and policy actions the following strategies shall be adopted:

- The data collected and updated by the VDC education plan and



municipality education plan shall be utilized for the operation of NFE programmes.

- The essence of district level data shall be maintained in the District Education Office.
- NFEC shall compile the essence of national level and district wise NFE data.
- Agencies involved in NFE shall incorporate all programmes related data in the common database.
- Agencies involved in NFE shall maintain and update their data related to internal efficiency and human, financial and material resource.
- The available data shall have to be disaggregated in the line of gender, caste, ethnicity, language groups, religious alignment, and disability types
- Roster of the experts related to literacy, open school, Open University, NFE organizers, facilitators, teachers, trainers, resource persons, and supervisors shall be created and updated.
- Data shall be collected from three sources viz., NFEC's form, Agencies involved in NFE' form, and evaluation forms.
- NFE data base shall be made public through webpage and email access.
- Agencies involved in NFE shall document and publicize their good practices for shared learning.

**10. Training, research, self monitoring and innovation shall be included in NFE programmes to build the capacity of the human resources involved in the NFE programmes.**

The following policy actions shall be adopted for the implementation of the above policy:

- Research and innovations shall be tied up with all forms of NFE programmes.
- NFEC and its partner agencies shall compulsorily include the programmes of research and innovations in their programmes.

### **Strategies**

In order to implement the aforesaid policies and policy actions, the following strategies shall be adopted:

- Research and innovation shall be tied up with all levels of NFE programmes.
- Research and innovations shall be included in the jurisdictions of NFE facilitators, community mobilizers, and teachers.
- Policy, Strategies, programme, curriculum, curricular material, and training shall be revised and updated by following the findings of the NFE research and innovations.

### **11. Government and non-government organizations and private agencies shall be mobilized to meet the targets of 'Education for all.'**

The following policy actions shall be adopted for the implementation of the above policy:

- The means and resources shall be shared among the agencies involved in the NFE programmes.
- The agencies involved in NFE shall promote collaborative undertakings to conduct various programmes.

### **Strategies**

In order to implement the aforesaid policies and policy actions the following strategies shall be adopted:

- NFE programmes shall be conducted by sharing human, materials, and financial resources available in the private sectors.
- Trade Unions shall initiate need based NFE programmes to their employees and send the data to District Education Office and NFEC.

**12. The financial management of non-formal education shall be made compatible with the economic condition and policy of the government.**

The following policy action shall be adopted for the implementation of the above policy:

- NFEC and Agencies involved in NFE shall set their financial policies in line with the economic policies of the government.

**Strategies**

In order to implement the aforesaid policies and policy actions the following strategies shall be adopted:

- Local bodies shall be given block grants to conduct NFE programmes envisaged in their education plans. Arrangements shall be made to exempt the grant from freezing.
- Local bodies shall be entrusted authorities to use the block grants in their jurisdictions.
- Operating cost shall be provided to the mother schools for the supervision and monitoring of the alternative school programmes conducted in its catchment's areas.
- Agencies involved in NFE shall apply social auditing system for transparency.
- Local bodies shall collect cash and kind for the implementation of NFE programmes.

- It shall be made mandatory to the employers/industries/factories to conduct need based NFE programmes for their employees on cost sharing basis.
- The policy of paying remuneration to the NFE facilitators shall be as per the terms and conditions made by concerned agencies.
- Matching and partnership funds of the agencies involved in NFE shall be developed and maintained.

**13. Local bodies shall play the regulatory role for the management of non-formal education. Any of the modalities mainly from the following four shall be applied to implement NFE programmes:**

- (a) Local body modality
- (b) NGO modality
- (c) CLC modality
- (d) Educational institution modality

The following policy actions shall be adopted for the implementation of the above policy:

- Depending on the locality, needs and situations, any of the models shall be applied to conduct NFE programmes.
- The Local Self-Government Act shall be followed to implement any of the models of the NFE programme.
- Committees and sub-committees mayl be formed as required to implement NFE programmes.
- District Education Office and Regional Education Directorate shall have separate units to oversee and monitor the NFE programmes.
- These units shall oversee and monitor NFE programmes conducted by educational and other institutes and agencies.

## Strategies

In order to implement the aforesaid policies and policy actions, the following strategies shall be adopted:

- Efficient and expert facilitators shall be mobilized to implement each of the NFE models.
- Agencies involved in NFE themselves shall manage, develop and upgrade their human and physical resources.
- Agencies involved in NFE shall manage the mobile NFE facilitators for the nomadic people and seasonal migrants.
- Local bodies shall be encouraged to organize illiteracy eradication campaigns in a competitive way.

**14. NFEC shall coordinate and collaborate with government, non-governmental, and international organizations to create cooperative environment among the agencies involved in NFE programmes.**

The following policy actions shall be adopted for the implementation of the above policy:

- NFEC shall update and revise NFE policies and strategies.
- The concepts decentralized management shall be adopted to create the environment of coordination and cooperation.
- NFEC shall work as a bridge between NFE Council and the agencies involved in NFE.
- NFEC shall assist NFE Council to ensure equity, equality, and social justice in the operation of NFE programmes.
- NFEC shall promote research and innovations in the field of non-formal education.

- NFEC shall exchange its plans, programmes, and progress reports with different commissions, committees and institutes.
- NFEC shall organize meetings/workshops/interaction sessions to create and update and share innovative ideas on contemporary issues and thoughts with NFE experts, researchers and practitioners.
- NFEC shall develop formats that consist of indicators and indices for the monitoring and evaluation of NFE activities.
- NFEC shall award personnel and institutions working in the area of non-formal education for their outstanding contributions.
- NFEC shall work together with different organizations related to industry and commerce to ensure need based NFE programmes for the employees. It shall also develop necessary codes of conduct.

### **Strategies**

In order to implement the aforesaid policies and policy actions, the following strategies shall be adopted:

- NFEC shall exchange learning materials with different ministries and agencies involved in NFE.
- NFEC shall monitor NFE programmes.
- NFEC shall carry out the programmes for capacity building of personnel involved in NFE programmes.
- NFEC shall help to update the NFEMIS.
- NFEC shall reward the agencies and institutions for their outstanding performance in non-formal education sector and encourage others to replicate.

- 15. The literacy campaign shall be developed as the main policy strategy for the eradication of illiteracy and local agencies shall be made responsible for the programme.**
- 16: The agencies involved in NFE shall develop their policies and strategies within the framework of the policies, policy actions and strategies included in this policy document.**

NEPAL LAW COMMISSION