

Session 1:

Strengthening Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships in Shaping and Monitoring Education Policies in Nepal

This session will examine the critical role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in shaping and financing education policies in Nepal, particularly through the lens of the **Nepal's Sector-Wide Approach (SWAP)**. As panelists from various backgrounds—government, international banks, national coalitions, and donors—converge, they will discuss what lessons can be drawn from the implementation of the SWAP, what new challenges lie ahead and **how CSOs can enhance the transparency and efficiency of the budgeting process in education**.

Moderator: Anouk Van Neck. EU Delegation to Nepal

Panelists:

- Ministry of Education- Mr. Raju Shrestha- Under Secretary
- National Coalition for Education- Mr. Ram Gaire
- Asian Development Bank- Mr. Rudi
- Representative from Norway- Ms. Tovi

Brief overview of public governance:

1. During 1950s, Traditional Public Administration was in practice.
 - Bigger and centrally controlled is better.
 - State-led governance
 - Adopted go-alone and stand-alone strategy
 - Embraced the concept of worm to tomb service delivery modality
 - Formula was- following rules and regulations to stabilize the governance system
2. During 1980s, New Public Management emerged as a reaction to traditional public administration
 - Shifted governance structure from state-led to including private sector in public service delivery
 - Could not include citizens' voices
 - Focus was only on results.
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3. After 2000 AD, paradigm in public governance changed into citizen-led governance

- Shifted governance structure from government plus private sector to citizen-centric. This governance system is technically called as New Public Governance.
- NPG puts the concept of "**public service by public**". For this, different platforms have been created such as citizens' coalitions, fora, networks, etc. They seek **public space** or create opportunity for **civic engagement**.
- **NIC: National Campaign/Coalitions for Education**- network of 490 organizations (2003)
- **AIN: Associations of International NGOs in Nepal (1996)**
- Since 2000, network governance was emerged.
- Included citizen leadership in public service deliver to enhance- citizenship, democracy, pride and ownership
- Recognition of multiple stakeholders
- Different coalitions of Civil Society Organizations

Review of CSOs involvement in School Education Sector

1. Reflecting the adoption of SWAp model in Education
 - Since 2004 Nepal brought Joint Financing Partners together.
 - Nepal adopted Sector Wide Approach model of funding since 2004.
 - 2004-2007 during the period of (EFA) plan
 - 2009-2016 (School Sector Reform Plan)
 - 2016-2022 (School Sector Development Plan)
 - 2022-2032 (School Sector Education Plan)
2. Since after Paris Declaration 2005, efforts on 'Aid effectiveness' started. Principles of Declaration like:
 - ✓ Ownership
 - ✓ Alignment
 - ✓ Mutual accountability
 - ✓ Managing for development results
 - ✓ Harmonization
3. Since 2000, CSOs started to engage actively in the education sector.
4. CSOs can engage in;
 - Policy advocacy (नीति वकालत)
 - Watchdog (पहरेदारी)
 - Awareness development (सचेतना विकास)
 - Capacity development (क्षमता विकास)

- Resource mobilization (स्रोत परिचालन)
 - Social mobilization (सामाजिक परिचालन)
 - Conducting research (अनुसन्धान गर्ने)
5. In Nepal, CSOs engagement can be seen in the following framework
New Public Governance recognizes citizens as one of the actors of public governance.
- **Input level**
 - ✓ They have resources necessary for development of education sector. Resource here refers to knowledge, skills, experience, monetary, technology, etc.
 - ✓ They represent in different Thematic Committees of the Ministry.
 - ✓ The Ministry shares SAIP/AWPB, progress reports for the valuable inputs.

Detailing:

- ✓ In the networked era, the Ministry has realized that resources necessary to solve the problems are owned by different actors. They have to come together and work together.
- ✓ In the present context, education related problems are many, more complex and interrelated. Solving them require joint efforts.
- ✓ Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has created platform to put citizens' voices at different Ministry's fora, for example; NCE and AIN have representation in different Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) for the effective implementation of resources and implementation of SESP.
- ✓ Ministry shares its Annual Strategic Implementation Plan (ASIP), Annual Working plan and Budget (AWPB), Progress reports for their **inputs**
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- **Process level**
 - ✓ Involve in Budget Review Meeting (BRM) and Joint Review Meeting (JRM)
 - ✓ Engaging in different awareness development, capacity development, research and sharing, policy dialogues, trainings and interactions for the effective utilization of available resources and effective implementation of Education Plan

- ✓ Opportunity to present their efforts at BRM and JRM
- **Output level**
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