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Karnali Education Mission

Imparting local curriculum based 21st century pragmatic education to the Himalayas



Executive Summary

Karnali Education Mission holds a vision to model a self-sustainable local-curriculum based educational ecosystem in Karnali initiating with Dolpa. It aims in equipping children with opportunities and exposure through pragmatic education considering the relevance of education to the socio-economic development in rural communities. Through the second objective of embracing students' diversities through inclusive education, the Karnali education mission seeks to create a tolerant and inclusive society by gender and social inclusion as well as facilitating the students with special needs through arts-based teaching techniques. Pertaining to Dolpa's education scenario, it also assesses the problems associated with the education practices in Karnali and imply solutions for the betterment of educational sector in Dolpa. Karnali Education also looks forward to creating a self-sustainable and inclusive educational system in Dolpa by uplifting and empowering children with and without disabilities, youth as well as women of the community.

Organization Relevance to the Project

Center for Research and Sustainable Development Nepal (CREASION) is a non-profit organization that aims to build economically empowered and resourceful communities for sustainable development and a healthy environment. It has been actively working to inculcate self-reliance in the communities with a decentralized development approach where the locals and beneficiaries are at the forefront of envisioning and executing the changes desired.

Volunteer for Change, Waste Smart School, Recycler Saathi, Emergency Disaster Response, Women for Change are the projects that uplift youth, children, women; supports essential environmental conservation and people affected by disasters. CREASION, through its prior experiences, has reached 3445 children, 3670 youth and 3586 women to uplift them in fostering their skills and participation in the community development. The initiative of CREASION, Waste Smart School, focuses on providing students with a conscious environmental outlook that will shape their actions. We ensure students receive exposure to and well-rounded knowledge about the waste management scenario and individual as well as community level practices for environment protection. CREASION believes that creating an alliance of young students is significant because they are the lead actors for change. Dolpa, being a rural region of Nepal, needs such educational guidance because right guidance can shape the future of children in the correct path, improving low HDI of 0.401. Through Karnali Education Mission, CREASION plans to provide pragmatic education to children, youth as well as facilitate vulnerable groups of women as well as socially excluded populations in increasing their participation in local communicty based agricultural practices, enterpreneurship development as well as inculcate co-curricular as well as extra-curricular activities to ensure that education provided to them is both of mind and morale.

Sir of the Himalayas



Renamed as “Sir of the Himalayas” by the local community in Kham-Tibetan language, Binod Shahi earns a title out of Dolpo community’s respect. It was the time of peak Civil war in 2005 when he went to Upper Dolpa. When he witnessed that the region lacked state’s presence, nearest road in the distance of 10 days of difficult trails, high altitude bridges and mountain passes of 5000m from sea level, he realized how important it was to educate those children. He then started to work in improving literacy rate and numeracy in the villages of Upper Dolpa. The trust of local residents inspires in him to work there despite hinderances and yet, he commits in developing an educational framework relevant to the rural setup. He is the Regional Co-ordinator of Karnali Education Mission in CREASION and has the determination to bolster education practices in Dolpa along with the team.

Challenge



Karnali is one of the most remote and poorest regions of Nepal. Dolpa being one of the most isolated areas of Karnali, the average schooling years in Dolpa is just 2.53 years. Despite education being the fundamental right of children, the children and youth that reside in Dolpa are denied of proper education just because they are born and raised in a rural setup. There is lack of awareness about the COVID-19 and the ways to minimize the risks associated with the transmission of COVID-19. Due to geographic remoteness, diverse issues of poverty and conflict as well as inefficient management, schools do not have access to necessary infrastructures to pursue education. The students of Shree Kanjirowa Basic School and Shree Janapriya Basic School face difficulties coping with the classroom culture because of the traditional learning approach as well. There are lack of infrastructures and necessary facilities for children as well as teachers to run

classes in an effective manner. Most importantly, there is a lack of local curriculum based 21st century pragmatic education.

Solution

CREASION, through the Karnali Education Mission, aims to revolutionize the education system in Karnali by providing effective educational solutions that is impactful to its core. Initially it aims in providing value-based education and encourage co-curricular as well as extra-curricular activities to be simultaneously carried forward along with theoretical teaching-learning. Through the project, it builds the capacity of Shree Janapriya Basic School and Shree Kanjirowa Basic School of rural Karnali to enable it to host practical-based education to the 300 enrolled children by providing them with pragmatic education as well as essential facilities such as school bags, extra-curricular activity kits, co-curricular activity tools, first-aid essentials, gardening tools, COVID-kits whilst training the teachers to effectively train students about the use of scientific tools for practical-based education. We look forward to improving the educational system extending our effort to strengthen two schools of Karnali.

Rationale

In response to the analysis of the educational sector in Dolpa and the average schooling years spent by the children, there is a great need for improvement of educational practices, attitudes towards the learning needs of children with special needs. Creative and productive teaching-learning should be started early at the primary level for a cohesive transition to secondary education. The pragmatic teaching-learning should replace the rigid and ineffective teaching approaches. The prevalence of ineffective schooling shows the need of competency-based approaches centered on the children. Since there is a need of effective monitoring and evaluation led teaching framework, the mission takes regard of the approach that is responsive of the needs of individual student. Hence, Karnali Education Mission aims to adopt a realistic approach of teaching-learning that will create a closely articulated link between rural area and education sector

Sustainable Impact

Students would have developed infrastructural capacity to raise and educate students well through this project. Children graduating from the classes would have received quality education for the holistic growth of the children. Inclusive education will respond to special children's needs and ability to grow and the project will empower women, children as well as youth by facilitating them to extend local businesses. The extra-curricular activities would enable them to recognize their talents and potential in their respective fields. Education will play a major role in lifting children, school as well as families in social development of the rural region which will eventually uplift their economic conditions in the long term through career development. The activities to be carried out at school will help them grow into creative as well as confident individuals. Pragmatic education will provide necessary skills for students to initiate local agricultural production for them to facilitate local as well as external market. This will eventually utilize the locally available resources in generating revenue through entrepreneurship development. The facilitation to the schools will support harmony as well as pave a path for a wiser Dolpa community.

Gallery





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