

LOO NIVA ENEWSLETTER



Quarterly Enewsletter

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Raising Awareness on Cybercrime and Social Media



The annual gathering of ESP children was held on August 31 at Unity Food Cafe, Bhaisepati, Lalitpur. This gathering offered a suitable platform to work as a workshop for the youth about cybercrimes and social media usage. Ms. Phul Kumari Paudel, Sub-Inspector of Nepal Police, Tikhidewal Lalitpur, conducted this session, highlighting legal aspects of cybercrimes, and providing safety tips on social media usage. Those guidelines emphasized how children and youth can be exploited online via suspicious calls or online shops. This workshop was very crucial for the youth because social media platforms are gaining an increasing role in their lives. A total of 28 students including 7 boys and 21 girls participated in the program.

At the annual gathering, the program manager of Loo Niva Mr. Sant Ram Dangol, and the Executive Director of Loo Niva, Mr. Narendra Dangol, kept short speeches on the ESP project and future educational choices. Mr. Narendra Dangol wanted to use this platform to underline the importance of fluent communication between schools and Loo Niva on students' issues like migration or dropping out, which can be seen as the biggest challenge during this quarter.



Overview of the ESP program from July to September



The third quarter of the year 2024 has been very successful for the ESP program. We received eight letters from children in need of educational support, which are now under review to prioritize those most in need. This insight informs us that the ESP is regarded as an important program to ensure equal educational opportunities.

108 students from the program, including also one-year ESP students, received educational materials

like school bags, pens, boxes, and school uniforms to ensure carefree attendance at school. The overall updated status of ESP students is now being collected for the annual report to ensure a comprehensive overview of their academic performance and progress.

ESP students have also remembered their sponsors in Finland with greeting cards. Overall, 103 ESP students sent their cards as a token of their gratitude.

Accessibility Audit in Project Schools, Municipalities, Health Posts and Ward Offices



An accessibility audit was conducted in both project municipalities, Nawadurga and Bhageshwar regarding the CLEAP project. This audit expressed the current status of accessible environments in 23 schools, 2 rural municipality offices, 4 wards (wards no 1 and 2 of Nawadurga and 4 and 5 of Bhageshwar RM), and 2 health posts in Bhageshwar and Nawadurga rural municipalities. Engineer Mr. Aashutosh Joshi and Mr.

Santosh Yadav provided details on how to improve accessible infrastructure in internal services and facilities. With the help of Loo Niva staff, these findings were reported to stakeholders and local authorities. Chairpersons and other government officials of both rural municipalities have committed to further improving disabled-friendly infrastructure.

Project Activities Related to Child Rights to Education

The CLEAP project team recently conducted a series of lobby meetings to push for the revision of the 10-year education plans for the Bhageshwar and Nawadurga rural municipalities of Dadeldhura district. Meetings were conducted in September. The discussions were conducted with the Local Education Committee (LEC) of both rural municipalities. Loo Niva focused on child protection and education and presented recommendations aimed at updating the existing plans. The primary focus of the meetings was to improve child protection measures and enhance the quality of education in rural municipalities.



Awareness-Raising orientation



Loo Niva has conducted awareness-raising orientations among SMC and PTA members of the project schools of the Dadeldhura district from July to September. The orientation classes were focused on issues of inclusion and protection in the project schools. These orientation classes also included knowledge and skills about the roles and responsibilities of the SMC and PTA. Three of these events were held in Bhageshwar rural municipality and two in Nawadagura. A total of 114 members participated in these orientations, which included 28 women, and 15 Dalits. The sessions were facilitated by the CLEAP staff.

Consultation Meetings on the Code of Conduct



Loo Niva conducted consultation meetings with teachers, students, SMC/PTA members, elected members of rural municipalities, and government officials to draft the Code of Conduct for schools in July and September. Each rural municipality (6 in total) held its meeting. In these meetings, participants could

suggest improvements to the Code of Conduct, and Loo Niva is now working on combining and printing all of them to distribute to project schools. 100 people participated in these meetings, 51 females and 49 males, including 19 from the Dalit community.

Reforming and Activating Child Clubs



Loo Niva provided technical and financial support to reform four school-based child clubs in Bhageshwar rural municipality in July. Loo Niva also supported to formation rural municipality-level child club in Nawadurga rural municipality. The chairperson of Nawadurga rural municipality provided materials for this child club during an orientation program. These reformations impacted 153 students, of which 68 were females and 85 were males. This included 31 Janajati and 29 Dalit individuals.

Loo Niva has provided financial support for Child Club events. 12 events in Nawadurga rural municipality and 25 events in Bhageshwar rural municipality were supported during July and September. In practice, these funds were used for various programs,



that child clubs conducted, such as essay writing workshops, quizzes, street dramas, drawing, and awareness-raising activities. Child clubs managed the events with focal teachers offering assistance.

Additionally, Child clubs also celebrated the 60th National Children's Day on September 14. This celebration emphasized the importance of investing in children for the future of Nepal. The celebrations involved active participation from the local government and civil society organizations. The National Children's Day serves as a reminder of the ongoing efforts required to ensure a safe and hopeful environment for all children in Nepal. Loo Niva facilitated the celebration in Dadeldhura.

2-Day Refresher Training for Youth Volunteers



In April, Loo Niva conducted a two-day refresher training to the youth volunteers in Dadeldhura district. The training aimed to empower and strengthen the knowledge, capacity, and facilitation skills of youth resource persons. These skills are useful for conducting awareness programs at the community level.

The training covered six modules; the right to education, disability-friendly schools, child protection services, child labor, girl-friendly schools, and non-discriminatory school environments, which Loo Niva prepared. A total of 30 youths were trained. Loo Niva had scheduled a follow-up activity as an event review meeting for young recourse persons. Including resource persons is crucial for achieving CLEAP's project outcomes in both rural municipalities.

One-Day Orientation on Child Rights and Protection



Loo Niva organized a one-day child club orientation for the child club members of both Bhageshwar and Nawadurga rural municipalities. A total of 23 school-level child clubs, 4 ward-level networks, and 2 rural municipal-level child club networks were reformed and capacitated in child rights, protection, and management skills. 585 child club members were participating in the program. What is remarkable, is that 176 Dalits and 48 Janajatis participated in child club activities, and a total of 282 of 585 participants were girls. These activities empowered child club members to engage in social change initiatives at school and community levels.

Media Fellowship Program

Loo Niva selected 5 media outlets for its media fellowship program from the local level, two from the provincial level, and one from the national level. These outlets produced advocacy-focused media content such as news articles aligned with the objectives of the CLEAP project. The main objective is that the capacity of media was strengthened at different levels. The media fellowship enabled evidence-based interventions as an one form of advocacy. Key issues in these evidence-based

One-day orientations were also held for parents in both rural municipalities. In Bhageshwar 22 events were held, and in Nawadurga, 10 events, with a total of 819 participants. 689 of all participants were females, 189 were males, 224 from Dalit, and 129 were from Janajati communities. These orientations strengthened parent's capacity in child rights protection. It was learned that regarding these one-day orientations, it is better to facilitate them in a local way to maximize the benefit for children's education, continuity, and parents' role in child protection.

reports were education challenges, protection, girls' education challenges, the educational issues of children with disabilities, and local-level implementation of child protection policies. Four advocacy-related articles were published in total in The Kathmandu Post, Kantipur National Daily, and The Annapurna Post National Daily. Only the provincial-level media did not participate in these publications.

Right to Education Radio Advocacy Episodes

Radio Amargadhi FM and Radio Unity FM broadcasted radio advocacy episodes in Dadeldhura rural municipality, with each channel airing 6 episodes about educational reform. Aligned with the project's objective, these media-related activities raised awareness of critical education and child rights issues. Loo Niva plans to continue the successful work with radio channels for future advocacy actions between civil society organizations and media.



Mobile Meetings for Teachers



Loo Niva supported four ward-level mobile meetings to build the teachers' capacity in various subjects such as English, Science, and Social subject during July, August, and September. Teachers shared their knowledge, achievements, and experiences in those particular subjects. Mobile meetings were seen as an

opportunity to express any concerns, and problems, and come up with suitable solutions. In total, 27 schools participated in mobile meetings - 12 in Nawadurga and 11 in Bhageshwar - with the attendance of 12 female teachers and 16 male teachers. One meeting was held in each ward last quarter.



Follow-up meetings



The CLEAP project team conducted follow-up meetings in 11 schools that received teaching and learning materials earlier this year. The project team discussed and developed ideas with teachers on how to best

utilize the given materials. The follow-ups revealed that the materials were being effectively used to further enhance educational opportunities in these schools.

Income-Generating Activities for Families

The CLEAP project team held meetings with rural municipalities, ward offices, and schools to inform various stakeholders about the project's goal to support families through income-generating programs. This work is continued forward with the help of

the recommendations from stakeholders. Through cooperation, Loo Niva was able to identify appropriate students and families for transitory educational and income-generation support.

Accessibility Audit

The project conducted the accessibility audit report sharing among the local stakeholders in August in coordination with the Disabled People Organization (DPO) in Nawadurga and Bhageshwar rural municipalities. These audits overviewed the current condition of 23 project schools, 2 rural municipality offices, 4 wards, and 2 health posts through the critical examination of how they respond to accessible expectations. The main objective of sharing the report was to promote the rights and access to services for people with disabilities.



Capacity Building Programs

The CLEAP project team participated in two capacity-building programs where team's proficiency in advocacy, leadership, area-based approach, and Child Protection Act and policies, were improved. The first program was held during the half-yearly review meeting, and the second was organized by SAN with support from the district program coordinator and program officer. The latter focused on child labor issues.



Half-Yearly Review Meeting in Nagarkot



A half-yearly review meeting was held with Loo Niva staff and board in Nagarkot from August 11 to 14. During the meeting, staff shared information on progress learnings achieved, and challenges faced. Based on the information, teams prepared plans for the rest of the year 2024. The meeting strengthened both teams' skills in movement building, advocacy leadership, area-based approaches, high-level political forums, and child protection policies.



Orientation to the Disability Help Desk Committee Members



Loo Niva and Patan CBR jointly conducted a meeting on the 31st of July to increase the overall functioning of the Disability Help Desk. The Disability Help Desk committee members provided an orientation on the roles and responsibilities of the committee members. In the meeting, best practices from Koshi Province on operating the disability help desk were demonstrated

as an example. The disability help desk initiated action plans on advocacy; collaborating with the local government could strengthen the quality of service provided to people with disabilities. A total of 14 females and 25 males participated in the orientation meeting.

After the orientation, both Konjyosom and Mahankal rural municipalities held meetings with the respective section officers on an action plan that the Disability Help Desk had prepared. Meetings held in September included the rural municipality vice-chairperson from both municipalities to express support for the action plan, which included activities such as coordination meetings on bus fares, updating data on people with disabilities, and supporting the construction of new buildings with a child- and disabled-friendly infrastructure.

Social Dialogue on Inclusive and Safe Schools

Loo Niva organized a social dialogue on inclusive education and issues regarding children's educational possibilities in Konjyosom-3, Dalchoki. The dialogue focused on critical issues such as infrastructure deficiency, remote training for teachers, and a low supply of resources for marginalized children. A total of 70 stakeholders, with 42 females and 28 males, from the local stakeholders participated in the dialogue. The dialogue covered the roles and responsibilities of different levels of actors, like local authorities, teachers, parents, and community leaders, in improving the education system. The dialogue provided a platform for collaboration on solving problems concerning future initiatives for providing inclusive education throughout the province.



Action Against Child Marriage



Loo Niva provided support for Local Advocacy and Monitoring Committees (LAMC) in Chaughare, Konjyosom. Provided support was a part of the ongoing initiative to combat child marriage. On the 22nd of July, Loo Niva conducted a ward-level commitment program with active stakeholders such as the local government, children, and parents. The active group recorded 44 signatures against child marriage. Signatures meant commitment not to take part in any child marriages with an emphasis on reporting such incidents to the police. Ward chairperson, Mr. Sant Lal Lama, stated that after the 22nd of July, any reported child or early marriage will be punished despite Nepal's cultural and emotional sentiments. Wards engaged in reporting new procedures as a part of law enforcement. Loo

Niva collaborated with Girls Not Brides Nepal and Konjyosom Ward 1 to facilitate more dialogue on the issue of child marriage in Nepal. This activity highlighted the importance of community engagement and legal awareness in the fight against child marriage.



Child Club Networks in Mahankal and Konjyosom

Loo Niva has provided technical and financial support for the reformation of child club networks in the Mahankal and Konjyosom rural municipalities. An 11-member committee was established in Mahankal to improve the rural municipality-level child clubs. While in Konjyosom, Loo Niva supported the reformation of the rural-level child club with the help of Konjyosom rural municipality and Yuwalaya. A total of 98 participants were reached, including 48 females and 50 males.

Additionally, Loo Niva contributed to National Children's Day celebrations in both rural municipality-level child clubs. Mahankal celebrated with street drama and essay-writing competitions, and Konjyosom conducted an oratory competition. These activities enhanced children's engagement in communities and advocacy.



Child Club Support Activities



Eleven child clubs across the project schools gained financial and technical support from Loo Niva during the last quarter. Clubs conducted 13 events that Loo Niva supported, focusing on activities such as competitions and playtime events. Oratory and sports competitions and debates enhanced student leadership and participation with advocacy skills and community engagement among children. Schools that were supported were Shree Bhumithumka Basic School, Shree Magargaun Secondary School, Shree Saraswati Secondary School, Shree Gyanodaya Basic School, Shree Goth Bhanjyang Secondary School, Shree Kaliseti Devi Secondary School, Shree Gyanodaya Basic School, Shree Gupteshwor Secondary School, Shree Devi Basic School, Shree Baleshwori Secondary School, and Shree Gupteshwor Basic School. Loo Niva donated prizes, medals, and trophies for these activities.



Meetings in Collaboration with Patan CBR on the Rural Municipality-level



Loo Niva and Patan CBR jointly organized consultation meetings on child and disability-friendly school structures with school and rural municipality representatives during August. The meeting focused on the accessible school environment from the point of view of infrastructural changes for child and disabled-friendly school buildings. Furthermore, meetings included discussion on receiving proposals from the

schools regarding their accessibility infrastructure plans, which were supported by Loo Niva and Patan CBR. Shree Magargun Secondary School in Konjyosom and Shree Mahankal Secondary School with Shree Buddha Bhagwan Secondary School in Mahankal were interested in collaborating on submitting the proposal concept and plan to Loo Niva and Patan CBR.

Children's Awareness Classes



During August and September, Loo Niva conducted 37 awareness classes across project schools in Konjyosom and Mahankal rural municipalities. Classes focused on fostering a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment for all children, especially focusing on girls, Dalit children, and children with Disabilities. During these sessions, critical issues such as child protection, girls' and disabled rights, participation, sexual abuse and harassment, child marriage, and drug and alcohol abuse were addressed. Loo Niva conducted classes in close collaboration with local wards and police, ensuring a strong support network in both prevention and protection efforts. These classes can be seen as crucial step in engaging children and their communities in advocacy and protection work.

Endline Survey



Loo Niva and Patan CBR have completed the family survey collection at Konjyosom rural municipality. Child-led surveys have been conducted at six project schools of Mahankal rural municipality. The process

volunteers for family-level surveys were oriented and mobilized. Additionally, children in the child-led survey were oriented on how to respond to the survey.

Regular Monitoring Visit of Loo Niva



Loo Niva and Interpedia Finland representatives jointly monitored the CLEAR project interventions in September at Dadeldhura district. The team, including Maria Autio from Interpedia, Narendra Dangol, Executive Director, and Mr. Gyan Bhakta Maharjan, Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator from Loo Niva, visited project schools and rural municipality offices. They met with key local stakeholders such as Disabled People Organizations (DPOs), Child Clubs, and Teachers of the project location. The visiting team focused on assessing coordination with local stakeholders, project progress, and the work of

local government on child protection and education rights. The team highlighted the need to strengthen the capacity of key actors, such as child clubs and DPOs, to ensure greater program effectiveness and sustainability through collaboration. The monitoring team conducted two home visits for ESP students during July and August. This provides essential information that we are able to support students both in the school environment and at home. Their learning environment at home is an indicator of their overall progress in educational levels.