



Action of the Month

September 2023



Advocacy Action and Educational Interaction for the 16th periodic plan

Introduction

The “National Discussion on Educational Issues for the 16th National Plan” was hosted together by the Education Watch Group and Loo Niva on 25 August 2023 at Alfa House in Baneshwor Kathmandu. The supporting partners of the program were Yuwalaya, Interpedia Finland, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland. The event brought together representatives from NGOs, INGOs, teachers, educational experts, child club networks, and media representatives to discuss the educational issues/challenges and their views on the formulation of Nepal’s 16th Periodic Plan. The event invited the representatives of the National Planning Commission of Nepal to have a direct discussion on educational issues and collect the views of the stakeholders for the 16th periodic plan.

Key Highlights of the Presentation and Discussions



*Dr. Lok Nath Shrestha,
Program Director at the National
Planning Commission,
(paper presenter)*

He presented a comprehensive review of the 15th Periodic Plan’s progress and presented a concept paper for the 16th Periodic Plan. He emphasized the need for inclusive education, digital literacy, teacher training, curriculum reform, and infrastructure development.

He highlighted the challenges faced by the 15th Plan and proposed improvements. He stressed the need to update and innovate the curriculum, enhance teacher training, and focus on life skills education.



*Prof. Dr. Manu Prasad Nagle,
an education expert,
(paper presenter)*

He emphasized the pivotal role of education in national development and highlighted upcoming opportunities and prospects for students. Dr. Paudel also stressed how a strong education system contributes to economic growth, poverty reduction, and overall societal progress. His address underscored the importance of collaborative efforts to address educational challenges, with the hope that the recommendations and discussions would shape strategies for the education sector within the 16th Periodic Plan framework.



*Chief Guest,
Honorable Dr. Ramesh Chandra
Paudel,
Member of the National Planning
Commission*

Objectives:

- To highlight the prior issues of education through interaction and advocacy.
- To discuss and collect the suggestions that would contribute to the enhancement of the education sector during the 16th Periodic Plan.



Discussion and Recommendations:

A dynamic discussion brought together representatives from various organizations, teachers, and experts. Key recommendations included prioritizing disability inclusion, strengthening early childhood development, integrating inclusive education, and enhancing teacher management. Suggestions also covered the need for qualitative assessments, addressing child labor concerns, and transforming community schools into competitive institutions.

Follow-up Actions:

- Compilation of all recommendations and insights into a comprehensive report.
- Dissemination of the report to the National Planning Commission and other pertinent government bodies and stakeholders.
- Continued collaboration between Loo Niva, Education Watch Group, and allied organizations to advocate for the implementation of recommended policies.