

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION POLICY, 2063 (2007 AD)

**Government of Nepal
Ministry of Education and Sports
Non-Formal Education Centre
Sanothimi, Bhaktapur**

This is the translated version of the *Non-Formal Education Policy, 2063* approved by the Government of Nepal on Magh 25, 2063 BS.

Non-Formal Education Policy, 2063 (2007 AD) Non-formal education centre 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 laborers working in factories and farms. Non Formal Education Center basically conducts the literacy, post-literacy and awareness raising programs. It also implements the programs related to life long and continuous education, skill development and income generation. It has been providing alternative schooling opportunities to the out-of-school children and school drop-outs through open education mode. Non Formal Education Center 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. Non Formal Education Center has made efforts to pay special attention to the people who have problems caused by their ethnicity, language, gender and physical disabilities and make non-formal education programs inclusive.

Non Formal Education Center has been facing several problems and challenges in course of launching non-formal education programs. They are those of vision, management and program implementation. Some of the problems and challenges are those of building consensus on the extended features and dimensions of non-formal education; coordinating the Non Formal Education programs; mainstreaming the excluded section of the community and designing the programs for the persons and groups of different 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-2006* 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 they will help as the policy guidelines for the concerned government as well as non-government agencies involved in conducting non-formal education programs.

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

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

- Adults, women and youths will be made literate.
- Opportunity of school education will be provided through non-formal primary education to school drop outs and to those who are not able to go to regular school for several reasons.
- Provision of vocational education will be made for those who are not able to obtain school education.
- Education equivalent to formal school will be provided through open school system
- Continuing education opportunity will be provided to people with different skill and education levels.
- Oral literacy campaign will be launched for the purpose of awareness rising.
- Higher level equivalent education will be provided through open university

Strategies

In order to implement the above policies, the following strategies will be adopted:

- Village and municipality education plan will be prepared on the basis of Non-Formal Education Management Information System (NFEMIS). And the district will develop these plans as its periodic and district education plan.
- Educational institutes will be encouraged to run open schools.
- Continuous education will be arranged to people with different skills and ability levels through Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), educational institutes, and Community Learning Centers,

- Oral literacy programs will be implemented through discussion sessions and mobilization of various communication media.
- Post-literacy programs will be linked to income generation activities
- Life skills will be attached to both the contents and the pedagogy.
- Until a separate open university is established, the existing higher education institutes will provide equivalent higher education in open mode.

Policy 2: Non Formal Education equivalent to Formal Education will be provided to those who are deprived of educational opportunity or who dropped out of education

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

- Alternative schooling program will be made equivalent to primary level.
- Adult and women's literacy program will gradually be made equivalent to primary level
- Alternative school program will be gradually upgraded to grade 12 of the formal system and its equivalency will be ensured
- Lower secondary, secondary and higher secondary level education will also be provided through open mode.
- The degrees obtained by Open University will be made equivalent to the degrees of other universities.
- Occupational and vocational courses including skill training programs will be considered as non-credit courses.
- The formal and non-formal education streams will be made equivalent to each other with the support of condensed courses
- Community Learning Centers will be expanded as a venue for different types of non-formal education programs.

Strategies

In order to implement the above policies the following strategies will be adopted:

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

Policy 3: Special provisions will be made to increase access to education

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

- Need based intensive literacy programs will be implemented.
- Women will be given priority in non-formal education
- Volunteers and aides will be mobilized.
- Equivalent education programs will be executed through open school and university.
- Different agencies will be given approval and support to run open school, and professional and vocational education institutes.
- Training materials to train volunteers and aides will be developed
- Life skill and occupational training will be implemented
- Oral literacy program for general awareness raising activities under oral literacy initiatives will be implemented

- Equivalent education will be provided in formal education through non-formal education mode.
- Employers will be encouraged to provide opportunities of non-formal education compulsorily according to their employees according to their educational levels.
- Hard core groups of people living in the remote and interior rural areas/inner cities, girls and women, people from different religious groups, blue collar workers/child labors and indigenous people will be provided with non-formal education programs according to their nature of works.
- All kinds of agencies and mass media will be mobilized for the promotion of non-formal education.
- Appropriate curriculum, teachers and facilitators will be prepared in order to increase access to education for socially, economically and educationally disadvantaged community.
- Economically disadvantaged participants will be provided with literacy skills and attached to income generation program.

Strategies

In order to implement the above policies the following strategies will be adopted:

- Village and municipality education plan will be prepared through social mobilization program.
- The implementing agencies of non-formal education will identify the target groups within the households and design programs accordingly.
- Literacy programs will be organized for smaller groups.
- Volunteers will be prepared and mobilized to serve people living in remote and sparsely populated areas.
- Adult and women's literacy, oral literacy program, alternative school, open school and Open University will be extended to targeted areas.

- Short term package programs will be developed and implemented.
- Non-formal education programs will be run in the learners' convenient time
- Non-formal education programs will be focused on the areas with low level of literacy rate.
- Programs will target the children in special conditions such as conflict victims, child labors.

Policy 4: Development and distribution of curricular and learning materials will gradually be decentralized and localized.

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

- In coordination and partnership with the Non Formal Education Center , all Government Organizations, Non Governmental Organizations and private sectors involved in non-formal education will develop, produce, and distribute the curriculum, textbooks and learning materials of literacy and primary level non-formal education program.
- The quality of the materials for the adult, women and children education, and alternative school program will be as per the standard set by Non Formal Education Center..
- The competency level of the curriculum, textbooks and learning materials of open school will be as per the standard set by concerned authority.
- Open University will be responsible to decide on the quality of the curriculum, textbooks and learning materials used for open education.
- Materials developed for Non Formal Education purpose should be appropriate when analyzed from gender, caste, ethnic and language perspectives. Non Formal Education Center will evaluate the appropriateness of such materials.
- Agencies and the Non Governmental Organizations for in non-formal education will be involved while developing the framework of core curriculum and materials.

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

Strategies

In order to implement the above policies the following strategies will be adopted:

- Non Formal Education Center will identify and make a list of expected learning outcomes for basic and post literacy programs and make it available to all the agencies involved in the development of Non Formal Education curriculum, textbooks and learning materials.
- Non Formal Education Center will update the expected learning outcomes in consultation with program implementers, decision makers, material developers and donors.
- Life skills will be included in the educational materials.
- For the purpose of equivalency the curriculum, learning materials, supplementary materials and support materials of alternative school, open school and Open University should be prepared in agreement with the expected learning outcomes of Non Formal Education.
- Non Formal Education Center will develop, revise and update all kinds of condensed curriculum for the alternative school programs implemented by the center.
- Interested agencies will be encouraged to develop and implement the condensed curriculum and textbooks.
- Agencies involved in Non Formal Education with approval and support from concerned agencies will develop, print and distribute the local curriculum, learning materials and support materials in different languages. Such agencies will share the materials among themselves and implement them in their respective programs.
- Learning outcomes and competency level of such materials will 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, language, disability issues or not.
- The agencies involved in non-formal education should provide learning materials free of cost for the economically disadvantaged and targeted population.

Policy 5: Community Learning Centers (CLCs) will be developed as the centre of educational activities to ensure equitable access to quality non-formal education for all.

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

- Non Governmental Organizations, local groups, schools, local bodies, and government agencies will be given approval to operate Community Learning Centers on their own or in groups.
- Various developmental programs including educational activities will be conducted in the Village Development Committees to cater for the needs and demands of the community.
- Youths and adults related life skills will be conducted through Community Learning Centers
- Community Learning Centers will be mobilized for community development, increased production, cultural preservation, and continuous education

Strategies

In order to implement the above policies the following strategies will be adopted:

- Local bodies will take care of the education of the targeted groups through the newly established Community Learning Centers.
- Community Learning Centers will be developed as focal point for all forms of Non Formal Education extension activities.
- Community Learning Centers will conduct literacy campaign by mobilizing both the individuals and groups of the community.

- Community learning centers will operate early childhood education and care centers for the children of the organized women groups.
- Community learning centers will conduct various development activities for the welfare of the community as per the need.

Policy 6: The implementation of monitoring, supervision and evaluation of non formal education programs will be decentralized.

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

- Supervision, monitoring and evaluation of non formal education programs will be conducted by a single agency or by joint effort of government organizations, non Governmental organizations and local agencies
- Participatory approaches will be applied in monitoring, supervision and evaluation of non governmental organizations activities
- The reports of monitoring, supervision and evaluation will 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 above policies, following strategies will be adopted:

- With a view to monitor its partner agencies' Non Governmental Organizations programs, Non Formal Center will supervise some of their programs, organize group discussions and reflective sessions and conduct micro research.
- Agencies involved in Non Governmental Organizations should provide their monitoring and evaluation reports to District Education Offices Non Formal Education Unit.
- Head teacher of the mother school will supervise alternative school programs under their respective schools
- Community mobilizers will monitor and supervise child, adult, and women's literacy programs in their catchments areas
- Non Formal Education supervisors will report their concerned organizations and Village Development Committees/ Municipalities

Authorized individual/group will supervise the open school programs conducted by other agencies.

- Agencies involved in Non Formal Education will appoint supervisors to supervise their Non Formal Education activities.
- Supervisors' academic qualification would be decided by the concerned authority.
- Facilitator will develop and maintain individual profile to assess Non Formal Education learners' progress
- District level agencies will bear the responsibilities as stated in the Nepal Local Self-Governance Act, 2055.

Policy 7: Networking and coordination and partnership will be maintained with the agencies involved in Non Formal Education for resource generation and mobilization

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

- Non Formal Education Center will work as the central authority for collaborative undertaking, networking, and coordination
- Non Governmental Organizations /International Non Governmental Organizations will equip Agencies involved in Non Formal Education with resources and technical backups
- Non Formal Education Center will coordinate with various ministries to reduce duplication on resource and content in accordance with the guidelines and directions of Non-Formal Education Council.
- Through Non Formal Education Council, efforts will be made to generate and mobilize local as well as international resources for ensured access to 'Education for all'
- Village Development Committees/Municipalities can mobilize national and international resources for the operation of non-formal education programs
- Open school and Open University will adopt the policy of maintaining partnership in sharing their human, financial, and physical resources.

- There will be functional coordination at the field level too.

Strategies

In order to implement the above policies the following strategies will be adopted:

- Non Formal Education Center personnel's roster will compulsory be listed in Non Formal Education unit at District Education Offices
- Partnership will be established with agencies and individuals involved in Non Formal Education to share the resources.
- Partnership among Non Formal Education Center and other line agencies involved in Non Formal Education will be adopted to eliminate duplication of local resources.
- Shared programs between and among Agencies involved in Non Formal Education in different fields of activities including research and innovations will be undertaken.
- Non Formal Education Center, in cooperation with national and international agencies, will upgrade and update the ability of Non Formal Education personnel
- Exchange financial as well as physical resources at different levels of agencies involved in Non Formal Education.
- District Education Office will establish functional coordination with Social Committee of District Development Committee, and the District Non Formal Education Coordination Committee with Non Formal Education Unit of District Education Offices.
- Chair person of the Social Committee of District Development Committee will be the member of District Non-Formal Education Committee.
- District Non Formal Education Center Committee will monitor and evaluate all the Non Formal Education programs of the districts.
- Non Formal Education organizing Non Governmental Organizations will compulsorily share their experiences, expertise and concerns with District Non-Formal Education Committee through District Non Governmental Organization's Association
- District Non-Formal Education Committees and Non Formal Education

Councils will be strengthened.

- In partnership with mass media, Non Formal Education Center will make newspapers and magazines available to all Community Learning Centers.
- Non Formal Education Center will collaborate with mass media to publicize Non Formal Education programs.
- A mechanism will be created to exchange human, physical, and financial resources at national and local level.
- Non Governmental Organizations will work through Social Welfare Council or Ministry of Education and Sports for the mobilization of international resources.

Policy 8: Inclusive education policy will be adopted to ensure access, quality and co-existence

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

- Special educational and pedagogical measures will be adopted to eliminate caste, ethnicity, gender, language, and disability related discriminations.
- Special arrangement will be made to ensure access to quality non-formal; education to the children with various disabilities, conflict affected children and adults and child laborers.
- Women and people, having required qualification and multilingual skills and those from disadvantaged community will be appointed as the facilitators, supervisors, and resource persons for non-formal education programs.
- The Non Formal Education groups and community members will be given authority to make decision on the choice of the language of instruction. At the same time, language transfer approach will be followed to mainstream the learners into Nepali language.
- Language co-existence approach will be followed and learners will be encouraged for multicultural learning
- Literacy materials will be developed in different local and native languages

- Access to Non Formal Education through the medium of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) will be extended
- Agencies run by the disadvantaged communities will be given priority to conduct non-formal education programs

Strategies

In order to implement the above policies, the following strategies will be adopted:

- Trainers, facilitators, teachers, supervisors, and community mobilizers will be trained in the methods of inclusive education.
- Trainers, facilitators, teachers, supervisors, and community mobilizers will 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 labor, and conflict affected children.
- The Agencies involved in non-formal education will disseminate the trainers, facilitators, teachers, supervisors, and community mobilizers about the local languages and common issues and problems of special groups.
- Remedial measures will be applied to address the nature and forms of discriminations.
- Facilitators and teachers will compulsorily be trained about language transfer approach to teaching.
- Agencies involved in Non Formal Education will orient and reorient their trainers, facilitators, teachers, supervisors, and community mobilizers about the common issues of caste, ethnicity, gender, language, disability, child labor, and conflict affected children.
- Facilitators and teachers will be provided with the print materials developed in various local languages.

- Glossaries will be included in the end of the text to facilitate the learning of different language groups.

Policy 9: Common database will be developed and shared among the agencies involved in non formal education programs.

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

- Non Formal Education target area will be identified by analyzing the data available at the center, district, and local levels
- Local bodies will conduct survey and create the Non-Formal Education Management System and update the available data by the people at the Village Development Committee and municipality levels.
- District Education Office's Non Formal Education Unit will incorporate the information of child labor, out-of school children, illiterate males and females, Dalits, ethnic groups, and religious groups in its Non Formal Education Management Information System
- Arrangements will be made to use common data base by all Agencies involved in Non Formal Education Non Formal Education Center will facilitate the process of creation and maintenance of district and central level Non Formal Education data base
- Non Formal Education Center will work together with Central Bureau of Statistics to ensure authentic Non Formal Education data through national census
- Non Governmental Organizations formed and operated by the people of disadvantaged community will be given priority to conduct Non Formal Education programs

Strategies

In order to implement the above policies, the following strategies will be adopted:

- The data collected and updated by the Village Development Committees and municipalities will be utilized for the operation of Non Formal Education programs.
- District Education Office will compile the essence of district level Non

Formal Education data

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

Policy 10: Training, research, self monitoring and innovation will be included in non formal education programs to build the capacity of the human resources involved in the non formal education programs.

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

- Research and innovations will be tied up with all forms of non formal education programs
- Non formal education center and its partner agencies will compulsorily include the programs of research and innovations in their programs.

Strategies

In order to implement the above policies, the following strategies will be adopted

- Research and innovation will be tied up with all levels of non formal education programs
- Research and innovations will be included in the jurisdictions of non formal education facilitators, community mobilizers, and teachers
- Policy, Strategies, program, curriculum, curricular material, and training will be revised and updated by following the findings of the non formal education research and innovations

Policy 11: Government and non-government organizations and private agencies will be mobilized to meet the targets of ‘Education for all.’ The following policy actions will be adopted for the implementation of the above policy:

- The means and resources will be shared among the agencies involved in the non formal education programs.
- The agencies involved in non formal education will promote collaborative undertakings Strategies

In order to implement the above policies, the following strategies will be adopted:

- Non formal education programs will be conducted by sharing human, materials, and financial resources available from private sectors
- Trade Unions will initiate need based non formal education programs to their employees and send the data to District Education Office and non formal education center.

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

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

- Non formal education center and Agencies involved in non formal education will set their financial policies in line with the economic policies of the government.

Strategies

In order to implement the above policies, the following strategies will be adopted:

- Local bodies will be given block grants to conduct non formal education programs envisaged in their education plans. Arrangements will be made to exempt the grant from freezing.
- Local bodies will be entrusted authorities to use the block grants in their jurisdictions
- Operating cost will be provided to the mother schools for the supervision and monitoring of the alternative school programs conducted in its catchment's areas.
- Agencies involved in non formal education will apply social auditing system for transparency
- Local bodies will collect cash and kind for the implementation of non formal education programs
- It will be made mandatory to the employers/industries/factories to conduct need based non formal education programs for their employees on cost sharing basis
- The policy of paying remuneration to the non formal education facilitators will be as per the terms and conditions made by concerned agencies
- Matching and partnership funds of the agencies involved in non formal education will be developed and maintained

Policy 13: Local bodies will play the regulatory role for the management of non-formal education. Any of the modalities mainly from the following four will be applied to implement non formal education programs:

- (a) Local body modality
- (b) Non Governmental Organization modality
- (c) Community Learning Center modality
- (d) Educational institution modality

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

- Depending on the locality, needs and situations, any of the models will be applied to conduct non formal education programs
- The Local Self-Government Act will be followed to implement any of the models of the non formal education program.
- Committees and sub-committees will be formed as needed to implement non formal education programs
- District Education Offices and Regional Education Directorate will have separate units to oversee and monitor the non formal education programs.
- These units will oversee and monitor non formal education programs conducted by educational and other institutes and agencies.

Strategies

In order to implement the above policies, the following strategies will be adopted:

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

Policy 14: non formal education center will coordinate and collaborate with government, non- governmental, and international organizations to create cooperative environment among the agencies involved in non formal education programs. The following policy actions will be adopted for the implementation of the above policy:

- Non formal education center will update and revise non formal education policies and strategies

- The concepts decentralized management will be adopted to create the environment of coordination and cooperation.
- Non formal education center will work as a bridge between Non- formal education center Council and the agencies involved in Non formal education center.
- Non formal education center will assist Non formal education center Council to ensure equity, equality, and social justice in the operation of Non formal education center programs
- Non formal education center will promote research and innovations in the field of non-formal education
- Non formal education center will exchange its plans, programs, and progress reports with different commissions, committees and institutes.
- Non formal education center will organize meetings/workshops/interaction sessions to create and update and share innovative ideas on contemporary issues and thoughts with non formal education experts, researchers and practitioners.
- Non formal education center will develop formats that consist of indicators and indices for the monitoring and evaluation of non formal education activities.
- Non formal education center will award non formal education personnel and institutions for their outstanding contributions.
- Non formal education center will work together with different organizations related to industry and commerce to ensure need based non formal education programs for the employees. It will also develop necessary codes of conduct.

Strategies

In order to implement the above policies, the following strategies will be adopted:

- Non formal education center will exchange learning materials with different ministries and agencies involved in non formal education.
- Non formal education center will monitor non formal education programs.

- Non formal education center will carry out the programs for capacity building of personnel involved in non formal education programs.
- Non formal education center will help update the non formal education management information system.

- Non formal education center will reward the agencies and institutions for their outstanding performance in non-formal education sector and encourage others to replicate.

Policy 15: The literacy campaign will be developed as the main policy strategy for the eradication of illiteracy and local agencies will be made responsible for the program.

Policy 16: The agencies involved in non formal education will develop their policies and strategies within the framework of the policies and strategies included in this policy document.