

**Nepal Law Society/Civic Initiative Center
Province No. 3, Hetauda
Town Hall Meeting Report
THM Report, 5 November 2019, Dhulikhel**

1. Background:

With the promulgation of a new constitution, the state has already come forward with an ambitious plan to make education compulsory and free. Likewise, primary work related to Education policy has been started by the Government of Nepal. In coordination with Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee for the Directive Principles and Responsibilities of the State, Nepal Law Society through its CIC organized a Town Hall Meeting in Dhulikhel on "Constitution, Law and Policy related to Higher Education." The event was organized on 5 November 2019 (19th of Kartik, 2076) at Dhulikhel Lodge Resort of Province No. 3.

The meeting was attended by the members of Federal Parliament, members of the Province Assembly, elected representatives of Village Council and Municipality, School Management Committee, teachers, representatives of political parties, leaders of the civil society, intellectuals and representatives of various organizations and institutions. In addition to that, representatives of Federal, Provincial and Local Government, District Level Leaders and Activists of Political Parties were also attended the THM.

2. Objectives of the THM

The purpose of this program is to share information with the concerned authorities on the Higher Education Policy and respective laws as per the letter and spirit of the new Constitution of Nepal. Specific objectives of the THM on Higher Education Policy are as follows:

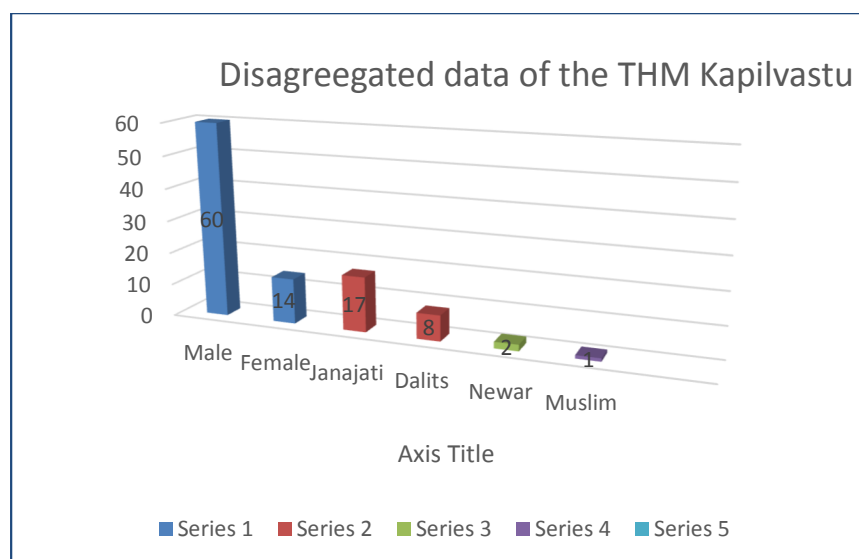
- ✓ To facilitate public participation on policy and law making through the citizens' engagement assisting the progressive implementation of state directive policies for making effective functioning of the relevant Committee, pursuant to Article 54 of the Constitution;
- ✓ To collect suggestions from stakeholders for formulating effective policies through the relevant committee of the Federal Parliament;
- ✓ To support the inclusion of major stakeholders in public issues and law making through the facilitation of dialogue among parliamentarians, experts, civil society and common citizens disseminating information about the provisions of the Constitution, rules and policies on higher education;
- ✓ To offer necessary advice to the Government of Nepal through the relevant committee of the Parliament whether the provisions of the Higher Education Policy and the laws are compatible with the constitution and the federal laws.

3. Participation in the THM

Total Number of Participants: 64 (62 Participants, 2 Organizers)

S.N.		Brahmin, Chhetri, Thakuri, Sanyasi		Indigenous		Dalit		Newar	Muslim	Persons with Disability	Others
		Hill Himalayan	Terai Madhes	Hill Himalayan	Terai Madhes	Hill Himalayan	Terai Madhes				
1	Female	8	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
2	Male	37	0	13	0	4	3	2	1	0	0

The table shows diverse participants in the meeting as follows in a Bar Diagram:



4. Program Details

The program was conducted in a semi-formal way as Niradevi Jairu, the Chair of the, Committee on Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of Directive Principle of State and Policy, Federal Parliament chaired the meeting. Mr. Rishi Wagle, Deal, Faculty of Law, Kathmandu University welcomed to the Participants and Mr. Krishnaman Pradhan, Executive Director, Nepal Law Society highlighted on the objectives of the THM. Hon. Radheshyam Adhikari, member of the Committee and Upper House, Federal Parliament and Hon. Jayapuri Gharti, President, Committee on Education and Health, House of Representative, Federal Parliament shared their views as special guests.

A. Paper Presentation

Mr. Ramesh Lekhak, former Minister presented the paper on "Constitutional, Legal and Policy Related to Higher Education in Nepal." In his presentation, he shared Constitutional provisions on higher education including fundamental rights, policies of the State and provisions from list of competencies. In addition to that, he shared existing and previous legislations, policies and international practices along with international treaties to which Nepal is a party and Supreme Court Decisions.



B. Group Discussion

After her presentation, all participants were divided into four different groups among the participants. Four different chapters were given to the groups for the discussion. Group discussion went an hour and came up with their feedbacks as follows:

Group - I

- ✓ There is necessary for amending existing policies to updates on the issue according to the need of time
- ✓ Legislations should be made in line with the federal structure of the state;
- ✓ Diversity need to be managed properly;
- ✓ Education policy should be made for the best fits for all and to in line with the international law and treaties as another mainstreams
- ✓ According to the criteria and need of the country, the government should merge some existing University into Federal University.



Group -II

- ✓ Three tiers of government should plan to allocate 20% of budget on such policies;
- ✓ In order to be clear about higher education, the scope of work should be further defined by bringing immediate Federal Education Act;

- ✓ Internal investment should be allocated only vested on education whereas foreign investment should be allocated only on infrastructure;
- ✓ Technical sectors of education should be demarcated clearly;
- ✓ Foreign investment on school level should be made non profitable rather making is as a service oriented business;
- ✓ Foreign investment of education should be limited.

Group - III

- ✓ Universities and other technical institutions should be maintained as autonomous body;
- ✓ Vice Chancellor should be appointed according to his/her ability and aptitude;
- ✓ No other institutions should be formed to regulate education sector. So that, it may interfere academic independence.

Group - IV

- ✓ Reports on work division should be made public.
- ✓ Structurally level of education should be designed in coherence and harmoniously. E.g. secondary level of education should be helpful higher education;
- ✓ An autonomous council is required to operate education system independently;
- ✓ At least up to certain level, government official have to send their children in community schools;
- ✓ Management authority should be accountable having positive mind and quality assurance mechanism should be strong.

5. Challenges and Learning

- ✓ All participants complained that the time was too short for discussion upon such a grave issue.
- ✓ Likewise, most of the teachers have limited knowledge about subject matter they taught and many of them have no clear idea about the subject.
- ✓ Educational policies include the subject matter and methods of instruction, facilities and supports for the research work of faculty members and students; etc.so timely revision of such policies is very challenging work.
- ✓ Ensuring participation of mayors/deputy mayors or chairperson/deputy chairperson of local governments has been challenging;
- ✓ Ensuring women participants to 40 % and proportional representation from each of the communities has been challenging due to unavailability of proportional representatives political representatives and officials.

6. Achievements:

- ✓ A total of 64 participants from diverse groups attended the program and highly appreciated the THM;
- ✓ Concerned stakeholders became aware on the higher education policy in the district;
- ✓ Legislative parliament initiated and took ownership of the program and collected feedbacks from THM;

- ✓ A wider consultation on higher education policy conducted successfully and ownership from the stakeholders side increased remarkably;

Annex - I: Few glimpses of the program



Annex - II: List of participants

S.No	Name
1	Nira davi jeru
2	Radha shayam adhikari
3	Reamash lekhak
4	Ram Prasad adhikari
5	Ishower thapa
6	Dr. dhanapaty subedi
7	Kajal tamang
8	Ravi dhital
9	Dr.Dil islam mansuh
10	pro Dr Kunta davi pun
11	Rima khanal
13	Bijaya Bhakata shrestha
14	Durja Prasad dhakal
15	Birendra vaidya
16	Narayan niroowal
17	Raj kumar parajuli
18	Narayan dhwoj tamang
19	Bharat bdr K.c
20	Purna kumar shrestha
21	Aevn karmacharya
22	Kumar Prasad bhattacharai
23	Shayam Prasad pandey
24	Dr. Ram kumar karki
25	Hira sharma
26	Mananiya Ratna Dhakal
27	Madhusudan wagle
29	Rajendra pandit
30	Preamraj sharma
31	santosh K.c
33	Goma vurtal
35	Rama dhal
36	Krishna khulal
37	Kancha lal jimba
38	Nirmala sharma
39	Sujendra Shrestha
40	Ramchandra Thapa
41	Shiva bisankhe
42	Rukamini Guring
43	Madhav Prasad Dhahal
44	Rishiksha Wagle
45	Chandra Lama
46	Uddhav KC
47	Shatyanarayan Shrestha
48	Aman Panta
49	Dhruba Rayamajhi

50	Bijaya Jaisawal
51	Tika Datta Gautam
52	Mothiram Timalisina
53	Laxmi Danuwar
54	Raghunath Kharal
55	Saroj kumar Majhi
56	Babu lama
57	Gopichandra Dangol
58	Anil Bharati
59	Naran Shrestha
60	Dr. Jiwak raj Bajracharya
61	Gunuroh Muktan
62	Mahendra Thing
63	Debala Hele
64	Krishna Man Pradhan
65	Ganesh Man Pradhan

