

PROGRAM REPORT

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The Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, bordered by China in the north and India in the south, is a land of sublime natural beauty. Often recognized for its natural beauty, cultural diversity, and ethnic diversity, the country is famous as the land of Buddha and the land of Gurkhas all over the world. Although the country occupies a small area of 147,181 sq.k m, it houses over 28 million people in its diverse landscape. The country follows a federal parliamentary republic system and has 7 provinces and 77 districts. Nepal has a traditional economic system in which the majority of the population engages in subsistence agriculture, and the allocation of available resources is made on the basis of primitive methods.

Albeit the country houses over 28 million people only, the population comprises of youths in major numbers with a percentage of over 40. This population group has played an extremely prominent role in leading the overall development of the nation to make it one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. However, disparities are still prevalent and the tendency of youths going abroad is causing a major setback for the country. This age-group bears the capacity to bring table-turning changes in the country if their energy is rightly utilized. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that the youths be guided and led to explore their path in life and set goals for themselves with a vision for their nation.

If we look at the trend of the Nepalese youths, most of the youths are unaware of the potential to make a successful living in the motherland itself. A lot of youths are moving out to a new land in search of a better life and better earning. However, they are unaware of the opportunities due to the lack of knowledge, guidance, and motivation. Nepal shows extreme potential in agriculture as well as tourism. It is urgency that the youths understand the necessity of engaging in these potential areas and earning their living in their own motherland. Furthermore, the youths must also take charge of the leadership positions in governmental as well as non-governmental entities to make sure that the nation is moving ahead with changes as per the necessity of time. The nation also demands equal participation of women along with men to make sure that both groups are enhancing their capacities equally and nourishing their skills.

With a vision to address the problems the country and the youths face in the present scenario, Nepal Youth Council was successfully organized the four-day "National Youth Conference 2020" from 9-12 August 2020 in Kathmandu Nepal. From its establishment, Nepal Youth Council has been notably practicing gender equality and has been sticking its importance in the mind of youths from time to time as both parties carry an equal part for the prosperity of the nation. So, the conference will house equally represented and inclusive representative, 419 youths from 77 districts, and a group of 50 youths to ensure inclusion. Nepal Youth Council is convinced that the conference will recognize the youths as an undeniably effective force into the mainstream of development in Nepal.



"Thousands of Nepali youths have sacrificed their blood and sweat to establish Nepal as a federal democratic republic. While a number of youths have lost a lot during the process, I feel they are ignoring their responsibility to maintain the integrity of the very system itself. If this is the case, the federal system won't be successful. Youths need to engage robustly in the local, federal, and the central level as well."

Thematic Session of National Youth Conference 2020



Empowering Youth through Agro-Entrepreneurship in Nepal:

Agriculture is the backbone of the Nepali economy, employing over 66% of the country's labor force and providing over one-third of the country's gross domestic products. Most importantly, agriculture makes the livelihood of most Nepali citizens, as it brings in 83% of the country's household earnings. In this context, evidently, agriculture is very important for Nepal's national economy. Thus, National Youth Conference aims to aware youths on the potential of agro-entrepreneurship and encourage them to involve in it.

Good Governance: Good governance is a broad concept that incorporates the role and interconnection of three different sectors: Government (state actors and institutions), Civil Society (civil alliances and non-governmental organizations) and Private Sector (households and companies). The conference aims to make youths aware of their accountability in the governance of Nepal and encourage them to strive for corruption-free governance.

Gender Equality: With a percentage composition of just over 50%, Nepal's population is dominated by women. However, according to the World Economic Forum in a report from 2016, Nepal ranks 110th out of 144 countries on gender parity. NYC is aware of the fact that the overall development of Nepal lies in the hand of both groups equally. Hence, NYC aims to provoke a sense of gender equality and encourage youths to work together side by side.

Role of Youths in Election: In a multiparty democratic country like Nepal, the role of youths has significant importance in the election. Nepal, with a multiparty democracy system, has a large number of political parties ranging from communist to a fully democratic party and the youths have to play an important role to determine the best leaders. The conference aims to let youths understand their role in the national election.

Youth Leadership: Youth leadership and development is a process that prepares a young person to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood and achieve his or her full potential. Youth development is promoted through activities and experiences that help youth develop social, ethical, emotional, physical, and cognitive competencies. NYC understands the necessity of youth leadership and has constantly been working in this area. The conference aims to make youths capable of fitting the right position with the right skills and expertise.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The sustainable development goals are a collection of 17 global goals set by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 for the year 2030. Nepal has constantly been advocating for the successful implementation of the SDGs and NYC understands the importance of the role of youths in achieving the SDGs. The conference wills aware youths on the importance, implementation, and outcomes of the 17 goals.

Climate Action: Climate change is a serious issue all around the world. Nepal has also been suffering from the effects of climate change. The effect of climate action has resulted in a severe winter drought and excessive monsoon flooding. Nepal has to take action immediately to ensure an effort to cope with the changing situation and build resilience capacity into adaptation to climate change. The conference will plead for a safer, sustainable, and pollution-free environment.

Sustainable Tourism: Sustainable tourism is an industry committed to making a low impact on the environment and local culture while helping to generate future employment for local people. Nepal has already announced the Visit Nepal Year 2020 with an aim to promote tourism on an accelerated scale. The campaign can be successful if youths can engage along with the government and tourism industry to promote and advocate for the campaign. The conference, thus, aims to promote youths to play a significant role in the promotion of sustainable tourism and the success of VNY 2020.



Hon'ble Jeewan Buda addressed during the session "Youths have always been the backbone of this country. Though they have the energy, curiosity, and willingness to do wonders, the participation of youths in the mainstream development of Nepal has been minimum. Rather than ignoring politics calling it a foul game, youths should rather engage in the system and change the system from within."



Hon'ble Laxmi Pariyar said "I think there should be three things in order to give stability to the federal republic.

- 1) There are mechanisms to stabilize the republic. To do so, direct leadership of the youth is needed in the government.
- 2) In political parties, the direct role of the youth is needed at the leadership level, at the level of forming ideas.
- 3) The leadership and participation of the youth are indispensable in the government of the same level.



Youth is not the captain of tomorrow but the basis of today. Today's youth need to be honest and role models."

Hon'ble Bimala BK - Member of Federal Parliament



Meaningful participation of youth in elections is indispensable today. Youth participation is indispensable to make the election clean, fair, free, credible, and economical. The Election Commission is aware of this. Youths also need to be aware of their rights, duties, self-reliance, and creativity. Youths can participate in all levels of the election as leaders, candidates, voters, campaigners, backers, and campaigners, but so far, the participation in the leadership is very low, which is not satisfactory.

Mr. Komal Dhamala - Under Secretary at Election Commission Nepal



Dr. Pranaya Rana

There are two major reasons for conflict:

- 1) The principle of self-participation in which conflict occurs because people want to accumulate power by competition or various other reasons.
- 2) The principle of contingency in which the basic things that people need are not fulfilled, and it can be addressed through effective leadership.



The youths are the present, not the future of the country. It is the youths who are responsible for the country. Thus, youths should be cheerful, optimistic, confident, and happy. Everyone has their own way of being happy. There are five main reasons to be happy,

1) Friends and family 2) Wealth 3) Health 4) Power and 5) God and spirituality

Mr. Anil Keshary Shah - CEO of Nabil Bank Limited



In terms of youth participation, according to the Election Commission, the current turnout in the federal parliament is only 6%, while at the local level, it is around 40%.

The role of youth in environmental protection is very indispensable. Youths should not only be limited to Pop Z and Game of Thrones. They can also play a creative role in environmental protection. For example, a campaign can be launched through virtual media for the safe disposal of

disposable masks. Advocacy can be done at the local level.

Ms. Binita Karki - Youth Program Officer at UNDP Nepal



According to the University of Cornell, we make about 35,000 decisions every day, 226 of which are related to food. Basically, when making any decision, there's a combination of cognitive component and emotional component involved. People can combine previous experience, current emotional capacity, and emotional investment when making any decision.

Ms. Bhawana Shrestha - Ph.D scholar & Co-Founder, My Emotions Matter



About 60% of Nepal's population is involved in agriculture, but the participation of the youth here is disappointing. Youths today enjoy playing guitar and playing the carom board in a tea shop rather than engaging in agriculture. Instead, agriculture would be a major contributor to the national economy. There is a feeling among the youths that there is no opportunity in agriculture, necessary infrastructure, roads, agricultural tools, marketing, and interns have not been well

arranged. What young people need to understand now is that they need to build links between national and international markets for their knowledge. For example, there is a high demand for organic food in the international market today, and the need is for young people to be able to grab it.

Ms. Sunita Nemapukhi – Agriculture Expert in Nepal

Young people are dynamic, creative, and energetic. Young people are always quick to think. This is confirmed by the fact that even in the midst of the ongoing epidemic, such a program has been carried



out virtually in awe. Currently, there are about 3 million unemployed youths in Nepal. The number of those returning from abroad after losing their jobs is the same. Similarly, 500,000 new youths come to the labor market every year. As a result, we need to properly manage the additional 5 million young people. If not, a negative situation may arise. In this regard, all governmental and non-governmental organizations should work together to solve the problem in a creative way.

Dr. Man Bahadur BK - Principal Secretary of Bagmati Province

Climate change is taking place due to the industrial revolution and fossil oil which is currently causing global disasters. There are basically two ways to minimize this



- 1) Mitigation: To minimize the activities of climate change.
- 2) Adaptation: To take measures to solve specific problems in it.

For all these things, WWF Nepal has been working at the local level in specific areas.

Ms. Arati Khadgi

The tourism sector is the largest human resource service-based industry. Tourism directly attributes to SDG and are included as targets in Goal 8 (inclusive and sustainable economic growth), Goal 12



(Sustainable consumption and production) Goal 14 (life below water), and Goal 15 (life on land). Tourism is an area where you can become an entrepreneur according to your budget. For example, if you have enough money, you can invest in an airplane. If it is a little less, the hotel has different stars in it, if it is even less, you can become a travel agency, a tourist guide or a porter without any money.

Mr. Rajendra N Suwal



COVID 19 should be turned into an unexpected new normal. If you want to engage in sustainable tourism, you need to adopt a digital platform for tourism. You need to be able to create your own brand and market it through social media and get bookings from there. The service you provide will be important when you do this. Sanitation and the communication parts are equally important. On the other hand, you also need to understand the local market. In the current situation, the local

market will also be important. Ms. Shristi KC - Education and Youth Engagement at WWF Nepal



Advocacy in governance is not just about abusing the leadership or the media. Create direct access to Parliament. You can do it with civil society, the media, or the bureaucracy.

Mr. Kedar Khadka - Anti Corruption Activist



Studies and research have shown that the Artificial Intelligence (AI) system is better than a human doctor at predicting breast cancer. AI can also quickly find results for new inventions. AI can be applied in perception, prediction, judgment/decision-making, understanding, interactive communication. Though AI is good at everything, it is also used to create fake videos of people, spread misinformation, and increase crime, which is a matter of concern.

Dr. Dovan Rai - Scientist/ Education Coordinator, Education Technology, Game design, Datamining, Causal Modeling.



Nepal's work and achievements in forest and wildlife conservation are encouraging, but unplanned construction (especially road construction in villages) and infrastructure development is destroying the atmosphere. Some of the laws, guidelines, and manuals we have are still contradictory. If we can harmonize them, it can help make them accountable. Good work in conservation can also be done if the poor are given access to resources and local people are involved. The role of youth is important in all these. Good work can be done with the active participation of the

youth in planning and policymaking, budgeting, implementation, etc.

Ekraj Sigdel - Governance Expert at WWF Nepal, Kathmandu Office.



The bigger our mind, the wider it can be. Then, the smaller or trivial things or events won't make a difference. So, you should be able to make your mind big. Be angry when the situation arises but don't keep it in your mind for long. Learn to be happy so that you forget such things.

Youths should do 3 things to control anger:

- 1) Eat healthy and vegetarian food.
- 2) Do Pranayama to make the mind bigger.
- 3) Meditate so that the mind becomes calm and teaches to be happy.

Don't be afraid to be happy, teach the people around you to be happy too.

Ms. Subarna Basnet - Development Practitioner at Art of Living



Gender equality is needed to achieve equality in practice by eliminating inequality and discrimination between women, men, and gender and sexual minorities. There are several processes that can be used including the practice of equality, positive discrimination, empowerment, participation, structural development, and policy change

Empowerment of targeted or marginalized and backward communities.

Tika Dahal - Expert, Disability & Gender Inclusion (since 1998 AD).

Mr. Ram Prasad Thapaliya (Secretry - Ministry of Youth & Sports) sends us video message to all the participates.

"I am very happy to hear that the International Youth Day is being celebrated with grandeur with various programs involving the youth of all 77 districts of all 7 provinces by focusing on youth-related issues in accordance with the global recognition. On behalf of the Secretary of the Ministry, I would like to extend my best wishes to all the young people who are participating in this program. Young age is the fertile age, at this age, man determines his destiny, future, and his direction and condition, so there is a compelling situation for all youths to move forward by making themselves responsible. Covid 19 has created many problems with youths being held captive at home. Even under such circumstances, I am happy to hear that the Nepal Youth Council is connecting many youths through various psychosocial programs. It seems that the youth will have to pay special attention to the issues of employment promotion and protection of the environment. In order to mobilize the youth power as the heritage of the nation, the state has taken various policy decisions, structures have been formed, and this country needs to move forward through various structures as it moves towards federalism. In this process, the efforts of the government alone do not seem to be possible, the active participation, dedication, and contribution of

organizations such as the Nepal Youth Council will make this possible. Like previous years, Nepal Youth Council has taken it to the next level to help more young people change their destiny, future, to find a source of employment in Nepal, not abroad. Expressing full faith, I wish the grand success of this 4-day youth conference and best wishes for the International Youth Day 2020."









