

**NON-FORMAL EDUCATION POLICY, 2063 (2007 AD)**

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

Publisher:

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.

Copyright: On Publisher©

Published in 2064 BS

For more information please contact to:  
Government of Nepal  
Ministry of Education and Sports  
Non-Formal Education Centre  
Sanothimi, Bhaktapur, P.O. Box 21045  
Nepal

E-mail: [nfec@mos.com.np](mailto:nfec@mos.com.np)  
Tel: 6631280, 6631288  
Fax: 977-1-6631280  
<http://www.nfec.gov.np>

## **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. NFEC 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. NFEC 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. NFEC 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.

NFEC 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 NFE 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 NGOs, educational institutes, and CLCs,

- 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: NFE equivalent to FE 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
- CLCs 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 NFE programs will be designed to suit the needs of children of various age groups, adolescents, and adult men and women.
- NFE curricula from primary to university level will be synchronized with FE 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 NFEC, all GOs, NGOs 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 NFEC.
- 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 NFE purpose should be appropriate when analyzed from gender, caste, ethnic and language perspectives. NFEC will evaluate the appropriateness of such materials.
- Agencies and the NGOs 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:

- NFEC 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 NFE curriculum, textbooks and learning materials.
- NFEC 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 NFE.
- NFEC 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 NFE 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 Centres (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:

- NGOs, local groups, schools, local bodies, and government agencies will be given approval to operate CLCs on their own or in groups.
- Various developmental programs including educational activities will be conducted in the VDCs to cater for the needs and demands of the community.
- Youths and adults related life skills will be conducted through CLCs
- CLCs 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 CLCs.
- CLCs will be developed as focal point for all forms of NFE extension activities.
- CLCs will conduct literacy campaign by mobilizing both the individuals and groups of the community.

- CLCs will operate early childhood education and care centers for the children of the organized women groups.
- CLCs 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 NFE programs will be decentralized.**

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

- Supervision, monitoring and evaluation of NFE programs will be conducted by a single agency or by joint effort of GOs, NGOs and local agencies
- Participatory approaches will be applied in monitoring, supervision and evaluation of NFE 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' NFE programs, NFC will supervise some of their programs, organize group discussions and reflective sessions and conduct micro research.
- Agencies involved in NFE should provide their monitoring and evaluation reports to DEO's NFE 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
- NFE supervisors will report their concerned organizations and VDCs/Municipalities

- Authorized individual/group will supervise the open school programs conducted by other agencies.
- Agencies involved in NFE will appoint supervisors to supervise their NFE activities.
- Supervisors' academic qualification would be decided by the concerned authority.
- Facilitator will develop and maintain individual profile to assess NFE 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 NFE for resource generation and mobilization**

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

- NFEC will work as the central authority for collaborative undertaking, networking, and coordination
- NGOs/INGOs will equip Agencies involved in NFE with resources and technical backups
- NFEC 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 NFE Council, efforts will be made to generate and mobilize local as well as international resources for ensured access to 'Education for all'
- VDC/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:

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

- In partnership with mass media, NFEC will make newspapers and magazines available to all CLCs.
- NFEC will collaborate with mass media to publicize NFE programs.
- A mechanism will be created to exchange human, physical, and financial resources at national and local level.
- NGOs 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 NFE 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 NFE 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 NFE 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 NFE programs.**

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

- NFE 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 (NFEMIS) and update the available data by the people at the VDC and municipality levels.
- DEO's NFE Unit will incorporate the information of child labor, out-of school children, illiterate males and females, Dalits, ethnic groups, and religious groups in its NFEMIS
- Arrangements will be made to use common data base by all Agencies involved in NFE
- NFEC will facilitate the process of creation and maintenance of district and central level NFE data base
- NFEC will work together with Central Bureau of Statistics to ensure authentic NFE data through national census
- NGOs formed and operated by the people of disadvantaged community will be given priority to conduct NFE programs

**Strategies**

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

- The data collected and updated by the VDCs and municipalities will be utilized for the operation of NFE programs.
- DEO will compile the essence of district level NFE data



- NFEC will compile the essence of national level and district wise NFE data
- Agencies involved in NFE will incorporate all programs related data in common database.
- Agencies involved in NFE will maintain and update their data related to internal efficiency, 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, NFE organizers, facilitators, teachers, trainers, resource persons, and supervisors will be created and updated.
- Data will be gathered from three sources viz., NFEC's form, Agencies involved in NFE' form, and evaluation forms
- NFE data base will be made public through webpage and email access
- Agencies involved in NFE will document and publicize their good practices for shared learning

**Policy 10: Training, research, self monitoring and innovation will be included in NFE programs to build the capacity of the human resources involved in the NFE 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 NFE programs
- NFEC 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 NFE programs
- Research and innovations will be included in the jurisdictions of NFE facilitators, community mobilizers, and teachers
- Policy, Strategies, program, curriculum, curricular material, and training will be revised and updated by following the findings of the NFE 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 NFE programs
- The agencies involved in NFE will promote collaborative undertakings

**Strategies**

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

- NFE programs will be conducted by sharing human, materials, and financial resources available from private sectors
- Trade Unions will initiate need based NFE programs to their employees and send the data to DEO and NFEC.

**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:

- NFEC and Agencies involved in NFE 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 NFE 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 NFE will apply social auditing system for transparency
- Local bodies will collect cash and kind for the implementation of NFE programs
- It will be made mandatory to the employers/industries/factories to conduct need based NFE programs for their employees on cost sharing basis
- The policy of paying remuneration to the NFE facilitators will be as per the terms and conditions made by concerned agencies
- Matching and partnership funds of the agencies involved in NFE 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 NFE programs:**

- (a) Local body modality
- (b) NGO modality
- (c) CLC 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 NFE programs
- The Local Self-Government Act will be followed to implement any of the models of the NFE program.
- Committees and sub-committees will be formed as needed to implement NFE programs
- DEO and RED will have separate units to oversee and monitor the NFE programs.
- These units will oversee and monitor NFE 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 NFE models
- Agencies involved in NFE themselves will manage, develop and upgrade their human and physical resources.
- Agencies involved in NFE will manage the mobile NFE facilitators for the nomadic and seasonal migrants.
- Local bodies will be encouraged to organize illiteracy eradication campaigns in a competitive way

**Policy 14: NFEC will coordinate and collaborate with government, non-governmental, and international organizations to create cooperative environment among the agencies involved in NFE programs.**

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

- NFEC will update and revise NFE policies and strategies

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

- NFEC will exchange learning materials with different ministries and agencies involved in NFE.
- NFEC will monitor NFE programs.
- NFEC will carry out the programs for capacity building of personnel involved in NFE programs.
- NFEC will help update the NFEMIS.

- NFEC 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 NFE will develop their policies and strategies within the framework of the policies and strategies included in this policy document.**