

## Supporting the Education of Marginalised Girls (STEM-II) Jamboree-2019

On 15 November 2019, a day-long Jamboree was held to celebrate the contributions of all STEM II stakeholders, from the girls and boys to the teachers and parents. Following the **Educate Girls Alleviate Poverty (EGAP)** campaign, this event provided an opportunity for the STEM II team to highlight the project's achievements, engage with all stakeholders and celebrate formal and non-formal education. The event celebrated a wide range of activities, from art to speeches, from game stalls to dances dramas. In addition to this, STEM II teachers showed off their teaching skills and the out of school (OOS) female entrepreneurs showed off their products. The program was inaugurated by Chief Minister, Sudurpaschim Province. In total 704 people except project



participated in the event.

National role model, Mr. Radha Paudel was invited to interact with the beneficiaries by sharing her life experiences, inspiring them to excel further in their learning or businesses.

### Duration & Schedule Date:

#### Pre-event activities (10- 14 November):

- Week-long preparatory activities at all 30 STEM II schools, in which schools selected students who could demonstrate their achievement's through art, speeches or other performances.
- Meeting with local stakeholders to share the objectives of the event and explore possible collaboration.
- Press release distributed for wider dissemination of information on the event and STEM II achievements.

## Main event

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### 15 November

The full program schedule is appended to the end of this report, with brief summaries of the various main activities included below.

### Dance and song

During the ceremony, there were dance performances by girls. The girls of Mahadev SS Shankarpur and Karnali SS performed in *Purba Kohi Paschim ta Nepal ta Eutai ho* song. Similarly the girls from Mohanyal SS performed on National Anthem which reflects message of nationality. Likewise the girls from Karnali sang a song on the support and progress caused by STEM-II.

### Stalls

Throughout the afternoon, 15 stalls were set up in front of the main hall so that everyone could look around them and interact with stakeholders. The content of the stalls included - teaching and learning materials and science exhibition from schools, educational materials from different partners, creative arts and crafts from the STEM II students, food, fun games and also products marketed by OOS girls. Through these stalls, all the schools received a chance to demonstrate their learning, skills and experience to different stakeholders and peer schools.

### Self Defense

The Jamboree included a self-defense session, situational self –defense demonstration was demonstrated by trained facilitators who facilitated the training in schools for girls. The session was arranged as an opportunity for girls to deal with harassment and abuse.

### Games

The Jamboree included three funs and entertaining games – Spoon Race, Cater Pillar, Burst the Balloons and Football Penalty Shout Out. The games were facilitated by STEM Project team members and volunteers. The winners were awarded with essay books and chocolates etc which helped to draw larger crowd to play.

### National Role Model in Attendance

**Ms. Radha Paudel, a national role model** has been working for Peace, Human Right, and Women Empowerment and as an Author for long. She has over 20 years professional experiences in various capacity and organizations. She has been awarded with *Madan Puraskar and N-Peace Award*. Now she is working as an independent researcher and campaigner. She is invited as guest speaker in national and internal colleges and campus including universities. She just believes on actions/results over lips services and cultivated culture of peace and justice by breaking gender stereotyped norms e.g. menstrual taboos/restrictions since childhood

She shared her life experiences. She shared that she tried to commit suicide when she was 9 years old because she did not want to live being a daughter even a single second. She always prayed to god wishing to let her a son. I was really very disappointed because what I had read in school, I did not find in real life. When she was seven years old, she saw blood of menstruation of her mother and came to know it is because of sin and she will also undergo with this situation. She had seen that her 3 sisters had staying inside with suffocation. She first got menstruation when she was 14 and ran away from home and came back after five days. She first came to know about menstruation when she admitted nursing campus and then she decided and started to discourage such stigmatic practices from her own house. She shared that she has visited Pashupati, Manakamana and Janaki Temples during menstruation period.

She also highlighted about women and security and health and women rights along with right to food, right to live, right to education, right to water and right to dignity. She highlighted on Menstrual Restriction Hits all Aspects of the Life of Girls and Women. She also shared about challenges and opportunities of menstruation. She explained about MHM Value Chain.



She also put forward and emphasized for dignified menstruation and it should be provision of dignified menstruation in constitution. She again shared that destroying Chhaugoth, cleaning rooms and distribution of sanitary pad cannot be the solution of stigma of menstruation. And lastly she encouraged and appealed to all to advocate for dignified menstruation.

### Awards and Honor

In order to encourage and motivate, the girls who appeared in SEE and scored high scores, GAP A and GPA B+ were selected for awards with appreciation letter as token of love. In total 16 girls were selected. Three girls were awarded with letter of appreciation as token of love in formal program and other 13 girls were awarded during informal program. Similarly 4 OOS girls were also awarded with letter of appreciation as token of love, those have been able to establish their business through GTF loan to improve their livelihood and well established. Likewise 3 SMC and 4 PTA women leaders who are in leadership of chairperson in schools and contributing for girls education were also awarded with letter of appreciation during the ceremony.



## Quotes from attendees

"I really would like to my appreciation and compliments for the objectives and initiatives that you are doing and endeavor you are planning to do in coming days. I would to extend my gratitude that you provided this opportunity to share my views among students. The project has supported for infrastructures, learning achievement improvement of marginalized children especially girls and more significantly to bring out of schools to schools and other support for livelihood, itself if very important. I as Chief Minister am committed for improvement of education in community schools and making plan accordingly. Local government representatives, political leaders and personnel of government should send their children in community schools and unless all the stakeholders take ownership towards government schools, there will not be improvement as expected. Teachers and parents have equal responsibility for academic improvement of community schools. The government is investing huge amount of money in one hand, but there is no improvement in quality of education in community schools on the other. I really appreciate that STEM-II is supporting for improvement of learning and life chances of girls through different interventions including economic empowerment, so I would like to request to expand the program in other districts of province".



### **Trilochan Bhatta**

#### **Chief Minister, Sudurpaschim Province**

" We have been together with STEM from phase one. The project has supported for Girls Club (GC) for girls in major four subjects like Maths, Science, Nepali and English where there majority of students score low and failed. Supporting GC has helped in improving learning of girls. It has enhanced the confidence of girls and reduced drop out. The project has supported in government program like enrollment campaign. The schools have been supported with books for library, science labs and computer labs as well. We are utilizing these resources regularly in our school. The project has worked in capacity building of teachers and parents also. In addition to these, my school has also been supported in preparing School Improvement Plan and encouraging parents for school visit. From this year, we have started conducting extra class for SEE in my school as continuation of girls club. I would request to implement such project from primary level if project intervene such projects in future".

### **Gorakha Nath**

#### **Principal of Fulwari SS**

" We got an opportunity to learn and share the initiatives and achievements of STEM from each other which STEM has been doing for long. We are now in new system and provision of the nation. We have not only changed the provision, we have also changed the new systems as well. We are exercising new federal system. In this context, we are facing a lots of problems. Now secondary level education is in under local government. There are many challenges before us for the management of education. We have to identify our needs and priorities and move ahead accordingly. If development organizations want to collaborate with local government, they should also focus on priorities of local government. We are backward in education for long and STEM has been working for education for long in order to resolve such backwardness so far. We are ready to have collaboration with STEM and support this."

### **Tapendra Rawal**

#### **Mayor, Tikapur Municipality**