Presentation of Bhutan

Kingdom of Bhutan at a glance

- Elevations ranging from 160 meters to more than 7000 meters above sea level.
- Area of 38,394 square kilometres between China and India.
- There are 387,520 males and 357,633 females in the country.
- 23 languages are spoken in Bhutan of which 16 are local to Bhutan.

Transformation

- In 2008 Bhutan transform from complete monarchy to constitutional monarchy.
- On 18th July 2008, the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan was formally enacted.
- Section 15 of Article 9 declares that: ‘The State shall endeavour to provide education for the purpose of improving and increasing knowledge, values and skills of the entire population with education being directed towards the full development of the human personality.’

- Education today is focused on transformative education and literacy.
- It is not only anchored in the acquisition of knowledge, skills and competencies, but giving more attention to the development of desired behavioral and attitudinal changes underlying his/her authenticity, uniqueness and distinctiveness.

- Education and literacy is an educational process of unfolding human potentials, from knowing how to read, write and count to learning to learn, learning to read, to being able access, analyze and utilize information and recognizing the learnings gained and to make informed decisions.
Building partnership in expanding NFE programme for the enhancement of adult literacy

Brief history of the NFE program in Bhutan

- The National Women Association of Bhutan (NWAB) was established on 9th April 1981 by the 33rd resolution passed by the 53rd session of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Bhutan,
- To promote the socio-economic conditions of Bhutanese women
- In 1990, NWAB initiated the Non-Formal Education (NFE) programme to provide basic literacy and numeracy to teach functional Dzongkha to empower Bhutanese women

Mandate of the NFE programme

The explicit mandates of the NFE programme are to:
- Provide functional and skills-based literacy to youths and adults who have missed formal education,
- Promote Dzongkha, the national language,
- Increase adult literacy rate and promote life-long learning programme in the kingdom,
- Provide platform for promoting community vitality
- Provide opportunities for acquisition of livelihood skills, career advancement and academic qualification upgradation for youth and adults.

Strategies

- Carry out literacy mapping Dzongkhag/Thromde wise to ascertain the illiterate population.
- Institute a strategic planning at the Dzongkhag/Thromde level to ensure equitable access to NFEDC services.
- Strengthen advocacy and awareness programmes to enhance enrollment and retention.
- Develop an appropriate curriculum materials based on need/demand, incorporating GNH values and principles.

- Dzongkha Development Commission as the lead agency for the promotion of National language implemented the NFE programme from 1992
- Given the mandate of the NFE programme to provide functional literacy and numeracy to the youths and adults who missed the chance for formal schooling, the Department of Education took over the program in 1993 considering the appropriateness of its place

- Community Learning Centre (CLC) was initiated in 2003 with the objectives of developing livelihood skills like tailoring, embroidery, weaving and carpentry to out-of-school youth, nuns, monks and lay monks etc.
- In 2006, the Continuing Education (CE) component was added to the programme to offer opportunity to those adults who could not complete their school
• Explore and strengthen collaboration and partnership among relevant stakeholders for further opportunities.
• Develop a strategic need-based capacity building programme for NFE instructors including online trainings.
• Institute a system of regular monitoring and evaluation for all NFE programmes at all levels.
• Standardize the assessment of learning and certification of NFE courses.

• Integrate the NFE database into EMIS to facilitate efficient planning, monitoring and management of NFE programme

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**Target**

Increase adult literacy rate to 70% by 2018 and ultimately 100% by 2020

Provide learning opportunity to all illiterate, neo-literate and drop out youths through NFE program

Provide lifelong learning opportunity through continuing Education program

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**Course and duration**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Course</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Titles</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Literacy course</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>Livelihood skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Literacy Course</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>47 dzongkha and 47 English</td>
<td>Life skills based</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Learning centre</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>Literacy, plumbing, housing wiring, Painting, tailoring, carpentry</td>
<td>Literacy and basic vocational skills</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Governing structure**

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**Achievements**

2009: Honorary mentioned of Confucius Award

2012: International Confucius Literacy Award

2014: Introduced Functional English curriculum to Post literacy course
Current status of NFE

- NFE centres • 721
- Instructors • 724 (595 F & 319M)
- NFE learners (BLC) • 7 (3379 F & 1235M)
- NFE learners (PLC) • 3004 (2314 F & 690 M)
- Total learners (BLC+PLC) • 7618 (5693 F & 1925 M)

Way Forward
- Establish baseline data on adult literacy rate
- Forge partnership with relevant stakeholders to develop home based learning materials and resources
- Enhance continuous monitoring, evaluation and support

TASHI DELEK !!!