AURORA

AURORA - Inclusive Education and Gender Equality

Introduction

Inclusive education means education that pays due consideration to the inclusion of students with disabilities or minority communities without distinguishing between 'normal' or 'abnormal'. The major focus of inclusive education is to make educational institutions fit the needs and expectations of students by keeping their rights, liberation, engagement, and agency at the center of the decision-making process. For example, gender-inclusive education provides equal opportunities to students irrespective of gender identities (i.e., boys, girls, and transgender people). Inclusive education and gender equality primarily focus on individuals' life experience and sharing, on exploring one's own needs, feelings, motivations, and ambitions. It encourages individuals to question normative positions of passivity and to take control of their own learning instead.

In recent decades, especially after the restoration of democracy, Nepal emphasized inclusive education and gender equalities by being a signatory of various international agreements and declarations, formulating policies, and making laws to bring discrimination and inequalities under the jurisdiction. However, agreements, declarations, and laws do not make much difference unless people are aware of the negative impact of the lack of inclusion and inequalities. Therefore, it is necessary to raise awareness of the significance of inclusion and equality, bring change in their

perspectives, and familiarize them with strategies to establish a just and equitable society not only for the betterment of marginalized people but also for the whole society. This work package aims to contribute to social transformation by promoting inclusive education and gender equality to deal with global poverty or environmental issues.

Intended participants

- Academics
- University staff

The objectives of the training

The aim of the course is to understand the factors that maintain inequality in global as well as regional contexts. After completing this training package, participants will be able to:

- Develop perspectives related to inclusive education and gender equality.
- Analyze the processes and social actors that inhibit inclusive education and gender equality.
- Explore the consequences of gender inequalities.
- Appreciate the role of inclusive education and gender equality in education for empowerment, combating gender stereotypes, and minimizing gender gaps.

Learning outcomes

The student will understand the following concepts:

- Inclusive education
- Gender equality in education
- Empowerment
- Gender stereotypes
- The gender gap in education

The student will be able to integrate the knowledge about gender into understanding the broader context of inequalities and global problems such as poverty or **environmental** issues.

Focused areas of the training

This work package covers various content areas, including **participants' current understanding of the concepts of gender, gender inequalities**, and **ways of overcoming gender inequalities**. Building on participants' previous understanding, it extends their knowledge about structural aspects of gender and gender inequalities, gender stereotypes, the impact of gender stereotyping in people's lived experience, and developing strategies for achieving the goals of inclusive

education respecting gender equalities. More specifically, the following content areas will be focused on:

- Previous knowledge about inclusive education and gender inequalities
- Strategies and efforts to promote inclusive education and gender inequalities
- Cultural, political, economic barriers for inclusive education and gender inequality in education
- Gender stereotypes affecting the pedagogical work
- Developing strategies for change

Delivery mode

This work package can be delivered face-to-face, online, or in blended mode as per the need and availability of resources such as computers and access to the Internet.

Leaning engagement

In this work package, the participants will be engaged in diverse activities to develop participants in perspectives about inclusive education and gender equality. Therefore, **journaling** will be used as a pedagogical tool for making meaningful connections and understanding between teachers and students based on understanding, care, empathy, respect, and open-mindedness. This method allows the participants to reflect on their views and opinions about the subject matter, teaching methods, and interpersonal relationships, to name but a few, by writing whatever comes in their minds honestly so that they will be aware or their incorrect or biased views and feelings, clear up their mind, better prepare them for learning with an open mind.

This method, **informed by critical pedagogy**, recognizes the significant impact of **our feelings, and needs** in learning. It also views that reflective and creative learning is more important than the accumulation of knowledge. Besides, the participants will be engaged in:

- Reading
- Discussion
- Exploring online sources
- Collaborative learning

The rationale for inclusive education and gender equality

Society will be a better place to live for everyone if it is based on the principle of justice and equality, where everyone feels a sense of belonging, affinity, freedom of expression, and agency in making decisions that impact their lives. This course aims to contribute to this cause by helping schools and other educational institutions to establish themselves as role models of inclusion and equality.