

## **Virtual Workshop on Research Dissemination**

### **Improving Learning: Developing Measures of Accountability and Evaluating their Association with Students' Gains in Achievement in Nepal**

**Bhadra 17, 2078  
(September 02, 2021)**



**5 PM – 8 PM, Nepal  
(7:15 AM – 10:55 AM EST, USA)**

## Workshop Goal:

The goal of this workshop is to share research findings and experiences from a research project in an effort to foster intellectual debate and interactions among key stakeholders and potential consumers of empirical evidence. The workshop also aims to enhance scientific and analytical capacity of Nepali students, faculty, and scientists and promote future research collaboration to address important policy issues related to education achievement in Nepal.

## Background:

This dissemination workshop focuses on the findings from the research project entitled ***Improving Learning: Developing Measures of Accountability and Evaluating their Association with Students' Gains in Achievement in Nepal***. In recent years, Nepal's education sector has made tremendous progress in expanding schools, student enrollments, and teacher trainings.



Expanding access to education is not limited to community schools; it also includes the proliferation of institutional schools. However, improvements in school accessibility, school enrollment, and teacher training and licensing did not translate into improvements in student learning. Consequently, the Nepali education system continues to face what UNESCO has called a “**learning crisis.**” Additionally, education in Nepal continues to be marked by pervasive inequalities by gender, ethnicity, urban/rural residence, and public/private schools.

Nepal's government has taken multiple steps to improve education quality in the country, including increasing annual budgets almost two fold in the last two decades, as well as decentralizing school management and expanding private/institutional schools. The shift towards a locally empowered community school system makes understanding the local-level accountability process crucial. Although the government continues to monitor accountability through identifying funding management and record keeping issues, there is an urgent need for new systematic indicators of local-level accountability dynamics. To enhance our understanding of these crucial issues, the Institute for Social and Environmental Research in Nepal and the University of Michigan, with the technical support from the Education Review Office of the Ministry of Education, launched the research study in Western Chitwan. We are now sharing the results of this important research in the hopes of improving student learning in Nepal.



# Program

**5:00 - 5:05 Welcome remarks**

~ Prof. Dr. Dharma Raj Dangol, Chair  
Institute for Social and Environmental Research -Nepal (ISER-N) , Fulbari, Chitwan

**5:05 - 5:10 Workshop schedule**

~ Miss Salina Maharjan, Research Officer, ISER-N, Fulbari, Chitwan

**5:10 - 5:35 Contextualizing school education in Chitwan and study overview**

~ Dr. Dirgha Ghimire, Executive Director, ISER-N, Fulbari, Chitwan  
Research Professor, Population Studies Center, University of Michigan, USA

**5:35 - 6:00 Socioeconomic disparities, school attendance, and achievement**

~ Dr. Uttam Sharma, Senior Research Scientist, ISER-N, Fulbari, Chitwan

**6:00 - 6:25 Variation in school quality: School type, social accountability, and instructional quality**

~ Dr. Brian Rowan, Professor Emeritus of Education, Professor Emeritus of Sociology,  
Research Professor Emeritus (Institute for Social Research), University of Michigan

**6:25 - 6:35 Research participant perspective on reducing inequality and improving school quality**

~ Mr. Rama Kanta Sapkota, Member, Bharatpur Metropolitan City Education Committee

**6:35 - 7:05 Discussion**

**6:05 - 7:45 Nepal school education research and policy**

**Education research: Need and practice in Nepal**

~ Dr. Lekha Nath Poudel, Former Director General, Education Review Office  
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

**National-level policy on school education**

~ Dr. Bhoj Raj Sharma, Under Secretary, Development Assistance Coordination Section  
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

**Status and findings of national-level student assessment**

~ Mr. Devi Ram Acharya, Section Officer, Education Review Office  
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

**Local-level school education policy**

~ Mr. Bhumilal Sharma Subedi, Chief, Education Development and Coordination Unit, Bharatpur

**7:45 - 7:55 Presentation: Overview of data, other resources, and access**

~ Dr. Dirgha Ghimire Executive Director, ISER-N, Fulbari, Chitwan  
~ Mr. Prem Pandit , Senior Research Officer, ISER-N, Fulbari, Chitwan

**7:55 - 8:00 Closing remarks**

~ Prof. Dr. Naba Raj Devekota, Vice Chancellor, Gandaki University, Pokhara

## Collaborating Institutions



### Institute for Social and Environmental Research- Nepal (ISER-N)

P.O. Box. 57, Bharatpur, Chitwan, Nepal

Phone: +977-56-591054/592406

E-mail: [iser.nepal@outlook.com](mailto:iser.nepal@outlook.com)

Web: [www.isernepal.org.np](http://www.isernepal.org.np)



426 Thompson St

Ann Arbor, MI 48106, USA

Phone: 734-763-1543

Web: [www.psc.isr.umich.edu](http://www.psc.isr.umich.edu)

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