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Invite you to

Policy Discussion Series- VI

"Dynamics of education policy-making: Looking at the school sector reforms in Nepal"

By

Pramod Bhatta, PhD

Venue: Martin Chautari Seminar Hall, Thapathali

Date: Sunday, 30 December 2012 [15 Poush 2069]

Time: 3:00 pm

Since 1951, Nepal has systematically pursued the task of instituting a national school education system that is uniform, universal and free. A number of high level commissions have been formed at various times to guide the formulation of national education policies. At the same time, Nepal has been generously supported by various aid agencies both in the form of project and program assistance. This international assistance to reforms in the school education has accelerated with Nepal's commitment to the global education for all movement starting in the early 1990s. However, as elsewhere, education reforms in Nepal are not free from criticisms of various kinds. On the one hand, there are allegations of poor reform outcomes (seen especially from the perspective of student learning outcomes) whereas, on the other, of these reforms being guided substantially by context and actors that transcend national boundaries. This presentation will focus on the role of the various national and international actors and agencies in the shaping of national education policies related to school education. In doing so, it will intend to further the dialogue on the dynamics of national policy-making in a globalized world.

Dr. Pramod Bhatta has conducted research on various aspects of Nepal's education system and also trained young researchers at Martin Chautari. He teaches Sociology of Education, Public Policy and Research Methods at the Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Tribhuvan University. He also works as a consultant education specialist at the Asian Development Bank in Nepal, providing support to the government's School Sector Reform Program. He has edited several books, including Education in Nepal: Problems, Reforms and Social Change (2009) and Participation in Higher Education: Social Dimensions of Inequality (2011; in Nepali), and published a number of research articles. These include "Structures of Denial: Student Representation in Nepal's Higher Education" (2008), "Improving Schools through Decentralization: Observations from Nepal's Primary Education" (2009), and "Aid Agency Influence in National Education Policy Making: A Case from Nepal's 'Education for All' Movement" (2011).

About the Series

The Policy Discussion Series is an initiative of Martin Chautari and the Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) under the aegis of Nepal Policy Research Network (NPRN). It aims to nurture a "community of practice" around public policy in Nepal, by bringing together experienced and emerging public policy scholars and practitioners to share their research insights and experiences with a larger audience.

With this Series, we seek to stimulate debates on contemporary public policy issues, policy research methodologies, and institutions that create policy knowledge.

The Series is also a forum for the sharing of findings of policy-related research.