

Quality Education Enhancement and Livelihood Support Project- Narrative Report (2022)

Introduction

Association for Rural Development (ARD) non-profit, non-government, non-sectarian, and sustainable development-oriented organization registered at District Administration Office, Dhulikhel in 1992. The partnership between ARD, tdh –Germany and AEIN has successfully implemented the project entitled, "Promoting quality education and empowering children, women and youth to secure their rights in three wards of Bethanchowk Rural Municipality of Kavrepalanchowk district (2018-2020)". Similarly, Since January 2021, in partnership with AEIN and financial support of Foyer, the project entitled “Quality Education enhancement and Livelihood support in Bethanchowk rural municipality and Panauti Municipality of Kavre district, Nepal” has been implemented. The overall purpose of the project is the Empowerment of children, women and youth through quality education and livelihood opportunities in 3 wards of Bethanchowk rural municipality and in 5 wards of Panauti Municipality of Kavre district. And, the specific objectives of the project are:

- Enhanced quality primary education in 8 Bethanchowk rural and Panauti municipality wards through improved institutional capacity.
- Empowerment of women and youth through increased skills, knowledge and livelihood opportunities.

ACCOMPLISHED KEY PROJECT ACTIVITIES IN 2021 AND 2022

Quality education and Child Development Program

Result: Children in the age group of 3-10 years in the targeted wards of Bethanchowk rural municipality and Panauti municipality are accessing quality education and are aware of child rights and environmental protection.

1. School building reconstruction

Shree Kaper Mahankal Basic School, located at Kamidada, Bethanchowk rural municipality -5 of Kavre district was completely damaged and destroyed in the 2015 earthquake. In the year 2022, a joint venture of AEIN, Foyer, ARD, and Bethanchowk rural municipality rebuilt a new two-storied school building with 6 classrooms and gender-friendly toilets. The school building completely followed the guidelines of Nepal National Building code NBC: 105:2020, Design of building Nepal. 125 students representing the Tamang community will enjoy a safe seismic-resistant building and a child-friendly teaching-learning environment.

2. Class Room Setup for 32 Class- Room (ECDC, Grade in 8 Schools of Panauti Municipality

The overall child development including emotional, social and physical development has a direct impact on life skills to become successful in the future. ARD, therefore, understands the rationale to invest in every young child to achieve quality education through well-furnished child-friendly classroom setups. 32 preliminary classes of 8 public schools in Panauti municipality were well equipped with types of furniture and supplies like graphic carpers, p-foam, round tables, cub-boards (rack), shoe-rack, mattress, and educational kid sets (that consists of different toys like a finger puppet, family doll, flash card set, wooden blocks, and building blocks, and etc.) A total of 650 (3-10 years) students from disadvantaged and low-income holders families are enjoying well-furnished, decorative child-friendly teaching and learning environment.

3. Training for ECDCs Facilitators and Primary teachers

Early childhood development is considered a crucial period of human life which lays the foundation for the future. In the project years 2021 and 2022, ARD, therefore, provided capacity-building training on child-friendly teaching and learning methodologies and techniques to 40 ECDCs facilitators and primary teachers of 18 public schools in Bethanchowk rural municipality and Panauti municipality. The training strengthened skills, knowledge and attitude on thematic approach in integrated curriculum 2018 (Guideline by Nepal Government), techniques and tools for the early childhood development centre management and its facilitation.

4. Central-level experience exchange seminar for ECDCs facilitators and primary teachers

A central-level experience exchange seminar provided a platform for the exchange of working experience regarding challenges, lesson-learnt and best teaching-learning practices in their respective schools and municipalities. 47 participants representing multi-key stakeholders including Education officials, Principals, and ECDCs facilitators from 18 public schools of Bethanchowk rural municipality and Panauti municipality and ARD engaged in active discussions to strengthen the overall development of ECDCs and urged for urgent collaboration and partnership.

5. Workshops on School Improvement Plan (SIP) in 8 public schools in Panauti municipality

16 workshops on the School Improvement Plan (SIPs) in 8 public schools in Panauti municipality that involved discussion with multi-stakeholders like teachers, school management committee, parents, and students for meaningful participation to discuss the educational affairs of the respective schools. 8 Public schools submitted their SIPs to the Education unit of Panauti municipality.

6. Workshops on good parenting for the parents in 8 public schools in Panauti municipality

Good parenting supports overall child development including speech, language, social skills, social relationships, nutrition and growth. ARD, therefore organized 16 workshops on good parenting for 848 parents in 8 public schools of Panauti municipality. Parent-child effective communication techniques and strategies for managing difficult behaviour, parents can develop stronger bonds with their children and create a more positive and supportive home environment.

7. Formation and reformation of 20 child clubs in Bethanchowk rural municipality and Panauti municipality

The rights of children are a subset of human rights, ARD, therefore, sensitized children regarding their fundamental rights to survive, development, participation, and protection to 621 active members of 20 child clubs in Bethanchowk rural municipality and Panauti municipality. Each club were supported with NRP 10,000 for conducting various child development /extra-curricular activities and capacity-building workshops and orientations.

8. Orientation on Child Rights and Ecological Rights

ARD conducted 8 orientations on Child Rights and Ecological rights to sensitize 100 students on the concept of a Child-friendly local governance, Environment-friendly local governance framework. Students are aware of children's risk-related issues like child marriage, child abuse, cybercrime, and domestic violence. The participants realize the concept of 4R (Refuse, Reuse, Reduce and Recycle) can be adapted to everyday life and minimized environmental pollution. The participants showed their solidarity to campaign for establishing child rights and ecological rights in Bethanchowk rural municipality and Panauti municipality.

9. Day Celebration (National Children's Day, Child Rights Convention Day, Global Action Month, and World environment day)

National and International days celebration is important because it allows people to recognize and commemorate important events and historical figures that have shaped the country and the world. ARD showed solidarity with international and national campaigns and collaborated with multi-stakeholders to conduct 16 different day celebrations on the occasion of National children's Day, CRC Day, Global Action Month, and World environment day in Bethanchowk rural municipality and Panauti municipality.

Women empowerment, livelihood opportunity and Market linkage

Result 2: Women, smallholder farmers and youth have access to knowledge and resources for livelihood improvement and acquire skills for sustainable livelihood practices

1. Orientation on women's leadership and GESI

The knowledge and practices on women's leadership and GESI provide opportunities to create an inclusive and equitable society by challenging gender stereotypes. ARD, therefore, conducted 2 orientations on women's leadership and GESI to 58 (including men and women) representing Rural Vegetable and Fruits Cooperative Ltd. After attending orientation a significant positive behavioural change is noticed through sharing household chores among family members and women's participation in decision making at household.

2. Day celebration (International women's Day, Teej program, and 16 days of activism against GBV)

ARD showed solidarity with the national and international campaigns for women's rights and campaign against GBV. ARD, therefore, organized 12 different events with close coordination with local governments and relevant stakeholders in Bethanchowk rural municipality and Panauti municipality. More than 1300 participants including women, men, and young girls were aware of women's empowerment, Gender-based violence, and women's meaningful participation in decision-making at all levels.

3. Support to the cooperative in Bethanchowk rural municipality

Rural vegetable Fruits Cooperative Ltd is well-functioning and regulating with regular saving and credit activities and skill enhancement of active membership of 1007 women shareholders in Bethanchowk rural municipality. ARD has been providing financial and technical support to the cooperative to strengthen women's empowerment and the institutional capacity of the cooperative.

4. Orientation on Microfinance and Cooperative

2 orientations were conducted on microfinance for 32 active shareholder members of Rural Women vegetable and fruits cooperatives ltd. Participants were aware of National and international policies of cooperatives, enhanced their skills and knowledge regarding tools and techniques to develop microfinance strategies and plans, and exercised accounting systems, identifying potential clients and assessing their creditworthiness.

5. Agricultural input support (Plastic tunnel support)

30 Poor and vulnerable households were identified by the school management and recommended for agricultural input support in 8 public schools of Panauti municipality. The supports scaled up smallholder farmers' production to enable commercial farming of seasonal and off-seasonal vegetable production through plastic tunnel support along with drip irrigation set and skill labour cost and technical consultation. Some farmers earned good money that contributed to holding educational, nutritional, and medical expenditures of children at home.

6. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Training

Smallholder farmers in Panauti municipality are experiencing the outbreak of disease and insects in major vegetables, ARD, therefore organized Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and commercial vegetable production training for 54 smallholder farmers. The participants were encouraged to organic seasonal and off-seasonal vegetable production and imply knowledge of IPM as biological pesticides management techniques. They were sensitized for the effective prevention, monitor, and manage pest population in a way that is safe, effective, and environment friendly.

7. Training On Organic Kitchen Gardening and Multi Cropping in Panauti Municipality

Organic kitchen training programs often cover topics such as the nutritional benefits of organic food, the environmental impact of industrial agriculture, and the importance of using seasonal and locally sourced ingredients. ARD, therefore organized training on organic kitchen gardening and multi-cropping for 45 farmers in Panauti municipality. The training on Kitchen gardening and organic farming motivated farmers for the maximum utilization of Land through the practice of kitchen garden and organic farming. Participated were ensured that kitchen gardening and organic farming are advantageous in terms of cost, availability, affordability and effectiveness. It directly impacts to health and nutrition of family members. At the end of the training farmers were provided seven types of vegetable seeds (including radish, spinach, leafy vegetable, beans etc)

8. Orientation on cash crop farming and sapling support of Lemon and Walnut

Cash crop farming refers to the cultivation of crops that are grown for sale in the market, rather than for personal or local consumption. ARD, therefore conducted orientation on cash crop farming and lemon and walnut saplings support for 106 household with 1045 lemon and 75 walnut sapling in Panauti municipality. The main objective of the orientation and sapling support was to increase the income of farmers by cultivating high value crops. The participants were aware of commercial value of the fruits and technical information regarding types of soil, popular varieties with their yield, land preparation, spacing pruning and training, weed control, plant protection and harvesting.

9. 3 Days entrepreneurship training in Panauti Municipality

3 Days entrepreneurship training was organized for 40 young and energetic women and men in Panauti municipality. The goal of entrepreneurship training is to equip individuals with the tools they need to turn their business ideas into successful ventures. The training increased skills and knowledge in areas such as financial management, marketing and sales, which can be critical for the success of a new business. Participants practiced the business plan for their business idea and it advanced confidence and motivation to start a business or pursue self-employment.

10. Vocational Training

Vocational provides practical and hands-on experience for individuals to develop the skills necessary for their desired careers. In Panauti municipality, after the community level need assessment, a 3 months (390 hours) long course on Community Livestock Training was identified. The course was a joint venture of ARD Jiri technical School (CETVT) and a local cooperative of Khushadevi, Panauti Municipality. The course ensured to produce lower a level of a technical workforce equipped with knowledge and skills related to livestock production and management occupation. 20 young men and women are aware on service related to social mobilization, livestock management, livestock health services, and entrepreneur development.

