

A Report on

Climate Change Awareness Program in Parbat, Myagdi and Mustang district

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Team Members

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Climate Change Awareness Program

Background

Nepal Climate Change Knowledge Management Center (NCCCKMC), since its establishment in 2010, is continuously disseminating climate change knowledge in different districts. Each year, targeting school students and teachers, the center organizes climate change awareness program in coordination with a local community school. The program is a part of annual program of the center which mainly focuses on disseminating climate change knowledge and finding actual knowledge type required by local people, students and teachers in regards to climate change science, impacts of climate change, adaptation and mitigation measures and national climate change planning and policies.

This year, the center organized the program in three districts of Gandaki Pradesh that includes Kushma, Parbat district on 09 June 2019, Beni, Myagdi district on 11 June 2019 and Jomsom, Mustang district on 14 June 2019. The Government of Nepal has categorized the three districts as moderately vulnerable districts to the impacts of climate change in its vulnerable assessment report published in 2010.

Objectives of the program

The program intended to disseminate climate change knowledge with school students and teachers. The main objectives of the program were:

- To share climate change knowledge among the school students and teachers who can be the conveyer of such knowledge for the local community
- To develop scientific understanding of climate change science that can be applied during teaching learning practices
- To share the Information, Educational and Communication (IEC) materials produced by Nepal Climate Change Knowledge Management Center (NCCCKMC)
- To understand the demand of resource types of climate change knowledge that can develop confident of students and teachers in understanding climate change science and climate change impacts along with adaptation and mitigation measures

Description of Program Activities

The program was organized in three districts of Gandaki State, Nepal that included Parbat, Myagdi and Mustang districts. The major activities in all three districts covered five common activities that were

- A) Consultation meeting with local coordinator
- B) Inauguration Session
- C) Poster Display and Discussion
- D) Climate Change Quiz
- E) Interaction and Documentary Show

The brief description of how all these activities were conducted is described briefly for each district.

A) Parbat district

In the afternoon of June 07, 2019 a team including Dr Bimala Devkota, Senior Scientific Officer, Mr Pawan Kumar Neupane, Scientific Officer, Mr Agni Dhakal, Chief Scientific Assistant and Mr Shrawan Giri, Admin Assistant from Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) led by Dr Bimala Devkota reached Shree Shiwalaya Secondary School, Kusma, Parbat, the local coordinator for organizing the program. The school arranged consultation meeting with the team and school teachers. The meeting agreed on the modality for conducting the Climate Change Awareness Program Scheduled on June 09, 2019.

Around 400 participants gathered in the roof top hall of the school in the afternoon of June 09, 2019. A dozen of colorful posters containing information on the science and impacts of climate change in Nepali language were displayed in the hall. Students from the coordinating and participating schools studied the posters and discussed with the team members of NAST. The inaugural session of the program started with the welcome speech from Mr Bhupendra Chapagai, Principal of the Shree



Shiwalaya Secondary School. The chief guest for the program Ms Sita Lamichhane, Deputy Mayor, Kushma Municipality inaugurated program. Ms Lamichhane viewed that the program will be helpful in understanding the global environmental issues along with climate change and students are the medium to share such information with local community. Dr Bimala Devkota, Senior Scientific Officer, NAST highlighted the objectives of the program. Chairperson of School Management Committee expressed his gratitude to NAST for organizing the program related to climate change at the school of his community. The participants of the program were teachers, local social workers, volunteers and the journalist.

After the inaugural session a Climate Change Quiz among the participants from 10 community schools, three students from each school with one girl student was organized in order to sensitize the students on climate change issues and develop some basic understanding of climate change science. Shree Narayan Secondary School bagged the first prize while Shree Himalya Secondary School and Janak Secondary School stood second and third respectively. All 10 participating community schools were awarded with the prizes that include educational materials, publications on climate change and certificates. The Winner, Runner-up and Runner team received cash prizes. Finally, NAST felicitated the school with Letter of Appreciation and a souvenir.

On the same day two interaction program with students and teachers were conducted. In the morning, Mr Pawan Kumar Neupane, Scientific Officer, NAST gave a brief presentation on global environmental issues and climate change. The participants were teachers and Bachelor level students of Management and Education faculties. In the afternoon after closing climate change quiz, Mr Agni Dhakal, Chief Scientific Assistant, NAST explained the science and impacts of climate change along with some adaptation measures. He also answered the questions raised by students and the teachers. Local FM station Radio Kushma had live broadcasted the program.

B) Myagdi district

The local coordinator of the climate change awareness program at Beni, Myagdi was Beni Community Secondary School. NAST team conducted a meeting with the program organizing committee of the school led by Head-teacher of the school, Mr Deepak Shrestha. The meeting finalized the program schedule and activities. In the morning of 11 July 2019, selected participants from private boarding schools later joined by the

participants from community schools observed the colorful posters carrying messages on climate change science, climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation measures in simple Nepali language. The posters had been displayed in the school premises. All the participants observed the informative posters



enthusiastically and asked the queries on climate science to the NAST team. After observing the posters all the participants gathered in a cozy hall of the school and watched a documentary on climate change. Mr Agni Dhakal, Chief Scientific Assistant, NAST facilitated the session and shared his knowledge with students.

In the afternoon, the inaugural session of the program was started at the premise of the school amidst a gathering including Chief District Officer, District Education Officer, Political leaders, members of School Management Committee, Principal, Teachers, Journalists and Students. The chief guest for the program was Mr Liladhar



Adhikari, Chief District Officer and Mr Naryan Bahadur Karki, Chairperson of School Management Committee chaired the program. Other guests for the program were Mr Rajendra Kumar Shrestha, Beni MP Ward-7 Chairperson, Mr Dal Bahadur Thapa, Chief, Education Development and Coordination Unit, and Mr Biswo Prakash Regmi, Education Officer, Beni Municipality. In the inaugural session, Dr Bimala Devkota highlighted the objectives of the program. Addressing the program Mr Rajendra Kumar Shrestha, Beni MP Ward-7 Chairperson urged that such program should be organized

for local policy makers and other schools in coordination with local bodies. The program was formally inaugurated by the chief guest of the program.

After the inaugural session, the one-day program managed to organize a Climate Change Quiz among nine schools. Three students with at least one being one girl student from each school were participated in the quiz. About 600 students and teachers from participating schools observed the quiz program



enthusiastically. Finally, prizes were distributed to the winner and participating teams of climate quiz. Prakash Secondary School bagged the first prize while Jamuna Secondary School and Pausalya Secondary School got second and third prizes. The prizes included cash prize, educational materials and publications on climate change. All the participating students also received certification of participation, educational materials and publications on climate change. The Chief District Officer, Chairperson of School Management Committee and Senior Scientific Officer, NAST gave the prizes. Finally, NAST felicitated the coordinating school with Letter of Appreciation and a souvenir.

In his remarks, Chief Guest for the program Mr Adhikari opined that climate change awareness program should be conducted in each and every remote villages of the country and expressed his gratitude to NAST for organizing the program targeting school students at Beni, Myagdi. Finally, Chairperson of School Management Committee, Mr Karki thanked NAST and expected future coordination with NAST for organizing such programs at local level. Local FM station Radio Myagdi had live broadcasted the program.

C) Mustang district

The Climate Change Awareness Program at Jomsom, Mustang had been selected for the program evaluation by Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST). The district was 60th district where such program was organized by NAST-NCCKMC since 2010. On 13 June 2019 the team from NAST-NCCKMC holds a meeting with District

Education and Development Coordination Unit, the local coordinator for the program and Shree Janahit Secondary School, the local manager for the program and discussed on the one-day program activities scheduled at Jomsom, Mustang.

During the morning at Jomsom, south gusty wind usually prevails. So, the students from Janahit Secondary School selected an appropriate place to display the climate change posters in the morning of 14 June 2019. The students arranged the posters in such a way that wind has minimal disturbances in reading the



posters. In the afternoon, students and teachers from five participating schools and about 200 students from Shree Janahit Secondary School gathered at a cozy hall of the school. The program evaluation team with team members Ms Jaishree Sijapati, Chief, Faculty of Science, Mr Niranjana Kumar Acharya, Chief, Personnel Division and Ms Neesha Rana, Chief, Planning and Evaluation Division also joined the program.

Amidst the gathering of about 300 participants Mr Rajendra Sherchan, Deputy Chief, District Coordination Committee and the chief guest for the program inaugurated the program by reading the program banner. The other guests for the program were Mr Aash Bahadur Thakali, Chief, Gharapjhong Rural Municipality, Ms Sharmila Gurung, Deputy Chief, Gharapjhong Rural Municipality and Mr Tanka Raj Baral, Chief, District Education and Development Coordination Unit.



The inaugural session was chaired by Mr Ramesh Bhattachan, Chairperson, School Management Committee. Addressing the program the chief guest for the program expressed his gratitude towards NAST for organizing the valuable program in the Himalaya district of the country. He opined that even the climate change is global issue people are not getting information and knowledge on climate change. Sharing his experience of participation on climate change organized at Gufadada, Sindhupalchowk a few months earlier he stated that knowledge about climate change should be shared with school students who are the future pillars of the country. Dr Bimala Devkota, Senior Scientific Officer, NAST highlighted the objectives of the program while Ms. Neesha Rana, Chief, Planning and Evaluation Division highlighted the impacts of climate change in higher himalaya and the research works that are being conducted by NAST.

Climate Change Quiz among five schools developed enthusiasm among the students and teachers. Three students with at least one being one girl student from each school were participated in the quiz. In the quiz, Shree Janahit Secondary School bagged the first prize while Shree Jana Adarsha Amarsingha Secondary School and Shree Ganodaya Secondary School got second and third prizes. Finally, prizes including cash prize, educational materials, certificate of participation and publications on climate change were distributed to the winner and participating teams. The chief guest, chairperson of School Management Committee and Senior Scientific Officer, NAST gave the prizes. NAST felicitated the local manager and coordinator with Letter of Appreciation and a souvenir. Finally, the principal of the school, Mr. Ramchandra Adhikari thanked NAST for organizing the Climate Change Awareness Program and expressed his willingness to support NAST in organizing such program in coming days.

List of Schools Participated in the Program

Prabat

1. Shree Sarbajanik Secondary School
2. Shree Biswojyoti Technical Secondary School
3. Shree Shiwalaya Secondary School
4. Shree Mangaloday Secondary School
5. Shree Kafalchaur Secondary School
6. Birendra Secondary School
7. Narayan Secondary School
8. Janak Secondary School
9. Purneshwor Secondary School
10. Himalaya Secondary School

Myagdi

1. Shree Rastriya Secondary School
2. Shee Prakash Secondary School
3. Beni Community Secondary School
4. Pausalya Secondary School
5. Shree Jamuna Kharka Secondary School
6. Dhaulagiri Secondary School
7. Gyaneshwor Secondary School
8. Bhanu Secondary School
9. Shree Saraswoti Secondary School

Mustang

1. Shree Janabal Secondary School
2. Shree Ganodhaya Secondary School
3. Shree Jana Adarsha Amarsingha Secondary School
4. Shree Janahit Secondary School
5. Shree Yogendra Secondary School