

# GOVERNANCE

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## Nepal's Education Bill Proposed After Eight Years Sparks Debate

WEEKLY

Photo by The Kathmandu Post

In a significant development for Nepal's education system, the long-awaited education bill has finally been proposed in the House of Parliament. This monumental achievement comes after eight years of relentless efforts and several failed attempts. The bill, built upon the foundation of the first Education Act of 1971, seeks to modernize and reform the education landscape in Nepal. However, it has sparked heated debates due to several salient features that have come under scrutiny.

- The provision mandating schools to operate under trusts within a five-year time frame has been removed. Now, it is at the discretion of private schools to operate under trust or not. However, any new registration should operate under the trusts.
- The new bill allows private schools to charge fees, which the National Campaign for Education (NCE) has mentioned is in contradiction to the Constitution's Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act. This discrepancy would necessitate an amendment to either the Constitution or the way private schools operate.
- The bill gives local units full authority to establish and operate schools after the manifestation of necessary resources. On the one hand, the bill empowers the local units as envisioned in the constitution, but by proposing to revive the district-level Education Offices, the federal government has shown it is unwilling to give up power easily.
- The bill fails to establish minimum criteria for the establishment of schools. Without these criteria, there are concerns that the proliferation of substandard educational institutions could hinder the overall quality of education in the country.

While the bill has significant drawbacks, there are some noteworthy mentions that could positively impact the education landscape of Nepal if implemented successfully:

- The bill introduces strict regulations governing teacher conduct and departmental proceedings explicitly prohibiting teachers from joining any political parties or activities that could compromise examination integrity.
- The bill aims to streamline the educational assessment process at different levels. It stipulates that local governments will oversee the class 8 examinations while schools will manage the class 10 examinations. The class 12 examinations, on the other hand, will be overseen by the National Education Board.

The fate of this education bill hinges on policymakers' ability to address these concerns and craft a comprehensive education framework that resonates with the aspirations of the Nepali people. As debates continue, the nation awaits the outcome of this pivotal legislative proposal that could shape the future of education in Nepal.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

### Governance Issues of the Week

1. The Provincial Assembly of Sudurpaschim Province has come to a standstill as it has been unable to conduct any legislative business for over eight months since its formation. Despite convening 22 sessions and spending NRS. 35 million for providing meeting allowance during this period, the Assembly's primary function of enacting laws has been put on hold, causing growing dissatisfaction among its members.  
Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
2. In the first month of the current fiscal year 2080/81, Nepal has witnessed a significant increase in remittances from migrant workers, totaling one trillion 16 billion rupees. This marks a substantial rise of 25.8 percent compared to the same period in the previous year.  
Read more: [Nagarik](#)
3. The government has issued a directive prohibiting the use of 103 types of antibiotics, in line with recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO) and efforts to minimize antibiotic resistance. The Department of Drug Administration (DDA) in Nepal has developed a national action plan to combat antibiotic resistance, emphasizing that these antibiotics will neither be registered nor permitted for use.  
Read more: [The Himalayan Times](#)
4. In a sharp decline, 33,000 fewer Nepali youths sought foreign employment in the second month of the fiscal year 2080/81 compared to the previous year. The drop is mainly due to global economic slowdown and reduced demand amidst COVID-19 restrictions. The United Arab Emirates remains the top destination for foreign employment.  
Read more: [Online Khabar](#)
5. The State Affairs and Good Governance Committee of the House of Representatives has directed the government to return security personnel, drivers, and cooks given to specific individuals against the norms within 15 days. The decision also includes instructions to send reports on the number of vehicles used in excess of the prescribed limits by government ministers and officials.  
Read more: [EKantipur](#)
6. Nepal's Ministry of Home Affairs has issued new directives for police clearance certificates, allowing leniency for individuals with minor offenses. Under Article (9) of the directive, those acquitted, convicted of minor offenses, or facing pending cases can obtain police clearance without mentioning their previous convictions. This change aims to benefit foreign job seekers, students, job applicants, and NGOs, reducing the processing time to five working days.  
Read more: [The Himalayan Times](#)

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Our return e-mailing address is:

[nepal@accountabilitylab.org](mailto:nepal@accountabilitylab.org)