



Teachers in Pokhara

Teachers Conference

2019

“A conference to empower teachers and administrators to help modernize and bring Nepalese education into the 21st century”

The Pokhara Declaration

This declaration was agreed upon by the of educators of the Teachers in Pokhara (TIP) Teachers Conference, 2019, including members of the NFORSDT foundation, KarmaFlights Foundation, the Professors of KPZ University, and in collaboration with the private sectors and government sectors, **in order to uplift the quality of education in Nepal.**



As educators, we agree to:

1. **Invest in our teachers: better teachers, best future.** Developing good textbooks, materials, and technology is important, but they are useless unless there is someone who can effectively impart that knowledge and skills upon the next generation.
2. **Adapt to the unique needs of individual classrooms and students because students' success is the ultimate goal.** Each child learns differently so we need to implement a variety of methods of teaching in both practical and theoretical ways. Furthermore we need to be aware of each student's needs so that we can support them when it is most needed.
3. **Embrace collaboration to provide useful resources and improve the experience of students and teachers in the Nepali classroom.** Every country, region, town, school and classroom is different and every child has different needs, but we can still learn from others around the world. We must share our knowledge between institutions and educators so that our children receive the best education that they can get, and become responsible and respectful adults who contribute positively to society.
4. **Cultivate desire for learning in all aspects of the students lives by creating a moral community in the classroom that can be extended to the home and the workplace.** We are ultimately connected with everyone in the world in some way, whether it's your neighbour, your country or someone from the other side of the world. We are all responsible for each other as we all are inhabitants of the earth. This moral learning begins at home and continues through school and the rest of their lives so it is essential that we provide the foundation for them to become moral citizens.
5. **Not diminish the value of ancestral knowledge and learning systems.** Nepal's history of sustainable and rich agriculture and life skills is immensely valuable knowledge, and despite changing priorities in education, these skills are still relevant. Cultural knowledge is gold and should be taught in schools.
6. **Use curricula as important guidelines but develop and adapt them in collaboration with each other to suit the particular context of**

each classroom. Curricula are important within the school however they need to be delivered by the educators and not by the government. The teachers and educators are those with the knowledge of what is needed in each location and how to implement them.

7. **Correct students in a constructive way, so that teachers are role models of a moral and positive community and a constructive learning environment.** Corporal punishment must be justified, and it NEVER can be justified. The relationship between students and teachers must be built on trust to be successful, and any violence abolishes this trust.
8. **Embrace global educational breakthroughs and technology while adapting it to the cultural context and needs of Nepal and its students.** Global economics, politics and technology are hugely impacting education and we must embrace it so that we can bring global information into Nepal and making it locally relevant. Technology can be a powerful tool when used appropriately and effectively.
9. **Develop alternative, positive assessment methods that foster a healthy attitude towards education, encourage students to succeed, and allow accurate understanding of students' progress.** Examinations are necessary for gauging some learning and skills however exams cause stress and are not always the most effect way of determining a student's progress. We must adapt assessment strategies to the needs of all students. In order to foster emotionally intelligent and creative students we must encourage them to use a variety of strategies for learning and retaining information.
10. **Adapt teaching methods to 21st Century technology by developing sophisticated IT resources while analysing how they fit into the classroom.** In the 21st Century, technology has become an essential medium through which learning can take place. It can provide a vast amount of information as well as allowing distance learning and connecting with students from other cultures. However it must be used carefully, and is not universally applicable. The content of a lesson must be determined before deciding whether using technology is relevant to what you are teaching.

11. **As a principal, you are a role model in learning and bringing change**
12. **As joint leaders, we want to build change capacity in Gandaki Province and the whole of Nepal by organizing trainings, workshops, and sharing practices in peer-to-peer interaction.**
13. **As leaders in education we should provide a clear vision on a desired future for our children.** It should inspire the whole school community and provide that community with a clear focus on feasible goals that all children benefit from.
14. **As leaders in education we agreed to collaborate with the private sectors and government sectors to uplift the quality of education in Nepal.**
15. **This declaration is the beginning of an ongoing dialogue and as educators we are committed to continuing the conversation.**