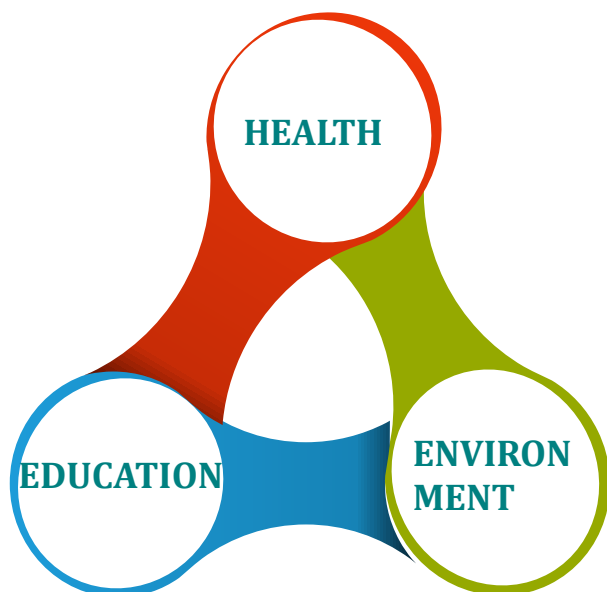


Health, Education, and Environment (HEE) Program

NDRI has identified Health, Education, and Environment as fundamental aspects of development that are interdependent. As such, it has established a separate program for these areas, known as Health, Education, and Environment, as one of its Thematic Areas. The research activities on these themes complement and supplement each other, and NDRI is committed to conducting research to further understanding and progress in these critical areas.



Nepal has committed to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) milestones in all these three sectors. NDRI aims to facilitate the committed goals in all these sectors viz. Good Health and Well-being (Goal-3), Quality Education (Goal-4), and Clean Water and Sanitation (Goal-6).

Our Thematic Areas

Health

The prioritization of health, the establishment of a health security system (such as health insurance), adopting a One Health approach, and addressing mental health are critical areas where state mechanisms, including concerned ministries and authorities, need to focus their attention. However, there are other important sectors, such as health tourism and occupational health and safety (OHS) that have not yet been fully explored and developed. Additionally, the lack of adequate policies and guidelines, as well as compliance monitoring systems, have been a major concern for NDRI. To address these issues, NDRI has undertaken several research projects and provided research services to the Government of Nepal, UN systems, INGOs, and other stakeholders.

At present, NDRI is conducting an exemplary project in Tobacco-economics in collaboration with Cancer Research-UK (CRUK) and Kivu International (UK). The program's major components include generating evidence through research, producing knowledge products from primary and secondary research, and policy advocacy. This tobacco control program aims to reconcile tobacco tax and formulate other necessary policies to control tobacco use in Nepal, which has paradoxical statistics such as the highest mortality rates from tobacco-induced diseases and being one of the countries with the lowest tobacco tax rates.

Education

Despite state intervention priorities, Nepal still has a low literacy rate of 75%. Although there is an inevitable transformation in the education system, there are emerging concerns regarding the new education system. The changed context does not address the need for the human capital of Nepal, with publicly managed education institutions transforming into private sector entities that focus on commercialization. Additionally, there is a significant outflow of students going overseas due to poor education qualities and a lack of an academic calendar, and the percentage of returnees to Nepal after their graduation from foreign universities is very low.

NDRI aims to advocate for quality education and retain quality knowledgeable people in the country. This includes introducing effective contemporary pedagogy customized for the needs of Nepal, implementing quality assurance and quality control systems, and supporting education systems remotely, particularly through the use of IT services.

Environment

The environmental issues in Nepal are two-fold: first, caused by local activities such as rampant development; and second, caused by regional and global phenomena such as climate change. The main reasons for the deterioration of the local environment are the lack of awareness and education, poorly regulated development activities, policies and regulations, and resource constraints.

Nepal faces environmental issues from both local activities, such as uncontrolled development, and regional/global phenomena, such as climate change. The lack of awareness and education, poorly regulated development activities, policies, regulations, and resource constraints contribute to the deterioration of the local environment. Moreover, Nepal's inadequate negotiating capacity for justice and lack of diplomacy in dealing with international development agencies hinder the country's ability to address transboundary environmental issues. NDRI is actively engaged in generating solid evidence on the impact of climate change in Nepal across various sectors. Additionally, the institute is involved in researching sustainable solid waste management in Nepal.

Collaboration

NDRI invites all interested collaborators to explore the areas of common interest and execute policy research.

Core Team

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