

Integration of local language and culture into the education policy and programmes of Nepal.

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This paper attempts to describe the need, status and strategies for integrating local languages and cultures into education policies and programmes in the context of Nepal. The paper begins with a brief discussion on the relationship of language and culture in the everyday life of the community and the need of integration for identity, understanding and development of communities who speak local languages and share the same cultures. The paper describes the multilingual and multicultural status of Nepal where about 100 ethnic and caste groups speak more than 100 languages and dialects. The topography and environment of the country also contribute to differences in the linguistic behaviour and cultural practices of the people. As languages are verbal expressions of differing cultures, the use of their languages helps to shape their educational development in their beginning years. In Nepal, governmental and some non-governmental organizations have been preparing materials in different languages. But we need to meet the need of the local people to develop the ways and means for integrating their languages and cultures effectively into the educational policies and programmes of the country.

The last section of the paper deals with the strategies and programmes which can be implemented for integrating local languages and cultures in education to meet the goals of Universal Primary Education. Finally, suggestions are made for the development of strategies for meeting the challenges of achieving the goals of development by integrating the local languages and cultures more effectively.