

Innovative Practice 2015: Nepal/ Action on Disability Rights And Development (199)

**Accessible textbooks for all blind students using
Android technology**

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SUMMARY OF PROJECT

Title:

"enhancing learning Capabilities of students with print and visual disabilities" (ELECTS)

Mission:

To establish and promote the use of latest ICT accessible for the students with visual disabilities providing freely the digital books, ensuring learning outcomes of the end-users by supply of ANDROID device for playback.

Project Objectives:

- promoted the use of latest ICT accessible for the students applying DAISY and Epub platforms
- ensured learning outcomes of the end-users among students with visual disabilities.
- develop school level digital books in both Nepali and English Language
- distributed free of cost and supplied ANDROID device.
- "Promoting accessible ICT in making rights real for persons with disabilities!"

Project result:

- 140 fully accessible books were produced which are used by 1500 students with visual impairments and print disabilities
- 100 students with visual disabilities using the "Android" devices and it is planned to expand the use of this device for 500 additional students
- 10 000 students orientated about the use of accessible books in DAISY and Epub platform.

Problem Targeted:

- There are no accessible digital platforms within the libraries of public schools in Nepal,
- Thousands of students with visual and print disabilities are deprived,
- There is nominal support for providing Braille books only for compulsory subjects
- Quality education with accessible textbooks and curricula are not available.
- Knowledge and practice of using playback device is not usual.

Critical gaps in accessible ICT

- There is no Non-text book production in accessible format
- There is no online distribution system or any other proper mechanism distribution of accessible books
- Students do not have assistive technology for reading accessible digital books.
- None of the students have daisy players
- Negligible number of students has smart phones with voice applications.

SOLUTION & METHODOLOGY

- ADRAD initiated the production of accessible books,
- An exciting development for promoting inclusive education.
- Enable persons with Visual disabilities to read content at the same time and convenience and at no higher cost
- ADRAD has adopted the playback function of devices that use Android and produced orientation toolkit for easy usage.

Opportunity with this innovation

- A collection of audio books and accessible e-text books in the library are available.
- The private publishers are trained to provide their books in digital accessible format (EPUB).
- The students with an Android device can read the accessible books.
- Though inclusive education policy not endorsed,
- students with visual and print disabilities across the country have an opportunity to access the books and curriculum.

Capacity Enhancement

- All together 376 students capacitated
- 100 students have been trained about the use of ANDROID playback device (Tablet).
- 23 most useful applications for playback orientated
- Government departments: 5 officers
- Publishers (commercial and governmental): 5 technical persons
- NGOs: 25 persons working in publication
- Schools: teachers 11.

OUTLOOK & TRANSFERABILITY

- The user's toolkit for Accessible books to be developed
- This resource document will be made available to 10,000 students with disabilities in accessible format.
- Orientation training to be conducted in 15 more remote districts including 14 Earthquake affected districts in Nepal,
- Furthermore, 140 more accessible books in Nepali language will be developed and made available online next year.