

# SISM2 UPDATE



The Project for Support for Improvement of School Management Phase-II

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## SISM2: AN INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT THROUGH SIP FOR QUALITY BASIC EDUCATION

*Mr. Jaya Prasad Acharya  
Deputy Director, Program & Budget Section, DoE*

A long run School Sector Reform Plan (SSRP 2009-2015) is initiated to achieve the goals and objectives of Education for All, a National Plan of Action since 2000. It emphasizes on access to quality education, increased number of the students in the school, improvement of learning achievement, teacher's professional development, availability of textbooks and teaching materials and better teaching environment, among others.

In order to achieve these goals and objectives, Department of Education (DoE) has carried out various policy measures in collaboration with development partners. SISM2 project also supports the area of capacity development in school management, using school improvement plan (SIP) as a tool to revitalize various stakeholders from the central to the school level. The project adopted a 4-layer cascade training model to train the trainers from: 1) Central; 2) District; 3) Resource Center (RC); and 4) School with comprehensive training materials on SIP preparation and updating in the 4 testing districts, namely, Solukhumbu, Rupandehi, Doti and Jumla.

A technical training team for trainers' training (T5) of DoE/National Center for Education Development (NCED)/Curriculum Development Center (CDC) is formed to design the training package with technical support from SISM2. Likewise training materials such as school-level workshop manual, school self-assessment (SSA) check list and revised SIP Formulation Guidebook were prepared and distributed to all 1185 schools. The T5 members supported the district level trainers' training and monitored RC-level Training in selected testing districts.

Based on my observation of the follow-up workshop of SISM2 project in Rasuwa, it was found that the school management committee (SMC) members and parents were aware on the concept, importance and procedures of SIP preparation and updating. The community people were also found motivated for active participation in the SIP preparation. They shared the experiences that SIP is for the benefit of their children. The head teachers told that after the training parents started to visit their children's schools regularly to know the children's attendance and learning achievement.

It is indicated that capacity development for school management through cascade training from Central-level to School-level and practicing monitoring and guidance will yield a more feasible model to reactivate SIP as effective tool for quality basic education.



## SISM2 IN RUPANDEHI

*Mr. Thaneshwor Gyanwali,  
Assistant DEO, DEO Rupandehi*

Although SIP was initiated about 13 years ago, it needs to be updated annually with reviewing and analyzing changing context. The capacity building of SIP formulation was also done in different ways and model. In the beginning, a 6-day training for SMC chairpersons and head teachers was conducted. Later on two sessions of SIP formulation and updating topics were included to strengthen the capacity of the SMC/PTA members. However, the outcome and effectiveness of such training remained ambiguous.

Considering these facts, the SISM model, developed through the pilot project launched in Rasuwa and Dhading, was tested in Rupandehi DEO in the first year of SISM2 project. The preliminary findings of the SISM model are as follows.

- 3-day SIP training was conducted at all resource centers of Rupandehi DEO. Similarly, for the first time, 2-day school-level workshop (SLW) on SIP was carried out in each school where SMC/PTA members, Head Teacher and teachers actively took part. The discussion was focused on strategic action plan in achieving the goal of quality education to all.
- In the past SIP was developed without information and participation of the stakeholders. But now, it is prepared with active participation of all stakeholders. The parents and SMC members realized SIP as a base of improving the quality education that addresses the good future of their children.
- The SSA checklist exercise, analysis of students' and teachers' attendance record, learning achievement exercises were recognized and established as very important and crucial components of the workshop. These exercises empowered and enabled them to put forward concrete ways to make the SIP simple and practical.
- As a result, Janapriya Secondary School of Bhaluhi, Devdaha identified some activities in SIP such as day meals, computer training classes, provision of exercise books, pens, pencils, and books to students. The school then succeeded in generating NRP300,000 for above mentioned activities from the local inhabitants.
- The parents realized that the school does not

belong only to teacher and SMC members but parents, students and community members should also get involved in the formulation of SIP for betterment of the school. Thus parents are now frequently visiting their children's school and get the necessary information as well. Likewise, resource persons, school supervisors and other officers of DEO do visit the school regularly for monitoring and follow-up, which has become effective.



*SLW at Janta Sec. School in Rupandehi*

## IMPROVEMENT OF SCHOOL MANAGEMENT THROUGH SIP IN DEO SOLUKHUMBU

*Mr. Dhana Bahadur Shrestha  
Section Officer, DEO Solukhumbu*

A cascade training model of capacity development SISM2 introduced is a success to prepare SIP for holistic development of the school. With technical support of SISM2 project DEO Solukhumbu conducted District-level trainers' training and RC-level training by the end of May. A 2-day school-level workshop on SIP formulation are currently going on and will be completed by the end of June 2014.

There has been gradual improvement of the understanding that SIP is neither a formality for obtaining the regular budget from DEO nor an extra burden to stakeholders of the school. This cascade training model is designed specifically for SIP and it is found more practical. It made all participants clear on the concept, importance and procedure of SIP. All participants of the training realized that the training package is relevant and it covers the topics well. It was found that the training schedule, revised and simplified school self-assessment checklist, SIP Formulation Guidebook, RC-level training manual and SLW manual were also well prepared and effective.

There are some reflections made on SIP and its cascade training at the different level of training and workshop as follows:



SLW at Jana Jagriti Primary School, Solukhumbu

- SIP is for the holistic development of our own school;
- The participants realized that several educational activities can be initiated with no or low budget;
- There has been active participation of primary stakeholders of school;
- The stakeholders of the school are convinced that SIP is more realistic and easily implementable when it is prepared based on the SSA;
- The participants are very enthusiastic and satisfied with the contents and schedule of the training;
- The duration of the SIP formulation training and workshop is too short; and
- Moderate incentive should be provided and financial procedures should be simplified.

## WRAP-UP WORKSHOP OF SISM2

*Mr. Bishnu Prasad Acharya  
Chief Project Officer, SISM2*

SISM2 organized one day Wrap-Up Workshop in each of the SISM2 testing districts, namely, Rupandehi, Jumla, Doti and Solukhumbu, during May and June 2014. The objectives of the workshop were to review and share the experiences about what we have learned through SISM2 cascade training and SIP formulation process, and to critically look at the cascade training program and extract the lessons to be reflected for the improvement of the training program for the national/regional dissemination. All School Supervisors (SSs), Resource Persons (RPs) and selected Head Teachers and SMC Chairpersons (SMC-C) participated in the workshop.



Wrap-up Workshop in Jumla

The Workshop was found instrumental to reflect the cascade training and to draw learning for improvement of the SISM2 cascade training. The major outcomes of the workshop are as follows:

- (1) Many participants mentioned that cascade training is necessary to re-vitalize the SIP processes;
- (2) District-level stakeholders critically reviewed the strengths and the weaknesses of the cascade training, and they provided concrete suggestions and feedbacks to make training materials simpler and more users friendly; and
- (3) Action Plans for the continuation of SIP updating have been made at all three levels, namely, DEO, RC and school.

The following table shows the outline of the wrap-up workshop in each testing district.

Districts	Date	Participants				Total
		DEO Staff	ETC	RP	HT and SMC-C	
Rupandehi	12 May 2014	10	0	10	5	25
Jumla	18 May 2014	6	1	10	8	25
Doti	20 May 2014	7	0	16	8	31
Solukhumbu	27 June 2014	3	0	12	3	18
	<b>Total</b>	26	1	48	24	99

## INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND TRAINING IN JAPAN

*Mr. Kamal P. Pokhrel,  
Director, Planning and Monitoring Division, DoE*

SISM2 organized a 9-day Information Exchange and Training in Japan from May 31 to June 8, 2014. Altogether 11 government officers participated in the event. I had an opportunity to participate in the training as a Team Leader of the Nepalese team.

The objectives of the Training were: to visit and discuss the system, role and activities of the SMC of public schools and the School Support Division of the Ward/Municipality Education Board; to share the progress and the experiences of the SISM2 Model Testing with JICA headquarter (HQ); to improve mutual understanding among the SISM2 key counterparts from MoE/DoE of Nepal, JICA HQ officers and the SISM2 project members through sharing information and discussion on the achievements and progress of the SSRP; Nepal-Japan collaboration in basic education development.

We visited various agencies i.e. IDCJ, an implementing agency of SISM2, Sanya Primary School, one of the active Community Schools in Suginami-ku, JICA HQ, University of Tokyo, Science Museum, and Edo-Tokyo Historical Museum. The program was impressive and created formal and informal forum for sharing, learning and reflecting

upon the Japanese and Nepalese education management system, decentralization and micro-planning, school operation procedures, and university education system. We witnessed Japan's incomparable progress in infrastructure development, information technology and economic growth.

The achievements, issues, future action plan and



*School visit during Counterpart Training*

funding mechanism of SISM2 were discussed as well as the possibilities of adopting the SSRP pool funding, which will be Instrumental for the development of Nepalese education system. Such exposure visit and exchange program imparts knowledge, technology and skill to the participants, who are committed to bring the benefit to schools and children in Nepal.

### COMPLETED ACTIVITIES (MARCH – MAY 2014)

No.	Activity	Month	Place
1	RC-level Training	March 2014	Solukhumbu and Jumla
2	School-level Workshop for SIP Formulation & Updating	April 2014	Rupandehi, Jumla, Doti and Solukhumbu
3	4 <sup>th</sup> TTT Meeting	March 2014	DoE, Sanothimi
4	Follow-up Activity in Rasuwa and Dhading	March 2014	Rasuwa and Dhading
5	Endline Survey for Testing and Baseline Survey for Regional/National Dissemination	April - May 2014	11 SISM2 program districts
6	Wrap-up Workshop of SISM2 Testing	May – June 2014	Rupandehi, Jumla, Doti and Solukhumbu
7	Information Exchange and Training in Japan	May - June 2014	Japan

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES (JUNE – JULY 2014)

No.	Activity	Month	Place
1	Workshop on SIP Training Manual	June 2014	NCED Sanothimi
2	Wrap-up Meeting in SISM2 Follow-up Districts	July 2014	Rasuwa and Dhading
3	2 <sup>nd</sup> CC Meeting and Testing Result Sharing Workshop	July 2014	MoE, Kathmandu