

**Brief Evaluation on
After School Support Project
Implemented by
United Community Nepal (UniCoN)**

**Submitted to
United Community Nepal
Pokhara, Nepal**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UniCoN is a Pokhara-based NGO dedicated in improving the lives and living standards of disadvantaged children, youth and their families. Established in January 2020, UniCoN's actions are oriented towards assisting such children and young people, through the programs and services that they feel RIGHT for them, in making their hopes and dreams come true. The two-year project was evaluated by visiting the direct beneficiaries and stakeholders of Pokhara district. Secondary data were analyzed as per the requirement agreed in the project agreement and Focused Group Discussion, In-depth Interview, Interaction, Observation and Key Informant Interview was conducted to collect the primary data.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Secondary data were analyzed and primary data were collected by visiting sampling population – schools, teachers, children, office and government officials. KII, FGD, IDI and Observation were the main tools used by team to collect the purposeful data.

EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAM

The project on After School Support was implemented in 6 Communities of Kaski district. The project has basically focused on fulfilling the learning gap of the children affected by COVID-19 lock down especially from the slum communities. The project focused on after school learning sessions facilitated by community facilitator. Teaching methods, extra-curricular activities, child protection, and awareness promotion programs in those target communities were special highlights. Strategically, it has coordinated with schools, communities, Pokhara Metropolitan City for implementation of the project activities. Trainings after the feedback from stakeholder while child clubs and other activities were more focused to promote the child protection and leadership enhancement of children. The educational program has supported to decrease the dropout rate at school significantly and promote the regular attendance of children in schools. The involvement child clubs at child right and child protection have cultivated the leadership among school going-children. They are able to express their feeling in front of mass. Though it has not covered the child friendly framework (2010) as developed by Ministry of Education, Government of Nepal. From the financial points of view, the actual budget was expensed to the beneficiaries directly. The admin cost and program cost is within standard limit of budget disbursement.

RELEVANCY

The After School Support, providing scholarship, campaign & advocacy through child clubs on child right and child protection, advocacy and educational program through community awareness program, and linkages and network development of schools and communities were the activities carried by the organization. As per Sustainable Development Goal 2030, the designed activities are partially relevant to contribute the goal of the project, that is, teaching methods, and child protection while community participation, extra-curricular activities, teaching

observation, and inclusiveness are the strong point of the project. The project promotes the access to education and is a fundamental Right of every child.

EFFECTIVENESS

Among the activities the extra-curricular was effective to promote the child rights and child protection with the development of leadership children. The community learning program has to make the effective community learning environment along with creating the enough space for teaching and learning activities along with extra-curricular activities. Regardless of partial coverage of the full fledged program, they are effective to achieve the target goal and objectives.

EFFICIENCY

Providing teaching learning materials, play materials, sitting arrangements, attractive learning space with print reachable, books for children, school materials support and facilitators training found efficient considering mobilization of resources and timely delivered. The community space also efficiently creates the multiple effects on creation of positive environment on of teaching and learning environment at communities for large number of students. In discussion with them, the students and facilitators are performing better in new environment. Further while reviewing the documents, it was found that the learning program was more efficient to address the priority of Municipality and community aligned to matching fund.

IMPACT

The evaluation team found development of leadership of children with the capacity of public speaking, creating the learning environment at communities, raising children's issues in school regarding child right and child protection, practicing of multiple teaching methods at teaching and increasing retention rate and decreasing the dropout rate of children and improved learning outcomes were the notable impact of this project.

TRANSPARENCY

In the case of transparency, the organization has practiced the sharing and publishing the detail program, its income and expenses along with taking feedbacks from concerned stakeholders. It was found the accountability mechanism in place.

SUSTAINABILITY

From the sustainability perspective, the following points were identified in the course of discussion with target stakeholders and beneficiaries: joint monitoring of the project's activities with the involvement of line agencies has provided the opportunities to line agency to be more accountable in learning program, the knowledge on child protection and child right dissemination through extra-curricular activities with the involvement of child club is sustainable to disseminate the knowledge, and practices in this regard and the training knowledge is

replicable in the respective school's classroom teaching. However, it is still necessary to involvement target beneficiaries to ensure the ownership of the program in overall project cycle management. The program found a bit scattered which is challenging to assure the sustainability of the project in long run.

COORDINATION

In the light of coordination, it was found that joint monitoring with the involvement of line agencies. Moreover, the organization has the shared program detail and improved the further program based on the given feedbacks in Municipal Project Advisory Committee (MPAC) meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings, the evaluation team would like to recommend the following points based on the defined outcome, output and inputs for mentioned project for the further improvement:

- Though the goal of the project is to fulfill the learning gap of the children, it is recommended to design the project as defined by child friendly framework as developed by Ministry of Education. And make sure, all the plans will be based on framework of “Child Friendly Learning Environment”.
- It is recommended to practice of proper social audit to ensure the transparency among the stakeholders.
- Recommended to enlist all major achievements annually so that target beneficiaries and supporting staff would be familiar with project log frame.
- Coordinate and proper use of training center of municipality – which would reduce any duplication.
- For the sustainability of the good practices, it is recommended for the developing the sustainability plan with exist strategy.
- The educational program lacks the parental education as children are not getting support in the extra-curricular activities. It is better to promote the parental education.
- For the sustainability, it is recommended for the community engagement at school including teaching and learning activities.
- It is necessary to have coordination among the like-minded organization for promoting the multi-sector approach.
- As per the suggestions of children, it is recommended to continue the program for promoting awareness among parents and community through community center with more digital resources.
- Recommended to involve representatives while procuring any items so that the target community can take the ownership from the inception.