

Gender mainstreaming in Nepal: Policy and practices

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This report examines the efforts undertaken by Nepal for incorporating gender mainstreaming policies and practices in its plans and programs and assesses the overall level of performance in gender mainstreaming and promoting gender equality in the country. The United Nations Fourth World Conference (UNFWC) on women held in Beijing in 1995 adopted a 'Platform for Action,' which called on governments and other actors to promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programs of their country, so that an analysis is made of the effects on women and men before any program or decision is undertaken. Even though the conference gave no specific guidelines, many countries have adopted national plans for gender mainstreaming.

Nepal has already ratified the 1979 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the 1996 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). However, the country is facing difficulties in successful creation of an inclusive democracy with nondiscrimination, equality, and protection of human rights. After ten years of armed conflict and the popular movement of 2006, Nepal has again committed to address these issues through the preamble of Interim Constitution of 2007. The interim constitution promises to progressive restructuring of the country to resolve problems associated with discriminations on the basis of gender, race, caste and religion. But, the country struggles to attend to these issues fully owing to the absence of a permanent constitution and owing to the ongoing political upheavals. This paper will explore the scope of gender mainstreaming in Nepal and its implications to policies and practices using data from the Nepalese Living Standards Surveys 1996, 2004, and 2010.