

Global Action Week for Education - Accountability for SDG 4 through Citizen Participation

22-28 April 2018

The Global Campaign for Education's (GCE) Global Action Week for Education (GAWE) is one of the major focal points for the education movement. It provides every national and regional education campaign with an opportunity to highlight salient issues on the right to education and the SDG 4 agenda - making targeted efforts to achieve change on the ground, with the added support of education campaigners and millions of members of the public worldwide joining together for the same cause.

This year's GAWE followed up on last year's theme of accountability for SDG 4 and active citizen participation. GAWE 2018, entitled, '*Accountability for SDG 4 through Citizen Participation*', continued focusing on holding governments and the international community to account for implementing the full SDG 4 agenda – asking governments to “Keep Your Promises”.

After the Global Partnership for Education's (GPE) Financing Conference at the start of 2018, where developing country governments, donor countries, and various partners pledged to increase funds to education, it is time for governments to prove they are actually working towards financing public, equitable, inclusive, and free education – it is time to act. Pledges made towards funding SDG 4 must be implemented effectively, ensuring that children and adults around the world can receive quality public education.

To ensure governments deliver on the SDG 4 promise, citizens must play their part in holding them to account for it. For this, citizen and civil society participation must be institutionalised in decision-making processes which impact on their lives. Yet, in too many countries, the voice of citizens is being stifled; across all regions of the world, certain national governments have taken aggressive actions to shrink civil society spaces, from restrictions on funding, repression of 'political activity' or protest, and even direct criminalisation of civil society activity.

In this year's GAWE therefore, the Global Campaign for Education and its partners world-wide called on governments to -

- Develop credible roadmaps for implementation of the full SDG4 agenda, with clear mechanisms for transparency, allowing for active meaningful participation of civil society.
- Halt the criminalisation and shrinking of civil society spaces, both nationally and internationally.
- Strengthen public systems and state capacities to ensure that education is free, of good quality, and equitable and reject turning towards low fee “affordable” private schooling as an answer to the education crisis.

Here is a photo collage of how GAWE 2018 was celebrated by ASPBAE's members in the region –



Members of the Afghanistan National Education Coalition (ANEC) releasing a GAWE 2018 poster at a press conference in Kabul.

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GAWE 2018 poster by the Afghanistan National Education Coalition (ANEC).



Abdul Bashir Khaliqi of the Afghanistan National Education Coalition (ANEC) addressing a GAWE meeting in Kabul.



Education Coalition in Kyrgyzstan (ECK) organized an interaction with young students on SDG 4 and the role of the youth advocating for the education agenda.



Education Coalition in Kyrgyzstan (ECK) commemorated GAWE 2018 with by organising a Fair on Skills for Work.



Young people in India come together to commemorate GAWE 2018 and to talk about quality education and transparent policies that are formed in consultation with civil society and the youth.

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Civil society organisations, teachers, young people, academics, and children from 21 states of India celebrated GAWE 2018. The activities were organised by NCE India in collaboration with UNESCO, World Vision, Teacher’s Unions, and over 100 civil society organisations.



Young people display their depiction of gender equality in education and an event organised by NCE India.



NCE Nepal organised a letter writing activity for young students to demand that the government “keeps its promise” to implement the full SDG 4 agenda.

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NCE Nepal organised an education rally to commemorate GAWE 2018.



For GAWE 2018, NCE Nepal organised a dialogue with political parties and parliamentarians on accountability and citizen's participation in education.



Teachers in Southern Shan State, Myanmar, came together to commemorate GAWE 2018. In an event organised by NNER Myanmar, teachers discussed and debated education policies and the role of qualified teachers in ensuring quality education to fulfil the SDG 4 agenda.



NNER Myanmar organised a workshop for teachers to celebrate GAWE 2018.

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