



Ageing Nepal Submission on the Normative Content of Education, Training, Lifelong Learning and Capacity-building

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Introduction

Older persons have the right to lifelong learning, education and skills-building on an equal basis with others and without discrimination, so they can live autonomous and independent lives, fulfill their aspirations, build their skills and capacities, develop their full human potential and sense of dignity and self-worth, and participate fully in society.

Key normative elements of the rights of older persons to education, training, life-long learning and capacity-building

Non-discrimination

1.1 Older persons have the right to acquire and utilize their knowledge and skills without discrimination and on an equal basis.

Availability

1.2 Older persons have the right to all forms of lifelong learning, education and skills-building, including but not limited to tertiary education, vocational training and retraining, digital and new technology-based education, adult education, self, informal, recreational and community-based education, lifelong learning programs, legal literacy, and skills training in literacy, numeracy and technological competencies.

Acceptability and adaptability

1.3 Older persons have the right to equal access to opportunities of lifelong learning, education and skills-building available to the general public and to learning opportunities adapted to their specific needs, including duration of study and communication needs, skills, motivations, preferences and diverse identities.

Accessibility

1.4 Older persons have the right to affordable lifelong learning, education and skills-building opportunities.

1.5 Older persons have the right to lifelong learning, education and skills-building opportunities in settings that are accessible to them, including in their communities and in care and support settings.

1.6 Older persons have the right to information about lifelong learning, education and skills-building opportunities and how to access them.

Participation

1.7 Older persons have the right to participate in the decision-making processes regarding the shape and content of lifelong learning, educational and skills-building programs aimed at older adults.

1.8 Older persons have the right to participate as teachers and sources of knowledge in lifelong learning, educational and skills-building programs for all generations.

Remedies and redress

1.9 Older persons have the right to accountability mechanisms that provide for remedies and redress when their rights are violated.

State Obligation

Non-discrimination

2.1 Older persons have equal access to opportunities for all forms lifelong learning, skills-building and levels of education without discrimination based on age or any other grounds.

2.2 Older persons have the same opportunities as others to benefit from scholarships and study grants.

2.3 Systems and mechanisms put in place so that all older persons are able to upgrade their acquired knowledge and skills and utilize them for the benefit of all.

2.4 Reasonable accommodation of an individual's requirements is provided.

2.5 The elimination of negative ageist stereotypes and prejudices about older persons' ability and willingness to learn, and the value and importance of learning, education and skills building in older age.

Availability

2.6 All forms of lifelong learning, education and skills-building are available to older persons, including but not limited to tertiary education, vocational training and retraining, digital and new technology-based education, adult education, self, informal, recreational and community-based education, lifelong learning programs, legal literacy, and skills training in literacy, numeracy and technological competencies.

Acceptability and Adaptability

2.7 Older persons have access to lifelong learning, education and skills-building opportunities adapted to their specific needs, skills, motivations, preferences and diverse identities.

2.8 Sufficient funds are allocated for lifelong learning, education and skills-building opportunities for older persons.

Accessibility

2.9 Older persons have access to affordable lifelong learning, education and skills-building opportunities.

2.10 Older persons have access to lifelong learning, education and skills-building opportunities in the settings in which they choose to live, including in their communities and in care and support settings.

2.11 Older persons have access to information about lifelong learning, education and skills-building opportunities and how to access them.

Participation

2.12 Older persons have opportunities to participate in the decision making processes regarding the shape and content of learning, educational and skills-building programs.

Remedies and redress

2.13 Safeguards are put in place to protect against breaches of the right to lifelong learning, education and skills-building, including breaches of privacy and security of data on digital, online and new technology-based learning platforms.

Responsibilities of non-State parties

- 1) To setup affordable lifelong learning, education and skills-building opportunities.
- 2) To invest significant amount in setting up learning environment and skill development independent of geographical constraints.
- 3) To ensure the needs of older people in the community.

- 4) To ensure that they can upgrade their acquired knowledge and skills and utilize them.

Challenges

- 1) There are no specific policies for older people in the Constitution of Nepal that strongly guarantee the right to education and capacity building.
- 2) Stereotype belief that older people are not capable for life-long learning, training and capacity building activities.