

Normative Inputs

Focus Area 1: Contribution of older persons to sustainable development

Senior Citizens Act and Regulation mentioned that knowledge, skills and experience of older persons should be mobilized which directly or indirectly contribute to achieve SDGs goals. But their contribution to sustainable development has not been defined in the national legislation of Nepal.

Possible definition: Older persons are not only the target group of Sustainable development, they are also contributors and change makers. It is almost impossible to achieve the development goals without the active participation of ever increasing older persons particularly in the developing countries like Nepal where youth migration is high. So, their contribution should be highly recognized and the platform should be given for more engagement.

Scope of the rights

Older people are only the target groups of Sustainable Development Goals in Nepal. They are not recognized as contributors yet. So, any rights in relation to SDGs are not mentioned in any policy and programme documents in Nepal and this question is not applicable in the context of Nepal.

State obligations

The Nepal government has not recognized the contribution of older people in achieving Sustainable Development Goals. So, the most important measure is that the government should realize their contribution and formulate policies and programmes accordingly. Each and every programmes on SDGs should be older people inclusive, not only target groups but also as contributors.

Implementation

Nepal government does not have any policy to ensure older persons' contribution to Sustainable development, we cannot assume the good practices and main challenges at this stage.

Focus Area 2: Economic Security

There is not any specific definition on older persons' economic security in the national legislation in Nepal. However Nepal government provides a sum of NRs. 4000 (equivalent to USD 30) per month as universal allowance for all older persons above the age of 68.

Possible definition: Older people should have the right to work for their economic security, so that they will be able to pay for their essential needs including housing, food and clothing.

Scope of the rights

According to the Constitution of Nepal article 41 is related to Right to Senior Citizens that defines "The senior citizens shall have the right to special protection and social security from the state". This is the only statement available in the constitution of Nepal which is not detailed further in any government documents.

There is not any specific right to an adequate standard of living mentioned in any government documents including for housing, clothing, food and water, among others particularly for older persons.

In Nepal, older people are considered as dependent and passive members of family, society and country as a whole. So, the right to work is not appropriately covered by older people. However, most older people are involved in informal sectors like: agriculture, small business (vendor), household chores and unpaid care.

No, there is not any policy regarding prohibition of all forms of discrimination against older persons on the basis of age, alone or combined with other grounds, in all matters related to economic security.

There is not any specific policy regarding the connections between relevant economic, social and cultural rights with the right to freedom of expression, including freedom to seek, receive and impart information; and rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of association.

No, there is not any policy on active, free and meaningful participation of older persons and their representative organizations in all matters related to ensuring their economic security, including in political processes

As there are no policies on rights related to SDGs, there are no remedies and redress.

State obligations

Firstly, the Nepal government should have a policy to ensure older persons' economic security.

Implementation

Most of the older people are in poverty in Nepal. Nepal government only provides contributory and non-contributory pension to older persons. Here, non-contributory pensions cannot even support their basic needs. So, most of the older people are fully dependent on their family members.