

## **Conference Report: LIKE International Conference 2026**

### **Executive Summary**

The Learning, Innovation and Knowledge Exchange (LIKE) Lab at Kathmandu University School of Arts with the support of the Global Partnership for Education Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (GPE KIX) and International Development Research Center, Canada (IDRC) organized the LIKE International Conference 2026 on 26 and 27 September 2026. The theme of the conference was, “**Valuing Children's Aspirations and Well-being: Promoting Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) In and Through Education**” with an objective to foster global dialogue translating innovative research into actionable, inclusive policies for resilient education systems. 127 people attended the conference with 56 female and 71 male participants.

### **Conference Sub-themes**

The conference encompassed eight sub-themes which were:

- **Children's Well-Being**
- **Child Rights and Inclusion**
- **AI and Digital Frontiers in Education**
- **GEDSI Dynamics and Education**
- **Urbanism and Schooling**
- **Contemporary Education Research**
- **Education Sector Local Interventions and Practices**
- **Education Research and International Practices**

The conference featured 55 research paper presentations delivered across two days by academic researchers, policy experts, and field practitioners. The presenters represented a wide range of national and international organizations, including Kathmandu University (KUSOED, KUSOA, KUSOE), Tribhuvan University, Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), UNICEF, GPE KIX & IDRC-supported projects, RDRS Bangladesh, Samtse College of Education (Bhutan), Paro College of Education (Bhutan).

## Key Sessions & Learnings

### Day One

Day one opened with a keynote address by Dr. Binayak Krishna Thapa on *Cultivating Human Flourishing in Children: Philosophical Foundations for Children's Valued Educational Capabilities* followed by a keynote speech by Dr. Hari Prasad Lamsal, Chair of the Teachers Service Commission, who addressed *Valuing Children's Aspirations and Well-being: Promoting Gender Equality and Social Inclusion In and Through Education*. Following the keynote, the morning parallel tracks focused on holistic student development. The day opened with a focus on student well-being, rights, technology, and social inclusion. The *Children's Well-Being* session presented 7 studies exploring living educational theories of well-being, teacher mindfulness, counseling history, social-emotional learning, and early childhood art practices. The *Child Rights and Inclusion* session offered 4 presentations on alternative care environments, play behaviors in Kathmandu, and Buddhist perspectives on domestic violence prevention. In *AI and Digital Frontiers in Education*, 4 papers examined AI adoption among students, prescriptive analytics systems, personalized learning designs, and the impact of agricultural shocks on educational well-being.

| Day 1                                                                                |                         |           |                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Session 1. Children's Well-Being (Day 1, Skyline Hall, 11:00 AM - 1 :00PM)           |                         |           |                                                                                                                                   |
| S.N.                                                                                 | Name                    | Role      | Research Topic                                                                                                                    |
| 1                                                                                    | Dr. Shree Krishna Wagle | Presenter | Lifefulness: My Living Educational Theory of Well-being and Well-Living                                                           |
| 2                                                                                    | Dr. Chet Nath Panta     | Presenter | Let the Dust Settle: Fostering Teacher Wellbeing as Intentional Endeavor                                                          |
| 3                                                                                    | Dr. Madhav Khatiwada    | Presenter | From Silent Contemplation to Therapeutic Conversation: The Historical Evolution of Contemplative Practice in Counseling           |
| 4                                                                                    | Roshani Silwal          | Presenter | Integrating Social and Emotional Learning in Everyday Teaching and Learning                                                       |
| 5                                                                                    | Pragya Shrestha         | Presenter | Mindfulness Programs for psychological wellbeing in schools of Asia: A Scoping Review                                             |
| 6                                                                                    | Manita Oli              | Presenter | Educational Leadership for Valuing Children's Aspirations and Well-Being: Advancing Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Nepal |
| 7                                                                                    | Shruti Sharma           | Presenter | Art Educational Practices to Promote Social-Emotional Wellbeing of Children in ECD Centers                                        |
| Session 1. Child Rights and Inclusion (Day 1, Rato Baithak Hall, 11:00 AM - 1 :00PM) |                         |           |                                                                                                                                   |

| S.N.                                                                                                          | Name                                                 | Role      | Research Topic                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1                                                                                                             | Dr. Meenakshi Dahal                                  | Presenter | Children's Right: Whose Right and Who is Right?                                                                          |
| 2                                                                                                             | Shreeram Bajagain                                    | Presenter | Exploring Vulnerabilities: Rights to Education of Children under Alternative Care                                        |
| 3                                                                                                             | Ojashwi Shrestha                                     | Presenter | Mapping Play Footprints: Children's Play Behaviour in Hadigaun, Kathmandu                                                |
| 4                                                                                                             | Dil Bhadra Maharjan                                  | Presenter | Buddhist Approaches to Preventing Domestic Violence and Promoting Ethical Development for Children's Well-being in Nepal |
| <b>Session 1. AI and Digital Frontiers in Education (Day 1, Himalaya Grand Ball Room, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM)</b> |                                                      |           |                                                                                                                          |
| S.N.                                                                                                          | Name                                                 | Role      | Research Topic                                                                                                           |
| 1                                                                                                             | Lok Raj Bhatt                                        | Presenter | AI Adoption and Career Anxiety Among Generation Z MBA Students: The Mediating Role of Career Adaptability                |
| 2                                                                                                             | Kamal Thapa                                          | Presenter | Artificial Intelligence (AI) based Prescriptive Analytics System in Education                                            |
| 3                                                                                                             | Rabin Shrestha                                       | Presenter | Design of Personalized Learning System                                                                                   |
| 4                                                                                                             | Manish Joshi,<br>Sushil Shrestha,<br>Manish Pokharel | Presenter | Agricultural Shocks and Children's Educational Well-Being in Nepal                                                       |

The afternoon session featured a dedicated Panel discussion on *Scaling Children's Valued Educational Capabilities in South Asia*, highlighting the field experiences of GPE KIX Projects across Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal. This was followed by tracks addressing structural, gender, and regional issues. The *Urbanism and Schooling* session included 6 papers analyzing teacher AI readiness, ICT integration in Kathmandu Valley, student mental health, postdigital learning environments, urban density as a proxy for quality, and urbanization's impact in Saptari District. The *GEDSI (Gender Equality and Social Inclusion)* track featured 5 presentations addressing masculinity in urban schools, male educators' roles in dismantling gender biases, silent curricula, national policy implementation, and education's impact on self-identity for students with visual disabilities. Concurrently, *Contemporary Education Research* showcased 6 presentations on educational access in Upper Dolpa, mothers raising autistic children, inclusive autism practices in mainstream schools, parental involvement, child marriage reduction, and participatory action research in Bhojpur.

| Session 2. Panel 1: Scaling Children's Valued Educational Capabilities in South Asia (Day 1, Himalaya Grand Ball Room, 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM) |                           |           |                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Session 2. Urbanism and Schooling (Day 1, SkyLine Hall, 2:45 PM- 4:45 PM)                                                                 |                           |           |                                                                                                                                                    |
| S.N.                                                                                                                                      | Name                      | Role      | Research Topic                                                                                                                                     |
| 1                                                                                                                                         | Jayakrishna Upadhyay      | Presenter | Determinants of Teachers' Readiness for AI Adoption: A Systematic Review                                                                           |
| 2                                                                                                                                         | Sonam Tamang              | Presenter | ICT integration in Public Schools of Kathmandu Valley                                                                                              |
| 3                                                                                                                                         | Prakriti Kandel           | Presenter | Mental Health Among High School Students of Lalitpur and Academic Performance                                                                      |
| 4                                                                                                                                         | Binod Basnet              | Presenter | Teaching and Learning in 'Postdigital'                                                                                                             |
| 5                                                                                                                                         | Suja Ghising              | Presenter | The Placebo of Place: Urban Concentration as a Flawed Proxy for Educational Quality in Nepal                                                       |
| 6                                                                                                                                         | Tribhuvan Kumar Mahataman | Presenter | Role of Urbanization on the Academic Performance of Community School Students in Saptari District, Nepal: The Mediating Role of School Environment |
| Session 2. GEDSI (Day 1, RatoBaithak Hall, 2:45 PM- 4:45 PM)                                                                              |                           |           |                                                                                                                                                    |
| S.N.                                                                                                                                      | Name                      | Role      | Research Topic                                                                                                                                     |
| 1                                                                                                                                         | Sujit Mainali             | Presenter | Enacting Masculinity and Student Disengagement in Urban Schools: A Critical Hermeneutic Inquiry                                                    |
| 2                                                                                                                                         | Sachita Suwal             | Presenter | Deconstructing Traditional Gender Roles: Assessing the Impact of Male Educators Presence Influence Young Children and Reshape Societal Biases      |
| 3                                                                                                                                         | Anima Dhungana            | Presenter | Observing and Reflecting on the Silent Curriculum of Learning Spaces from Gender Perspectives: An Ethnographic Study of Secondary School Settings  |
| 4                                                                                                                                         | Madhukar Mani Acharya     | Presenter | Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in Nepalese Education: Progress, Challenges, and Policy Implications                                   |
| 5                                                                                                                                         | Prativa Shrestha          | Presenter | Is education contributing to the self-identity of students with visual disabilities?                                                               |
| Session 2. Contemporary Education Research (Day 1, Himalaya Grand Ball Room, 2:45 PM- 4:45 PM)                                            |                           |           |                                                                                                                                                    |
| S.N.                                                                                                                                      | Name                      | Role      | Research Topic                                                                                                                                     |
| 1                                                                                                                                         | Bibek Gurung              | Presenter | Educational Access and Aspirations in Dho Tarap of Upper Dolpa, Nepal: Habitus, Field and the Social Production of Educational Futures             |
| 2                                                                                                                                         | Flavia Maharjan           | Presenter | NAVIGATING URBAN LIFE WITH AUTISM: THE SOCIAL STRUGGLES OF MOTHERS RAISING AUTISTIC                                                                |

|   |                  |           |                                                                                                                                     |
|---|------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|   |                  |           | CHILDREN IN KATHMANDU                                                                                                               |
| 3 | Meelan Karki     | Presenter | EXAMINING THE INCLUSIVE EDUCATION PRACTICES IN NEPAL: LINKING AUTISM WITH MAINSTREAM EDUCATION                                      |
| 4 | Pranita Khanal   | Presenter | Role of Parental Involvement on Student Academic Achievement: A Case Study of Public Schools in Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Nepal. |
| 5 | Marvi Neupane    | Presenter | Educational Intervention for Reducing Child Marriage: A Case Study of Chandrapur Municipality, Rautahat                             |
| 6 | Mijala Chitrakar | Presenter | Beyond Formal Voice: Children's Meaningful Participation in a Mosaic-Informed PAR Cycle in Bhojpur, Nepal                           |
|   |                  |           |                                                                                                                                     |

## Day Two

Day two opened with a keynote speech by Dr. Bal Chandra Luitel, Former Dean of KUSOED, who presented *Inclusionary Well-being from Codependent Origination: Some Proposals for the System*. The morning parallel sessions then focused on field-level applications and international collaborative research. The Education Sector Local Interventions and Practices – Group A track featured 6 presentations on climate justice curricula in Nepal and Vietnam, civil society-led monitoring, community action via the My Village Initiative, parent-led groups for out-of-school children, child reintegration through skills development, and GPE KIX data usage frameworks. Concurrently, Education Research and International Practices – Group A featured 5 presentations centered on baseline/endline data on children's agency capabilities, Bhutanese learner-centered data systems, UNICEF Innocenti's Data Must Speak initiative, GESI scaling in Bhutan, and global educational commitments versus local realities in Bangladesh.

| Day 2                                                                                                          |                |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Session 3 6 a. Education Sector Local Interventions and Practices A (Day 2, Skyline Hall, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM) |                |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| S.N.                                                                                                           | Name           | Role      | Research Topic                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Dr. Sushil Shrestha- Session Chair                                                                             |                |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1                                                                                                              | Reema Shrestha | Presenter | Climate Change and Gender Equality- Lessons Learned from a Multi-Country Initiative Implementing Climate Justice Curriculum- Initial Results from a 2-year Climate Justice Curriculum intervention for adolescents in Nepal and Vietnam |

| 2                                                                                                                            | Prashit Khanal                               | Presenter | Locally Led Monitoring: A Civil Society Education Report                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3                                                                                                                            | Gunjan Jha                                   | Presenter | Assessment to Action: Translating Learning Assessments into Community Action through the My Village Initiative in Rural Nepal                                        |
| 4                                                                                                                            | Salpa Shrestha                               | Presenter | Evaluating the Impact and Scalability of a Parent-Led Action Group Intervention on Out-of-School Children in Nepal                                                   |
| 5                                                                                                                            | Pushpa Basnet                                | Presenter | From Correction to Reintegration: Empowering Children through Education, Skills and Opportunities                                                                    |
| 6                                                                                                                            | Deviram Acharya                              | Presenter | Global learning cycle on the use of data to improve quality and equity in education                                                                                  |
| <b>Session 3 7 a. Education Research and International Practices- Group A (Day 2, RatoBaithak Hall, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM)</b> |                                              |           |                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <u>S.N.</u>                                                                                                                  | Name                                         | Role      | Research Topic                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Dr. Uddhab Pyakurel- Session Chair</b>                                                                                    |                                              |           |                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 1                                                                                                                            | Yamuna Basnet                                | Presenter | Children's Well-being and Agency Capabilities: A Comparative Disaggregated Analysis of the Baseline and Endline Survey Data                                          |
| 2                                                                                                                            | Dr. Saroj Thapa, Vivek Bhagat, Leki Tshering | Presenter | From System Data to Learner Development: Integrating Learner Centered                                                                                                |
| 3                                                                                                                            | Chandni Jain                                 | Presenter | Education Data-use at Decentralized Levels in LMICs: Evidence from Nepal's Local Governments                                                                         |
| 4                                                                                                                            | Dr. Kinley Seden                             | Presenter | Understanding School Children's Valuation of Children's Valued Educational Capabilities to Scale Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Secondary Schools in Bhutan |
| 5                                                                                                                            | Md. Mujibul Haque Munir                      | Presenter | Global Commitments and Local Realities in Education: The Case of Bangladesh                                                                                          |

The afternoon session of Day 2 opened with a Plenary Dialogue titled *The Art of Grandparenting and the Educational Futures of School-Going Children*, featuring Prof. Dr. Mahesh Banskota and Prof. Dr. Mahesh Nath Parajuli. The conference concluded with two parallel afternoon tracks. The Education Sector Local Interventions and Practices – Group B session featured 6

presentations covering extracurricular activities, community school dropouts, SDG 4 financing gaps, female school leadership, playful learning models, and the FIBER model for learning readiness. Finally, Education Research and International Practices – Group B presented 6 studies evaluating institutional readiness for scaling student-led LIKE Clubs in Bangladesh, Theatre in Education as a capability model, student resource perceptions in Bhutan, civil society empowerment for accountable education, and technical learning management integrations at Paro College of Education.

| <b>Plenary Dialogue: The Art of Grandparenting and the Educational Futures of School-Going Children<br/>(Day 2, Himalaya Grand Ball Room, 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM)</b> |                        |             |                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Session 4 6 b. Education Sector Local Interventions and Practices Group B (Day 2, Skyline Hall, 1:45 PM - 3:45 PM)</b>                                        |                        |             |                                                                                                                                            |
| <b><u>S.N.</u></b>                                                                                                                                               | <b>Name</b>            | <b>Role</b> | <b>Research Topic</b>                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Dr. Megh Raj Dangal- Session Chair</b>                                                                                                                        |                        |             |                                                                                                                                            |
| 1                                                                                                                                                                | Sweta Adhikary         | Presenter   | Extracurricular Activities, School Identification, and Children's Capabilities in Nepal                                                    |
| 2                                                                                                                                                                | Shyam Krishna Adhikari | Presenter   | Secondary Level Student Dropout in Community School                                                                                        |
| 3                                                                                                                                                                | Gita Subedi            | Presenter   | Global Commitment and Nepal's Realities in Education: SDG 4 and the Education Financing Gap                                                |
| 4                                                                                                                                                                | Devi Ram Acharya       | Presenter   | Breaking barriers and creating pathways: Advancing women in school leadership in Nepal                                                     |
| 5                                                                                                                                                                | Sameer Prasai          | Presenter   | Understanding Pedagogic Common Sense through Playful Learning                                                                              |
| 6                                                                                                                                                                | Ajit Bhatta            | Presenter   | FIBER: A School-Integrated Model for Learning Readiness and Inclusive Well-being                                                           |
| <b>Session 4 7 b. Education Research and International Practices- Group B (Day 2, RatoBaithak Hall, 1:45 PM - 3:45 PM)</b>                                       |                        |             |                                                                                                                                            |
| <b><u>S.N.</u></b>                                                                                                                                               | <b>Name</b>            | <b>Role</b> | <b>Research Topic</b>                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Dr. Niraj Poudyal- Session Chair</b>                                                                                                                          |                        |             |                                                                                                                                            |
| 1                                                                                                                                                                | Mamunur Rashid         | Presenter   | Assessing Institutional Readiness for Scaling Student-Led GESI Initiatives: Evidence from LIKE Clubs in Bangladesh                         |
| 2                                                                                                                                                                | Utkrishta Sharma       | Presenter   | Scaling the LIKE Club Initiative: Understanding the Role of Champions and Scaling Pathways                                                 |
| 3                                                                                                                                                                | Md. Faysal             | Presenter   | Beyond Exam-Centric Learning: Theatre in Education as a Capability-Based Framework for Inclusive Primary Education in Bangladesh and Nepal |

|   |                                                                                 |           |                                                                                                                                               |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 | Dr. Kinley,<br>Sonam<br>Wangmo                                                  | Presenter | Children's Valued Educational Capabilities: Children's Perceptions of Resource Availability, Satisfaction, and Relevance in Bhutanese Schools |
| 5 | Hasin Shakya                                                                    | Presenter | Closing the Gap Between Policy and Practice: 2.5 years of Civil Society Empowerment for Accountable Education (CSE) in Nepal                  |
| 6 | Gembo<br>Tshering,<br>Tenzin Choden<br>Lekphell,<br>Chimi Dema,<br>Tashi Tobgay | Presenter | From Training Toward Institutionalization: How a Digital Community of Practice Supported EMIS Uptake in Bhutan.                               |

Looking ahead, the LIKE Lab will be hosting future knowledge sharing and mobilization events where we hope to incorporate even more participants and continue these vital discourses and deliberations across the region.

#### **Additional Information:**

- **Time:** 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
- **Mode:** In-person
- **Working Language:** English
- **Format:** Keynote speeches, parallel tracks, panel discussion, plenary session, paper presentations

**Prepared by:** Saurav Rajbhandari, Project Coordinator, CVEC Project

**Date of Report:** 10/1/2026

**Conference Dates:** 9/26/2026 - 9/27/2026

#### **Annex**

# LiKE International Conference 2026

26 September 2026, Saturday

Hotel Himalaya, Lalitpur

DAY 1

| Time                       | Agenda                                                                                                                                       | Speaker                                                             | Remarks                             |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>8:00 AM - 9:00 AM</b>   | <b>Registration &amp; Breakfast</b>                                                                                                          |                                                                     | <b>Himalaya Grand Ball Room</b>     |
| 9:00 AM - 9:10 AM          | Opening by Master of Ceremony                                                                                                                | Saurav Rajbhandari, Project Coordinator   Yamuna Basnet, Researcher | National Anthem, Lighting of Paanas |
| 9:10 AM - 9:25 AM          | Welcome Address by the Dean, KUSOA                                                                                                           | Dean, Dr. Uddhab Pyakurel, KUSOA                                    |                                     |
| 9:25 AM - 9:35 AM          | Inaugural Address by the Chief Guest                                                                                                         | Dr. Bivek Baral, Vice Chancellor, Kathmandu University              |                                     |
| 9:35 AM - 9:45 AM          | Message from Ministry of Education and Sports                                                                                                | Bir Bahadur Dhimi, Spokesperson, Ministry of Education and Sports   |                                     |
| 9:45 AM - 10:00 AM         | Opening Keynote Address: Cultivating Human Flourishing in Children: Philosophical Foundations for Children's Valued Educational Capabilities | Dr. Binayak K.Thapa, Principal Investigator                         |                                     |
| 10:00 AM - 10:10 AM        | Video Screening                                                                                                                              | Saurav Rajbhandari, Project Coordinator   Yamuna Basnet, Researcher |                                     |
| 10:10 AM - 10:40 AM        | 1. Keynote Speech: Valuing Children's Aspirations and Well-being: Promoting Gender Equality and Social Inclusion In and Through Education    | Dr. Hari Prasad Lamsal, Chair, Teachers Service Commission          | Himalaya Grand Ball Room            |
| <b>10:40 AM - 11:10 AM</b> | <b>Tea Break</b>                                                                                                                             |                                                                     |                                     |
| 11:10 AM- 1:10 PM          | Session 1                                                                                                                                    | Children's Well-Being (7 Presentations)                             | SkyLine Hall                        |
| 11:10 AM- 1:10 PM          | Session 1                                                                                                                                    | Child Rights and Inclusion (7 Presentations)                        | Rato Baithak Hall                   |
| 11:10 AM- 1:10 PM          | Session 1                                                                                                                                    | AI and Digital Frontiers in Education (5 Presentations)             | Himalaya Grand Ball Room            |
| <b>1:10 PM - 2:10 PM</b>   | <b>Lunch Break</b>                                                                                                                           |                                                                     |                                     |
| 2:10 PM - 2:55 PM          | Panel: Scaling Children's Valued Educational Capabilities in South Asia                                                                      | Experiences of GPE KIX Projects in Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal     | Himalaya Grand Ball Room            |
| 2:55 PM - 4:55 PM          | Session 2                                                                                                                                    | Urbanism and Schooling (6 Presentations)                            | SkyLine Hall                        |
| 2:55 PM - 4:55 PM          | Session 2                                                                                                                                    | GEDSI Dynamics and Education (5 Presentations)                      | Rato Baithak Hall                   |
| 2:55 PM - 4:55 PM          | Session 2                                                                                                                                    | Contemporary Education Research (6 Presentations)                   | Himalaya Grand Ball Room            |
| 4:55 PM - 5:10 PM          | Closing by Master of Ceremony                                                                                                                | Saurav Rajbhandari, Project Coordinator   Yamuna Basnet, Researcher | Himalaya Grand Ball Room            |
| 5:10 PM Onwards            | Tea and Cookies                                                                                                                              |                                                                     |                                     |



**KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY** | SCHOOL OF ARTS



# LiKE International Conference 2026

27 September 2026, Sunday

Hotel Himalaya, Lalitpur

DAY 2

| Time                      | Agenda                                                                                                 | Speaker                                                              | Remarks                         |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>8:00 AM - 9:00 AM</b>  | <b>Registration &amp; Breakfast</b>                                                                    |                                                                      | <b>Himalaya Grand Ball Room</b> |
| 9:00 AM - 9:10 AM         | Opening by Master of Ceremony                                                                          | Saurav Rajbhandari, Project Coordinator   Yamuna Basnet, Researcher  |                                 |
| 9:10 AM - 9:40 AM         | 2. Keynote Speech: Inclusionary Well-being from Codependent Origination: Some Proposals for the System | Dr. Bal Chandra Luitel, Former Dean, KUSOED                          | Himalaya Grand Ball Room        |
| <b>9:40 AM - 10:00 AM</b> | <b>Tea Break</b>                                                                                       |                                                                      |                                 |
| 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM       | Session 3                                                                                              | Education Sector Local Interventions and Practices (6 Presentations) | SkyLine Hall                    |
| 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM       | Session 3                                                                                              | Education Research and International Practices (5 Presentations)     | Rato Baithak Hall               |
| <b>12:00 PM - 1:00 PM</b> | <b>Lunch Break</b>                                                                                     |                                                                      |                                 |
| 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM         | Plenary Dialogue: The Art of Grandparenting and the Educational Futures of School-Going Children       | Prof. Dr. Mahesh Banskota, Prof. Dr. Mahesh Nath Parajuli            | Himalaya Grand Ball Room        |
| 1:45 PM - 3:45 PM         | Session 4                                                                                              | Education Sector Local Interventions and Practices (6 Presentations) | SkyLine Hall                    |
| 1:45 PM - 3:45 PM         | Session 4                                                                                              | Education Research and International Practices (6 Presentations)     | Rato Baithak Hall               |
| 3:45 PM - 4:00 PM         | Remarks by the Guest of Honor & Distribution of Certificates                                           | Dr. Biraj Singh Thapa, Registrar                                     | Himalaya Grand Ball Room        |
| 4:00 PM - 4:15 PM         | Vote of Thanks                                                                                         | Dr. Binayak K.Thapa, Principal Investigator                          | Himalaya Grand Ball Room        |
| 4:15 PM - 4:20 PM         | Closing by Master of Ceremony                                                                          | Saurav Rajbhandari, Project Coordinator   Yamuna Basnet, Researcher  | Himalaya Grand Ball Room        |
| 4:20 PM Onwards           | Tea and Cookies                                                                                        |                                                                      |                                 |

# LiKE International Conference 2026

26 September 2026, Saturday

Hotel Himalaya, Lalitpur

DAY 1

Session 1. Children's Well-Being (Day 1, Skyline Hall, 11:00 AM - 1 :00PM)

| S.N.                                          | Name                    | Role          | Organization | Research Topic                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Dr. Shree Krishna Wagle- Session Chair</b> |                         |               |              |                                                                                                                                   |
| 1                                             | Dr. Shree Krishna Wagle | Session Chair | KUSOED       | Lifefulness: My Living Educational Theory of Well-being and Well-Living                                                           |
| 2                                             | Dr. Chet Nath Panta     | Presenter     | KUSOED       | Let the Dust Settle: Fostering Teacher Wellbeing as Intentional Endeavor                                                          |
| 3                                             | Dr. Madhav Khatiwada    | Presenter     | KUSOED       | From Silent Contemplation to Therapeutic Conversation: The Historical Evolution of Contemplative Practice in Counseling           |
| 4                                             | Roshani Silwal          | Presenter     | KUSOED       | Integrating Social and Emotional Learning in Everyday Teaching and Learning                                                       |
| 5                                             | Pragya Shrestha         | Presenter     | KUSOED       | Mindfulness Programs for psychological wellbeing in schools of Asia: A Scoping Review                                             |
| 6                                             | Manita Oli              | Presenter     | KUSOED       | Educational Leadership for Valuing Children's Aspirations and Well-Being: Advancing Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Nepal |
| 7                                             | Shruti Sharma           | Presenter     | TU           | Art Educational Practices to Promote Social-Emotional Wellbeing of Children in ECD Centers                                        |

Session 1. Child Rights and Inclusion (Day 1, Rato Baithak Hall, 11:00 AM - 1 :00PM)

| S.N.                                      | Name                | Role      | Organization      | Research Topic                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Dr. Noor Jung Shah - Session Chair</b> |                     |           |                   |                                                                                                                                                       |
| 1                                         | Dr. Meenakshi Dahal | Presenter | KUSOED            | Children's Right: Whose Right and Who is Right?                                                                                                       |
| 2                                         | Merina Panthee      | Presenter | Deessa Foundation | Beyond Access: My Journey as a Mother Advocating for Inclusive Education in Nepal                                                                     |
| 3                                         | Shreeram Bajagain   | Presenter | SOS               | Exploring Vulnerabilities: Rights to Education of Children under Alternative Care                                                                     |
| 4                                         | Narayan Pandey      | Presenter |                   | From Cash to Care: Building Complete Systems of Safety, Nutrition and Protection for Children Through the Child Grant Plus Parenting Program in Nepal |
| 5                                         | Ojashwi Shrestha    | Presenter | KUSOA             | Mapping Play Footprints: Children's Play Behaviour in Hadigaun, Kathmandu                                                                             |
| 6                                         | Dil Bhadra Maharjan | Presenter |                   | Buddhist Approaches to Preventing Domestic Violence and Promoting Ethical Development for Children's Well-being in Nepal                              |

Session 1. AI and Digital Frontiers in Education (Day 1, Himalaya Grand Ball Room, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM)

**Dr. Sushil Shrestha - Session Chair**

| S.N. | Name                                                 | Role      | Organization             | Research Topic                                                                                                                       |
|------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | Rajan Khadka                                         | Presenter | Unique Academy, Chitwan  | Promoting Children's Aspirations, Well-being, and Gender Equality through Artificial Intelligence-Supported Inclusive STEM Education |
| 2    | Lok Raj Bhatt                                        | Presenter | TU, School of Management | AI Adoption and Career Anxiety Among Generation Z MBA Students: The Mediating Role of Career Adaptability                            |
| 3    | Kamal Thapa                                          | Presenter | KUSoE                    | Artificial Intelligence (AI) based Prescriptive Analytics System in Education                                                        |
| 4    | Rabin Shrestha                                       | Presenter | KUSoE                    | Design of Personalized Learning System                                                                                               |
| 5    | Manish Joshi,<br>Sushil Shrestha,<br>Manish Pokharel | Presenter | KUSoE                    | Agricultural Shocks and Children's Educational Well-Being in Nepal                                                                   |

Session 2. Panel 1: Scaling Children's Valued Educational Capabilities in South Asia (Day 1, Himalaya Grand Ball Room, 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM)

Session 2. Urbanism and Schooling (Day 1, SkyLine Hall, 2:45 PM- 4:45 PM)

| S.N.                                    | Name                      | Role      | Organization | Research Topic                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Dr. Suresh Gautam- Session Chair</b> |                           |           |              |                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1                                       | Jayakrishna Upadhyay      | Presenter | KUSOED       | Determinants of Teachers' Readiness for AI Adoption: A Systematic Review                                                                           |
| 2                                       | Sonam Tamang              | Presenter | KUSOED       | ICT integration in Public Schools of Kathmandu Valley                                                                                              |
| 3                                       | Prakriti Kandel           | Presenter | KUSOED       | Mental Health Among High School Students of Lalitpur and Academic Performance                                                                      |
| 4                                       | Binod Basnet              | Presenter |              | Teaching and Learning in 'Postdigital'                                                                                                             |
| 5                                       | Suja Ghising              | Presenter |              | The Placebo of Place: Urban Concentration as a Flawed Proxy for Educational Quality in Nepal                                                       |
| 6                                       | Tribhuvan Kumar Mahataman | Presenter | TU           | Role of Urbanization on the Academic Performance of Community School Students in Saptari District, Nepal: The Mediating Role of School Environment |

Session 2. GEDSI (Day 1, RatoBaithak Hall, 2:45 PM- 4:45 PM)

| S.N.                                  | Name                  | Role      | Organization | Research Topic                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Dr. Lina Gurung- Session Chair</b> |                       |           |              |                                                                                                                                                   |
| 1                                     | Sujit Mainali         | Presenter | KUSOED       | Enacting Masculinity and Student Disengagement in Urban Schools: A Critical Hermeneutic Inquiry                                                   |
| 2                                     | Sachita Suwal         | Presenter | KUSOED       | Deconstructing Traditional Gender Roles: Assessing the Impact of Male Educators Presence Influence Young Children and Reshape Societal Biases     |
| 3                                     | Anima Dhungana        | Presenter | KUSOED       | Observing and Reflecting on the Silent Curriculum of Learning Spaces from Gender Perspectives: An Ethnographic Study of Secondary School Settings |
| 4                                     | Madhukar Mani Acharya | Presenter | TU           | Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in Nepalese Education: Progress, Challenges, and Policy Implications                                  |
| 5                                     | Prativa Shrestha      | Presenter | UNESCO       | Is education contributing to the self-identity of students with visual disabilities?                                                              |

Session 2. Contemporary Education Research (Day 1, Himalaya Grand Ball Room, 2:45 PM- 4:45 PM)

| S.N.                               | Name                                                   | Role      | Organization | Research Topic                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dr. Megh Raj Dangal- Session Chair |                                                        |           |              |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1                                  | Bibek Gurung                                           | Presenter | KUSOA        | Educational Access and Aspirations in Dho Tarap of Upper Dolpa, Nepal: Habitus, Field and the Social Production of Educational Futures                                              |
| 2                                  | Flavia Maharjan                                        | Presenter | KUSOA        | NAVIGATING URBAN LIFE WITH AUTISM: THE SOCIAL STRUGGLES OF MOTHERS RAISING AUTISTIC CHILDREN IN KATHMANDU                                                                           |
| 3                                  | Meelan Karki                                           | Presenter | KUSOA        | EXAMINING THE INCLUSIVE EDUCATION PRACTICES IN NEPAL: LINKING AUTISM WITH MAINSTREAM EDUCATION                                                                                      |
| 4                                  | Pranita Khanal                                         | Presenter | KUSOA        | Role of Parental Involvement on Student Academic Achievement: A Case Study of Public Schools in Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Nepal.                                                 |
| 5                                  | Marvi Neupane                                          | Presenter | KUSOA        | Educational Intervention for Reducing Child Marriage: A Case Study of Chandrapur Municipality, Rautahat                                                                             |
| 6                                  | Mijala Chitrakar                                       | Presenter | KUSOA        | Beyond Formal Voice: Children’s Meaningful Participation in a Mosaic-Informed PAR Cycle in Bhojpur, Nepal                                                                           |
| 7                                  | Naman Bhusan Chauhan<br>Kritika Pandey<br>Rohan Pandey | Presenter |              | Bridging the Guardianship Gap: A Doctrinal-Comparative Analysis and Randomized Evaluation of School-Based Psychosocial Support for Left-Behind Children of Labour Migrants in Nepal |

# **International Conference 2026**

27 September 2026, Sunday

Hotel Himalaya, Lalitpur

**DAY 2**

Session 3 6 a. Education Sector Local Interventions and Practices A (Day 2, Skyline Hall, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM)

| S.N.                                      | Name            | Role      | Organization                       | Research Topic                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Dr. Sushil Shrestha- Session Chair</b> |                 |           |                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1                                         | Reema Shrestha  | Presenter | Room to Read                       | Climate Change and Gender Equality- Lessons Learned from a Multi-Country Initiative Implementing Climate Justice Curriculum- Initial Results from a 2-year Climate Justice Curriculum intervention for adolescents in Nepal and Vietnam |
| 2                                         | Prashit Khanal  | Presenter | NCE Nepal                          | Locally Led Monitoring: A Civil Society Education Report                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 3                                         | Gunjan Jha      | Presenter | Aser Nepal                         | Assessment to Action: Translating Learning Assessments into Community Action through the My Village Initiative in Rural Nepal                                                                                                           |
| 4                                         | Salpa Shrestha  | Presenter | KUSOA                              | Evaluating the Impact and Scalability of a Parent-Led Action Group Intervention on Out-of-School Children in Nepal                                                                                                                      |
| 5                                         | Pushpa Basnet   | Presenter | Early Childhood Development Center | From Correction to Reintegration: Empowering Children through Education, Skills and Opportunities                                                                                                                                       |
| 6                                         | Deviram Acharya | Presenter | GPE KIX                            | Global learning cycle on the use of data to improve quality and equity in education                                                                                                                                                     |

Session 3 7 a. Education Research and International Practices- Group A (Day 2, RatoBaithak Hall, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM)

| S.N.                                      | Name                                               | Role      | Organization                    | Research Topic                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Dr. Uddhab Pyakurel- Session Chair</b> |                                                    |           |                                 |                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 1                                         | Yamuna Basnet                                      | Presenter | LIKE Lab                        | Children's Well-being and Agency Capabilities: A Comparative Disaggregated Analysis of the Baseline and Endline Survey Data                                          |
| 2                                         | Dr. Saroj Thapa,<br>Vivek Bhagat,<br>Leki Tshering | Presenter | Druk Gyalpo's Institute, Bhutan | From System Data to Learner Development: Integrating Learner Centered                                                                                                |
| 3                                         | Chandni Jain                                       | Presenter | UNICEF Innocenti                | Education Data-use at Decentralized Levels in LMICs: Evidence from Nepal's Local Governments in the Schedule                                                         |
| 4                                         | Dr. Kinley Seden                                   | Presenter | SCE Bhutan                      | Understanding School Children's Valuation of Children's Valued Educational Capabilities to Scale Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Secondary Schools in Bhutan |
| 5                                         | Md. Mujibul Haque Munir                            | Presenter | RDRS Bangladesh                 | Global Commitments and Local Realities in Education: The Case of Bangladesh                                                                                          |

Plenary Dialogue: The Art of Grandparenting and the Educational Futures of School-Going Children (Day 2, Himalaya Grand Ball Room, 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM)

Session 4 6 b. Education Sector Local Interventions and Practices Group B (Day 2, Skyline Hall, 1:45 PM - 3:45 PM)

| S.N.                                      | Name                   | Role      | Organization    | Research Topic                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Dr. Megh Raj Dangal- Session Chair</b> |                        |           |                 |                                                                                             |
| 1                                         | Sweta Adhikary         | Presenter | KUSOA           | Extracurricular Activities, School Identification, and Children's Capabilities in Nepal     |
| 2                                         | Shyam Krishna Adhikari | Presenter |                 | Secondary Level Student Dropout in Community School                                         |
| 3                                         | Gita Subedi            | Presenter |                 | Global Commitment and Nepal's Realities in Education: SDG 4 and the Education Financing Gap |
| 4                                         | Devi Ram Acharya       | Presenter | GPE KIX         | Breaking barriers and creating pathways: Advancing women in school leadership in Nepal      |
| 5                                         | Sameer Prasai          | Presenter | Karkhana Samuha | Understanding Pedagogic Common Sense through Playful Learning                               |
| 6                                         | Ajit Bhatta            | Presenter | Social Lab      | FIBER: A School-Integrated Model for Learning Readiness and Inclusive Well-being            |

Session 4 7 b. Education Research and International Practices- Group B (Day 2, RatoBaithak Hall, 1:45 PM - 3:45 PM)

| S.N.                                    | Name                                                             | Role      | Organization                             | Research Topic                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Dr. Niraj Poudyal- Session Chair</b> |                                                                  |           |                                          |                                                                                                                                               |
| 1                                       | Mamunur Rashid                                                   | Presenter | RDRS Bangladesh                          | Assessing Institutional Readiness for Scaling Student-Led GESI Initiatives: Evidence from LIKE Clubs in Bangladesh                            |
| 2                                       | Utkrishta Sharma                                                 | Presenter | LIKE Lab                                 | Scaling the LIKE Club Initiative: Understanding the Role of Champions and Scaling Pathways                                                    |
| 3                                       | Md. Faysal                                                       | Presenter | Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University | Beyond Exam-Centric Learning: Theatre in Education as a Capability-Based Framework for Inclusive Primary Education in Bangladesh and Nepal    |
| 4                                       | Dr. Kinley, Sonam Wangmo                                         | Presenter | SCE Bhutan                               | Children's Valued Educational Capabilities: Children's Perceptions of Resource Availability, Satisfaction, and Relevance in Bhutanese Schools |
| 5                                       | Hasin Shakya                                                     | Presenter | Karkhana Samuha                          | Closing the Gap Between Policy and Practice: 2.5 years of Civil Society Empowerment for Accountable Education (CSE) in Nepal                  |
| 6                                       | Gembo Tshering, Tenzin Choden Lekphell, Chimi Dema, Tashi Tobgay | Presenter | Paro College of Education (PCE)          | From Training Toward Institutionalization: How a Digital Community of Practice Supported EMIS Uptake in Bhutan                                |