

## Accessible books for vision-impaired students using Android technology

Nepal – Action on Disability Rights and Development (ADRAD)

### SUMMARY OF PROJECT

The mission of the project – entitled Enhancing Learning Capabilities of Students with Print and Visual Disabilities (ELECTS) – is to establish and promote the use of the latest accessible ICT for vision-impaired students by providing them with free digital books based on DAISY and Epub platforms and with Android devices for playback.

### QUOTE

*“Promoting accessible ICT in making rights real for persons with disabilities!”*

— Mr. Birendra Raj Pokharel, Head of Project

### FACTS & FIGURES

- 140 fully accessible books were produced, which are used by 1,500 students with visual impairments and print disabilities.
- 100 students with visual disabilities are using the free Android devices, and it is planned to expand the use of this device to 500 additional students.
- Some 10,000 students were orientated on the use of accessible books in DAISY and Epub platforms.

### PROBLEMS TARGETED

There are no accessible digital platforms in the libraries of Nepali public schools, where thousands of students with visual and print disabilities are studying. There is nominal support for providing Braille books for these students, but only the compulsory subjects are covered, and thus a quality education with accessible textbooks and curricula are not available to these students..

## SOLUTION & METHODOLOGY

ADRAD initiated the production of accessible books, which is an exciting development for promoting Inclusive Education. These e-publishing technologies can enable persons with print disabilities to read content at the same time and at no higher cost as their peers without disabilities. ADRAD has adopted the playback function of Android devices and produced an orientation toolkit for easy usage, and today a collection of audio books and accessible e-textbooks are available in most school libraries. Appropriate training is provided to persons with visual impairments to use the assistive technology.

## OUTLOOK & TRANSFERABILITY

The user's toolkit for accessible books will be further enhanced and will be made available to 10,000 students with disabilities in an accessible format. Training will be conducted in 15 remote districts throughout Nepal, making sure that students from mountainous and in less densely populated areas can also participate in the project. In addition, 140 more accessible books in the Nepali language will be developed and made available online in 2016.

Photo: Yes

Photo 2

Photo of Birendra handling the Tablet while orientating the end-users.

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## CONTACT

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Tags: blind and visually impaired, ICT, low and middle-income countries