



*Nepal: Patterns of Privatisation in Education.
A case study of low-fee private schools
and private chain schools
Bhatta P. & Pherali T. (2017)*

Recommendations

1. ***Increase investments in public schools***

The Nepali state, through its most recent Constitution, has affirmed its commitment to free and compulsory basic and free secondary education. However, the translation of such commitment into practice will require not only a reversal in the current trend of education financing, but also a substantial increase in allocations to education to reduce the direct and indirect costs of schooling, and improve the overall quality of education in public schools, including provisions to:

- ensure that public schools receive the full provision of qualified and trained teachers by subjects and levels and in accordance with the national norms for student-teacher ratios so that the opportunity for improved learning is enhanced;
- provide a range of teaching-learning materials other than textbooks to enhance students' access to a broad array of learning materials;
- cover the direct and indirect costs of students from poor and socio-economically marginalised and excluded groups, thus ensuring their access, participation and graduation across the grades; and
- develop appropriate legislation for ensuring compulsory participation, including repercussions for failing to do so.



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2. *Develop stronger regulation for private schools*

Given that the contribution and the role of the private sector in the provision of school education has been firmly accepted by the Constitution, political parties and dominant development discourse, it is recommended that the state develop stronger regulatory mechanisms to oversee the operation of private schools in order to:

- Ensure that private schools adhere to the minimum standards and norms within a given timeframe, and that the licenses of those that fail to adhere to such norms and standards within the given time frame be withdrawn;
- Ensure that they adhere to financial regulations including, tax liability to the government;
- Strengthen monitoring mechanisms to ensure that private schools continue to adhere to the regulations related to inter alia, fees, curricula, and teachers, in order to ensure that they continue to comply with the legislation and to hold them accountable;
- Ensure that teaching is regarded as a profession, requiring recognised qualifications, provided with adequate salary and benefits, appropriate training and opportunities for the provision of continuing professional development for the teaching workforce; and,
- Improve the quality of education not just in terms of successes in national exams but also in the development of critically aware, creative young people who are able to shape the development trajectories of Nepal.



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