



NEPAL GOVERNANCE WEEKLY

Issue 19 | May 13, 2022

Voting Rights of the Persons with Disabilities still Neglected by the Government

Photo by Henry & Co. on Unsplash

As the entire country is celebrating the elections, persons with disabilities share limited excitement. No heed has been paid to the differential needs and concerns of persons with disabilities in the local elections yet again. Article 42 (1) of the Constitution of Nepal has ensured the rights of persons with disabilities to participate in the state bodies. Section 11 of Act Relating to Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2017 has guaranteed their right to become candidates in a secure environment and to cast vote with or without assistance.

However, the visually impaired people still cannot identify symbols on the ballot paper due to a lack of braille and have to rely on other people. Similarly, there are no officials who can communicate in sign language in the polling booths to communicate the voting process to those with auditory disabilities. The infrastructures within the voting booths are also not disable-friendly, and the polling booths in many locations are in areas inconvenient to the people with physical disabilities. In such cases, some are assisted by their acquaintances and family members, but many aren't. Hasn't the time come for the government to direct its actions within the spirit of the constitution and make serious efforts to ensure inclusion?

For more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. The Press Council has taken action against 212 media outlets for breaching the election code of conduct. Among them, 23 are newspapers, 10 televisions, 86 online news portals, and 44 web portals. The Election Commission has also begun to directly monitor and seek clarification from media that violates the code of conduct.
Read more: [Ekagaj](#), [Onlinekhabar](#)
2. At least 8 parties are found to have mobilized children in the election campaign violating the child rights and code of conduct, as per the National Children Rights Council under the Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens. The parties are found to have lured the children into rallies holding merchandise with party symbols and also used them to distribute pamphlets, chant slogans, and carry flags.
Read more: [Kantipur](#)
3. For the security of the elections, 8 to 11 security personnel - three Nepal police and the rest temporary police, will be deployed in each polling station. The Nepal Army and Armed Police will only patrol outside the polling station. The Central Security Committee has labeled 3,000 polling stations as highly sensitive, 4,500 stations as mildly sensitive, and the remaining 14,000 as normal.
Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
4. The Election Commission has requested the election officials mobilized across local units to monitor the expenditure of the candidates on election campaigns and submit it before the election day. The commission will tally the report from the election officers with the report received from candidates after the elections to observe any irregularities.
Read more: [Election Commission](#)
5. The Election Commission has decided to allow citizens enlisted on the voter list to cast their vote in the local elections on the basis of a voter identity card or any other original government identification documents including citizenship, passport, national identity card, or land ownership certificate.
Read more: [The Rising Nepal](#)
6. An estimated 6.5 million citizens are deprived of their right to vote in the local elections. About 6 million registered voters are in foreign countries, 260 thousand voters are mobilized as polling staff and 300 thousand personnel are mobilized for election security.
Read more: [Setopati](#)

Nepal Governance Weekly is an analytical update of Nepal's current affairs on local elections based on media and real sources mining, to sensitize the communities on hot news on various governance issues from the perspective of accountability.

Presented by

