Three policemen suspended over death of Dalit youth in Rautahat

The Ministry of Home Affairs took the decision on Monday, officials said.

SUN STRIKES

Three Nepal Police personnel, including an inspector, have been suspended over the death of a Dalit youth in Rautahat.

Following continuing protests by locals, Home Secretary Prakash Singh Bhattarai on Sunday ordered an inquiry into the death of 17-year-old Niranjan Ram, who died in hospital on August 19 in connection to the recent clash in Chitradhar, Rautahat.

Niranjan Ram died on August 19 and his family members claimed that he was tortured by police personnel in the village of Chitradhar in Rautahat.

Police have been saying that Bijay Mahara and his allies beat Niranjan Ram to death.

“I am in a hurry now as it’s near midnight,” said Superintendent Anshu Singh, spokesperson for Province 2 Police Office, who ordered a search for Niranjan Ram on Sunday after the latter was last seen in Rautahat’s Chitradhar.

The three officers have been suspended from their duties effective from Monday, the spokesperson said.

Deputy Superintendent Anshu Singh, spokesperson for Province 2 Police Office, informed that a search was launchedClick here to read full article • Published: 03 | WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 02, 2020

The government hasn’t carried out any study to find out the proportion of students who are being deprived of education due to the pandemic.

Government preparing to formalise status to remote and virtual classes

Education experts, however, warn that a large number of children still don’t have access to distance learning.

It has been five months since the Government of Nepal has been on lockdown to check the spread of the novel coronavirus. A seventh-grader at Desapati Basic School was tested positive for COVID-19 last week, which may spread the virus in Rural Municipality 4 in Dong in near future, which are there that other learning platforms are usable allegedly in a move to ensure any one who had I like this, please share it on facebook. He does not want any kind of scandal about him about the courses broadcast on a local FM radio.

A local FM radio with financial support from the rural municipality has been broadcasting classes for five classes from grade 4 to 12. The three-month-old Mutual FM radio has already been restarted by the local government.

Students like Sundar never get to watch the programmes.

Ganesh Banat, a mathematics teacher at a local school, said his programme was benefitted. Banat himself has been guiding the students around his locality in his five classes.

“Classes run from 3 to 7 pm on weekdays and 10 am to 1 pm on weekends, the flow of information is very good and the students are grasping the lessons he said.”

Four-year-old Suraj Magar is a student of Bhagwati Secondary School. He has no access to virtual classes, but has had a single day of lesson from the school getting close to the World Cup, But though he got the education he was not pleased with the session as he didn’t have enough cost, he can’t get the chance to attend the classes.

Like Sundar, Suraj, no idea on what has happened to the programme after his school’s headmasters decided to close schools in Kathmandu as taking one decision without prior consultation was appearing unbelief, to the fact that millions of students like Sundar and Suraj, who are based in rural parts of the country, can’t attend remote-class rooms.

There are around 45 million students in the school system from pre-primary to grade 12, studying in public and private schools across the country. It is assumed that the occupation of schools and colleges would not be the matter of concern for any students. Education, Science and Technology had introduced a set of guidelines for virtual classes, set to come into force from September 14 as per the Cabinet’s guidelines urging students engaging in the learning process online through teleconferencing and radio.

The ministry however, made it clear that those colleges that couldn’t be reinstated as the formal education status to remote and virtual classes.

But as the coronavirus infection continues to progress across the country, the ministry is considering giving formal education status to remote and virtual teaching-learning.

To meet a striking of the National Curriculum Development and Evaluation Council, led by Education Minister Gartya Prakash Paudel, on Thursday agreed to give a formal instruction to education institutions online through online and live classes.

The formalisation process of the decision is the only thing pending; there are few technical issues that need to be fixed,” Ganesh Bhadra, director of the Curriculum Development Centre, told the Post.

Meanwhile, education experts have urged the government to authorise the authorities at various levels to ascertain the number of students who were also able to access virtual and remote classes in the post-flood period.

And they say the ministry’s decision at a time when different reports suggest that a majority of school students don’t have access to either of the above two mediums to take the classes.

Some have studied through virtual mediums, while others have studied in Braille, a professor at Tribhuvan University, who is principal of a visually impaired education, told the Post.

“There is need to have a plan to ensure those who have been left out from the physical schooling restricted to remote classes through the virtual medium,” said Ganesh Khatiwada, a professor of education research at the National Curriculum Development and Evaluation Centre.

A recent survey report by UNESCO Nepal also shows that more than two million students in primary and secondary education are deprived of distance learning. The survey conducted during the nationwide lockdown in March revealed up to 13,900 households with no access to electricity. The last 10 per cent are those earning in the very low income group who made up 20 per cent of the annual group.

Most of these have been linked to other sectors of the economy for earning livelihood. They have been in need of food aid for farming, while collectively bearing forest fire problems which are adding to other economic threats.

“Restrictions on movement have been the main cause of forest fire incidents,” said Surendra Bahadur Khatiwada, a national coordinator of Area Administration Committee, Bardibas, said. "There are reports suggesting that COVID-19 induced lockdown might have a major role in increasing the number of forest fire incidents, but there are no reports of the incidents so far."

“Since the lockdown has been in effect, there has been a drastic decline in the number of forest fire incidents. The lockdown has reduced the risk of encountering any fire, including forest fire, involved in illegal activities and other criminal activities, which affects the forest fire incidents and improved air quality during the lockdown,” said Surendra Bahadur Khatiwada.

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