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Combating Radicalization:

Improving Response to Prevent Radicalization Leading to Terrorism and Violent Extremism

Program Introduction

This program is initiated under the project: Alliance of Universities to Reinforce teacher training curricula to Outcast Radicalism and promote equality in Asian societies (AURORA). The work package three areas: Inclusive Education, Gender Equality, Democratic Values and Combat Radicalism. The Work Package 3 (WP3) *Radicalization Prevention: Improving Response to Prevent Radicalization Leading to Terrorism and Violent Extremism* aims to create a program for curricular reform in Nepal that will enhance efforts against radicalization through teacher training programs by developing new courses in educational programs. Through workshops, student leadership training and student activities, these courses foster combat radicalism.

Radicalization and Extremism

Radicalization is the process by which people come to support terrorism and extremism. It is an evolution process ending in violent action against something. This tendency in the society undermine collective efforts towards enjoying peace and security, fostering sustainable development, respecting and promoting the rule of law, as well as protecting human rights and for achieving fair societies with more opportunities for everyone. Similarly, violent extremism aggravates perceptions of insecurity and so compromises economic growth, threatening to reverse much of the development progress made in recent decades in some regions of the world and perpetuating social, political and economic instability and conflict all over the world. Impunity and injustice create an environment of insecurity and helplessness. Therefore, it is urgent to end impunity for all those committing terrorist offences and fostering radicalization conducive to terrorism and violent extremism, as it is likewise urgent to bring them to justice.



Key Social Actors

Action against radicalization and violent extremist conductive to terrorism has demonstrated that only a cooperative and constructive dialogue between civil society and governmental agencies, and educational institutions can be successful. While the government's role is central in this task, involving civil society, social and community actors and educational institutions can produce more effective results. Efficiently and effectively addressing conditions conducive to radicalization, violent extremism and ultimately terrorism needs the cooperation of a broader range of actors, in particular relevant local actors having strong ties with relevant local communities. Some of the key social actors are mentors, NGOs, psychological workers, religious leaders, inter-cultural mediators, women as first caregivers, family, and schools.

Rationale of Work Package

Teachers and educational personal have key role in making individuals aware, at very early stages, of the danger of radical thinking. They are also professionals capable of or authorized to imposing sanctions or punishment on engaging violent extremism or radical behaviors conducting even to violent or criminal acts, as they play a key role in conforming their personality along very important stages of their lives. However, they can also explore other techniques that can complement more restrictive measures to avoid potential trend to radicalization. In so doing they come across some difficulties, in particular those related to the respect of the concerned individual's human rights and fundamental freedoms; those related to new scenarios and difficulties with regard to radicalization; and, likewise, difficulties in order to attain a holistic approach and interagency cooperation in these matters.

Despite the huge number of elements to be explored and the existing amount of information on this issue, this program intends to provide teachers and educational staff at all levels specific and specialized training on main aspects concerning the overall objective of preventing and countering radicalization through education, and to provide course members with a comprehensive approach and an easy access to learning on applicable instruments as well as some key hints given by particular case on these problems.

Work Package Objectives

The objectives of this work package are:

- To be familiarized the concept of radicalization
- To understand the stages in the process of radicalization
- To acknowledge general principles of radicalization
- To identify the action against radicalization: legal, psychological
- To be aware of key role of education professionals in the de-radicalization process
- To explore the new challenges associated with and combating radicalization

Focus Areas of WP3

The major focus areas of WP3 are:

- Concept of radicalization
- Stages in the process of radicalization
- General principles of radicalization
- Action against radicalization: legal, psychological
- Role of education professionals in reducing radicalization
- New challenges associated with and combating radicalization

Delivery Mode

This work package can be delivered in face to face, online, and blended mode as per the need and availability of the resources.

Learning Engagement

In this work package participants will be engaged in diverse learning activities such as group discussion, reflective writing, case analysis, critical thinking, and any other participatory and collaborative method as per the need of the situation.