AURORA

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AURORA PROJECT

Newsletter

January 9, 2024

International Conference of AURORA for Fostering Democratic Values and Active Citizenship through Education

Organized by
Open and Distance Education Centre
Tribhuvan University
Kathmandu, Nepal

Student Training Program on "Digital Literacy for e- Learning"

Sustainability and Future Plan of the Project

AURORA isn't just visiting, it's moved in! We've integrated its courses into existing degrees, like a chef infusing secret spices into every dish. The student club, staffed by our own graduates, isn't just a pop-up, it's a year-round celebration, buzzing with assemblies and activities. Sanitation drives, training workshops, and awareness campaigns – we've teamed up with Tribhuvan University, Central Department of Education to make AURORA sustainable.

Open and Distance Education Centre

Open and Distance Education Centre of Tribhuvan University (ODEC, TU), established in 2015, is a constituent academic organization of TU that aims to provide quality higher education to the wide range of individuals in Nepal and abroad through open and distance learning mode/blended mode of delivery. In 2020, the ODEC has the mandate to support all higher education campuses for integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in pedagogy and to support TU's policy to run dual mode programmes in the need.

Organizing Team
Convenor & Conference Director
Dr. Purna Bahadur Kadel
Director, Open and Distance Education Centre

Organizing Secretaries	Organizing Committee
Dr. Indra Raj Upadhaya	Prof. Lekhnath Sharma,
Dr. Sharan Hari Shrestha	Prof. Sushan Acharya
Mr. Suraj Prasad Shrestha	Prof. Peshal Khanal
Ms. Anjana Rajbhandari	Dr. Dhruba Prasad Niure
Mr. Purustam Shrestha	Mr. Abatar Subedi
Ms. Bindu Neupane	Mr. Rom Kant Pandey
Mr. Kuber Rai	Mr. Krisna Prasad Adhikari
	Dr. Kalpana Gyawali
	Mr. Chola Kanta Ghimire

Partner Universities and Institutions

Project Overview

AURORA (Alliance of Universities to Reinforce teacher training curricula to Outcast Radicalism and promote equality in Asian societies) is the Erasmus+ co-funded project. The alliance consists of 12 institutions namely Banasthali Vidyapith Jaypur, India, Open and Distance Education Centre, Tirbhuvan University, Nepal, Universidad De Malaga, Spain, Babes-Bolyai University Cluj, Napoca Romania, Pokhara University, Pokhara, Nepal, National Law College, Nepal, Masaryk brono, Chech Republic, Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Bhubaneshwar, India, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, India, Edulab, Mumbai, University College Cork, Iarland and Anuragha Tamil Nadu, India. The aim of the project is to work on capacity building in the field of higher education. The AURORA project centers on addressing inclusion, diversity, and integration, particularly for socioeconomically disadvantaged participants. The project focuses on raising achievement for all learners, celebrating diversity, promoting learner voice, and incorporating sustainable best practices in improvement processes. Acknowledging the uniqueness of countries, schools, and learners, the project provides a broad overview of policy contexts and examples drawn from schools in various countries. AURORA emphasizes the pivotal role of young people and student clubs in advocating for inclusive societies. The project offers a distinctive perspective on inclusion and diversity policies and practices, drawing on EU training experiences to design modules and practical assignments in collaboration with local partner schools. The project addresses issues like learner voice in school councils, diversity awareness among teachers and learners, initiatives for promoting diversity, and the role of mentoring in supporting minority learners' inclusion. Overall, the guidelines serve as a starting point for discussion and debate, recognizing the contextual variations in policies and practices.

Project Achievements

- AURORA courses development: Three courses Inclusive education and gender equality, Enhancement of active citizenship and democratic values, and Improving response to prevent radicalization leading to terrorism and violent extremism are developed under the AURORA banner.
- Integration of AURORA courses into existing university programs.

- Messaging through Poem (AURORA Club program them based poem competition)
- Student-led online learning and discussion forum (Gaming tools)
- Workshop on ensuring inclusion through youth participation

Social Services and Community awareness activities through maintaining greenery, sanitation and tree plantation in public place

- Knowledge mobilization activities such as transformative action research and data analysis (e.g., SPSS Training)
- Orientation and discussion program by AURRORA Club

- Capacity Building of students, teachers and administrative personnels in inclusive. education, democratic values and preventing radicalism.
- Establishment of Aurora Students Club and conducted activities.

Project Activities Snapshot

Take a look at some of the exciting activities that have taken place recently.

Study Visits

Different study visits were organized by the partner institutions to build networks among the institutions, capacity buildings, and knowledge and experience sharing activities.

First Study Visit at Banasthali Vidyapith, Jaipur, India on 15th to 19th March 2023. Second Study Visit at Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal on 25th to 29th April, 2023. Third study visit at Universidad De Malaga, Spain on 1st to 6th June, 2023. Fourth study visit at Babes-Bolyai University Cluj, Napoca, Romania from 6th to 11th June, 2023. Fifth study visit at Pokhara University, Pokhara on 19th to 22nd June, 2023. Seventh study visit at Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) from 29 Oct. to 30 Oct. 2023, Bhubaneshwar, India. Eighth study visit at Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, India on 12th to 15th, December 2023.

Course Development

Three courses Inclusive education and gender equality, Enhancement of active citizenship and democratic values, and Improving response to prevent radicalization leading to terrorism and violent extremism are developed under the AURORA banner.

Inclusive Education and Gender Equality: The major focus of this course is to make educational institutions fit the needs and expectations of students by keeping their rights, liberation, engagement, and agency at the center of the decision-making process. The course covers four modules. First module deals on the spectrum of identities- navigating the multifaceted individual, the second module is on challenging stereotypes- promoting inclusion in schools, workplaces and sports, the third one has focused on inclusion in Education and the last one is about the role of women in public life.

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Enhancement of Active Citizenship and Democratic Values: The enhancement of active citizenship and democratic values among academics, teachers and administrative staffs of higher education, particularly at university is the major focus of this course. Five modules of the course cover concept of active citizenship, democratic values in the social and cultural context, evaluation process and tools for active citizenship programmes, community leadership development and service learning in education.

Addressing Extremism in the Community: This course focuses to develop awareness to end social impunity and injustice which create an environment of insecurity and helpless. This course will help the learners to develop the sense of justice under their educational, social and cultural context.

Course Piloting: Open and Distance Education Center (ODEC), successfully conducted the piloting the developed courses among the graduates. All the participants of the piloting programmes were actively participated in the learning.

Integration of AUROA course in Regular Program: The courses developed under the AURORA projected are integrated into the regular degree programmes of the Tribhuvan University. Besides that, we have developed the training modules of three courses for the schools and universities teachers.

Digital Resources Development: For the course facilitation ODEC has developed the digital learning resources that includes self-study materials (SLM), PowerPoint Presentation and videos lessons. These resources managed in the learning management system Moodle for the asynchronous learning.

Aurora Club's Activities

Within the context of the AURORA student club, academics and extracurricular activities are combined to produce a vibrant educational community in TU. The following activities are carried out by the club.