“As a journalist, I have learned to find the news within the data.”

Surendra Paudyal
Nepali Television
Training journalists on data and the global goals
Kathmandu, Nepal

Overview

From March 27-30, the United Nations Foundation, in partnership with the World Bank, hosted a media training for 21 journalists in Kathmandu, Nepal. The training was on data and the Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on health, education, and Early Childhood Development.

Key Themes

- The Sustainable Development Goals are interconnected and directly affect health, education and Early Childhood Development.
- Life’s early years have a profound impact on a child’s future.
- Data is key. Quality and authenticity of data is crucial.

Key Terms During the Training

Did You Know?

- Nepal is the 4th most vulnerable country affected by climate change.
- Nepal has the highest number of females in political leadership roles in Asia, but also has the highest number of maternal mortality in the region.
- 87% of brain weight is acquired by 3 years of age.
- Nepal has one of the highest rates of stunted growth in the world.

Interesting Fact

Nepal is transitioning from a federalized to local government power structure and is holding local government elections on May 14. This change has huge implications for development programs. Health facilities will now be under the local district government vs. the Ministry of Health; schools will no longer be under the Ministry of Education but will be run by the local government. Though people are excited that local programs will have more impact, there are also questions on accountability and capacity building at the local level.

Field Visit: Lubhu Health Clinic

During the training, the journalists traveled with UNICEF to the district of Lubhu to visit a health clinic that focuses on pre-natal health and mothers with children 0-3 years old. The journalists learned steps pregnant mothers should take from pregnancy to childhood, saw the important vaccines that newborns should receive, interviewed the clinic’s volunteer health workers, and presented data-driven story ideas when they returned from the visit.
TOP QUESTIONS AND RESOURCES

Questions Journalists are Asking

- How do you verify data the source of your data?
- How do you get access to data especially if you live in a place without access to the internet?
- There are new schools being opened up by the government. Should we open new schools or improve current ones?
- How can we ensure that health programs implemented by development agencies are what the community needs and not just what the international organization wants?
- As agriculture is the main source of income and employment for the majority of Nepalis, should everybody pursue higher education?

Top Resources

1. World Bank Service Delivery Indicators
2. SDG site
3. Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund (SIEF)
4. World Bank education site

Resources on Data Journalism

Video: Telling Stories With Data
Gapminder

WHAT JOURNALISTS ARE SAYING:

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Social Media

Twitter

In Nepal, absolute poverty decreased from 42% in 1995 to 25% in 2010 & to 23.8% in 2015, as per official data #bootcampNepal @gunaraj

Mohan Aryal of @WorldBank speaking at data-driven storytelling workshop at #Kathmandu #BootcampNepal

Remu Sapkota @remusapkota Gh Training on SDGs through Data-driven storytelling by @SyedNazakat @sanjil oberai

Syed Nazakat @SyedNazakat thanks everyone for making this boot camp so great @DFID_UK @WorldBank @unicef_nepal , @UNF_Press, @tinamusoke . @gunaraj