PREFACE

The goal of Universal Primary Education is more than putting the primary school-age children into the school system. For this, dropout of the enrolled children from school should be checked, quality of learning be enhanced and the completion of primary cycle by all in a period of five years be ensured. In order to control dropout of children from school, the causes and victims of dropout should be identified and their solutions examined. For this, an in-depth inquiry into the problem of dropout in primary education like the present study is called for, which helps to draw realistic and result-oriented policies and actions so as to check dropout and pave a smooth road-map towards education for all. Hence, the present study entitled "A Study of Social and Economic Parameters of Dropouts and their Relationship with Retention and Quality of Primary Education in Nepal" has been undertaken.

This study attempts to identify social and economic parameters of students’ dropout in primary education in Nepal and analyze relationship between dropout and quality of education. It is mainly based on data obtained from a survey of seventy-two community (public) primary schools and 430 households of dropout children of two districts of Nepal – Doti and Rautahat. This thesis, which is the tangible outcome of the study, is presented in eight chapters. The first chapter contains an introduction to the study which includes discussion on the context, statement of the problem and objectives of the study. The second chapter is a review of literature on the theme of the study. The third chapter contains description of how research tools were developed and validated. In the fourth chapter, key research questions are stated and the methods adopted to seek answers to these questions are explained. The fifth chapter is an elaborate discussion on social parameters of dropout children, which is followed by a full-length presentation of the economic parameters of the dropout children in chapter six. The seventh chapter contains a discussion of relationship between retention of children in school with the quality of education. Here, the characteristics of high and low dropout schools have been identified and compared. The eighth chapter contains the summary of findings, concluding observations of the study and recommended measures to address the problem of dropout in primary education in Nepal.

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