Spoken Paper

Building Music Education in schools across Nepal

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Nepal is rich in traditional, classical and folk music and in dances. Various music and dance events take place in different parts of Nepali societies on the occasion of different festivals, religious and social practices. Songs, musical instruments and dances are associated with various religious, social and cultural activities. Music from Nepal covers genre ranging from folk/ethnic music, raga-based music and a range of modern styles. Even with such intensity in one’s daily routine, the status of music education and the requirements of music as a form of modern education have rarely, if ever, been brought up. Until 2015 there had not been a significant initiative towards implementation of music in formal education system of Nepal.

Thus, for the purpose of strengthening and improving the quality of music education, theoretical and practical teaching methods, Formal music program was implemented at Nepal Sangeet Vidhyalaya (NSV) as a pilot school and Resource Centre. In close collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal, a curriculum for class 9-12 was developed, with a broad focus starting with the folk music of Nepal. This was officially adopted by the Ministry in 2015 and music as a formal discipline has been included in the Technical and Vocational Stream of Education (TVSE) curriculum from April 2016.

From the perspective of an Educational Trust and Research Center, Nepal Music Center responsible to develop and lobby music education in schools
across Nepal, comes this presentation of establishment of countries first formal music school, under the TVSE, opened for all school going children (grade 9-12) and development of a cultural sensitive national music curriculum and steps towards implementing it in Nepali schools. Our journey from no music education policy to implementation of formal music curriculum and establishment of formal music school in the span of ten years.