

## Introduction

The Government of Nepal instituted Education Review Office (ERO) in 2010 with the aim of carrying out independent assessments on education. In order to provide systemic policy feedback for improving the quality of and equity in entire education system through improved accountability, of ERO is mandated to conducting the assessment of student achievement, carrying out the performance audit of schools and other educational institutions under the Ministry of Education (MOE), and conducting research and studies on educational issues. The eighth amendment of Education Act 2016 (2073 BS) has provided a legal basic for ERO with the mandate of carrying out various types of educational assessments. ERO submits the reports of Assessments to the National Council for Education headed by the Minister for Education.

Since its establishment, ERO has been conducting large-scale assessments of student achievement called National Assessment of Student Achievement (NASA) for various grades of school education periodically against the standard set by the national curriculum. Similarly, it has been carrying out Performance Audit (PA) of Schools, Resource Centres (RCs), District Education Offices (DEOs), Education Training Centres (ETCs), Regional Education Directorates (REDs) and Central Level Agencies (CLAs) against their organizational mandates, roles and responsibilities as stipulated by the rules and regulations. Similarly, ERO initiated assessments of Early Childhood Learning and Development, and Classroom Based Early Grade Reading. In addition, ERO has been conducting research and studies on educational issues. The Education Review Office is located at Sanothimi, Bhaktapur.

## Objectives

As stated in ERO Operation Guidelines 2017 (2074 BS), ERO has been instituted with the following objectives:

- To provide feedback to the Ministry of Education and related agencies for educational policy and programme design with the aim of improving quality of and enhancing equity in education through assessing the level of students learning achievement periodically.

- To carry out the performance audit of schools and other educational agencies/institutions regularly for providing evidence based feedback to improve the quality of education through improved service delivery.
- To facilitate schools and other educational institutions for self-assessment of the performance.
- To assess the performance of programmes and projects implemented in education.
- To generate evidence based information to improve the quality of and equity in education by conducting researches and studies on contemporary issues in education.

## Functions

The following are the main functions of ERO:

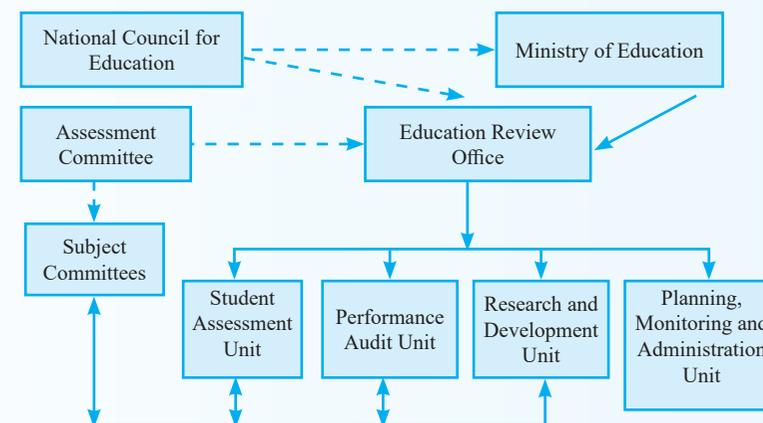
- Develop and update assessment framework for National Assessment of Student Achievement at various grades of school education.
- Develop standardized tests for National Assessment of Student Achievement.
- Carry out National Assessment of Student Achievement in various grades of school education.
- Carry out the student assessment on Early Grade Reading Skills.
- Design framework and tools for performance audit.
- Carry out performance audit of schools and government agencies under the MOE.
- Carry out the assessment of Early Childhood Learning and Development.
- Prepare reports of assessments and audits and disseminate these reports to the concerned stakeholders.
- Carry out the performance assessment of educational programs and projects.
- Conduct researches and studies on contemporary issues in education.
- Devise and use appropriate method, technology and process for assessing student's learning achievement and auditing the performance of schools and other institution in education.

- Develop human as well as institutional resources for the assessment of students learning achievement, auditing of the performance of schools and other agencies in education and educational research.
- Coordinate and collaborate with national and international agencies to conduct student assessment, audit the performance of schools and research/studies on educational issues more effectively.

## Organizational Structure

ERO functions under the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Education and provides reports and recommendations of various assessments and studies to the education system through National Council for Education. Assessment committee, chaired by the Chief Education Auditor, provides technical support and guidance to ERO. Various subject committees support designing framework, developing standards and tools for assessments and studies.

As per the education act, a Chief Education Auditor appointed by the Government of Nepal leads Education Review Office with technical and policy matters. Joint Secretary of the Government of Nepal works as the executive director of ERO and manages the programmes and activities of ERO. There are four units in ERO: Student Assessment, Performance Audit, Planning, Monitoring and Administration, and Research and Development, coordinated each by an Under-Secretary, working under the direct supervision and coordination of a Joint Secretary. The following chart illustrates the overall organizational structure of ERO:



## Working Modality

To ensure the quality of assessments and studies, ERO follows the accepted standard principles of assessment and evaluation while accomplishing the tasks related to student assessment, performance audit and other studies. It solicits external expertise to carrying out student assessment and performance audit. The aim of the assessments and studies conducted by ERO is to improve the learning of students by improving the performance of education system. While conducting various types of assessments, ERO does not disclose personal information of any person without taking consent from the person.

## Progress so Far

Within the six years of its establishment, ERO has already accomplished five large-scale student assessments. During this period, it accomplished performance audit of several schools and government agencies working for school education. The table below presents a glimpse of the tasks accomplished so far.

1. National Assessment of Student Achievement (NASA)						
Year	Grade	Sample			Subjects	
		District	School	Student		
2011	8	25	1201	48682	Maths, Nepali and Social Studies	
2012	3	28	1690	38735	Maths and Nepali	
2012	5	28	1690	41479	English, Maths and Nepali	
2013	8	25	1198	44067	Maths, Nepali and Science	
2015	3	25	1700	34000	Maths and Nepali	
2015	5	25	1700	54000	English, Maths and Nepali	
2017	8	26	1950	48000	Maths, Nepali, Science	

2. Performance Auditing (PA)						
Year	Schools	RCs	DEOs	REDs	CLAs	ETCs
2012	30	-	5	-	2	-
2013	48	-	10	-	-	-
2014	42	8	8	-	-	-
2015	33	11	15	1	-	-
2016	26	7	7	2	1	1
2017	413	79	8	-	-	-
Total	592	105	53	3	3	1

ERO has also conducted Classroom Based Early Grade Reading Assessment (CB-EGRA) at 2605 schools from 11 districts in 2017. It has also been initiated the assessment of Early Childhood Learning and Development. In addition, ERO has carried out some studies on contemporary issues in education.

## Future Plan and Activities

The following are the future plans and activities of ERO:

- Conducting NASA at grade 5, 8 and 10;
- Moving towards criteria and standards referenced assessment from norm referenced assessment;
- Conducting assessment on Early Grade Reading Skills;
- Conducting assessment on Early childhood learning and development;
- Continuing performance audit of schools and other educational institutions;
- Developing self-assessment tools for schools and other educational institutions and facilitating for their uses;
- Conducting research and studies on various issues in education;
- Enhancing the capacity of ERO.

# Education Review Office

## An Introduction



Government of Nepal  
 Ministry of Education  
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