



Munich Personal RePEc Archive

Sport for Development and Peace (SDP) Organisations and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Nepal

Sapkota, Jeet Bahadur and Neupane, Pramila

Kwansei Gakuin University, Gunma University

2018

Online at <https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/106159/>
MPRA Paper No. 106159, posted 17 Feb 2021 02:05 UTC

Sport for Development and Peace (SDP) Organisations and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Nepal

Jeet Bahadur Sapkota, Kwansei Gakuin University, jeet@kwansei.ad.jp
Pramila Neupane, Gunma University, p.neupane@gunma-u.ac.jp

Abstract

With growing empirical evidences of sport's positive impacts on socioeconomic development and peacebuilding, there is progress in theorizing sport as a vehicle for social change and global growth of Sport for Development and Peace (SDP) organisations; undoubtedly, the SDP sector can play a significant role in achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs), particularly in the least developed countries (LDCs). However, local SDP organisations and related government policies in LDCs have rarely been studied, and there have been no studies conducted yet focusing Nepal. Thus, this paper explores the grassroots SDP organisations in Nepal and have found that 'Youth and Sport' related non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are proliferating since 1990, increasing from 157 to 3,799 in 2000, and recently reaching 11,886 in July 2017, thus contributing to the SDGs in many ways. However, the government has had no independent and organized SDP policy so far, and the related policies reviewed in the several policy documents are also not well linked with the national SDG framework and remain far apart from the global SDP movement. To develop a well-functioning SDP sector in countries like Nepal, we suggest further exploration of the 'Youth and Sport' NGOs and developing a comprehensive, independent national SDP policy that accelerates the achievement of SDGs in Nepal.

Keywords: Sport for development and peace (SDP), SDP Organisations, sustainable development goals (SDGs), Development Policy, Nepal

Introduction

Acknowledging the huge potential of sports to contribute to peace and development, especially in disadvantaged and highly fractionalized areas (Schulenkorf and Sugden 2011), several United Nations' Resolutions have been passed by its General Assembly and numerous international, national as well as local efforts have been made aiming to optimize the use of sports to achieve international development goals, especially the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) before 2015 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) after 2015 to 2030. The recently adopted Kazan Action Plan by the UNESCO's Sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport also committed to link the sport policy development to SDGs (UNESCO 2017). Consequently, Sport for Development and Peace (SDP) has emerged as an important sector of international development (Schulenkorf and Adair 2014) and so are the numerous SDP organisations at both global and local levels (Svensson and Woods 2017). However, local SDP organisations and government policies to achieve their national SDGs in least developed countries (LDCs) have not been explored well (United Nations, n.d.) to find out where the efforts should be emphasized most to achieve these global goals (Assa 2017). Such exploration is essential for two reasons. First, global progress on the achievement of SDGs largely depends on the success of LDCs (Dahlman and mealy 2016), and second, sports offers the rationale and inexpensive means to development (Darnell 2012). Arguably, such inexpensive means are most suitable for the resource-constrained LDCs. Therefore, this paper explores the grassroot SDP organisations in Nepal and finds out the extent to which the government policy is organized in line with the established knowledge and good practices of the United Nations' SDP strategies and other efforts to mobilize sports and SDP organisations to achieve the SDGs.

At national level, especially in the LDCs where realising development and peace is most challenging, many scholars are very sceptic about the achievement of SDGs through sports by given deadline of 2030 (Dahlman and Mealy 2016). Therefore, it is more worthwhile to explore how LDCs design their national SDGs and how sport is integrated in their policy framework to achieve the SDGs. Undoubtedly, strong national ownership is essentially important for the achievement of SDGs. Based on national condition, country can prioritize certain goal/s. Nepal became the first country to introduce SDGs national report namely 'Sustainable Development Goals 2016–2030 National (Preliminary) Report', which was prepared right after the United Nations General Assembly adopted the '2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' on 25 September 2015. Developed on the footing of MDGs experiences and inputs from all the stakeholders of international development, the 2030 Agenda replaced the MDGs with 17 new goals aiming to 'transform our world by 2030' (United Nations 2015). Paragraph '37' of the report emphasises the importance of sports for development and peace for development and peace building as follows:

Sport is also an important enabler of sustainable development. We recognise the growing contribution of sport to the realisation of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives. (p. 10)

Despite strong acceptance of sports as an 'important enabler of sustainable development' and clear recognition of sports' growing contribution towards development and peace outcomes, the integration of sports in Nepal's SDGs frameworks and policies is not clear. The national preliminary report established the base line for the SDGs and provided the vision and main objectives for many national policies including the SDP sector. Particularly, major policies formulated after 2015 benefitted from the preliminary SDGs report. Notably, Nepal's 'Fourteenth Plan (2016/17–2018/19)' provides detailed strategies and policies to achieve the national SDGs and other socioeconomic agendas (NPC 2017), the 'Youth Vision 2025' covers both youth and sport sector, and the 'National Youth Policy 2015' also covers both youth and sports. This study focuses on these policy documents because there is no other specific national independent 'sport policy' introduced so far despite high demand from the sports stakeholders.

Thanks to the United Nations–led global SDP initiatives, numerous scholarly works have already found robust evidences of the positive impact of sports on peace and development indicators. Although most of the literature focus on the developed world with diverse results, there is a consensus that sport and physical activity considerably reduce health care cost and increase health benefits in any society. Literature also found a strong positive association between sport/exercise and academic attainment (Martin 2010, Newman et al. 2010). For example, Metzger et al. (2009) found the higher numeracy levels among the students who played organised sport than those who did not. Similarly, Downward and Rasciute (2011) found that social interaction nature of some sports led to the participants experiencing greater happiness. SDP programs utilize sports to bring positive changes in society by supporting the people lagging behind from the mainstream society, promoting cross-cultural exchange, resolving conflicts, and fostering peacebuilding (Lyras and Peachey 2011). At the community level, sports helps to develop network among its members (Sherry, Karg and O'May 2011; Smith and Westerbeek 2007) especially in fractionalized communities (Burnett 2009; Jarvie 2003). Similarly, sports expands the social capital among participants (Sherry 2010; Sherry, Karg and O'May 2011; Tonts 2005) and other stakeholders. On a broader level, Levermore has claimed that sports can serve as a new engine in advancing various dimensions of

development, and a growing number of policy makers are already grasping this notion (Schulenkorf, Thomson and Schlenker 2011).

However, a large body of literature is critical of the very positive view of the sport's contribution to peace and development. Darnell argues that sport basically follows the hegemony of neo-liberal development philosophy benefiting richer more than the poorer although sport can offer a new and unique tool for positive development outcome (Darnell 2010). Despite a certain theoretical bias, Cotler pointed out a number of dangers of SDP initiatives, such as unclear micro-level individual outcomes and broader macro-level impacts; ignorance of wider socio-political contexts where SDP organizations operate; attempt to solve broad gauge problems via limited focus interventions. Mismatch of the SDP scholarships is also notable in that 90% of SFD authors are based in North America, Europe, and Australia despite the fact that most of the SFD projects are implemented in Africa, Asia, and Latin America (Schulenkorf, Sherry and Rowe 2016).

The global SDP initiatives also draw significant attention from governmental and non-governmental actors, donors and development agencies, and sporting bodies around the world that ultimately result in the growing number of SDP organisations at different levels. These organisations are involved in various aspects of sustainable development and peace, such as gender and social inclusion, health and education, economic development, as well as reconciliation and peacebuilding, primarily based on the local need (Levermore and Beacom 2009; Schulenkorf and Adair 2014). A recent work by Svensson and Woods (2017) provides a systematic overview of SDP organisations and notes 955 entities involved in SDP grassroots practice, among the 3138 organisational entries in the global SDP database. However, little is known about such organisations at the national level, particularly in the LDCs. It is undeniable that these organisations have a huge potential to contribute to achieving SDGs (Schulenkorf and Adair 2014), if public policy is well designed and implemented as guided by the adaptation of international or global framework to the local context (Collison, Darnell, Giulianotti and Howe 2016). Thus, there is a growing interest among policy makers as well as scholars on deeper understanding of the grassroots SDP organisations and local SDGs, particularly in the LDCs. This paper intends to serve this interest by exploring the situation of Nepal, one of the LDCs whose political and economic systems have been completely restructured from the centrally controlled Hindu Kingdom to a Secular Federal Republic, after a decade-long armed conflict from 1996 to 2006, followed by another decade of turbulent political transition (Bogati, Cox, Karki and Sisk 2017).

Specifically, this paper explores the following research questions: 1) What are the national SDGs and SDP policies of Nepal? 2) What is the trend of grassroots SDP organisations since 1990 and how they can contribute SDGs achievement?

The next section describes the data and methodology used in this paper. Then, we present the analysis of SDP organisations in Nepal, followed by the analysis of national SDGs and related policy frameworks that are relevant to the SDP sector. Finally, the paper concludes with some policy recommendations.

Data and Methodology

In this study, we follow a descriptive method relying on desk research to explore non-governmental grassroots SDP organisations and the national SDGs based on the rigorous review of the policy documents of Nepal, national and global SDGs frameworks and the global SDP database. We also analyse national nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) data gathered from the NGOs database of the Social Welfare Council (SWC) of Nepal

using basic arithmetic. We argue that specific groups of NGOs can lead the SDP sector because their contribution to social welfare and different aspect of socioeconomic development is well established in the literature. For example, NGOs are considered help grassroots participation (Farrington and Bebbington 1993), reach to disadvantaged people and areas where government rarely support (Islam and Morgan 2012), promotes democracy (Clark 1991), and boost social capital (Islam 2015). As there are large numbers of NGOs wide spreading around the country, we have not examined the actual situation of the ‘Youth and Sport’ NGOs in this research due to limited time and resources. However, in the context of the limited research on this topic in Nepal, we believe that the results would serve as valuable reference for further work. Detailed methodology is discussed below.

To find out the relevant SDP policies, various planning and policy documents are examined. First, three national SDG reports are inspected to find out national SDG targets. These documents are as follows: 1) ‘Sustainable Development Goals 2016–2030 National (Preliminary) Report,’ published in late 2015, 2) ‘Nepal’s Sustainable Development Goals Baseline Report,’ and 3) ‘National Review of Sustainable Development Goals,’ both published in July 2017. We also examine the recently adopted national periodic development plan, namely the ‘Fourteenth Plan (Fiscal Years 2016/17 – 2019/20)’. This is the government’s main long-term as well as medium-term policy direction, coving all sectors of development. This is the first development plan after the promulgation of the new Constitution of Nepal 2015 and the setting up of global as well as national SDGs. Therefore, the 14th plan is firmly guided by the new Constitution, which aims to achieve the national SDGs. Finally, we review the ‘Youth Vision – 2025 and Ten-Year Strategic Plan,’ which was adopted by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in October 2015. This is the most relevant policy document in which we expect to find the country’s SDP policies.

To serve the main purpose of exploring the grassroot SDP organisations and their potential in contributing to the national SDGs in Nepal, we use the NGO database collected from the Social Welfare Council (SWC). Under the aegis of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, the SWC is responsible for the promotion, facilitation, coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of the activities of NGOs. All the NGOs must be registered to the SWC and submit their annual report to run any project. NGOs are self-governing, voluntary, and private, but not for profit, in principle (Anheier and Salamon 2006), and they are popular and receive donations and even volunteers locally as well as globally, because they work for practical socioeconomic development and political issues, such as health, education, environment, and governance (Castells 2005) that are mostly covered by the SDGs. Therefore, we use the NGO database, as the grassroot SDP organisations fall under the category of NGOs.

Within the NGOs database, we focus on ‘Youth and Sport’ related NGOs because existing studies found that SDP is predominantly targeted on youth in terms of programme design and delivery (Darnell et al. 2016; Schulenkorf, Sherry and Rowe 2016). Although this review is based on global SDP research which is primarily focused on Africa and the age profile of Nepal is relatively older than many African countries, ‘Youth and Sport’ is still relevant for SDP for two reasons. First, youth age group of population is increasing continuously in Nepal. For instance, the proportion of the population for age groups 10-14 years and 15 to 25 years continuously increased from 11.3% and 17.7% in 1981 to 13.2% and 20% in 2011 respectively (MOPE 2017). Second, the rationale suggested by the existing studies for the youth as the conceptual and practical centre of the SDP field is relevant in Nepal as well. In the post-conflict situation of Nepal, youth are the most vulnerable population. As Potter et al. argued, youths have limited access to material and political resources that leads to deprivation or marginalization

(Potter et al. 2012). This claim is reflected in the ever-increasing trend of youth migration abroad for work since the end of Moist insurgency in 2006 (Acharya and Leon Gonzalez 2018). Similarly, SDP focus on youth needs further attention as youth are socially malleable, open to external intervention, or in need of social control (Darnell et al. 2016). Notably, youth focus of SDP is criticized by the critical sociology of childhood and youth scholars who argue that children and young people are not passive subjects of social structures and processes rather they are active social actors (Mayall 2013). However, Darnell argued that "...the predominance of youth-focused activity in SDP raises questions of the bio-politics of SDP, whereby sport may constitute a means of productive power and a practice of governmentality, often focused on youth, the body, and the conduct of youth's conduct (p. 136)." Thus, youth focus is essential for SDP sector in Nepal as well.

Apart from this national-level data, we also check the major global SDP database to examine Nepal's SDP organisations, which include Beyond Sport Network, International Platform for Sport and Development, and streetfootballworld. Despite the huge number of NGOs registered in the national regulatory body SWC, only 16 NGOs are found in the global databases, as on December 2017 when the data was collected.

As per the Social Welfare Rule 1993, NGOs need to specify the sectoral focus of their activities during their registration process. However, the SDP or 'Youth and Sports' are not recognised as a separate sector yet, hence we needed to reclassify the sectors to meet the objective of this study. The SWC's formal sectoral classifications are: Aids and Abuse Control, Child Welfare, Community and Rural Development, Educational Development, Environmental Protection, Handicapped and Disabled Services, Health Services, Moral Development, Women Services, and Youth Services. However, 5,392 local or national sports clubs are registered under Community/Rural Development, which we term as 'Sport Development'. We combined these sport clubs with the NGOs under 'Youth Services' sector which is formally classified by the SWC and termed as 'Youth and Sport' sector. Most of the local sports clubs, such as *Dhorapatan* Sports Club is run by the local youth of *Dhorapatan* village of *Baglung* district to promote sport activities and mobilize local youth to support the community. Thus, we consider 'Youth and Sport' sector as the potential sector of SDP organisations. We also combined 'Health Services', 'Handicapped and Disabled Services' and 'Aids and Abuse Control' into a single sector of 'Health and Disability' as all the three sub-sectors belong to health. Similarly, 'Education' and 'Child Welfare' are also combined. We also examine the names of the NGOs to find out their sectoral belongings, as the database has blank space for sectoral information for many NGOs. For example, we assigned 'Youth and Sport' for *Sano Kherkha Yuwa Club* of *Jhapa* District because the meaning of the word *Yuwa* is youth in Nepali. Notably, NGOs belonging to sectors other than 'Youth and Sport' also contribute to SDGs in many ways. However, we limit our analysis to 'Youth and Sport' sector as the focus of this study is SDP organizations.

The SDP organisations which are registered in the global SDP databases have more information, as many of them have their independent website. The SDP organisation online database also provides data on their activities, impacts, and other details. Therefore, we are able to identify the orientation of their existence and contribution to particular SDGs. Although our observation is more subjective in nature, we believe that their programs, projects, and activities are sufficient to identify such orientation. Further research is essential to identify such orientation of other NGOs whose information is not available on internet. Finally, the policy documents are assessed to identify the national SDGs and locate the SDP policies, in relation to achieving the national SDGs.

National SDGs and SDP policies

As shown in Table 1, Nepal has set lower national targets than global SDG targets. For instance, poverty eradication measured by percent of population below US\$ 1.25 per day (ppp value) is set to be reduced from 23.7% in 2015 to 4.9% in 2030. Similarly, no hunger goal measured by prevalence of undernourishment is set to be reduced from 36.1% in 2015 to 3% in 2030. Global target for both indicators is to reduce it to 0 by 2030. It is not clear why the policymakers are not confident about their capacity to achieve the prime necessity of ending poverty and hunger from the country. In the context of ending the prolonged political transition followed by armed conflict and the establishment of full-fledged democratic and economic institution, arguably the country is in far better position to address political, economic, and sociocultural challenges.

There is no clear SDP policy set in any of the policy documents. It must contain such policy if the government recognises SDP sector as one of the contributor of SDGs achievement as outlined by the United Nations. Although Nepal was proactive in preparing its SDGs framework becoming the first nation to introduce preliminary report, policymakers missed paragraph 37 of the United Nations' '2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' completely. There is no sports-related policy and program that is related to SDGs no. 1–2, 6–7, 9, and 11–15. The policy focuses on the role of 'youth' in achieving SDGs but the role of 'sports' is clearly ignored. The 'Fourteen Plan', prepared by the National Planning Commission (NPC), the apex development policy making body of Nepal, has just one policy on promotion of 'sport tourism' and infrastructure development for 'adventure sports' that potentially contributes to SDG 8 of employment and economic growth.

Other two policy instruments of the government, particularly of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the 'Youth Vision 2030' and the 'National Youth Policy 2015', primarily focus on youth development, and fails to formulate any organised SDP policy. Within this limited focus on sports, most policy guidelines aim to address the challenges of sports development rather than sport for development. The other principles include 'Social Justice and Equality', 'Inclusion and Equitable Development', 'Guarantee of Rights and Realisation of Obligations', among others, which can be useful for SDP policy as well.

Despite poor focus, there are some SDP policies found in the 'Youth Vision 2025'. Sport related policies are grouped as 'Sport and Entertainment' not recognising 'sports' as an independent sector. However, policies that use sports for health (SDG 3) and education (SDG 4) are outlined in page 34 of the document. The Ten Year Strategic Plan states '... expand sports to the School level in the Schools located in the rural areas with a view to interlinking it with the physical and mental health of the common youths'. Similar policy is found in the National Youth Policy 2015 (p. 14). Regarding Goal 8, both policy documents focus on promoting 'sports tourism' and 'adventure sports' as a contributor to employment generation, local development, and economic growth similar as in the Fourteenth Plan.

Notably, 'Youth Vision 2025' clearly states, '... develop and expand Sports for enhancing peace, unity, caste and regional tolerance and national prestige' (p. 34) as one of the sectoral strategy of 'Sports and Entertainment'. This policy can contribute SDG 16 that aims to achieve justice, social inclusion, and fair and inclusive institutions. This is the major SDP policy formulated by the Government of Nepal, which needs further elaboration. It's other policies that guide to organise national and international friendly sports events for 'promoting consensus, collaboration and amicability among the youth of the country and abroad' (p. 36) also contribute to SDG 16. This policy also contributes to global partnership for sustainable development of SDG 17. The national youth policy further emphasises organising sports to increase female participation across different

caste and ethnic groups, people from different geographical regions and people with disability to promote social harmony and understanding (pp. 14–15), which potentially contribute SDG 5, SDG 16, and SDG 17.

Table 1 Selected SDG indicators, its national status and target and SDP policy of Nepal[§]

SDG Indicator No.	Selected SDGs Indicators [¶]	National Status and Targets		Global Targets	Policy Documents if it has any SDP Policy [‡]
		2015	2030		
1.1.1	Population below US\$ 1.25 per day (ppp value) (%)	23.7	4.9	0	x
2.1.1	Prevalence of undernourishment	36.1	3	0	x
3.1.1	Maternal mortality ratio	125	70	70	b, c
4.1.1	Gross Enrolment in secondary education (grade 9 to 12) (%)	56.7	99	100 [#]	b, c
5.1.1	Wage equality for similar work (ration of women's and men wage)	0.62	0.92	1	b, c
6.1.1	Population using safe drinking water (%)	15	90	100	x
7.1.1	Proportion of population with access to electricity	74	99	100	x
8.1.1	Per capita GDP growth (%)	2.3	7	7	a, b, c
9.1.1	Road density (km/sq. km)	0.55	1.3	*	x
10.1.1	Consumption inequality (measured by the Gini coefficient)	0.33	0.16	*	b
11.1.1	Households living in safe houses (%)	29.8	60	100	x
12.2.1	Proportion of total water resource used (%)	10	20	*	x
13.1.3	CO2 emission from energy sector (Industrial, transport, etc.) (Gg)	7959	3979	*	x
14.1.1	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine...				Irrelevant for Nepal
15.1.2	Conservation of lakes, wetlands, and ponds (number)	1727	5000	*	x
16.2.1	Children age 1-14 years who experienced psychological aggression or physical punishment during the last one month (%)	81.7	0	100	b, c
17.6.2	Internet Density (per 100 person)	49.8	95	100	b, c

Source: Authors' compilation of the data and information from the national and global Indicator Framework for Sustainable Goals and Targets, and the review of Nepal's policy documents.

Notes: [§] = There is no specific national sport policy introduced so far in Nepal. Therefore, we search for SDP policies in other related policy documents. [¶] = Although each SDG goal has many targets and indicators, we selected only one representative indicator for each goal that is most relevant in Nepali context. [#] = The 100% secondary school completion is set as global target in the SDG framework. * = There is no specific global target for this indicator. [‡] = The policy document marked in this column indicate policy for the SDG number rather than the specific indicator showing in the Column 2. x = no policy in any of the policy document; a = Nepal's Fourteenth Plan; b = Nepal's Youth Vision 2025; and c = National Youth Policy 2015 of Nepal.

Clearly, SDP policy in Nepal is not evolved yet to the level, which can encourage establishing SDP organisation and mobilising them effectively. As a LDC, the country has no noticeable national policy for Sports sector itself. However, the SDP sector can play very effective role in SDGs achievement especially in a diverged society.

SDP organisations in Nepal

There are only 16 organisations from Nepal in the global online SDP organisation directories, as discussed above. However, NGOs have been soaring since the restoration of democracy in 1990 in the country, as both the government and international organisations deem them as the local counterpart of the development activities. For instance, 46,235 NGOs are registered to the SWC as of July 16, 2017 (SWC n.d), which is a substantial increase from only 229 at the beginning of 1990. Notably, many of these NGOs' activities are potentially linked to the SDP sector. These NGOs vary in size and scope, sectoral and locational focus, and/or their programme style. For example, the *Youth and Sports Club* is a small group of less than 20 young people, organized at the local *Pipara* village of *Mahottari* district, working for youth services and sports development, whereas the *World Vision in Nepal* is a national branch of the big global organisation World Vision, which employs thousands of people around the world. While some NGOs work on many aspects and areas, many others focus on specific issues, such as health, education, environment, human rights, indigenous people's rights, conflict resolution, women trafficking, child trafficking, youth development, sports development (within sports, there are many NGOs focusing on specific sports, such as football, volleyball, cricket, and local sports). In this section, we first review the NGOs working for the 'Youth and Sport' area and registered to the SWC, and then present a detailed analysis of the SDP organisations in the global online directories.

Notably, apart from 16 NGOs included in the global SDP database, there is no NGO which clearly specifies its objective as SDP. Therefore, we consider their sectoral classification as 'Youth and Sport' for potential contribution to SDGs. Of course, other NGOs apart from 'Youth and Sport' are also contributing to SDGs in many ways. However, field research is needed to assess their actual contribution which is beyond the scope of this paper.

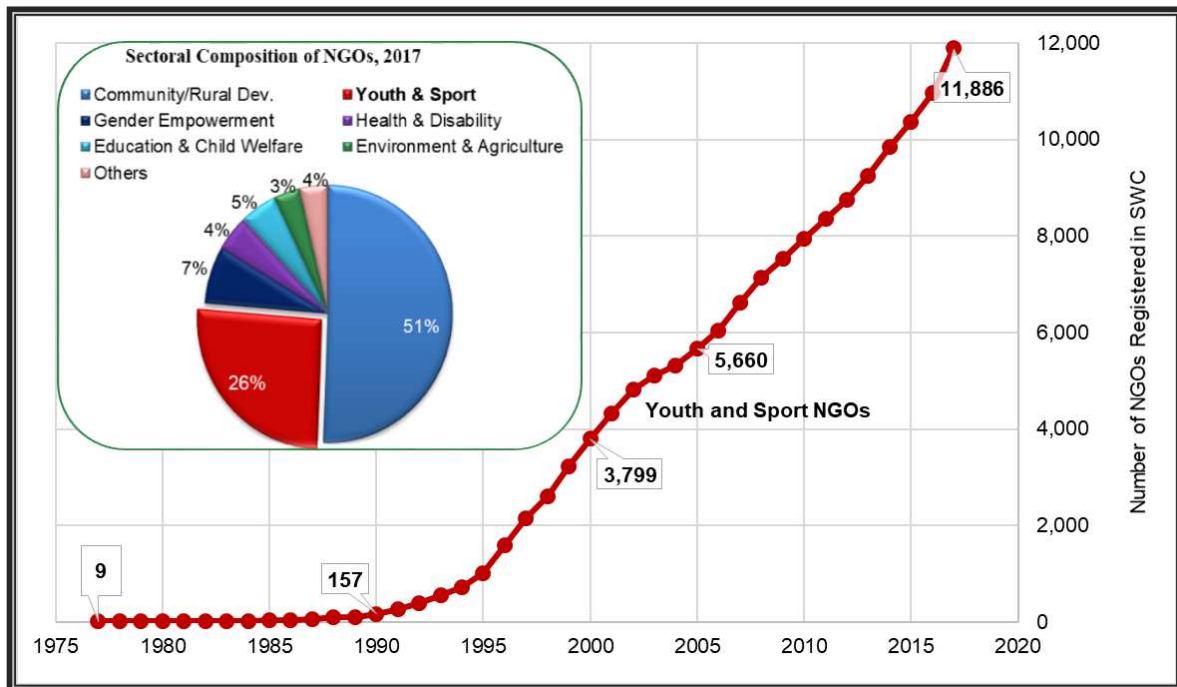
"Youth and Sport" Related Organisations in Nepal

As NGOs are proliferating since the 1990s, there are many NGOs in every sector in Nepal. Figure 1 presents the sectorial composition of the NGOs registered to the SWC as of July 2017, together with the four-decade long trend of the 'Youth and Sport' related NGOs since 1977. Interestingly, 'Youth and Sport' is the second largest group with 26% ($n = 11,886$) of the total NGOs ($n = 46,235$) as of July 2017, after the 'Community and/or Rural Development' related NGOs, which constitute 51% ($n = 23,386$). The line graph indicates a sharp rise of the 'Youth and Sport' related NGOs from right after the restoration of multi-party democracy in the country in 1990 to the end of Maoist armed conflict in 2006. We observed similar trend of NGOs in other areas as well. It should be noted that this number of NGOs are based on the registration, so field-based investigation is essential to understand the real situation of their operation. Furthermore, many NGOs' operation areas are cross-sectoral, e.g., Nutrition and Health, Community and Rural Development established in 2012 in Bhaktapur district covers three areas: Health, Community Development, and Rural Development.

This rapid rise of NGOs and their contribution to development and peacebuilding in Nepal support the theoretical argument made by many scholars that civil society organisations, including NGOs, can play a crucial role in nation building in a strong democratic society (Perry and Thomson 2004; Newton 2001; Scholte 2002; Ehrenberg 2017; Way 2014; Fernandes 2015). Indeed, the democratic government has acknowledged civil society as one of the main stakeholders of development in its periodic development plan, e.g. the Tenth Plan, which outlined the roles of NGOs as a major contributor to local development, encouraging and facilitating them

to work for underdeveloped communities, particularly in remote areas (NPC 2002). Notably, some of the civil society groups played a crucial role in the peace negotiations between the Maoist insurgents and the government in 2006 that led to the end of a decade-long armed conflict, which left over 13,000 people dead and 1,300 missing (Dahal 2006; Holtermann 2016).

Figure 1 NGOs in Nepal: sectoral composition and ‘youth and sport’ sector trend



Source: The authors use the data collected from the SWC of the Government of Nepal.

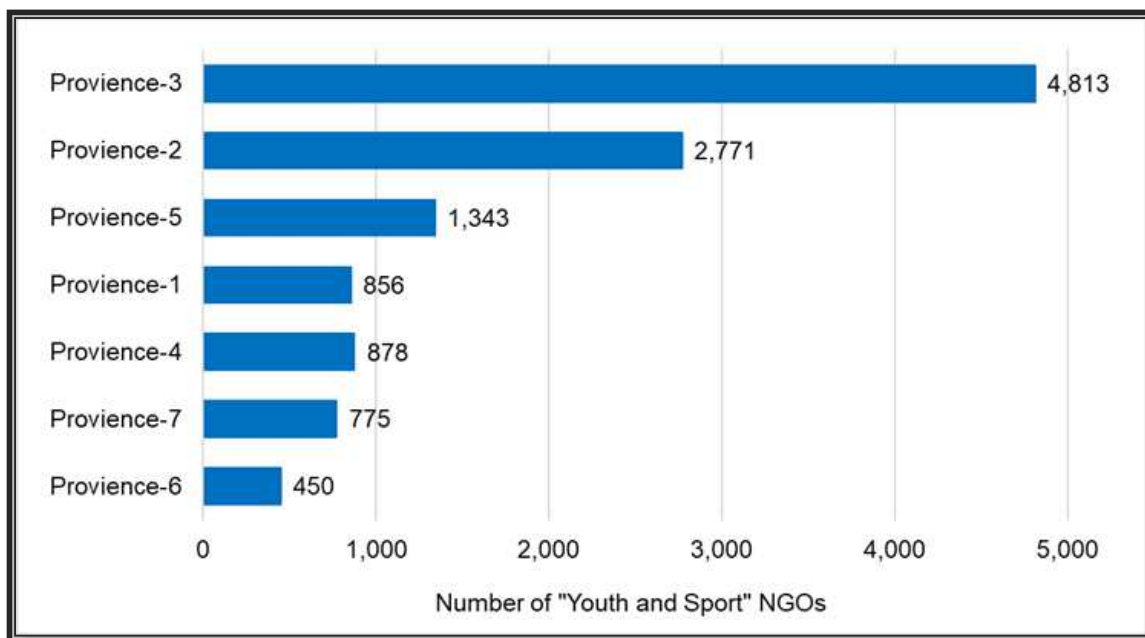
‘Youth and Sport’ related NGOs mainly focus their work on ‘youth services’ and ‘sports development’. Notably, ‘Youth Services’ is formal sector recognized by the SWC. However, we term ‘Sport Development’ for all the sport clubs, such as ‘Nuwakot United Football Club’ and ‘Bode Sports Club’. While ‘youth services’ cover youth focused activities, such as advocating for youth participation, skill development, youth mobilization in disaster and other major events, and so on, ‘sport development’ focuses on promoting physical activities and/or developing sports. Thus, ‘Youth and Sport’ related NGOs are primarily either ‘youth clubs’ or ‘sports clubs’ organized at very local to national levels. Most of these NGOs are mainly run by young people, who volunteer for many social causes, along with their primary focus on youth and sports development. For instance, the Association of Youth Organisations Nepal, a national level NGO to coordinate youth related grassroots NGOs, regularly organizes orientation programs on localizing SDGs for the newly elected local government bodies in different parts of the country (AYON 2017).

Thus, the ‘Youth and Sport’ related NGOs have a huge potential to contribute to SDG achievement in Nepal. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) of Nepal, the 15–24-year-olds account for more than 20% of the total population, and if we cover the 15–40-year-olds, it would reach 40% (CBS 2014), who are defined as the youth by the Government of Nepal in their ‘Youth Vision 2020’ (MOYS 2015). Thus, most of the NGOs in the area of ‘Youth and Sports’ target this age group and arguably, their development significantly contributes

to the SDG achievement. More importantly, the youth population can lead the development process in countries like Nepal, where the proportion of the youth is higher than the other age groups and where the ‘Youth and Sport’ NGOs are proliferating. Because most NGOs focus their youth development, sports and physical activity programs in underdeveloped areas and communities where many people live in multidimensional poverty, the youth are in much greater risk for experiencing unhealthy developmental outcomes (Collingwood 1997; Flynn 2008). Notably, a recent survey of the UNDP reported that 28.6% of the population are living in multidimensional poverty, and it is concentrated in rural areas where the rate is over 33%.

Because Nepal is transforming from centrally controlled constitutional monarchy to a democratic federal republic with seven provinces, which is about to come into practice after the recent local, provincial, and federal elections under the new constitution (Upadhyay 2017), we also disaggregated the ‘Youth and Sport’ related NGOs into seven provinces. Province-3, which is located in the central part of the country along with the capital city Kathmandu, holds about 41% (4,831) of the total ‘Youth and Sport’ related NGOs as shown in Figure 2, while 23% and 11% come from Province-2 and Province-5 respectively, and about 7% come from the Province-1, Province-4, and Province-7. Because Province-6 is located in the most remote area having the highest level of multidimensional poverty headcount rate of over 51%, it has the lowest proportion, i.e. about 4% of the NGOs.

Figure 2 Distribution of ‘youth and sport’ NGOs by province in Nepal, 2017



Source: The authors use the data collected from the SWC of the Government of Nepal.

Notes: Name of the provinces will be decided by the first meeting of the respective Provincial Parliament to be held in the near future.

It should be noted that most NGOs located in the capital city Kathmandu have national coverage, targeting the backward communities. Many of them focus their work in remote areas, as the people migrating from different parts of the country to the capital typically create NGOs to support their birthplace. For instance, the *Manaslu* Conservation Club established in Kathmandu in 1994 focuses on the *Manaslu* mountain, located in

the *Gorkha* district in mid-Western Nepal. Similarly, Kathmandu-based *Gramin Mukhi Yuwa Abhiyan Nepal* (Rural Oriented Youth Movement Nepal), established in 2009, involves in rural development activities in various remote parts of the country. As many research studies have already confirmed the role of sports in community development and in enhancing social inclusion (Sherry, Schulenkorf, Seal, Nicholson and Hoye 2016), and the private sector is unable or reluctant to reach out to the underdeveloped areas (Ascher, Brewer, Cheema and Heffron 2016), the ‘Youth and Sport’ NGOs can potentially contribute to the achievement of SDGs significantly.

Nepal’s SDP Organisations in the Global Online Directory

Although there are large number of ‘Youth and Sport’ related NGOs registered in SWC of Nepal and many of them focus on sports-related activities, only 16 SDP organisations appeared in the global online aforesaid directories in December 2017. As shown in Table 2, eight of them have no specific focus, however, two SDP organisations use Football (Soccer) as a means for development, and the remaining organisations use Basketball, Cricket, Table-Tennis, and Outdoor pursuit or adventure tourism to support different aspects of development. Most of these organisations receive support from international SDP organisations or other donor agencies. For example, *Game On! Youth Sports Nepal*, which is running sports-related activities for underprivileged youth in remote villages who are receiving support from the International Alliance for Youth Sports.

Similarly, *Equal Access Nepal*, involved in wide range of activities including multiple sports for inclusive development, is supported by Equal Access International. These organisations are using different sporting activities to uplift and empower women, children, and youth targeting backward communities and areas. For instance, *Empowering Women of Nepal* provides education and practical skill-based training programs to women in support of 3 Sisters Adventure Trekking. Likewise, *ENGAGE* run *Coaching4Fun* against the quake program provides training for wheelchair basketball, among others. Most of their projects gained from many domestic as well as international organizations. Some of the domestic donors are National Association of the Blind, the Ministry of Youth and Sports and Nepal Army, and international donors are Asia Pacific University Community Engagement Network, UNICEF and Kyoto University of Foreign Studies (Japan).

Based on the SDP organisations’ projects and activities we identified and noted the respective SDGs (United Nations n.d.) in which each of the organisations contribute in the last column of Table 2. Interestingly, all the organisations contribute to Goal 3 (i.e. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) and Goal 16 (i.e. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels). Contribution to Goal 3 is straightforward and sport activities fundamentally promote healthy lives and well-being as the huge body of literature confirms (Geidne, Quennerstedt and Eriksson 2013). This lead the paradigm shift in health-related goals from the MDG era of focusing on specific diseases to the SDG era of broader concept of health and well-being (Engelhardt 2015). As for Goal 16, it covers peace, social inclusion, access to justice, and accountable and inclusive institutions, which all have wide scope yet overlap each other. However, SDP organisations mainly contribute to the ‘social inclusion’ issues. As Nepal has high socio-cultural and geographical diversity, and development divide is acute across the diversity (Bhattarai 2004); most organisations target the underprivileged groups of society, such as women, deprived caste and ethnic minorities, and people with disability. This way they potentially make a significantly contribution to social inclusion or inclusive development.

Table 2 SDP organisations in Nepal and their potential contribution to SDGs

	Organisations	Types of Sport and Selected SDP Programs/Projects/Activities	Contribution to SDGs*
1	Game On! Youth Sports, Nepal Supporting by International Alliance for Youth Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Multiple sports – Sport for youths in remote villages – Culminate potentiality of underprivileged 	Goal 3, Goal 5, Goal 10, Goal 16, Goal 17
2	Garuda Sports Club Supporting by <i>l'association Garuda</i> , France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Football (Soccer) – Football for the underprivileged children – Providing sporting equipment 	Goal 3, Goal 16, Goal 17
3	Empowering Women of Nepal Run by 3 Sisters Adventure Trekking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Outdoor pursuits, adventure tourism – Girls leadership training – Female trekking guide training 	Goal 3, Goal 5, Goal 8, Goal 16
4	Move 4 New Horizons Run by Swiss Academy for Development (SAD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Multiple sports – Sport for education to <i>Dalits</i> children – Sport for Social Inclusion 	Goal 3, Goal 4, Goal 5, Goal 16, Goal 17
5	Equal Access Nepal Supporting by Equal Access International (EA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Multiple sports – Health and nutrition – Women empowerment 	Goal 1, Goal 3, Goal 4, Goal 5, Goal 8, Goal 16, Goal 17
6	Global Action Nepal Supporting by Play for Change and many other INGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Multiple sports – Play for positive change – Promoting the girls' participation in sport 	Goal 3, Goal 5, Goal 10, Goal 16, Goal 17
7	Childreach Nepal Supporting by Childreach International, Coaches Across Continents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Multiple sports – Sport initiative programme (football for social impact education) 	Goal 3, Goal 4, Goal 5, Goal 16, Goal 17
8	ENGAGE Supporting by some INGOs and the Ministry of Youth and Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Multiple sports – Coaching4Fun against the quake – Training on wheelchair basketball – Professional Development for SDGs 	Goal 3, Goal 4, Goal 5, Goal 8, Goal 16, Goal 17
9	Kathmandu Academy of Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Football (Soccer) – Football training for life skills 	Goal 3, Goal 16
10	National Physical Disabled Table Tennis Association Supporting by Japan Table Tennis Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Table tennis – Training to disabled people – Advocacies, awareness 	Goal 3, Goal 16, Goal 17
11	Integrated Effort for Development, Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Multiple sports – Sport for youth development 	Goal 1, Goal 3, Goal 8, Goal 13, Goal 15, Goal 16, Goal 17
12	Cricket Association of The Blind, Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cricket – Empowering blind girls via cricket 	Goal 3, Goal 5, Goal 16, Goal 17
13	Blue Diamond Society, Nepal Supporting by Norwegian Embassy, Save the Children, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Multiple sports – Sport to tackle stigma against LGBTI 	Goal 3, Goal 5, Goal 16, Goal 17
14	Go Sports Nepal Run by professional footballer Sunil Shrestha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Multiple sports – Education through sports – Sport for social development 	Goal 3, Goal 4, Goal 5, Goal 16, Goal 17
15	Magic Bus Nepal Supporting by Magic Bus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Multiple sports – Sport for poverty eradication – Education through sports 	Goal 1, Goal 3, Goal 4, Goal 5, Goal 16, Goal 17
16	Big Bang Ballers Nepal Supporting by Big Bang Ballers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Basketball – Use basketball to fight youth poverty and social disadvantage 	Goal 1, Goal 3, Goal 4, Goal 5, Goal 17

Source: Authors' compilation of the data and information from Beyond Sports Network database, sportanddev.org, and websites of the respective SDP organisation.

Notes: *The related SDGs gaining contribution are based on the authors' observation of respective SDP organisations' programs, projects, and activities.

However, their contribution to access justice, peace, and building accountable institutions can be considered indirect as social inclusion promotes justice (Van Prooijen, Van den Bos and Wilke 2004) and justice is closely related to accountable and inclusive institutions (Bennett 2002). Goal 17 (i.e. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development) also receives contribution from all SDP organisations as they get support from international organisations, bilateral donors, and global SDP organisations in different forms, such as receiving funds, volunteers, and trainings.

Similarly, *Equal Access Nepal*, involved in wide range of activities including multiple sports for inclusive development, is supported by Equal Access International. These organisations are using different sporting activities to uplift and empower women, children, and youth targeting backward communities and areas. For instance, *Empowering Women of Nepal* provides education and practical skill-based training programs to women in support of 3 Sisters Adventure Trekking. Likewise, *ENGAGE* run *Coaching4Fun* against the quake program provides training for wheelchair basketball, among others. Most of their projects gained from many domestic as well as international organizations. Some of the domestic donors are National Association of the Blind, the Ministry of Youth and Sports and Nepal Army, and international donors are Asia Pacific University Community Engagement Network, UNICEF and Kyoto University of Foreign Studies (Japan).

Based on the SDP organisations' projects and activities we identified and noted the respective SDGs (United Nations n.d.) in which each of the organisations contribute in the last column of Table 2. Interestingly, all the organisations contribute to Goal 3 (i.e. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) and Goal 16 (i.e. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels). Contribution to Goal 3 is straightforward and sport activities fundamentally promote healthy lives and well-being as the huge body of literature confirms (Geidne, Quennerstedt and Eriksson 2013). This lead the paradigm shift in health-related goals from the MDG era of focusing on specific diseases to the SDG era of broader concept of health and well-being (Engelhardt 2015). As for Goal 16, it covers peace, social inclusion, access to justice, and accountable and inclusive institutions, which all have wide scope yet overlap each other. However, SDP organisations mainly contribute to the 'social inclusion' issues. As Nepal has high socio-cultural and geographical diversity, and development divide is acute across the diversity (Bhattarai 2004); most organisations target the underprivileged groups of society, such as women, deprived caste and ethnic minorities, and people with disability. This way they potentially make a significantly contribution to social inclusion or inclusive development. However, their contribution to access justice, peace, and building accountable institutions can be considered indirect as social inclusion promotes justice (Van Prooijen, Van den Bos and Wilke 2004) and justice is closely related to accountable and inclusive institutions (Bennett 2002). Goal 17 (i.e. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development) also receives contribution from all SDP organisations as they get support from international organisations, bilateral donors, and global SDP organisations in different forms, such as receiving funds, volunteers, and trainings.

On the contrary, no SDP organisations contribute to Goal 6, Goal 7, Goal 9, Goal 11, Goal 12, and Goal 14. As a landlocked country, the Goal 14 (i.e. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources) is not relevant to Nepal. In addition, none of the organisations work in the areas of hunger and agriculture (Goal 2), water and sanitation (Goal 6), energy (goal 7), infrastructure and industrialisation (goal 9), human settlement (goal 11), and sustainable consumption and production (goal 12). Similarly, only Integrated Effort for

Development Nepal contributes to Goal 13 (i.e. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts) as ‘climate change’ is one of their focus areas (IED n.d.).

For rest of the SDGs, 12 organisations contribute to Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls). While some provide access to sports activities and resources to girls and women because women are not encouraged or even allowed, in some instances, to play especially physical sport, some address the intersection of gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status of women, promote female leadership, and advocate for gender equality. Similarly, seven organisations contribute to Goal 4 (i.e. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all). As most schools lack sports facility and resources, and extracurricular activities are almost ignored in countries like Nepal where resources are too low for curricular activities, most of these SDP organisations focus on activities in schools aiming to boost students’ academic achievements through sports. Although some of them focus on developing certain sports in schools, such activities are linked with their educational outcomes. Furthermore, six organisations contribute to Goal 1 (i.e. End poverty in all its forms everywhere). Most of them primarily target poor children, some even target street children or children working in informal sector and use sports to bring them back to their family or school. Some other organisations target poverty by organising sports tournaments to address various poverty driven problems, such as bringing street children to the tournament and raising fund to provide education to out of school children. In addition, four organisations contribute to Goal 8 (i.e. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all) and Goal 10 (i.e. Reduce inequality within and among countries), and two organisations contribute to Goal 13 (i.e. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts). Most of these SDP organisations cover wide ranges of work, such as bring women in sport and empower them, provide sporting opportunity to poor children, and use sport for social awareness and advocacy, hence contribute in achieving multiple SDGs ranging from two to eight goals.

Conclusion

Despite the growth of United Nations led SDP movement since the beginning of 21st century and growing scholarly works in the field of SDP thereafter, to the authors’ knowledge there has been no scholarly contribution made in this field in Nepal. Given the post-conflict situation of the multi-ethnic country struggling even for the basic level of human development together with the theoretical claim and empirical evidence of sport’s potential contribution on peace and development, it is worthwhile to examine the SDP sector in the context of its potential usefulness to policymakers as well as development practitioners. In this paper, we have explored the grassroot SDP organisations in Nepal and found out that the government policy is not well organised in line with the established knowledge and good practices and the United Nations’ SDP strategies and other efforts to mobilise sports and SDP organisations to contribute to SDGs achievement. However, it is interesting to observe the rapid growth of ‘youth and sports’ related NGOs from 157 in 1990 to 11,886 in 2017. Although it is not clear how these NGOs are functioning, there is no doubt that they can be mobilised effectively at the community to national level, which can serve as a bridge between the grassroot communities and the government, and potentially emerge as strong SDP organisations. They can even link local people to the international donor community effectively if favourable policy environment exists. Some of them are indeed very active in SDP activities through their contribution to SDGs, and they are already a part of the global SDP organisational network.

However, despite United Nations led global SDP initiatives, corresponding scholarly evidences of the

positive impact of sports on peace and development indicators and growing SDP organisations at global and national levels, policymakers seem to be unaware about the roles that SDP sector can play in Nepal. In fact, SDP is not acknowledged yet as a separate potential sector, which can significantly contribute to SDGs achievement. Consequently, policymakers have not been able to make appropriate SDP policy so far even though Nepal is very active in following the SDGs movement. Arguably, sport is a rational and cost-effective means to development. Therefore, it is highly beneficial to follow the SDP movement in a country like Nepal where socio-cultural diversity and development disparity are very high. Therefore, our findings suggest the need for a comprehensive national SDP policy that can significantly contribute to achieving the SDGs. As SDP is an emerging sector in the field of international development and it takes some time to reach any new knowledge in a less developed country like Nepal, we suppose that policymakers do not oppose to formulate suitable SDP policies. Instead, they are not adequately aware of the concept of SDP and lack information and ideas of using sport as a vehicle for reaching peace and development ends. We therefore draw attention to the need of transferring the knowledge of best practices around the world to Nepal and sensitizing and empowering the policymakers as well as the grassroots ‘Youth and Sport’ NGOs.

Furthermore, as this paper is based on desk study, the actual situation of the ‘Youth and Sport’ NGOs is not known well. Thus, more resources and efforts are worth investing to understand the ground reality of these ever-escalating number of grass-root NGOs in Nepal. Such an in-depth field-based research would explore their problems and assess their prospects for accelerating the process of achieving SDGs.

Funding This study was partially funded by the University of Tsukuba’s Internal Research Fund.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of Interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Ethical Approval This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

References

- Acharya, C. P., & Leon-Gonzalez, R. (2018). The quest for quality education: international remittances and rural–urban migration in Nepal. *Migration and Development*, 1-36.
- Anheier, H. K., & Salamon, L. M. (2006). The nonprofit sector in comparative perspective. *The nonprofit sector: A research handbook*, 2, 89-116.
- Ascher, W.; Brewer, G.D.; Cheema, G.S., & Heffron, J.M. (2016). Evolving Roles of NGOs in Developing Countries. In *The Evolution of Development Thinking* (pp. 107–131). Palgrave Macmillan, US.
- Assa, J. (2017). Integrating Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development Policies in Least Developed Countries. *Journal of Peacebuilding & Development*, 12(1), 103-107.
- Association of Youth Organizations Nepal (AYON). (2017). Localizing SDGs in Sarlahi district 2017. Retrieved from: <http://ayon.org/2017/12/22/4928/>

- Bennett, L. (2002). Using empowerment and social inclusion for pro-poor growth: a theory of social change. Working draft of background paper for the social development strategy paper. Washington, DC: World Bank.
- Bhattarai, H. P. (2004). Cultural diversity and pluralism in Nepal: Emerging issues and the search for a new paradigm. *Contributions to Nepalese Studies*, 31(2), 293-340.
- Bogati, S., Cox, F. D., Karki, S., & Sisk, T. D. (2017). Nepal: Identity Politics in a Turbulent Transition. In *Peacebuilding in Deeply Divided Societies* (pp. 175-213). Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.
- Burnett, C. (2006). Building social capital through an Active community club. *International review for the sociology of sport*, 41(3-4), 283-294.
- Burnett, C. (2009). Engaging sport-for-development for social impact in the South African context. *Sport in Society* 12(9): 1192–205.
- Castells, M. (2005). Global governance and global politics. *PS: Political science & politics*, 38(1), 9-16.
- Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS). (2014). *Population monograph of Nepal volume 1: Population Dynamics*. Kathmandu: National Planning Commission and UNFPA.
- Clark, J. (1991). *Democratising development: the role of voluntary organizations*. West Hartford (UK): Kumarian Press.
- Collingwood, T. R. (1997). Providing physical fitness programs to at-risk youth. *Quest*, 49(1), 67-84.
- Collison, H., Darnell, S., Giulianotti, R., & Howe, P. D. (2016). Sport for Social Change and Development: Sustaining Transnational Partnerships and Adapting International Curriculums to Local Contexts in Rwanda. *The International Journal of the History of Sport*, 33(15), 1685-1699.
- Dahal D. R. (2006). Civil society groups in Nepal: Their roles in conflict and peacebuilding. Kathmandu: Support for Peace and Development Initiative, UNDP.
- Dahlman C, Mealy S. (2016). Obstacles to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: Emerging global challenges and the performance of the least developed countries. In *Achieving the Istanbul Programme of Action by 2020: Tracking Progress, Accelerating Transformations*, Commonwealth Secretariat, London, pp. 40-54.
- Dahlman, C., & Mealy, S. (2016). Obstacles to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: Emerging global challenges and the performance of the least developed countries. In *Achieving the Istanbul Programme of Action by 2020*, 40.
- Darnell S. C. (2012). *Sport for development and peace: A critical sociology*. London: Bloomsbury.
- Darnell, S. C. (2010). Power, politics and “sport for development and peace”: Investigating the utility of sport for international development. *Sociology of sport journal*, 27(1), 54-75.
- Darnell, S. C., Chawansky, M., Marchesseault, D., Holmes, M., & Hayhurst, L. (2016). The state of play: Critical sociological insights into recent ‘Sport for Development and Peace’ research. *International review for the sociology of sport*, 1012690216646762.
- Darnell, S. C., Hayhurst, L., Schulenkorf, N., & Adair, D. (2014). *Global Sport-for-Development: Critical Perspectives*. Springer.
- Ehrenberg, J. (2017). *Civil society: The critical history of an idea*. NYU Press.

- Engelhardt, J. (2015). Scene setting for the analysis of proposed SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. Presentation to the Commonwealth Sport and Post-2015 Forum, London, 26 June 2015.
- Farrington, J., & Bebbington, A. (1993). *Reluctant partners? Nongovernmental organizations, the state, and sustainable agricultural development*. London: Routledge.
- Fernandes, T. (2015). Rethinking pathways to democracy: civil society in Portugal and Spain, 1960s–2000s. *Democratization*, 22(6), 1074-1104.
- Flynn, R. J. (2008). Communities that care: A comprehensive system for youth prevention and promotion, and Canadian applications to date. *IPC Review*, 2(3), 83.
- Fokwang, J. (2009). Southern perspective on sport-in-development: A case study of football in Bamenda, Cameroon. In *Sport and international development* (pp. 198-218). Palgrave Macmillan, London.
- Geidne, S., Quennerstedt, M., & Eriksson, C. (2013). The youth sports club as a health-promoting setting: An integrative review of research. *Scandinavian Journal of Public Health*, 41(3), 269-283.
- Government of Nepal. (2015a). “Youth Vision 2025” and Ten Years Strategic Plan. Kathmandu: Ministry of Youth and Sports.
- Government of Nepal. (2015b). National Youth Policy 2015. Kathmandu: Ministry of Youth and Sports.
- Holtermann, H. (2016). Relative capacity and the spread of rebellion: Insights from Nepal. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 60(3), 501-529.
- Integrated Effort for Development (IED) Nepal (n.d.). About us. Retrieved from: <http://www.iednepal.org.np/about-us/>
- Islam, M. R. (2015). NGOs’ Social Capital Development Initiatives for Social Welfare: Bangladesh Experience. *Global Social Welfare*, 2(4), 167-176.
- Islam, M. R. (2017). Non-governmental organizations and community development in Bangladesh. *International Social Work*, 60(2), 479-493.
- Islam, M. R., & Morgan, W. J. (2012). Non-governmental organizations in Bangladesh: their contribution to social capital development and community empowerment. *Community Development Journal*, 47(3), 369–385.
- Jarvie, G. (2003). Communitarianism, sport and social capital: Neighbourly insights into Scottish sport. *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, 38(2), 139-153.
- Kay, T. (2009). Developing through sport: evidencing sport impacts on young people. *Sport in society*, 12(9), 1177-1191.
- Levermore, R. (2008). Sport: a new engine of development? *Progress in development studies*, 8(2), 183-190.
- Levermore, R., & Beacom, A. (2009). Sport and development: Mapping the field. In *Sport and international development* (pp. 1-25). Palgrave Macmillan, London.
- Lindsey, I., & Grattan, A. (2012). An ‘international movement’? Decentering sport-for-development within Zambian communities. *International Journal of Sport Policy and Politics* 4(1): 91–110.
- Lyras, A., & Peachey, J.W. (2011). Integrating sport-for-development theory and praxis. *Sport Management Review* 14(4): 311–26.
- Mayall, B. (2013). *A History of the Sociology of Childhood*. London: Institute of Education Press.

- Ministry of Population and Environment (MOPE). (n.d.). Nepal Population Report 2016. MOPE, Government of Nepal. Retrieved from: http://www.mope.gov.np/downloadfile/Nepal%20Population%20Report%202016_1481259851.pdf
- Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS). (2015). Youth Vision – 2025 and Ten-Year Strategic Plan. Kathmandu: Government of Nepal. 2015.
- National Planning Commission (NPC). (2002). *The Tenth Plan (2002–2007)*. Kathmandu: National Planning Commission.
- National Planning Commission (NPC). (2017). About the SDGs in Nepal. Retrieved from: <http://128.199.69.221:5555/about/>
- Newton, K. (2001). Trust, social capital, civil society, and democracy. *International Political Science Review*, 22(2), 201-214.
- Newton, K. (2001). Trust, social capital, civil society, and democracy. *International Political Science Review*, 22(2), 201-214.
- Perry, J. L., & Thomson, A. M. (2015). *Civic Service: What Difference Does it Make?: What Difference Does it Make?*. Routledge.
- Perry, J. L., & Thomson, A. M. (2015). *Civic Service: What Difference Does it Make?: What Difference Does it Make?*. Routledge.
- Potter, R., Conway, D., Evans, R. and Lloyd-Evans, S. (2012). Children, Youth and Development. In: *Key Concepts in Development Geography*. London, UK: SAGE.
- Scholte, J. A. (2002). Civil society and democracy in global governance. *Global Governance*, 8(3), 281-304.
- Schulenkorf, N., & Adair, D. (eds) (2014). *Global Sport-for-Development: Critical Perspectives*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Schulenkorf, N., & Sugden, J. (2011). Sport for Development and Peace in Divided Societies: Cooperating for Inter-Community Empowerment Israel. *European journal for sport and society*, 8(4), 235-256.
- Schulenkorf, N., Sherry, E., & Rowe, K. (2016). Sport for development: An integrated literature review. *Journal of Sport Management*, 30(1), 22-39.
- Schulenkorf, N., Thomson, A., & Schlenker, K. (2011). Intercommunity sport events: Vehicles and catalysts for social capital in divided societies. *Event management*, 15(2), 105-119.
- Sherry, E. (2010). (Re)engaging marginalized groups through sport: The Homeless World Cup. *International Review for the Sociology of Sport* 45(1): 59–71.
- Sherry, E., Schulenkorf, N., Seal, E., Nicholson, M., & Hoyer, R. (2017). Sport-for-development: Inclusive, reflexive, and meaningful research in low-and middle-income settings. *Sport Management Review*, 20(1), 69-80.
- Sherry, E.; Karg, A.; & O'May, F. (2011). Social capital and sport events: Spectator attitudinal change and the Homeless World Cup. *Sport in Society* 14(1): 111–25.
- Smith, A.C., & Westerbeek H.M. (2007). Sport as a vehicle for deploying corporate social responsibility. *Journal of Corporate Citizenship* 25(1): 43–54.
- Svensson, P.G., & Woods, H. A. (2017). Systematic overview of sport for development and peace organisations. *Journal of Sport for Development* 5(9): 36-48.
- SWC Nepal (n.d.). NGOs Affiliated with Social Welfare Council. Available from: <http://www.swc.org.np/wp->

content/uploads/2017/08/ngo_rec.pdf

- Tonts, M. (2005). Competitive sport and social capital in rural Australia. *Journal of rural studies*, 21(2), 137-149.
- United Nations (n.d.). Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Retrieved from: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category.html>
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). (2017). Kazan Action Plan. Retrieved from: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0025/002527/252725e.pdf>
- United Nations. (2015). Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Retrieved from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/L.1&Lang=E
- Upadhyay, A. (2017, December 31). Year of Elections but a lot more. *The Kathmandu Post*. Retrieved from: <http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2017-12-31/year-of-elections-but-a-lot-more.html>
- Van Prooijen, J. W., Van den Bos, K., & Wilke, H. A. (2004). Group belongingness and procedural justice: social inclusion and exclusion by peers affects the psychology of voice. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 87(1), 66.
- Way, L. (2014). Civil society and democratization. *Journal of Democracy*, 25(3), 35-43.