

Editor's Note

Special Issue “COVID-19 & Beyond”

The theme of this special issue is “COVID-19 & Beyond,” as the world is struggling hard to develop effective vaccines to recede the pandemic threat. So far many countries have begun a clinical trial to evaluate the effectiveness of this drug. Many scientists believe that the vaccine will be ready by the end of this year although there are also many who suspect that the vaccines are likely to solve a coronavirus pandemic.

As the theme of this special issue suggests, this special issue consists of the COVID-19 pandemic related articles, but many of them go beyond the pandemic issues because the ongoing pandemic has its impacts in daily life of people around the world and has its far reaching effects on the global economy and in the global societies at large. So the articles included in this issue cover a wide variety of topics including the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first three articles directly deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. The first article entitled “Plant-Derived Secondary Metabolites as Potential Mediators against COVID-19: A Review” by Lekha Nath Khanal, Dr. Yuba Raj Pokharel, Dr. Khagaraj Sharma, and Dr. Surya Kanta Kalauni discusses the natural products which can be used to develop drugs against the coronavirus. The authors have reviewed the literature on coronavirus, using research papers, reviews, and preprints available on the Internet. The second article is by Laxman Bahadur Kunwar on the topic “Mathematical Modelling of Transmission Dynamics of COVID-19: A Case Study of Nepal”. In this article, the author proposes the SIR compartmental mathematical model to predict the transmission dynamics of COVID-19 in Nepal. His study findings suggest that his model can contribute to formulate public health policies in combating the coronavirus. The third article entitled “The Effect of COVID-19 on Livelihood and Food Security: A Rapid Study in Nepal” is by Dhruba Raj Ghimire, which is based on his study on the coronavirus during the time of business interruptions and lockdown due to the concerns over the COVID-19 outbreak. His study examines the immediate effect of COVID-19 upon household livelihood, food security and coping strategies. The study findings indicated that the pandemic has pushed additional 11.6% households into food insecurity and reduced average household cash income by 68 per cent, urging for immediate attention towards the economic recovery of the people who are vulnerable.

The COVID-19 pandemic is triggering everyone and everywhere, mostly negatively. Its negative impact is on education as well, affecting educational systems worldwide. The pandemic has led to the total closures of schools, colleges, and universities. Against this backdrop, the fourth article entitled “Online Classes as a Paradigm Shift in Teaching and Learning Culture” by Ganga Ram Paudyal deals with the COVID-19 pandemic that has forced all schools, colleges, and universities in Nepal to switch their physical classes into online classes to give continuity in teaching learning. He argues that the pandemic can be an opportunity to accelerate technology-based learning in academic institutions, developing virtual teaching learning infrastructure.

The rest of the articles included in this issue go beyond the COVID-19 pandemic even though they are not directly associated with the pandemic issues. They are indirectly related to the pandemic. For instance, Parbati Dhungana’s article “Factors Associated with Decision Making in Treatment of Health Problems among Elderly People in Dhital, Kaski District” explores the factors associated with decision making in treatment of

health problems of the elderly people. The results of the study showed that gender, literacy level, family type, money expensed for treatment, and walking distance to health centers were the major factors associated with decision making in treatment of health problems for elderly population.

This journal issue includes two articles that discuss the far reaching effects on the economy. In the article “Assessing Need and Level of Agreement among Market Participants in Adopting Book Building Pricing in Nepal,” Jas Bahadur Gurung examines the need of book building pricing of IPOs as well as the level of agreement among market participants on its application in the context of Nepal. In “Investors’ Attentiveness towards Mutual Funds in Nepal,” Sudip Wagle investigates the investors’ eagerness towards mutual funds in Nepal. His investigation concludes that individuals prefer to invest in the capital market rather than a bank deposit, which is probably the new appearance in Nepal.

Dr. Girdhari Dahal’s article on the topic “Practices of Policy Making and Planning: A Case of Annapurna Rural Municipality in Kaski District” is about the policy formulation and planning process adopted by the local government of Nepal, in particular, investigating the exercise of policy making and planning of Annapurna Rural Municipality in Kaski District of Gandaki Province, Nepal. But a study on “The Role of Perceived Social Support on Academic Stress” conducted in public schools in Kaski District by Indira Banstola, Ratna Shila Banstola, and Sakunatala Pageni discusses academic stress that has a numerous negative effects on the adolescent students, which can be prevented by the help of perceived social support from the family and schools. According to them, the study can help parents, family, school teachers, health personnel, counselors, and policy makers in preventing academic stress and achieving mental wellbeing for adolescent students.

The penultimate article on the topic “The Play of Gender Roles in Sheeba Shah’s *Facing My Phantoms*” by Asmita Bista goes beyond the COVID-19 pandemic and discusses a novel that depicts male characters who transform as time passes. The author examines the factors that constrain the male characters to traditional and anti-traditional gender roles, identifying the consequences faced by the characters while performing and defying gender stereotypes.

The last article “A New Poisson Inverted Exponential Distribution: Model, Properties and Application” is by Govinda Prasad Dhungana, which is about a purposed model called new Poisson Inverted Exponential distribution. The model is useful in real data and life time data analysis and modelling. The study findings show that PIE distribution is a better than others some well-known distribution

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all aspects of human life in many ways. It is not over now. It has forced us to change our lives and our way of working during the pandemic and even after the pandemic it will have an impact on us. In sum, all countries whether they are big or small need to work together to combat the coronavirus, assisting each other in their fight to save human lives and to help the most vulnerable.

Editors
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