

Editor's Note

The COVID-19 pandemic is still around the world. Our latest issue was on the theme of this pandemic. Amidst the pandemic's second surge in Nepal, this issue of the journal has come up with new themes, ranging from the quality of multivitamin syrups to the handwashing knowledge and practice to stop the spread of germs, to the issues of financial performance and subalterns to the integration of technology to education and to nutrition counseling to stop non-communicable diseases. Apart from the regular list of reviewers for the issue, this issue also includes the facts and figures that are related to the review process of the journal.

The article entitled "Assessment of Microbial Qualities of Some Cough Syrups and Multivitamins Marketed in Pokhara, Nepal" by Krishna Gurung and Mamita Khaling Rai evaluates the microbiological quality of cough syrups and multivitamin syrups available in the medical stores of Pokhara. Their study showed that these syrups were found to be contaminated by either bacteria, fungi, or by both that required to meet the standards of International Pharmacopeia.

The authors Mohan Kumar Sharma, Shanti Prasad Khanal, Devraj Acharya and Jib Acharya, in their "Association between Handwashing Knowledge and Practices among the Students in Nepal," assess the students' handwashing knowledge and practice in Bardiya District. The study showed that 36.9 percent of the participants had the poor knowledge and 43.42% had the low practice of handwashing. According to their findings, having a good knowledge of handwashing does not guarantee the good handwashing practice. But in the article "Students' Awareness towards Climate Change: A Study of Climate Change Effects on Human Health in Nepal," Bhawana Gautam, Punam Kumari Mandal and Namita Yangden assess the awareness of students on the effect of climate change on human health. They found that almost half students had inadequate level of awareness about the climate change impact on human health.

In the article "Micro-credit for the Small Enterprises Development: A Case of Kaski District, Nepal," Deepesh Ranabhat and Bharat Ram Dhungana examine the impact of micro-credit on the small or micro-enterprises development with reference to Kaski district of Nepal. They discovered that micro-credit has encouraged clients to engage in micro-business and enterprise development activities, so it is required to adopt an effective utilization policy of micro-credit to improve the situation of both microfinance institutions and their clients.

The article "Impact of Firm Specific Factors on Financial Performance: A Comparative Study of Life and Non-Life Insurance Companies in Nepal" by Bhupal Jaishi and Resam Lal Poudel examines the firm specific factors composition and its impact on financial performance of life and non-life insurance companies in Nepal. The study suggests that the insurance companies should increase their leverage and long-term investment and decrease the proportion of equity, firm size and liquidity if they want to improve the financial performance. However, in "Opinions of Investors on Nepal Stock Exchange Limited (NEPSE) Online Trading System," Rashesh Vaidya has taken the online trading system that examines the opinions of the NEPSE Online Trading System (NOTS) users regarding their features and performance. The study suggested that the issue of market

data display in the NOTS platforms should be addressed to improve its features and performance.

The author Kripa Kunwan, in her article “The Relationship of Behavioral Factors on Investment Performance of Individual Investors in the Nepali Stock Market,” examines the impact of investor behavior on stock market is more prominent in small and less efficient capital markets. The study is helpful to understand the role of investor behavior in the stock market and to formulate the policies that help limit the possibility of behavioral biases that adversely affect the stock market in Nepal.

The article “Can the Gandharvas Speak? A Study of Gandarva Songs” Bharat Raj Dhakal explores the voices of Gandharvas through their songs, which express their subaltern condition and a sense of dissatisfaction towards the society that is controlled by the elites. They, however, manifest their inner voice to subvert the hegemony of the mainstream Nepali society. Unlike the hegemony of the elites, the article “From Renunciation to Nirvana and Beatitude: What Is Common in Buddha and Christ?” by Sabindra Raj Bhandari explores the confluence of the ideas of Buddha and Christ. For instance, both religious figures renounced the worldly affairs to redeem the humanity, leading to the Nirvana and Beatitude.

In the article “Integrating Technology in English Language Teaching in Nepal: Student and Teacher Perspectives,” Yam Nath Adhikari attempts to explore the students’ and teachers’ perspectives on the integration of technology in English language teaching (ELT). His study concluded that technology integrated teaching enhanced the teachers’ and students’ performance in the classroom. However, in the Nepali context, insufficient ICT infrastructures, poor bandwidth of internet and limited skill of ICT among teachers and students are some of the obstacles to integrate technology in the education system.

Lastly, Kabita Maharjan and Deepak Chaudhary, in their article “The Role of Nutrition Counseling in Controlling the Non-Communicable Diseases among Nepali Women,” discuss the role of nutrition counseling that may prevent non-communicable diseases among women in Nepal. Overall, their findings suggest that nutrition counselling, dietary policy, and guidelines and an active role of diet specialist are some of the effective ways to mitigate the diseases.

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