

Preliminary Report on the Pandemic of Corona Virus and Status of Government's Preparation

Introduction

Although the medical sector was aware of the infection since December 2019, the first case of Corona was documented on 10 January 2020 in Wuhan, China and has turned into the pandemic. At present approximately 875,000 people are infected with Corona worldwide. More than 43,000 have lost their lives. Corona Virus declared as a pandemic by the United Nations and World Health Organization has brought public health of the entire world to a really difficult turn throughout the history. Except for a few countries, this pandemic has terrified all remaining countries in the world.

In Nepal, five have been diagnosed with this and according to the Ministry of Health, one has recovered after treatment. That doesn't mean there isn't any risk of this infection because of which the lockdown initiated from 24 March 2020 was prolonged for a week more which is till 7 April 2020.

This report consists of laws and codes made to assure the human rights related to public health and facts-figures and data included by the Civil Society Organization to strengthen the implementation of the criteria for conducting and managing Corona Virus related quarantine 2076. According to the criteria for conducting and managing Corona Virus related quarantine 2076, if a person is suspected of Corona; has to be kept safely isolated in quarantine for 14 to 17 days. As per the government, testing kits have been provided to every Province's capital for diagnosis and a list of 41,000 people have been prepared for the test.

Status

In comparison to other countries, this pandemic entered South-Asia quite late; hence there was ample time for preparation. Nepal government claims of managing the resources as much as they are capable of. In reality, all the seven provinces lack of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Though there is management of quarantine and isolation bed, it was found that there is a lack of skilled manpower and necessary equipment i.e. oxygen, ventilator, etc. There were said to be some awareness programs held before the lockdown but that hasn't been effectively implemented. Radio and television broadcasting has now become the main medium of awareness. The flow of information is very weak. Common people do not have enough information regarding Corona Virus transmission. If found not obeying the lockdown; police personnel have been arresting and counselling the locals. Local government has publicized programs targeting them. But, the implementation part of is weak.

Data Based on Provinces

Province	No. of people returned from abroad	Isolation Bed	Quarantine capacity	No. of people kept in Quarantine
1	310	325	3,412	534
2	68	258	2,547	271
Bagmati	2,372	6,280	17,659	628
Gandaki	2,808	355	2,265	582
5	-	327	2,005	530
Karnali	8,541	172	3,134	484
Far West	13,515	165	3,223	1,023

Problem

There is a lack of PPE and Test Kits necessary for the doctors and health workers serving in the quarantine. There is no management of PPE, food, drinking water and shelter for the health workers, doctors and security personnel. In many districts, there is a lack of oxygen cylinders, machineries required for treatment, sanitizers and even thermometers. There aren't enough laboratories. The infected ones and non-infected ones are found being kept together. There is an absence of materials needed to be worn by the health workers and infected ones for their safety.

Not only private but also government hospitals are hesitating to admit the patients suspected of Corona Virus. They are being referred to Shukraraaj Tropical & Infectious Disease Hospital located at Teku, Kathmandu even for common cold and fever. A cardiac patient having respiratory issues was referred to Teku by Modern Hospital Godavari, Dhanusha on 26 February 2020 claiming it to be symptoms of Corona. Even Provincial Hospital, Janakpur denied admitting that patient. News sources state that private hospitals are not allowing patients suffering from fever to enter the hospital. For instance, on 28 March 2020, Saturday, a person with a leg injury was denied treatment by the local hospital of Bara and was referred to Kathmandu: the person lost his life on the way.

The infrastructures prepared for quarantine were found insufficient. People kept in quarantine faced inhumane and disrespectful behaviour. Quarantine shelters made in schools were also found without proper management. Information says majority of the quarantine shelters do not have doctors. There isn't proper management of safety materials for the health workers delegated in the quarantine. Some of the quarantines do not have bed and people have to sleep in the floor.

While the government has claimed of managing food and shelter from their side in the quarantine, these places are found lacking electricity, different toilets for males and females, communication facilities and enough beds. It is seen that the Federal Government has to provide facilities based on the criteria for conducting and managing Corona Virus related quarantine 2076 for the quarantine prepared by Province and Local Government.

The cities seem to have a proper supply of medicines, food grains and vegetables but there is a lack of cooking gas. Though government claims of abundant gas supplies, the businessmen have created a fake crisis but the government is not unaware of it.

Conclusion

The government declared a countrywide lockdown on 24 March 2020 and it seems like every sector has been obeying this decision. In the lockdown, borders for both India and China were closed, domestic and international flights were stopped, transportation, schools and colleges were also closed. Due to which price of food grains have increased. Daily-waged workers are facing difficulty. People living abroad are not being able to fly back and are in a difficult state. Especially, Nepali citizens stuck in the Indian borders are having a difficult time.

The lockdown was caused after the pandemic had entered Nepal. Right now, there are five infected ones found and almost 25 million's population is staying home. According to news in such state, there is a provision of keeping people coming back from abroad to their villages in quarantine which hasn't been implemented well. People's representatives, health workers, social workers are visiting the villages micing, distributing pamphlets and using local FMs to give informational messages. The local levels have allocated budget for controlling the pandemic. They have formed Corona Control Committee for working ahead. Such campaigns are being conducted in coordination with rural municipalities and ward and all levels of government are trying to work in a uniformed manner.

Under the Central Government, the Ministry of Home Affairs instructed on establishing Rural Municipality Coordination Committee for Corona Virus control on 23 March 2020. According to the instruction, there is one committee in every rural municipality and every ward also has one committee each. Most of the places are trying to manage food for those labourers who are affected by the lockdown. Birgunj Metropolitan and Tulsipur Municipality has started a campaign to feed the needy whereas Modi Rural Municipality of Parbat District of Gandaki Province has established a fund for the labourers.

Many social campaigners and organizations are helping out in protecting the homeless, security personnel and labourers who are found mostly on streets. Asahaya Sanrakshhan Manch, Dhanusa has been providing drinking water, masks, gloves and other necessary materials to policemen. We cannot determine the length of this crisis period. The world is trapped viciously. Understanding the situation, everyone has to stay aware. Since testing, lockdown and isolation is found to be the most effective way to control this pandemic, the government is managing the

infrastructure as needed. Therefore, the public needs to obey the government. Also, the government has to circulate correct information to the public.

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