

The **Coronavirus CivActs Campaign (CCC)** gathers rumours, concerns and questions from communities across Nepal to eliminate information gaps between the government, media, NGOs and citizens. By providing the public with facts, the CCC ensures a better understanding of needs regarding the coronavirus and debunks rumours before they can do more harm.

Estimated number of Nepalis who could return to Nepal immediately due to COVID -19

- 01 **35,000** individuals whose work labor permits have expired.
- 02 **3,00,000** individuals who went for foreign employment with new labor permits and lost their jobs.
- 03 **5,00,000** individuals who went for foreign employment by reissuing the labor permits and lost their jobs.
- 04 **10,000** individuals who were working on visit visas but lost their jobs.
- 05 **25,000** individuals who benefitted from amnesty and are waiting to return home.
- 06 **20,000** individuals who do not have employment problems but want to return home voluntarily.
- 07 **7,00,000** individuals who were living abroad for academics, business or family reunion or had received employment through personal endeavors without issuing labor permits.



Total : 15,90,000 individuals

Source: https://www.nhrcnepal.org/nhrc_new/doc/newsletter/Final_Book_Impact_of_COVID_on%20Migrant_2077.pdf

Nepal Update



A health worker measuring the fever of an infected person at the isolation in Athabiskot, Rukum West.

Photo: Hari Gautam

Tested
 PCR Tested: 693,472
 Positive: 39,460
 Active: 17,822
 Deaths: 228



Source: <https://covid19.mohp.gov.np/#/>

Rumors & Facts



The incidents of abuse against the health workers who are taking risks and working on the prevention and treatment of corona infection day and night is increasing. Isn't there any agency taking complaints on this?

The Ministry of Home Affairs has directed the subordinate bodies to take actions against those involved in harassing, abusing, threatening, or obstructing the movements of the doctors, health workers and other staff working on prevention, control and treatment of corona infection. The Ministry of Home Affairs has requested to immediately call and inform on their toll-free number 1149 or the Nepal Police's number 100 if such incidents have occurred or are likely to occur in any location.

Source: <https://www.moha.gov.np/post/pa-ra-sa-va-ja-niapa-ta-129>



The government is distributing fertilizers after the time has exceeded, but it isn't clear as to where and how it will be distributed.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development has issued separate guidelines mentioning the safety procedures on this where it is stated that separate distribution schedules will be prepared for the farmers of different places/locations/tolls and they would be informed about the fertilizer distribution through email, telephone, SMS or other available means, considering that the fertilizer distribution cannot be carried out in crowd at the moment. Similarly, it has also been said that arrangements will be made for the service-seeking farmers to collect the fertilizers at the time fixed by the sellers.

Source: <https://s3-ap-southeast-1.amazonaws.com/prod-gov-agriculture/server-assets/notice-1598257936494-dca89.pdf>



It is heard that the corona infected patients will be discharged in 10 days from now onwards.

The corona infected patients who are undergoing treatment in hospitals or are in isolation should undergo RT-PCR test again after 10 days from the day of their swab collection. It has been said that such patients will be discharged immediately if their test results are negative, and will be kept for four additional days and then discharged without testing if the test results are positive. The decision has been made by the Ministry of Health and Population by referring to the protocol of the World Health Organization (WHO).

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/mohpnep/videos/611501743069785>



Will the citizens with permanent addresses outside Karnali Province get the labor permits reissued from the Labor and Employment Office of the province in Surkhet or not?

The reissued labor permits can be obtained by the citizens from any province. In order to get the labor permit, Rs. 1500 should be submitted to the welfare fund of the Foreign Employment Board. Similarly, the concerned individual should get foreign employment (term) insurance from a recognized (approved) insurance company.


Source: <https://www.leosurkhet.gov.np/>

To receive our regular updates through WhatsApp

1. Add +27 60 080 6146 to your contact list.
2. Send a message saying **Nepal** to the contact.



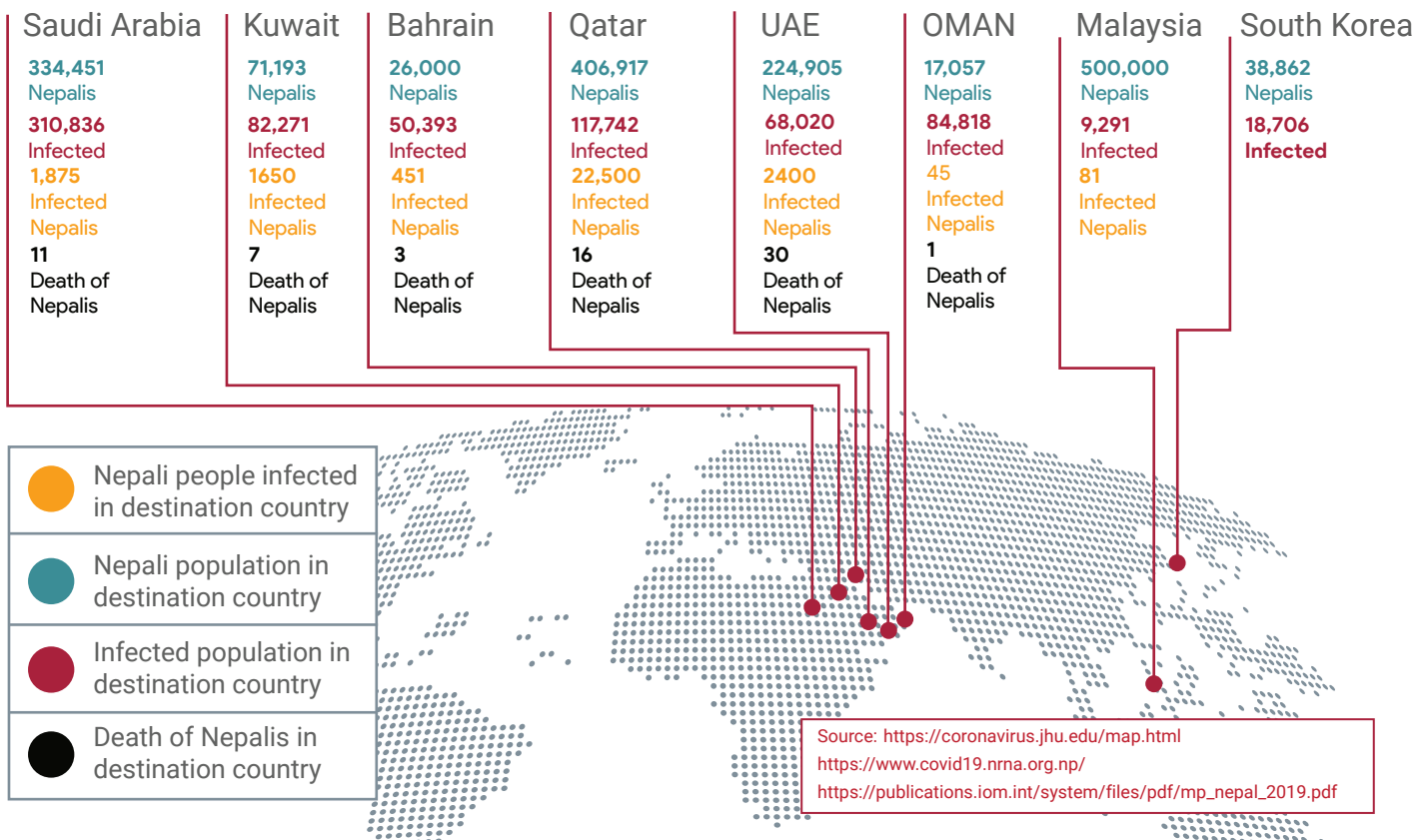
Toll-free **HOTLINE** on
COVID-19

Brought to you by 

DIAL **32100**
from your NTC simcard for accessing
all COVID-19 information for FREE

Open Migration

Migrant workers in major destination countries



ShramikSanjal

Important decisions made by Kuwait and Qatar Government

Kuwait

The Ministry of Interior, Government of Kuwait, has decided to again extend the visa period for three months i.e upto 30 November, 2020 of those individuals whose visa period was extended till 31 August 2020.

Saudi Arabia

The Nepali Embassy in Saudi Arabia has asked the workers in Akama who couldn't get an Exit Visa to contact Whatsapp number 0500021409 along with their documents.

The documents to be sent:

1. Copy of passport (the page with photograph)
2. If your visa period expired before five months in Akama, or if it was not made in Akama, then submit the page of the passport with the stamp of Saudi Immigration.

Qatar

The Qatari government wants to be the best in the world labor market. Accordingly, some important decisions have been made to be implemented in the next six months.

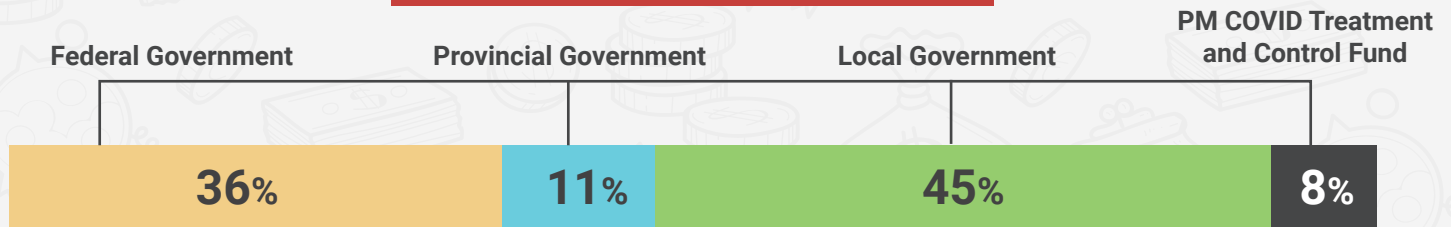
1. The minimum wage for workers has been set at 1,000 riyals. If food and accommodation isn't provided, then extra 800 Riyal including 500 for accommodation and 300 Riyal for food should be provided. This means if a worker isn't provided food and accommodation, then he/she should be paid a minimum of 1800 Riyals.
2. It is no longer required to receive a NOC (No Objection Certificate) from the old company to move into a new company in Qatar.

You can listen to our Facebook live at www.facebook.com/shramik.sanjal every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday evening UAE time (8: 00 PM), Kuwait (7: 00 PM) and Malaysia (12 Midnight).

\$ Follow the Money

Total expenses by the Government of Nepal until Shrawan 2077 to Fight Against Coronavirus

13.37 Billion NRS



Expense Headings at the Federal Government



Medicine and Health Equipments
Rs. 1,755,240,000



Quarantine Management
Rs. 46,946,000



Health Infrastructure
Rs. 2,938,896,000

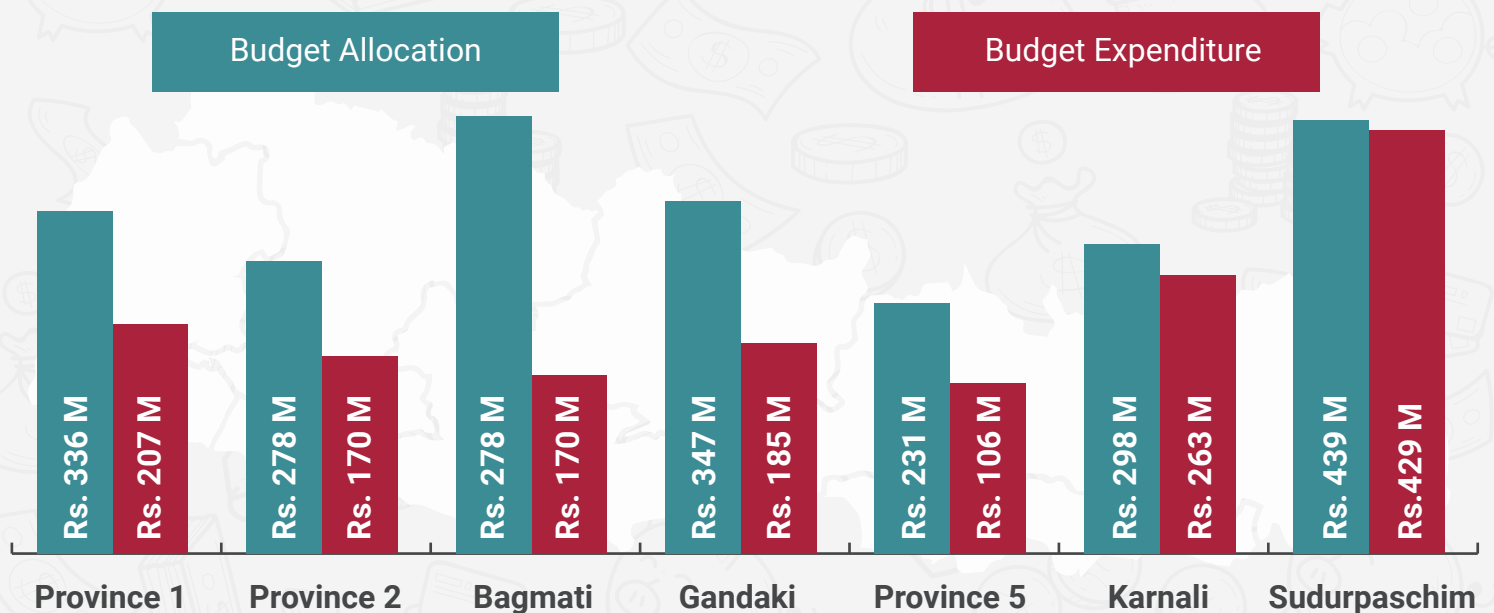


Other Expenses
Rs. 12,473,000



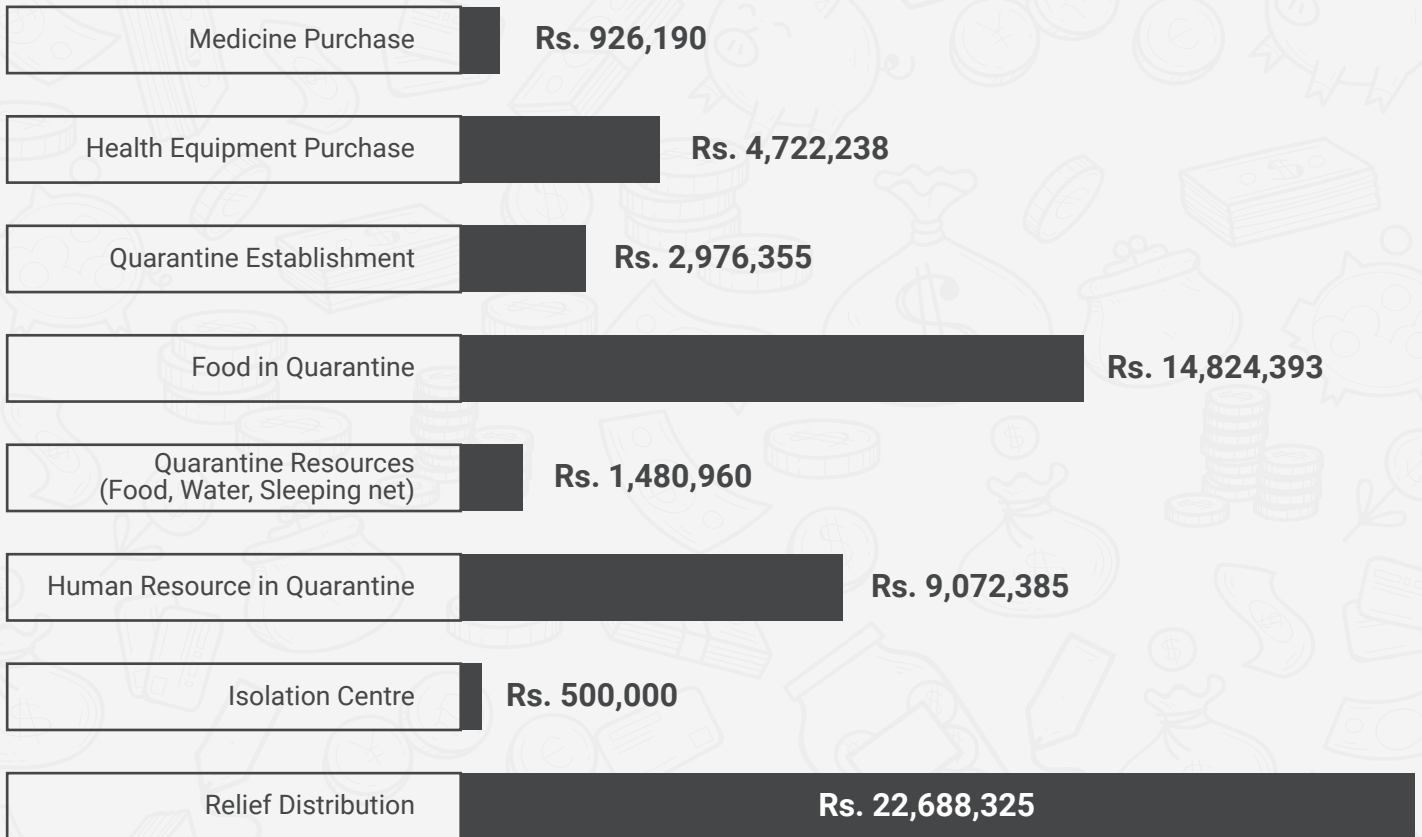
Human Resource Mobilization
Rs. 57,443,000

Expense made by Provincial Government



\$ Follow the Money

Corona related expenses in Birendranagar Municipality



**Total households
receiving relief**

17,578

The expenses in Birendranagar Municipality shows that the highest amount of spending has been done for food distribution in quarantine and relief distribution. While food distribution is important and the high expense in this component can be explained, the expenses through relief distribution is unusually high. A total of 17, 578 households have received relief which constitutes 60% of all households in the municipality. Given the guideline for relief distribution which states to target the lower income groups whose income source were lost due to the coronavirus pandemic, it seems unlikely that such a high number of households qualify for relief. This issue needs micro analysis because expenses of this size can be used in financing other more important health operation activities such as medicine and equipment procurement, whose present expenses seem negligible compared to the total amount spent.

*Note: This information is not complete. It has been brought together from different sources available.
We will keep collecting the data and revise it in the days ahead.*



Difficulty while returning from abroad, and more difficulty after returning

Ramesh B.K from Khajura Rural Municipality Ward No. 2 used to work as a cook in a hotel in Dhulia, Maharashtra, India. Less than seven months after he left for India, the hotel closed due to corona. He planned to come home after work. However, the hotel assured that the hotel would be operational after some time. But the hotel could not open even after a long wait of two months. He soon ran out of money due to food and rent. On top of that, he would worry that he might get infected with corona. Even though his family would frequently request him to return home, he had no money left. Seeing that the hotel would not operate, his co-workers started forming groups to return home. He was upset that all his friends were returning home. He also decided to return home, thinking that he could earn money afterwards. However, he didn't even have the bus fare to return home. He shared all his problems with his family and asked for money to return home. Contrary to his parent's dream that their son would return home with some money, he cried with his mother asking for the money.



38 friends returned home reserving a bus. After sitting in Khajura quarantine for 13 days, the result of the corona test confirmed negative. As per the advice of health workers, he stayed in home quarantine for 15 days. Although he didn't worry a lot during the 1 month quarantine, after the quarantine period was over, he started to worry about how to spend the days at home. Seeing the closure all around has made him frustrated as he sees no possibility of employment. He says that the local government should provide equal service and facilities to the people facing difficulties.

According to Devilal Sharma, Chairperson of Khajura Rural Municipality Ward No. 2, since the employment programs will be determined by the rural municipality, the only thing that ward can do is circulate information. Due to corona, not only those going abroad to earn money but also those working at the local level have lost their jobs, and this has created problems in the management due to an increase in the number of locals who are unemployed. However, Khajura Municipality has launched various agricultural programs. It has been said that priorities on these programs would be given to those returning from foreign employment. The applications have also been opened for employment under the Prime Minister's Employ-



Ramesh B.K
Khajura Rural Municipality
Ward No. 2

Impact of COVID-19 on Education



Almost every aspect of human life has come to a standstill due to COVID-19. All educational institutions across the country have been closed for six months. According to a UNESCO report, about 16 lakhs students in 191 countries around the world have been severely affected. Due to COVID-19, thousands of people have lost their jobs while thousands of educational institutions have closed. In Nepal, about 90 Lakh students and the human resource working in the educational sector are staying at home. Some schools have started classes through e-learning. However, it is also bringing inequality in access to education.

While access to the internet is only 56% at the current situation, only 13% of schools can teach through e-learning. Therefore, in such a situation, we still have to face many problems.

COVID-19 and Education Economy

The only source of income for private education institutions is the regular fees charged by the students. This means they are completely dependent on fees. The government should have come up with a concrete plan in the current situation. But, the education policy of the government is very weak. How do schools manage human resources? How to regularize educational activities? How to determine fees for that? What will be the arrangement of allowance? So far, no clear criteria or guidelines have been formulated. This will further weaken the education sector.

Available Alternatives

If long-term planning is to be made, this is an excellent opportunity to come up with options to overcome the observed obstacles in the education sector. It is clear that our education policy hasn't addressed the issue of national disaster before. In the current situation, the two options can be put forward.



1. Collaborative Condensed Curriculum - 3Cs

According to this concept, first, the students should be divided into age groups. After that, decide what should the students from the particular age group learn before reaching the next age group. Emphasis should be on context and project-based learnings. Rather than book-based education, emphasize practical education such as goal setting, life skills and disaster management. The current crisis will not affect the education sector if such an education system is developed.

2. Open schools once a week

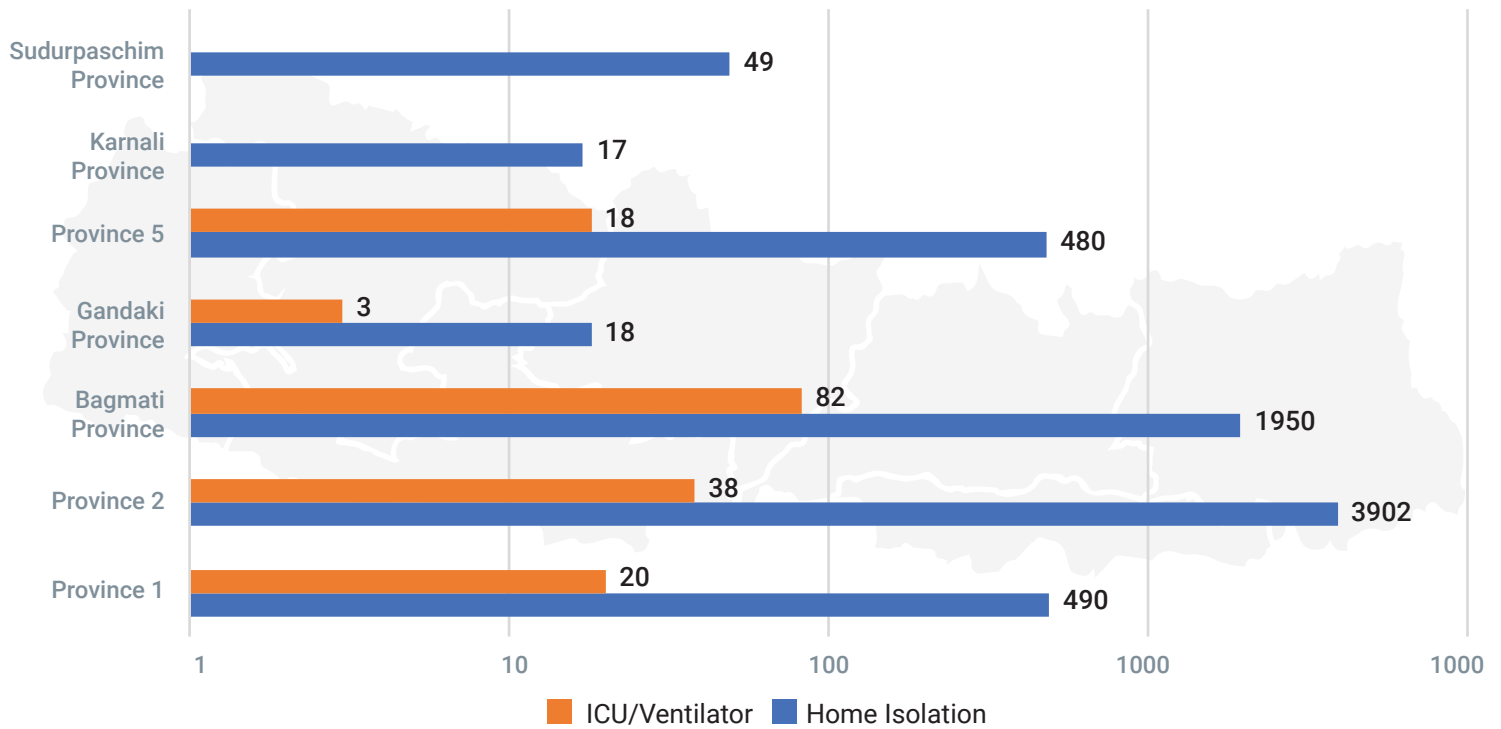
According to this option, students are called to school once a week. In this way, the students who come to school once a week will be facilitated and sent home with subjects to be learned throughout the week.

Given the current situation, the government should provide financial assistance to private schools, otherwise it should be developed as a non-profit organization. According to statistics, the population of the age group between 0 to 14 years in Nepal is 29.4%. Similarly, the population of the age group between 15 to 24 years is 21.52%. Therefore, the population of the age group between 0 to 24 years is 51.06% of the total population of Nepal. This age group is either the school or university level going age group. Who should we do with more than half of Nepal's population? That is the question now.

The above material is based on the discussion with Arjun Adhikari, a scholar in the education field.

Overflowing Hospitals or just Milder Symptoms of Coronavirus in Nepal?

Covid-19 Cases in Home Isolation and ICU/Ventilators



The above graph shows the number of people with COVID-19 in home isolation and those receiving critical care in different provinces in Nepal. About 39.4 percent of total active cases are currently living in home isolation. Almost half of the cases in Province 2 and one-third of the total active cases in Bagmati Province are in home isolation. This shows that the health facilities in these provinces are already exhausted. Province 2 and Bagmati Province have seen rapid surges in the cases. Also, only 0.9 percentage of total cases are receiving critical care all over Nepal. This means that the majority of the active cases in Nepal have milder symptoms.

Source: HEOC, MoHP, SitRep

DISCLAIMER

The sources of rumors, information, and issues presented here are collected from a variety of organizations, government agencies, international organizations, news articles, social media, and Community Frontliners in all 7 provinces of Nepal, as well as the CivActs team based on their conversations with over 2000 people in August 2020. The issues highlighted are chosen based on prevalence, relevance, and its potential impact on society. The information presented here is correct at the time of the issue.

Coronavirus CivActs Campaign is brought to you by
Accountability Lab Nepal.

