

BHUTAN'S INITIATIVES OF DEALING WITH COVID-19 PANDEMIC: CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD.



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OUTLINE

1. Introduction to COVID-19 (what, how and why?)
2. Research methodology
3. Pandemic in Bhutan
4. Literature review
 - I. Bhutan's preparedness and response to COVID-19
 - II. Druk gyelpo's kidu
 - III. Crisis to boost agriculture in Bhutan Covid-19
 - IV. Impact of COVID-19 and Bhutan's response on education
5. Recommendation and conclusion

INTRODUCTION TO COVID-19

1. What is Corona virus?

Corona viruses are an oversized family of viruses that causes illness starting from common cold to more severe disease such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome(MERS-CoV)

2. How the virus started?

First emerged in Wuhan, china at the end of the Dec 2019

3. Why WHO declared COVID-19 as a pandemic?

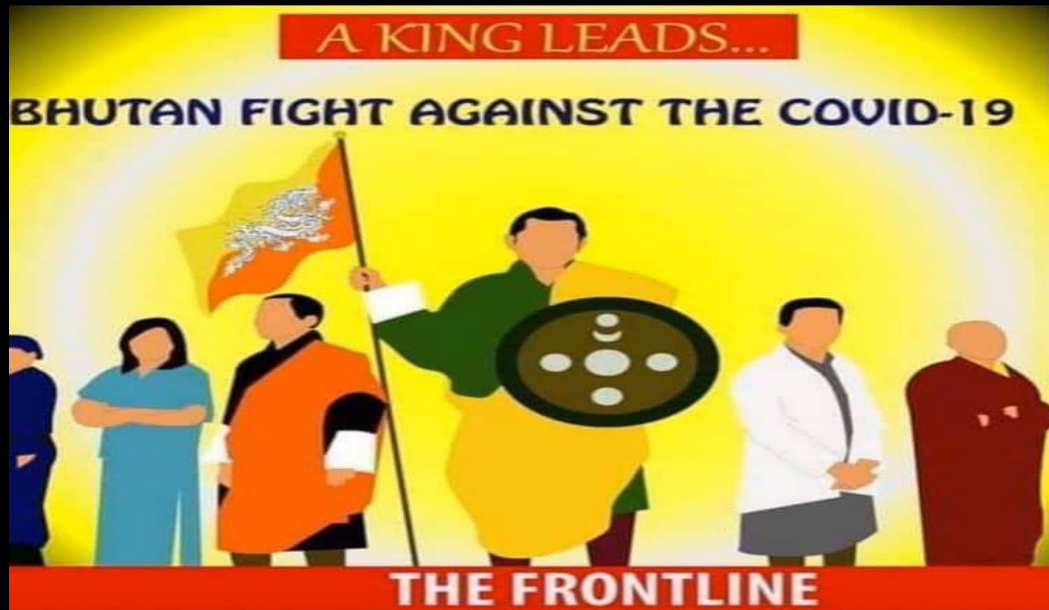
The virus proceeds to quickly spread around the world

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- This paper was focused on secondary research, with some expository research to complement the overall assessment.
- Since social distancing had to be practiced other methodology which requires field visit and personal interviews could not be performed and mainly obtained through previously collected or gathered data and statistics which is available in different government websites and pages.
- external sources of national and international institutions including, World Health Organization, United Nations Development Fund, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Forest, Ministry of Health and moreover from the Kuensel Online as from such institutions they dedicate a lot of effort to conducting up-to-date research.

PANDEMIC IN BHUTAN

- On the morning of March 6, 2020, Bhutan woke-up to the news of the first positive case.
- 79-years old American tourist



BHUTAN'S PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO COVID-19

- Immediate tracing and testing anyone who had come into contact with the tourists.
- Distributed free hand sanitizer.
- On 16th March RGoB made it mandatory for all the travellers entering Bhutan to be under quarantined.
- Free testing for anyone returning from affected nations, who is symptomatic or has come into contact with confirmed cases.



DRUK GYELPO'S KIDU (RELIEF FUND)

- On April 14, 2020 Druk Gyalpo's relief kidu for those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Valid for three months
- Those who have returned home and do not have any source of income
- Self employed individuals who have lost their earning
- HM initiated several kidu packages to protect the vulnerable section(old age)
- Ensured accommodation and financial support for Bhutanese living abroad
- The relief includes deferment of loan repayment by three months and waiver on interest payment for loans from April to June 2020.

CRISIS TO BOOST AGRICULTURE IN BHUTAN COVID-19

- Bhutan initially banned good imports
- Country focus on food self-sufficiency
- Promote local products/ organic farming
- Closure of border gates has given the farmers the opportunity to substitute a large portion of the country's vegetable.
- Encourage youths to start with small cottage industries
- Reduce in unemployment issues
- Organic farming programme which was started last year is now getting much needed.
- The Gross National Happiness Commission and UNDP Bhutan signed the project "support to commercial farming in Paro district"
- In a special initiative on 15th May, 2020, the Food Corporation of Bhutan (FCB) launched an online farmers' market system

IMPACT OF COVID 19 AND BHUTAN'S RESPONSE ON EDUCATION

- On March 18 all the schools in Bhutan were closed
- 1.5 billion youth could no longer physically go to school
- eLearning programme was launched
- Online tools like Google classroom, etextbook, ekuensel were used.
- Psychological wellbeing (domain of Gross National Happiness) is emphasized to support the youth from anxiety and stress
- Self-Instructional Materials (SIM) is distributed to remote communities
- Special Education Needs (SEN) for children who need special needs
- Ability Society Bhutan (ABS) to support vulnerable youth.

RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

- Bhutan woke-up to the news of the first positive case on March 6, 2020
- Bhutan's efforts to fight Covid-19 have remained successful till date
- No local transmission
- The king of Bhutan along with the Je Khenpo and Prime Minister of Bhutan stands at the frontline.
- This paper recommends further explorative research into Bhutan's initiatives against covid-19 pandemic and challenges faced.

GENDER EQUALITY AND SDGS



OUTLINE

- Introduction
- What is Gender Equality?
- Why gender equality important matters?
- How gender equity is different from gender equality and women's empowerment?
- Research methodology
- Literature review
- Gender Equality and Poverty
- Gender Equality and Zero Hunger
- Gender Equality and Good Health and Well-being
- Gender and Quality Education
- Gender Equality and Clean Water and Sanitation
- Gender Equality and Affordable and Clean Energy
- Gender Equality and Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Gender equality and Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- Gender equality and Reduced Inequality
- Gender Equality and Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Result and discussion
- Recommendation and conclusion

INTRODUCTION

- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were conceived at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012
- Gender equality is one of 17 Global Goals that make up the 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development.
- All SDG fund programmes mainstream gender into their implementation and monitoring plans
- Gender equality is key to sustainable development

INTRODUCTION

- What is gender equality?

Gender equality means that women and men, girls and boys, enjoy the same rights, resources, opportunities and protections. (UNICEF)

- What's the goal here?

To accomplish gender equality and empower all women and girls

- **Why gender equality important matters?**

Gender equality is intrinsically linked to sustainable development and is vital to all the realization of human rights for all

- How gender equity is different from gender equality and women's empowerment?

Gender equality means equal outcomes for women, men and gender diverse people. Gender equity is the process to achieve gender equality.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- This paper was focused on secondary research, with some expository research to complement the overall assessment.
- Since social distancing had to be practiced other methodology which requires field visit and personal interviews could not be performed and mainly obtained through previously collected or gathered data and statistics which is available in different government websites and pages.
- From secondary data collection this paper mainly exposed to external secondary data research from the external sources of national and international institutions including, World Health Organization, United Nations Development Fund, Sustainable Development Goals, OECD etc., from such organizations they dedicate a lot of effort to conducting up-to-date research.

Gender equality and poverty

- Women suffered more severe than men and female poverty displayed a more marked tendency to increase, largely because of rise in the number of female-headed households.

Gender Equality and Zero Hunger

- Gender equality and women's empowerment and SDG2 and SDG3 – eliminating poverty, achieving zero hunger and malnutrition, and good health and wellbeing for women and children.

Gender Equality and Good Health and Well-being

- There are gender-based differences in life expectancy, healthy life years, health behaviors, mortality, and morbidity risks. This is partly due to the socially constructed roles of men and women, and the relationships between them. These norms influence the health conditions individuals are susceptible to, as well as access to and uptake of health services.

Gender equality and quality education

- Key factors, including gender-based discrimination and sexual violence, lead many girls to drop out of school.
- Gender stereotype in society lead to decline in women's education.

Gender equality and decent work and economic growth

- Gender corresponding in work gives women more dynamic force and improves family prosperity
- Women's entrance to work also helps in decrease poverty and maternal motility and improves wellbeing

Gender equality and industry, innovation and infrastructure

- Women and men often use infrastructure differently, hence their different needs should be explicitly taken into account in infrastructure projects an urban settlement design
- Women should be included in decision making process

Gender equality and reduced inequality

- For women and girls, gender inequalities have consequences for income as well as other basics of well-being.
- Gender inequality is the source of economic inefficiency and a driver of unsustainable environmental practices.

Gender equality and sustainable cities and communities

- Sustainable urbanization requires quality transportation system. Access to green and public space, policies to protect citizens from harassment, affordable housing and basic services.
- Women and girls living in cities should be free from any kinds of violence and open doors to improved services.

RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

- Sustainable development goal 5 is a priority goal among 17 SDGs
- Mitigating gender inequalities is contributing to achieving other SDGs goals
- Gender imbalance lead to every kind of social problems
- Women should always be included in every decision making process
- There should e more organizations to protect women and girls as they are more vulnerable than opposite sex.

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THANK YOU!!!
HAVE A GOOD DAY AHEAD