

Internship project

Title

Bhutan's initiatives of dealing with covid-19 pandemic: challenges and the way forward.

By

Miss. Deki yangzom

student No. 04161941

A paper submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the requirements for

The post graduate of MBA Rural Management

Indian Institute of Health Management Research

Academic Year 2020

Academic Advisor Mr. Sazzad Parwez

Acknowledgment

I may have taken endeavors during this undertaking anyway it probably won't have been conceivable without the sort backing and help of the numerous people. Accordingly, I'd wish like to stretch out my sincere due to all of them.

Firstly, I thank god for blessing me with all the information without much trouble.

I would want to communicate my extraordinary gratitude to my academic mentors Mr. Sazzad Parwez and Dr. Anuradha S. Palanichamy for their immense support and guidance in completing this project.

A debt of gratitude is additionally owed to my parents and family for their kind cooperation and encouragement which helped me to figure harder and complete this project

And a special thanks to Mr. Ngawang Dorji for a valuable suggestions and providing essential information which has been helpful in various phases of completion of the project.

Lastly, I show full appreciation to all or any people mentioned above.

Abstract

This paper critically analyses and illustrates the initiatives taken by the royal government of Bhutan to combat against novel coronavirus and the challenges faced. With this in mind, initiatives taken in various fields will be explored. Due to the threat of current pandemic this research work is composed mostly on secondary research strategies, emphasizing on the reports collected by some of the authentic media pages, related departments and ministries. Furthermore this paper recommends further explorative research into Bhutan's initiatives against covid-19 pandemic and challenges faced.

Keywords: COVID-19, Bhutan

Contents

Acronyms	5
Introduction	6
Evolution	6
Brief history and timeline of COVID-19 and pandemic in Bhutan.....	7
Objectives.....	10
Research Methodology.....	11
Literature review	11
Bhutan’s preparedness and response to COVID19	11
Druk Gyalpo’s Relied Kidu-support for interest payment	12
Monetary and Fiscal Measures.....	13
Monetary measures.....	14
Bridging loans for business continuity (soft short-term loans) to corporate and business entities at concessional interest rate of 5%	14
Soft Short-Term Micro Loans and Soft Loans to CSLs	15
Deferment of Loan Repayment	15
Conversion of concessional working capital schemes to concessional term-based loan (5% interest rate for the tenure of the loan)	16
Crisis to boost agriculture in Bhutan Covid-19.....	16
Impact of Covid 19 and Bhutan’s response on education	18
Quick reaction to school closure	19
Wellbeing a priority.....	19
Reaching for equity in a time of crisis.....	20
Special education needs.....	20
Results and discussion.....	21
Recommendation and Conclusion.....	21

References	22
------------------	----

Acronyms

AEC-2- Angiotensin Converting Enzyme 2

ASB- Ability Society Bhutan

BBS-Bhutan Broadcasting Service

BIT- Bhutan Income Tax

CIT- Corporate Income Tax

CoV- Coronavirus

COVID-19- Coronavirus Disease, 2019

CSI- Cottage and Small Industry

EMI- Equated Monthly Installment

FCB-Food Cooperation of Bhutan

FIS- Financial Institutions

FSPs- Foreign Service Pension

IGM- Immunoglobulin M

KOICA- The Korea International Cooperation Agency

MERS-CoV-Middle East Respiratory

MoE- Ministry of Education

NCWC-National Council of Women and Children

Introduction

What is coronavirus?

“Coronaviruses (CoV) are an outsized family of viruses that causes illness starting from common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV). A novel coronavirus (nCoV) is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans ” (Organizarion, 23 april,2020). On New Year’s Eve, 2019 a novel coronavirus was eventually identified after a cluster instance of pneumonia in Wuhan had been reported by Wuhan Municipal Health Commission to World Health Organization. WHO then in January 5 2020 distributed first aliment episode news on the new infection? Lately on 13th January 2020 the primary record of the COVID-19 case was reported outside of China from Thailand then the virus subsequently spread like an uncontrollable wildfire (Sellin, 2020) Bhutan first woke-up to the news of the primary positive case of the coronavirus within the country on 6th March 2020 after testing 76- year old tourist from the United States of America and thereby started to take smart preventive measures and prudent decision against COVID-19 pandemic with zero dead till date.

Evolution

How the novel coronavirus started?

While tracing the origin of novel corona virus, though there many unfolded suggestions, the virus being a laboratory origin but it is confirmed that the virus has its ecological reservoir in bats and merely it jumped from animal to human (Organizarion, 23 april,2020). Peter Ben Embarek¹ and other specialists also explained to the guardian that on the off chance that there had been any control of the infection you would hope to see proof in both the qualities groupings and furthermore bending on the information of the family tree change likewise

¹ An expert at the World Health Organization in animal to human transmission disease

called “reticulation” impact. In the announcement to the Guardian, James Le Duc² likewise smothered the recommendation “there is convincing evidence that the new virus was not the result of international genetic engineering and that it almost certainly originated from nature, given its high similarity to other known bat associated coronaviruses,” (Beaumont, 1 May 2020). The study examines the matter emerges when the new viral pathogen jumped hosts from animal to human, the virus would cause no harm or no diseases within the original animal host but highly infectious in build. Scientist at the University of Calgary in Canada “the current variant of the spike protein of protein of SARS- Cov-2 and the way strongly it binds to the ACE-2 receptor in human 9hACE-2 receptor on the body cells is what helps the virus enter into healthy cells.” (Myupchar, 2020) on December 2019 authority in Wuhan city, China announced first human instances of COVID-19, the ailments brought about by the novel coronavirus causing COVID-19, consequently named SARS-CoV-2. The virus then started to be pandemic globally which at the time affected around 216 countries, infected 9277214 people and caused 521k death globally. (Organizarion, 23 april,2020)

Why and when WHO declared coronavirus as a pandemic?

WHO declared coronavirus as a global pandemic as the virus proceeds to quickly spread around the world? The virus first emerged in Wuhan, China at the end of the December 2019. On 22 January WHO emergency committee happens to declare the infection as an international health emergency but due to some dilemmas it was further postponed and later on 30 January 2020, WHO declared as general wellbeing crisis of worldwide concern. Authentically on 11 March 2020 WHO portrayed Covid-19 as a pandemic.

Brief history and timeline of COVID-19 and pandemic in Bhutan

The COVID-19 pandemic in Bhutan is a bit of the general pandemic of coronavirus sickness 2019(COVID-19) achieved by genuine extreme respiratory condition coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The contamination was insisted to have shown up to Bhutan on 6 March 2020, when

² The head of the Galveston National Laboratory in the US, the biggest active bio containment facility on a US academic campus

a 76-years of age American explorer who had gone from India attempted positive for COVID-19.

6 March: Bhutan affirmed its first COVID-19 case, a 76-year-old US male who headed out to the nation by means of India. Around 90 individuals who came legitimately in contact with him, alongside his 59-year-old accomplice, driver, and guide were immediately followed and isolated. Bhutan promptly confined passage of outside travelers for about fourteen days. Schools in three territories including capital Thimphu were shut. The 76-year-old American male was emptied to the US on 13 Walk. He was cleared to Baltimore, MD and endures. His accomplice likewise endures.

22 March: the king of Bhutan declared in a national location that the nation's territory fringes would be closed.

23 March: Every single Universal fringe was fixed. Around 5000 Bhutanese living the Indian town of jaigaon West Benge, circumscribing Bhutan was emptied to neighboring Phuentsholing.

24 March: The legislature rustication the import of Doma (betel nut) and Pani (betel leaf), just as natural product, vegetables, and meat with an end goal to check the spread of coronavirus. It likewise shut every one of its fringes with India.

31 March: the PM, Dr. Lotay Tshering, declared that the isolation period for COVID-19 in Bhutan will be stretched out from 14 to 21 days, despite the fact that the universal (WHO) standard for isolation is 14 days. He stated: "there is the danger of testing positive significantly in the weak of isolating for 14 days. That is the reason we have chosen to broaden the isolate period. "On this date Bhutan had 3059 individuals held in isolation offices and 339 individuals in home isolate.

7 April: with the quantities of coronavirus contaminations in neighboring India rising, Expanded security and avoidance measures have been set up in the sarpang and samtse local which outskirt the Indian conditions of Assam and West Bengal. These measure incorporation nonstop reconnaissance of all formal and causal fringe crossing focuses, and entryway to-entryway COVID-19 mindfulness and avoidance crusades.

8 April: An exceptional disengagement medical clinic prepared to treat any COVID-19 patients in the eastern area has been set upon the Imperial Visitor House at Mongar. It has 24 beds with a flood limit with regards to an extra 15 beds. A COVID-19 testing lab was likewise set up at the Mongar Local Referral Medical clinic and till this date, seven speculated case had been tried there. These entire test outcomes were negative. The Mongar Local organization has likewise recognized 30 isolate focuses in the area. At present just a single individual in the region is in quarantine.

9 April: 309 Bhutanese were cleared from the Maldives and New Delhi in India and came back to Bhutan by unique Drukair flights. On appearance they were completely sent straightforwardly to the isolate office in Thimphu. A large portion of those coming back from the Maldives had been working in the travel industry part there; while most of those coming back from New Delhi were understudies. The legislature booked further trips inside the next days to empty Bhutanese living in Bangalore, Amritsar and Chandigarh in India and those living in Sri Lanka.

2 May: suspected case. It was accounted for that a specialist in jomotsangkha in the samdrup jongkhar rejoin of south eastern Bhutan had tried positive on May 1 for COVID-19 utilizing a quick test unit, when a group from the service of wellbeing was leading arbitrary inspecting test there. A further example was sent to a national testing place unit at Mongar to affirm the outcome. The individual, who was asymptomatic and had no ongoing travel history; was put in isolate to be moved to a separation ward in Mongar or Thimphu if the further test outcome demonstrated positive. Agreement following of this speculated network transmission case was completed and around 1000 individual taught to remain inside the pending the PCR test consequences of this case. Around 60 other in a similar town were tried as a component of high-hazard network surveillance.

Jomotsangkha which outskirts India, is viewed as a high-chance network as the town at preset has no interior street association with the remainder of Bhutan and individuals regularly need to go through Assam to arrive at different sports in Bhutan. Later in the day it was reported that the PCR test consequences of the presumed case in jomotsangkha were negative. The head administrator, Dr. Lotay Tshering, said the past fast test was certain for IgM, which implies he could have functioning viral diseases; however it was not shedding the infection at the hour of

the PCR test. The region keeps on being held under high reconnaissance, with the presumed case and his essential contact put under disconnection or isolate for at any rate seven days. The executive said the circumstance would be assessed simply following a second PCR test uncovered the speculated case to be negative again.

25 may: the republic of Korea gave award help of USD 4000,000 to the Service of Wellbeing today. Out of the absolute award, USD 200,000 was utilized to secure test units which can direct 17,250 tests. The other portion of the award will be utilized to help COVID-19 reaction measures. The test units were given by the Korea Worldwide collaboration office (KOICA) in Bhutan to the service of wellbeing today. In light of involvement with Korea, KOICA said mass testing could bolster Bhutan in overseeing and forestalling the spread of COVID-19 successfully. Unit this point, Bhutan has no network transmission, and all the cases are imported including the nation's first two cases distinguished in quite a while. Most cases are identified in Bhutanese coming back from the Center East. This week in excess of 500 Bhutan got back from the Center East, Nepal and Thailand

Objectives

Current pandemic COVID-19 first emerged in December 2019 from Wuhan, China; the virus rapidly spread worldwide and started to jeopardize the tranquility around the world. Bhutan also exposed to the pandemic on early march but successfully combated the infection. This paper mainly emphasis on how a tiny Bhutan able to combat the infection and her smart strategie

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, 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.

Literature review

Bhutan's preparedness and response to COVID19

The Ministry of Health is responsible for the stewardship of wellbeing area in Bhutan. Wellbeing might be a need segment in Bhutan and each resident gets free social insurance administrations at the reason for care. The National Health Policy of the nation expresses that the state will "give free access to fundamental general wellbeing administrations in both present day and customary meds" as cherished inside the constitution. It further expresses that the legislature will in any case secure sufficient human services administrations to deliver all inclusive inclusion to the Bhutanese residents and guarantee assurance against calamitous use impoverishment. His highness the Lord of Bhutan has been at the bleeding edge of the readiness and reaction to coronavirus pandemic, giving uncommon administration and vision to remain Bhutan and its kin safe from this pandemic. (Yangchen, 16 April, 2020).

The head administrator, outside Pastor and the wellbeing priest are generally clinical specialists with general wellbeing foundation. The imperial administration of Bhutan's battle against

COVID-19 cannot be more logical and proof based than what the nation is following at the present time. The nation has embraced and followed all specialized direction gave by the World Wellbeing Association to react to the current pandemic. Starting at 15 April 2020, the complete number of cases is five, two outsiders and three Bhutanese understudies who came back from influenced nations. All cases are imported cases and there is no network transmission.

The principle case in Bhutan was affirmed on 5 March 2020. The file was an outsider and all his clinical administration was given uninhibitedly by the legislature. He was carried to nation on 13 walk 2020 upon the solicitation from his relatives. The subsequent case was an essential contact of the record case that was overseen in the nation. The government made it compulsory for everybody coming back from abroad to be quarantined in designated facilities from 16 March 2020. The other three cases were Bhutanese understudies who came back from affected nations. They were identified from assigned isolate offices. Starting at 12 April 2020, 4 affirmed cases tried negative and more completely recuperated. (Yangchen, 16 April,2020)

Druk Gyalpo's³ Relied Kidu⁴-support for interest payment

“At such a time, we must exhibit the strength that comes out of our smallness, remain united and support one another. During such exceptional circumstances, the government will take the responsibility of alleviating any suffering to the people to the virus” Druk Gyalpo.

So as to mitigate the mounting stresses of the individuals over advance reimbursements, the executive declared the Royal Command to additionally expand intrigue waiver for an additional nine months for advances benefits as of April 10, 2020. Full intrigue waiver will be allowed for an additional three months from July to September 2020. This will be trailed by fractional intrigue wavier (half) for six extra months from October 2020 to March 2021. The Royal Kidu on intrigue waiver is required to profit 112,024 people (with 139,261 credit accounts) across 20 dzongkhags⁵ with individual and business advance records including those records recorded as NPL. The expense of the intrigue installment for the time months is assessed at nu 7.5 billion and will be completely conceded from the National Resilience Fund. It is trusted that the alleviation gave through the intrigue wavier and other financial and money

³ King Jigme Khesar Nmagyel Wangchuck

⁴ Support for influenced people and premium installment support

⁵ districts

related estimates will give the genuinely necessary cushion to this end. The Royal Monetary Authority (RMA) and the budgetary establishments waiver and other financial and money related estimates will give the genuinely necessary cushion to this end. The Royal Monetary Authority (RMA) and the budgetary establishments (FIs) will give definite rules and standard operational methodology for this help (Palden, 2020).

Monetary and Fiscal Measures

With the COVID-19 pandemic giving no indication of easing back down, financial down turn has become a really all over the place. Despite zero nearby transmissions in Bhutan, our economy will likewise confront comparative difficulties. In addition, it is likewise sure that the economy will take over a year to bounce back. The legislature perceives that the expenses of this COVID-19 Pandemic emergency will be amazingly substantial for organizations and representatives. In this manner, a bundle of financial and monetary intercessions is made to facilitate a portion of the weight and help organizations effectively tide troublesome period

To encourage better technique and making arrangements for business manageability, the measures will offer help throughout the following six to a year. Stage II money related and financial estimates will bolster all organizations, of all shapes and size, through a mix of intercessions that will supplement the Druk Gyalpo's Relief Kidu. Money related estimates will ease obligation pressure through the delay of advances for one year without correctional premium. For borrows willing and ready to support their credits during this period, FIs have offered to decrease the enthusiasm by one point as an additional impetus. Further, for business coherence, new delicate term crossing over credits at a profoundly concessional financing cost of 5 % for organizations will be given. Small scale credits for agribusiness and delicate advances to CSIs at 2% and 4% loan fees, separately, will be reached out by an additional a year by the National CSI Development Bank (Dendup, 2020)

While giving profoundly concessional loan costs to borrowers (at beneath the base loaning rate), the interests of savers and contributors will likewise be ensured and store rates won't be diminished. The RAM will keep on guaranteeing monetary part steadiness. The legislature will likewise keep on actualizing financial measures to support household request, increment monetary exercises, create work and guarantee dependability and development. This will be done for the most part by front-stacking capital speculations. To help this, acquisition rules

will be improved including special treatment for neighborhood products. Further, to ease income, directed duty suspensions and rental waivers will likewise be given. Backing to guarantee the nation has adequate loads of fundamentals will likewise proceed. With the execution of this measure, the administration is idealistic that the private area will keep on assuming a functioning job in the economy to give important products, administration and employments to hold over the period.

Monetary measures

Stage II financial intercessions are meant to enable the economy to increase some level of versatility and adjust to the evolving conditions. Partners concur that the recuperation of organizations and the economy may take longer than foreseen and thusly, the residency for Phase II Interventions is considered from than a half year to a year.

Bridging loans for business continuity (soft short-term loans) to corporate and business entities at concessional interest rate of 5%

To guarantee the strength and continuation of activities of corporate and business elements(CIT and BIT recording Business organization) that are truly influenced by COVID-19, Fls, will give “Delicate Short-Term Loans for Business continuity” at the accompanying terms:

- Eligible for CIT and BIT (accounts/gauges) recording business elements. Whose advances are customary? For term Expired Loans, feasible organizations will be qualified, while the rest will look for abandonment;
- Purpose of the credit office is to keep up ordinary activities of the business, especially paying pay rates of representatives , service bills ,and leases, where material;
- Loan size will be dictated by the money related foundation dependent on the June 2019 expense forms;
- Tenure of the Soft-Term Loan is 4 years with incubation time of 1 year;
- Banks consented to give interest Rate at the delicate pace of 5 percent.

Soft Short-Term Micro Loans and Soft Loans to CSLs

So as to keep supporting smaller scale and CSI borrowers miniaturized scale credit of Nu. 500,000 at 2% and Soft Term Loans at 4% to be reached out by an additional a year by the National CSI Development Bank as affirmed by the Ministry of Finance .

Deferment of Loan Repayment

Advance delays will be reached out for one year until June 30, 2021 for all advances. Delays can be full or fractional. Be that as it may, incomplete reimbursement will cover at any rate the intrigue installment on the credits. The RMA will give clear orders to actualize this mediation.

- Interest will keep on accruing at typical rates on the chief sums during the suspension time frame.
- Interest gathered during the delay time frame will be promoted toward the finish of postponement period. The intrigue won't be intensified during the suspension time frame. The FSPs will work out appropriate amortization plans with the additional residency of the advances (time of suspension) to keep up the equivalent EMI where conceivable.
- No late expenses/corrective interests will be charged during the suspension time frame.
- Further, the term terminated credits will be isolated into practical and nonviable advances, with game plans for re-booking of feasible advances and quest for abandonment of non-suitable advances in the bigger enthusiasm of the economy and money related division. RMA will help with tending to the dispossession of non-feasible ad term terminated credits.
- All advance record holders should enlist for Loan Repayment Deferment with separate FSPs in an endorsed structure for appropriate appraisal and observing purpose.

- The expansion of credit residencies will be viewed as dependent on evaluations.

Motivation for ordinary advances payers (1% loan fee decrease during delay period)

- Borrowers who reimburse their advances consistently and completely during the postponement time frame will be offered a 1 rate point financing cost decrease during the suspension time frame.
- This discount will be balanced against the borrower's extraordinary equalization.
- For credits that are completely reimbursed during the postponement time frame, the budgetary establishments will discount the intrigue differential.

Conversion of concessional working capital schemes to concessional term-based loan (5% interest rate for the tenure of the loan)

The three working capital plans (for Wholesales, Tourism, and Manufacturing Industry) applied during the initial three months of COVID-19 is presently being traded by the Bridging Loan for Business Continuity portrayed in (I). Be that as it may, the working capital credit extraordinary toward the finish of June 30, 2020 will be furnished with the accompanying concessional reimbursement modalities. The complete remarkable working capital with promoted financing cost toward the finish of June 30, 2020 will be amortized over the endorsed residency of the credit (2-4 years) at the concessional loan fees of 5 percent.

Crisis to boost agriculture in Bhutan Covid-19

Covid-19 has not just sent Bhutanese burrowing their laws to develop vegetables yet may likewise trigger a couple of strategy changes in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forest and even quicken Bhutan's capacity to accomplish food security objectives. Pioneers consider the pandemic as a chance to help farming and wean the nation off costly imports from India, following quite a while of fruitless endeavors to advance independence. Due to Covid-19

pandemic, Bhutan initially banned food imports. The boycott was before long lifted as authorities acknowledged it was unfeasible. Be that as it may, with the conclusion of Bhutan's fringes with India, the nation's food imports have dove. A blend of a deficiency of work to deal with the merchandise, just as the trouble of sanitizing food items, has implied that imports have eased back to a stream. The underlying conclusion of the outskirts on March 24, 2020, prompted boundless frenzy purchasing. The administration has since consoled individuals that the nation has enough food stocks to last an additional a half year. All things considered, the outskirts termination and restricted food supplies have focused the nation's consideration on food independence. To add intrigue to the circumstance, the Bhutanese national dish is ema datse (chillies and cheddar), and with the chillies inaccessible, it is of the table for some.

Answering to the inquiries by the thethirdpole.net, Yeshey Penjor, Bhutan's Minister for Agriculture stated, the "lockdown in India and the closure of border gates with India has given our farmers the opportunity to substitute a large portion of the country's vegetables and meat requirements that are imported from India. We take the Covid-19 pandemic as a blessing in disguise and the pandemic had called for a test of sustainability." In a press briefing at the end of March, Bhutan's Prime Minister Lotay Tshering reiterated this point. "If we can give agriculture one earnest push today, we will see that many of our biggest problems has gone away. We will wake up to see that suddenly unemployment is no longer a national issue. And we have enough to feed ourselves."

On March 22, two days before the restriction on food imports, the agribusiness serve wrote to tops of every one of the 20 locals of the nation, requesting that they arrange with agrarian and domesticated animals authorities to help ranchers to build food creation. "I agree our farmers to produce as much as possible without worrying about the market," Penjor said. In reply to queries by thethirdpole.net, he wrote, "To motivate farmers, we have talked with the Prime Minister to start with the cottage and small industry (CSI) bank, which would provide loans at the minimum or zero interest rate for land resurfacing and development support and direct inputs such as seeds, electric faces and technical support," (Yonten, 2020). To encourage young people and the farmers to practice more agriculture farm work, on 7th July 2020 His Majesty the king along with prime minister and National Council Chairperson had a Royal Tour of central, eastern and southern parts of Bhutan. With Nu. 11.4 million, the urban

horticulture activity had recognized bean stew, tomato, aubergine, Cole harvest, cabbage, and cauliflower among others dependent on their developing capacity showcase request and utilization volume. (Wangmo, 2020)

Regardless of many years of plans to advance independence, Bhutan remains basically subject to food imports from India for its inexorably prosperous populace. Farming creation has gone up as of late, however imports, particularly of meat, have remained consistently high. The import of meat and vegetables has not seen any huge lessening through the years regardless of the administration stressing on independence. A large portion of the vegetables imported by Bhutan are developed in and around Falakata, in the Indian territory of West Bengal over the border town Phuntsholing. (Yonten, 2020)

Usually, around this time of the year, farmers will start taking their vegetable produce to auction yards. But with the COVID-19 pandemic, the auction yards across the country is off-limits. In a special initiative on 15th May, 2020, the Food Corporation of Bhutan (FCB) launched an online farmers' market system, where farmers can directly sell their products to prospective buyers. Dorji Tashi⁶ says, "If a seller has 100 sacks of cabbage, he can advertise it on online platform along with his contact details. A prospective buyer can immediately call the number, discuss price and the two parties can do business. There will be no third party involved." (Dorji, 2020)

Impact of Covid 19 and Bhutan's response on education

School termination due to COVID 19 carried unmatched interruptions to the instruction division. Comprehensive over 1.5 billion youth could no longer genuinely go to class. As nations confronted flare-ups, practically overnight homerooms shut to forestall fast neighborhood transmissions in the midst of worries of lacking elbow room, shared spaces and now and again insufficient WASH (water, sanitation and cleanliness) framework. Remaining

⁶ The director of the department of Corporate Business with FCB

at home turned into the new typical driving understudies to go to elective sources to proceed with their instruction. Bhutan responded to COVID 19 through a whole of society and whole of government approach. The response plan focused on early revelation, early uncovering, early separation and early, early treatment. Visitors were closed on March 23 to limit the peril of the disease entering the nation. (Chandi, 2020)

On May 28th the ministry of education officially launched the programme called “Take-Home-Ration” for the vulnerable students identified by the government, Jai Bir Rai⁷ states the programme is mainly put forward to help vulnerable students who troubles to meet their daily dietary against COVID-19 (Rinzin, 2020)

Bhutan’s speedy and exhaustive reaction was likewise found in the instruction division. On March 18 2020 all the schools across the nation were closed and bought about 170,263 students out of school. Youth, guardians, and parental figures were out of nowhere getting back on track (Wangchuck, 2020)

Quick reaction to school closure

Right after the closure of the school, the Ministry of Education (MoE) came up with an arrangement for education in emergencies. Online learning program was propelled carrying instructions to television studies to communicate exercises on BBS as a type of tele-education. For further notification of teaching schedules are notify though media sites like BBS and radio. The educational plan was additionally adjusted and organized to convey wanted learning outcome. Teaching and learning are organized through online devices like Google classroom, online textbooks and free digital book from Royal Education Council.

Wellbeing a priority

Close by tele-education and internet learning asstes were activities to help the prosperity of youth during this troublesome time. Mental prosperity is one of the nine spaces inside Bhutan’s advancement approach, Gross National happiness, and was organized right off the bat in the

⁷ The Education Minister of Bhutan

reaction to COVID 19. An assortment of associations and organization, for example, sherig (MoE), National Council of women and children (NCWC), and neighborhood youth focuses offered free directing administrations. Notwithstanding directing, numerous adolescent associations discovered approaches to help youth who were confronting expanded pressure and tension from the lockdown. They helped youth construct solid propensities for in general prosperity and associated them with fiends to diminish segregation and bring social association (Chandi, 2020)

Reaching for equity in a time of crisis

Expanding on remote instruction and prosperity activities, foundations and network associations attempted to moderate the effects of COVID-19 through a value focal point. For certain kids in Bhutan, access to online training isn't dependable or conceivable in remote networks. A few family units likewise don't approach the web or TV. Because of this, the MoE discharged the Self-Instructional Materials (SIM), an elective print asset for youth who don't approach web, TV, or e-learning facilities. The subject of this activity was 'Arriving at the Unreached' and was planned to help 16,884 youth who didn't approach e-learning platforms. This allowed understudies the change to proceed with their training and was a push to confine the effects these understudies could look because of school ruminations.

For understudies who had access to e-learning stages, families presently needed to pay expanded information plans so as to permit their youngsters to utilize online assets, which turned into a money related weight for certain families. To guarantee the expense of information isn't an obstruction to understudies entrance to exercise, the MoE reported an activity to give 60% extra information to gadgets utilized by students. By expanding choices and access to remote learning openings, understudies saw more chances to proceed with their instruction.

Special education needs

The COVID-19 school terminations additionally influenced the entrance and nature of a special education needs (SEN). In Bhutan as country's maximum settlement are situated in

rural parts of Bhutan where there is no coverage of internet and lack of assets for online learning which indirectly trouble maximum of the students. Thus to help defenseless youth, Ability Society Bhutan (ASB) preceded with early intercession administrations by means of home visits where it was safe. These administrations in youth training can Trans formatively affect kids with uncommon requirements. Albeit restricted, the SEN activities that are working furnish pathways for youngsters with incapacities to learn and diminish the post- COVID holes in training because of disparities.

Results and discussion

People thought out the nations are threatened and killed by the current pandemic whereas Bhutan being in the middle of the two world largest and most infected countries China in the north and India in the south successfully battled COVID-19 without any death so far, which I as a Bhutanese feels proud about. Moreover from the day Bhutan woke up to the current virus, everyone in the country began to come closer with their hand joined together aiming for to fight the COVID-19 together. His majesty the fifth king of Bhutan along with the chief abbot of the central Monastic Body and the prime minister were in the frontline combating against COVID-19. People of Bhutan are very much blessed and fortunate to be born in this country because his majesty the king is doing his best to protect his people from the pandemic at the first place and helping and granting kidu for those who are directly or indirectly affected by the COVID-19. Out of 640K deaths around the world Bhutan is the only country without any death so far.

Recommendation and Conclusion

This paper recommends further explorative research into Bhutan's initiatives against covid-19 pandemic and challenges faced. Furthermore the paper also highlights on the origination and threat that corona virus caused worldwide till date. In any event 76 individuals gotten the novel coronavirus in Bhutan, however nobody has died from Covid-19, and nor has any community transmission has been distinguished. It's astonishing given that this nation is encircled by China in the north where the infection began and India in the south which has almost 4000,000 affirmed cases. The Royal Government along with the His Majesty the King, the Chief Abbot of central Monastic Body and the Prime Minister have been seen as being at the helm and the

forefront of the fight against the new Coronavirus. Moreover every Bhutanese stand together to fight against the novel coronavirus.

References

- Beaumont, P. (1 May 2020). Where did Covid-19 come from? What we know about its origins.
- Chandi, J. (2020). *Bhutan's education in emergency: reaching for equity in a time of crisis*. Thimphu, Bhutan: Bhutan Canada Foundation.
- Dendup, P. D. (2020). Druk Gyalpo's Relief Kidu for those are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. *BBS*.

- Dorji, S. (2020). Online farmers' market system ease of doing business for farmers. *BBS Mobile*.
- Myupchar. (2020, June 27). COVID-19 origin: University of Calgary research shows SARS-CoV-2 may have been evolving slowly since 2013. *Fiestpost*.
- Organizarion, W. H. (23 April, 2020). *SUBJECT IN FOCUS: Origin of the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2), the virus causing COVID-19*. Geneva: World Health Organization.
- Palden, T. (2020, April 15). His Majesty's Relief Kidu for covid-19 affected launched.
- Rinzin, Y. C. (2020). 10,000 needy students to get ration in Covid-19 response. *Kuensel*.
- Sellin, L. (2020, May 24). tracing the origins of COVID-19. *World is One News*.
- Wangchuck, J. (2020). Tele-education in the wake of Covid-19 threat. *Kuensel*.
- Wangmo, C. (2020, May 13). Covid-19 triggers agriculture & forest policy changes. *Kuensel*.
- Yangchen, S. (16 April, 2020, April). Bhutan's Preparedness and response to COVID19. *ORF*.
- Yonten, K. (2020). Bhutan uses covid-19 crisis to boost agriculture. *The Third Pole*.