



AN ANALYSIS OF COVID-19 CASES IN NEPAL: A MODELING APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

Unlike previous coronaviruses infections, COVID-19 has badly affected not only the health of people but also the socio-economic activities of Nepal. It would help the government of Nepal to manage this crisis if a proper mechanism to predict COVID cases has been developed. This study aims to look for patterns of confirmed, recovery and death cases. Moreover, it tries to check whether Gompertz and Logistic model would be able to read the patterns of total confirmed and death cases. It also forecasts the total number of confirmed as well as death cases. Data from January 23, 2020 to October 30, 2020 obtained from the website of Wikipedia are used for analysis. Gompertz and Logistic models were fitted to the total number of confirmed and death cases and models are compared based on various criteria. Besides, an automatic ARIMA model was used to predict cumulative confirmed and death cases and the accuracy of the model was also checked. ARIMA model forecasted 347,812 confirmed cases and 1,754 death cases till December 31, 2020. At 95 % confidence interval, the confirmed cases were expected between 273,889 and 421,734 whereas death cases were estimated from 1,387 to 2,119. Both models were fitted well in both total confirmed cases and total death cases. It was found that the Logistic model fits better in total confirmed cases whereas in total death cases, the Gompertz model was better. ARIMA model precisely forecasted the number of confirmed and death cases.

Keywords: ARIMA model, COVID-19 cases, Gompertz model, Logistic model, Nepal.

INTRODUCTION

The novel coronavirus known as severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) responsible for coronavirus disease-19 (COVID-19) was first reported in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China on December , 2019 (Huang *et al.*, 2020; Bherwani *et al.*, 2020). Similar to severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) and the Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV), SARS-CoV-2 has been recognized to be zoonotic origin and usually causes respiratory disease as an onset symptom (Guo *et al.*, 2020). COVID-19 has been spread all over the world relatively quickly than its ancestors. In January 2020, World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 as a public health emergency of international concern and as a pandemic on March 11, 2020 (WHO, 2020).

Experts have outlined three stages of transmission of COVID-19: local transmission, community transmission, and large scale transmission (epidemic). The contact among people of the different populations determines the aspect that characterizes the rate of transmission pattern in civic places and families, and this virus exhibited high transmission rate (Guo *et al.*, 2020; Sarkodie & Owusu, 2020). The COVID-19 mostly attack and damage the respiratory system and alveoli therein (Gautam, 2020; Asadi *et al.*, 2020). The virus enters through the eyes, the nose, or/and the mouth infects the lung, accrues in the kidney, and can cause damage to resident renal cells (Cheng *et al.*, 2020; Fan *et al.* 2020; He *et al.*, 2006). The inhalation of transmittable aerosols is the substantial mode

of transmission of COVID-19. The incubation period for COVID-19 is between 3-14 days (Kannan *et al.*, 2020).

Some of the characteristic features of SARS and MERS virus were similar. The mortality rate due to the failure of the respiratory organ for MERS is much higher than SARS, and older age people are more vulnerable (Du *et al.*, 2020; Rothan & Byrareddy, 2020; Hui *et al.*, 2014). The fatality rate of SARS-CoV-2 is around 2 - 3 % (Jain *et al.*, 2020). SARS and MERS showed a real CFR (Cases Fatality Rate) of 9.6 % and 34.4 %, respectively (Suwantarat & Apisarnthanarak, 2015; Majumder *et al.*, 2014). Although the fatality rate of the SARS-CoV-2 is less than its ancestors, it is causing more deaths due to high transmission rate (Guarner, 2020).

It has been around ten months since the first Covid-19 case was reported (Huang *et al.*, 2020) but the pandemic has not been controlled yet. According to Worldometer (www.worldometers.info) till October 30, 2020; the total number of confirmed cases around the world has reached 45,921,794. Out of which 1,193,912 people have died from it whereas 32,252,284 recovered. In Nepal, to date total confirmed cases, total deaths and total recovered reported are 168,235; 920, and 128,958 respectively. According to the situation analysis report of the Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal till October 30, 2020; positivity rate, case fatality rate, and total death/million were 11.7 %, 0.5 %, and 31.5, respectively. Confirmed cases of males were much higher than females and the most affected age group was 21-30 years.

The first case in Nepal was reported on January 23, 2020, and the first death case was observed on May 16, 2020. Most of the cases were related to the people who have returned from abroad. Various countries initiated lockdown as a measure to reduce the transmission of the virus (Gautam & Hens, 2020). Nepal government implemented nationwide lockdown from March 23, 2020 following second reported case, to control transmission of COVID-19. The lockdown lasted for around four months and was lifted from July 24, 2020. COVID-19 badly hit every sector of Nepal, especially tourism. Social and economic activities were disturbed as a result of lockdown.

This study examined patterns of total confirmed cases, total active cases, total recovery cases, total death cases, total PCR tests as well as newly infected cases, new active cases, new recovery cases, new death cases, and new PCR tests. It also tested whether Gompertz and Logistic models will be able to read the patterns of total confirmed cases and total death cases. Moreover, it compared two models using different criteria. Furthermore, it estimated the time period of the maximum daily confirmed and death cases. Besides, it also estimated the saturation point of both total confirmed and death cases. Gompertz and Logistic models can be used for fitting rather than forecasting. So, automatic ARIMA especially known for forecasting time series data was used to forecast the total confirmed and death cases.

The most common global COVID-19 analyses are Graphical, Descriptive, Projection, Bayesian, and Modeling. From literature review, it was found that nonlinear models was better than the linear model for investigating the total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19. Growth curves were generally fitted by nonlinear regression or linear regression if the model can be linearized by transformation. However, a linear form of the most widely used growth models does not exist (Blasco *et al.*, 2003). Nonlinear functions are particularly suitable for modeling growth data, since predictions outside the range of the data set can be obtained more reliably than by linear models, and few parameters having a biological interpretation can be used to describe the entire growth process (Vuori *et al.*, 2006).

Verity *et al.* (2020) have estimated the severity of COVID-2019 and it showed a case fatality ratio in China to be 1.38 (95 % confidence limit of 1.23-1.53). Silva *et al.* (2020) investigated COVID-19 through Bayesian analysis of the total number of cases in Goias, Brazil where they found outbreak peak 60 days after the onset with 95 % limits from 51 to 68 days. They also estimated the total confirmed cases as 3180 and prevalence rate 4.53 per 10,000. Following the outbreak in Wuhan, several modeling groups around the world have estimated and the modeling results have shown a wide range of variations

(Cyranoski, 2020). Estimated basic reproduction number varied from 2 to 6, peak time estimated from mid-February to late March, and the total number of infected people ranged from 50,000 to millions. Roda *et al.* (2020) found a linkage between the transmission rate and the case-infection ratio, which resulted in a variety of best-fit parameter values, and can create significantly different model predictions of the epidemic.

Ahmadi *et al.* (2020) looked into the trend of the COVID-19 epidemic in Iran until May 13, 2020, using Gompertz and other growth models. They predicted the number of patients on April 3, 2020 by Gompertz model with 95 % confidence interval (CI) as 47 500 (38 907-52 640). They also made predictions on the flat epidemic curve and the number of patients based on the Gompertz model as 67 000 (61 500-87 000) cases. According to their report based on Gompertz model 4620 (3930-5550) deaths might occur from May 13 to June 1, 2020, respectively, and then the curve would be flattened. Jia *et al.* (2020) analyzed COVID-2019 using three different models: Logistic, Bertalanffy, and Gompertz. According to them, COVID-19 and SARS virus both being coronaviruses, the infection pattern might be similar. So, they first tested all three models for SARS where they found Logistic and Gompertz were better than Bertalanffy. They again applied these models using data till February 29, 2020 to predict the epidemic situation of COVID-19 in the later stage of the epidemic. According to their results, the Logistic model was better than Bertalanffy, and Gompertz models in fitting all the data of Wuhan, while the Gompertz model was better in fitting the data outside Wuhan. They estimated the final cumulative number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Wuhan was between 49852 and 57447, and turning point February 9, 2020 with the total death toll of 2502.

Torrealba-Rodriguez *et al.* (2020) made a prediction of COVID-19 in Mexico by taking data from February 27 to May 8, 2020. According to them, the Gompertz model was slightly better than the Logistic model. The Gompertz model predicted a total of 47,576 cases, while as a total of 42,131 cases from the Logistic model on May 16. They also forecasted the total number of COVID-19 infection until the end of the epidemic, from the Gompertz and Logistic model, predicting 469,917 and 59,470 cases, respectively, and maximum daily new cases on June 25 and May 8 estimated by corresponding models. Martelloni and Martelloni (2020) studied the temporal evolution of the SARS-Cov-2 in Italy where among four different models; the generalized logistic model best described the situation in Italy.

Martinez *et al.* (2020) have researched 'short-term forecasting of daily COVID-19 cases in Brazil by using the Holt's model'. They have calculated MAPE (mean absolute percentage error) for each model. According to

their results, the MAPE of Gompertz is less than that of Logistic which means the Gompertz model is more accurate than Logistic. Asadi *et al.* (2020) found the generalized Gompertz model as a good fit for measuring the number of individuals infected in Italy and Iran. Kriston (2020) investigated COVID-19 cases by taking data till March 29 from John Hopkins University and made projections for six countries: Hubei in China, South Korea, Germany, United States, Brazil, and South Africa using Hierarchical Logistic model. It was observed that the model approximated the cases very well. Castorina and Iorio (2020) analyzed coronavirus data by microscopic growth laws. They studied cases of China, South Korea, Singapore, and Italy and found that Gompertz laws a less effective containment effort, predict a much larger maximum number of infected than Logistic laws. Harvey and Kattuman (2020) forecasted COVID-19 in the UK and Germany using Gompertz and Logistic models where they summarized dynamics Gompertz model worked extremely well and superior to Logistic. They projected saturation level in the UK as 186,000. Razzak (2020) studied New Zealand COVID-19 infection rate by fitting the Gompertz model to data from February 28 to March 27, 2020, where it was observed the model fit well and lockdown significantly reduced the infection rate.

Yang *et al.* (2020) used the ARIMA model to predict the number of cases and death in Hubei, China. They claimed the model was accurate having low Mean Absolute Error and high R-square value. Malki *et al.* (2020) forecasted that there might be a second round of pandemic in a year using ARIMA and SARIMA. Hariharan and Prakash (2020) predicted the number of infected cases for the next few days using the ARIMA model. From their findings, it was observed that the model was accurate and forecasted values were closer to actual values. Roy *et al.* (2020) forecasted the COVID-2019 epidemic pattern and compared the actual and predicted values. From their study, it was seen that the west and south of Indian districts are most vulnerable for COVID-2019. Sahai *et al.* (2020) used the ARIMA model and forecasted total infected cases in the top five affected countries for the next 77 days. It was found from their study about forecasting accuracy within acceptable agreement.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Data of infected cases provided by the Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal on daily basis were archived in Wikipedia (MoHP, 2020). Data from January 23, 2020 to October 30, 2020 were used for analysis. At first, the trends of confirmed, death and recovery cases were observed through graphs. Besides, Summary statistics of daily new cases, death cases, recovery cases, and the number of PCR tests were calculated. Nonlinear Gompertz and Logistic models were fitted to the total

number of confirmed cases as well as total death cases and estimated timeline at which maximum daily new confirmed and death cases would occur (Bates & Watts, 1988) by using nlsLM function of R package minpack.lm (Timur *et al.*, 2016) of R statistical software (Team, 2019). Models were compared by using Akaike information criterion (AIC), Deviance information criterion (DIC), Bayesian information criterion (BIC), and Loglikelihood. Each criterion has some limitations so all those criteria were computed in this study to select the model correctly. But one can compute BIC only for a large data set. The goodness of fit of the models was assessed through the value of R-square and test statistic values along with the above mention criteria. The Gompertz model (1825) was first given by Gompertz to study hazards in a life table (Seber & Wild, 2003). The model can be stated, as given in equation (1).

$$y_t(D_t) = A \exp[-\exp\{-K(t - T)\}] + e_t \quad (1)$$

Where, y_t and D_t are the total number of confirmed and death cases at time t , A is the upper asymptote, K is the growth coefficient, e_t is the error term and T is the time at inflection which represents time at maximum daily (confirmed/death) cases.

The Logistic model was first proposed by Verhulst in 1838 to describe the growth in the size of the population or organ (Seber & Wild, 2003). The model can be expressed as;

$$y_t(D_t) = \frac{B}{[1 + \exp(-K(t - T))]} + E_t \quad (2)$$

Where, y_t and D_t are the total number of confirmed and death cases at time t , B is the upper asymptote, K is the growth coefficient, E_t is the error term and T is the time at inflection.

Even though A of equation (1) and B of equation (2) both represent upper asymptote, the point of inflection of equation (2) is $B/2$ which is not true in the case of equation (1) so A is greater than B .

ARIMA (Autoregressive integrated moving average)

ARIMA is specially designed for forecasting so it can predict more precisely than Gompertz and Logistic models. ARIMA models are normally denoted by ARIMA (p, d, q) where p is the number of time lags, d is the degree of differencing and q is the order of moving average. Automatic ARIMA was used to forecast the total number of confirmed and death cases by using R software. The model can be stated as

$$y_t = \sum_1^p \alpha_i y_{t-i} + \sum_1^q \delta_j \varepsilon_{t-j} \quad (3)$$

$$D_t = \sum_1^p \alpha_i D_{t-i} + \sum_1^q \delta_j \varepsilon_{t-j} \quad (4)$$

Where, α , δ and ε are the parameters of the model.

The Gompertz and Logistic models can estimate growth coefficient and time when outbreak will slow down but it cannot forecast the number of cases precisely. On the other hand, automatic ARIMA can forecast accurately but it cannot estimate the time when the outbreak will reach maximum.

RESULTS

Data obtained from secondary source was first organized and cleaned then analyzed using R software.

Trend analysis

From Fig. 1, it can be observed that the confirmed cases' pattern is almost the same till the third week of April and started to change from the third week of May. The trend from June to the first week of July is alike then after September, the slope has drastically changed. As far as daily new cases are concerned, the increment was mostly in October. After the first week of July, the trend started to decrease and from the fourth week, again it marched upward. From the last week of May to July, the number of active cases rocketed and then it started to fall steeply. After September it started to increase again.

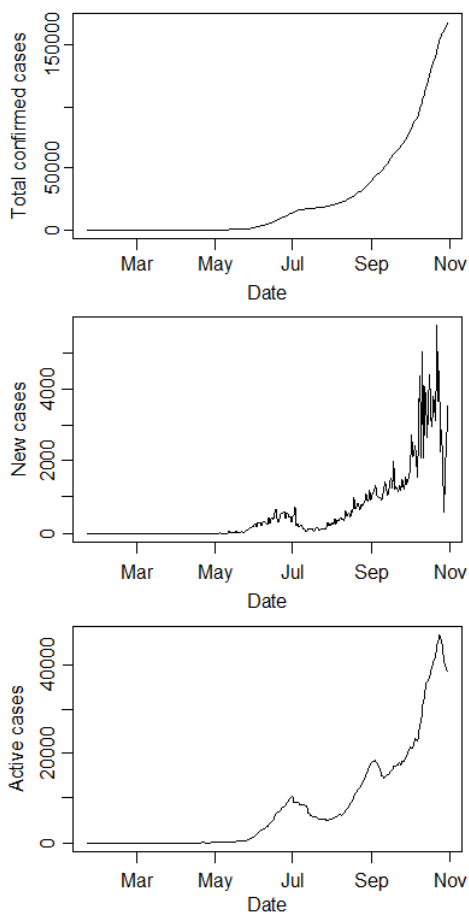


Fig. 1. Total confirmed cases, daily new cases, and total active cases

Fig. 2 shows that the total Recovery rate improved from June and it kept on going at a greater pace. There was not much variation in the daily new recovery in June as in contrast to September and October.

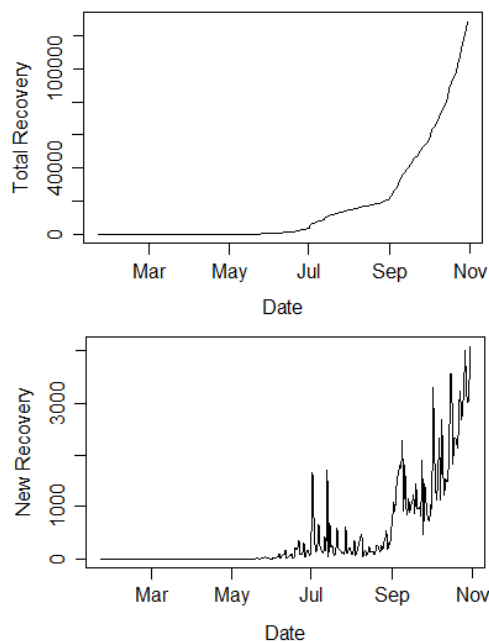


Fig. 2. Total recovery and daily new recovery

After observing the first death in the middle of May, the total number of deaths started to climb up with almost the same pattern, as shown in Fig. 3. Likewise, a similar pattern in new daily death was observed most of the time from the first week of June to the second week of July then it started to go up and continued till October.

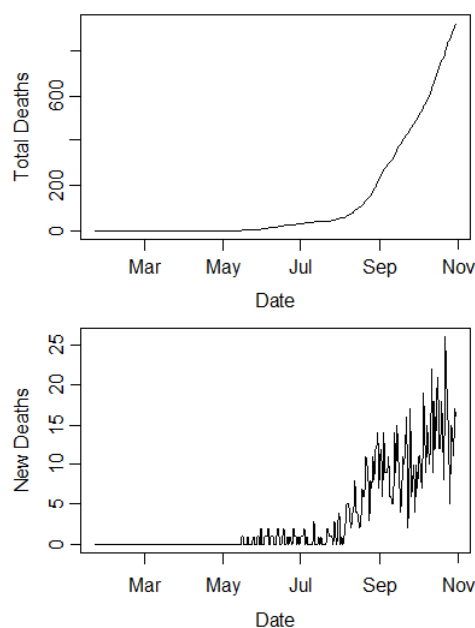


Fig. 3. Total deaths and daily new death

Fig. 4 depicts the total number of RT-PCR (Reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction) tests has increased after the middle of May and it increased with the same pattern. Similarly, new PCR tests' trend was on the rise from middle of May to end of June, but started to fall after July and increased after last week of July which continued till third week of October.

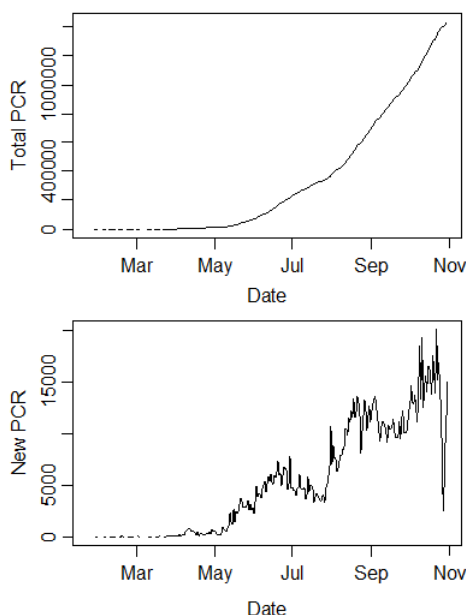


Fig. 4. Total number of RT-PCR and daily new RT-PCR tests

Summary statistics are presented in Appendix1. After analyzing data from January 23 to October 30, it was found that on average, 597 cases and 4 deaths per day were reported, with 458 people per day recovered, and 5668 PCR tests were done. Although there was variation in all the variables listed in Appendix1, among four the most consistent is the PCR test and the most deviated is the recovery. All the variables were positively skewed. There were more peaks in the middle in case of recovery,

Table 1. Parameters of the Gompertz model for total confirmed cases

Parameters	Estimate	Std. Error	t-value	R-square
A	1464000000	2491000000	0.588	99.80%
K	0.002443	0.0004164	5.867*	
T	1185	230.4	5.141*	

*Significant at 1 %

Table 2. Parameters of the Logistic model for total confirmed cases

Parameters	Estimate	Std. Error	t-value	R-square
B	11050000	27230000	0.406	99.91%
K	0.0273	0.0004605	53.709*	
T	449.4	104	4.32*	

confirmed cases, and death whereas there was more flatness in PCR tests.

Table 1 depicts that all parameters except the upper asymptote of the Gompertz model are significant at 1 % level of significance and the value of R-square is 99.80 %. Higher values of R-square and a highly significant majority of parameters indicate the validity of the model. Such a higher value of R-square was observed in Gompertz and Logistic models in previous research as well (Jia, *et al.*, 2020). According to the model, the growth coefficient was expected to 0.2443 % and maximum daily cases were estimated to be in the next year. According to this model, the events will get stable only after January 2022.

Like in the Gompertz model, all parameters except the upper asymptote of the Logistic model were significant at 1 % level of significance which can be observed in Table 2. In this case, the majority of parameters are highly significant with a higher R-square value confirmed the validity of the model. The model showed the growth coefficient as 2.73 % and maximum daily cases was expected in March 2021. According to this model, the events will get stable after April 2021.

Model selection

Model having lowered AIC, BIC and DIC and greater log-likelihood was considered as a better model. According to all criteria mentioned in Table 3, the Logistic model was better than the Gompertz model when the total number of confirmed cases was used as a dependent variable.

In the case of total death in Gompertz model, Table 4 shows that all parameters are significant at 1 % level of significance and the R-square value of 99.71 % confirms the validity of the model even in total death cases. The model depicted the growth rate coefficient of 1.17 % and death cases will be flat after 3729. The model estimated maximum daily death cases around the last week of December.

*Significant at 1 %

Table 3. Model selection criteria for total confirmed cases

Model	DIC	AIC	BIC	Log-likelihood
Gompertz	2419184408	5310.352	5324.92	-2651.176
Logistic	1687615584	5208.80	5223.37	-2600.4

Table 4. Results of parameters of the Gompertz model for total death cases

Parameters	Estimate	Std. Error	t-value	R-square
A	3729	341.8	10.91*	99.71%
K	0.0117	0.0005056	23.14*	
T	311	6.593	47.16*	

*Significant at 1%

In the case of total death, all parameters were significant at 1 % level of significance and the R-square value was 99.71 %. All highly significant parameters with higher R-square values could not be obtained for not valid model. The model depicted the growth rate coefficient of 1.17 % and death cases will be flat after 3729. The model estimated maximum daily death cases around the last week of December and the cases will get plateau after January 2021.

According to Table 5, the parameters B, K, and T were significant at 1 % and the R-square value was 99.60 % indicating the validity of the model. These evidences validated the model for the total death cases. The model showed a growth coefficient of 3.94 % and maximum daily death cases were expected around October 15. The model estimated the death cases will be flat after 1346 and the cases will get plateau after November 2020. Based on all criteria mentioned in Table 6, the Gompertz model was better than the Logistic model while analyzing total death cases which can be observed from the table.

Automatic ARIMA suggests ARIMA (3, 2, 3) for estimating the total confirmed cases. Table 7 depicts that the values of standard errors are less than the coefficients of moving average (ignoring sign): Ar1, Ar2, Ar3, Ma1, Ma2, and Ma3 indicating the model was not bad for forecasting. Moreover, the accuracy of the model can be checked through ME (mean error), RMSE (root mean square error), MAE (mean absolute error), MPE (Mean Percentage Error), MAPE (mean absolute percentage

error), and MASE (mean absolute square error). These values presented in Table 7 are not so high and MAPE suggests that the model maintains 97.05 % accuracy in prediction. Furthermore, the Box-Pierce test showed that residuals were distributed independently over time. Forecasted values with 80 % and 95 % confidence intervals for October 31, 2020 to December 31, 2020, are presented in Appendix-2. Till October 31, 171,712 confirmed cases were expected according to this ARIMA model and at 95 % confidence interval the values lied between 171,015 and 172,409. The model predicted 347,812 cases till December 31 and the values ranged from 273,889 to 421,734 at 95 % confidence interval.

In case of total death, ARIMA (1, 2, 2) model was suggested by Automatic ARIMA. In this case also, the standard error was less than the coefficient and the values of ME, RMSE, MAE, MPE, MAPE, and MASE, shown in Table 8 are even less than that of confirmed cases recommend that the model can be used for predicting total death cases. According to MAPE, the model seemed to be 96.39 % accurate. Box-Pierce test indicated that there was no evidence of autocorrelation among residuals. Forecasted death cases from October 31, 2020 to December 31, 2020 are shown in Appendix 3. The model predicted 934 death cases till October 31 and at 95 % confidence interval the values lie between 929 and 938. 1,754 death cases are expected till December 31 and at 95 % confidence interval the value range from 1,387 to 2,119.

Table 5. Results of parameters of Logistic model for total death cases.

Parameters	Estimate	Std. Error	t-value	R-square
B	1346	39	34.41*	99.60 %
K	0.0394	0.0007185	54.97*	
T	264.30	1.54	171.61*	

*Significant at 1%

Table 6. Model selection criteria for total death cases

Model	DIC	AIC	BIC	Log-likelihood
Gompertz	33799.11	1375.87	1388.36	-683.93
Logistic	38072.33	1395.87	1408.37	-693.93

Table 7. Results of ARIMA model for total confirmed cases

	Ar1	Ar2	Ar3	Ma1	Ma2	Ma3
Coefficient	-0.4164	-0.2271	0.2455	-0.2729	0.3634	-0.6049
Std. error	0.1916	0.1652	0.1072	0.1893	0.0887	0.0708
ME	RMSE	MAE	MPE	MAPE	MASE	
29.44	350.60	143.90	0.641	2.95	0.2403	
Box-Pierce test						
Chi-square	Df	p-value				
0.0079	1	0.9291				

Table 8. Results of ARIMA model for total death cases

	Ar1	Ma1	Ma2		
Coefficient	0.6864	-1.6295	0.7161		
Std. error	0.1031	0.0817	0.0691		
ME	RMSE	MAE	MPE	MAPE	MASE
0.1727	2.34	1.21	0.9433	3.61	0.3697
Box-Pierce test					
Chi-square	Df	p-value			
0.0540	1	0.8162			

DISCUSSION

Ahmadi *et al.* (2020) have researched 'Modeling and forecasting trend of COVID-19 epidemic in Iran until May 13, 2020' using three different models Gompertz, Von Bertalanffy, and least squared error. Their Gompertz model predicted growth coefficients as 0.1 and 0.066 respectively for the number of infected and death cases, which were higher than this study's result in both infected and death cases. The time to reach the total confirmed cases and total death cases' curves flat were much lower than their results. However, the total confirmed cases at that time were almost the same in both studies. Jia *et al.* (2020) investigated COVID-2019 in three different areas of China by using Gompertz, Bertalanffy, and Logistic models. Their results matched with this study showing that the Logistic model is better than the Gompertz model in confirmed cases and the Gompertz model is better than the Logistic model in death cases. Interestingly, the values of the R-square of the Logistic model as well as the Gompertz model for the total confirmed cases were identical to this study. The growth coefficient of the Logistic model of total infected cases shown by their

study was much higher, but the corresponding figure of the Gompertz model for total number of deaths was almost same as Wuhan's result. On the other hand, the inflection points for their study are much earlier than the points shown by this research.

Torrealba-Rodriguez *et al.* (2020) used the Gompertz and Logistic model for analyzing confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Mexico by collecting data till May 8, 2020. They found Gompertz model superior to the Logistic model which does not support the finding of this research. Compared to this study, R-square was more whereas the point of inflection was less. The prediction for the total cases till the end of the epidemic made by the model was around a similar figure. Asadi *et al.* (2020) analyzed COVID-19 cases in Spain using the Gompertz model and found a growth coefficient higher than the results of this study. Faranda *et al.* (2020) studied COVID-19 data of different countries. They applied the Logistic model to the Chinese number of infections and it was observed that both growth coefficient and inflection point were more but R-square was greater than 0.99 in both researches. Kriston (2020) investigated COVID-19 cases by using the

Hierarchical Logistic model from data till March 31, 2020. According to his findings regarding Nepal, the upper asymptote was estimated at 468 which was very less than this study and the growth rate coefficient was negative which was opposite of this research. The inflection point was 60 days earlier than the finding of this study. Azad and Hussain (2020) looked into COVID-19 infected cases of Bangladesh by using Simple exponential, Gompertz, Logistic, and Richards models. They found the Gompertz model better than Logistic with R-square 0.99 and their results do not match with the results of this investigation.

De Natale *et al.* (2020) examined COVID-19 cases in Italy using a Logistic model where they predicted peak of infection around mid-March and saturation after the first week of April. Castorina *et al.* (2020) analyzed coronavirus spreading by using macroscopic growth laws. They compared the results of four countries: China, South Korea, Italy, and Singapore obtained from Gompertz and Logistic models. Both models showed the highest growth rate in South Korea and the lowest in Italy. The growth rate coefficient of the Gompertz model for total confirmed cases of this study was near the coefficient of Italy and Singapore. Razzak (2020) investigated the New Zealand COVID-19 infection rate by using the Gompertz model and estimated infected cases to peak on March 28 with a growth coefficient 0.5. This study has a lower coefficient and a longer period to reach maximum.

Hariharan and Prakash (2020) judged the accuracy of the ARIMA model by MAPE, as in this study. Roy *et al.* (2020) used ARIMA (2,2,2) for forecasting total confirmed cases and their MAE and RMSE values were slightly less than this study's findings. Hernandez-Matamoros *et al.* (2020) forecasted COVID-19 cases per region using ARIMA of different order for each region. Their RMSE values of all regions were much higher than the RMSE of this study. Sahai *et al.* (2020) used the ARIMA model of different orders for different countries to predict COVID-19 in the top five affected countries. They also predicted confirmed cases at 95 % confidence interval for 77 days. Their MAPE value in India was slightly higher than the MAPE of this research.

CONCLUSION

After analyzing COVID-19 data from January 23, 2020 to October 30, 2020, it was found that the patterns of total recovery and the total death were almost similar but in the case of total confirmed cases, it was slightly different. Both the Gompertz and Logistic models were fitted well in analyzing the total number of confirmed cases. Also, based on AIC; the Logistic model was found to be better than the Gompertz model. Likewise, both models would read the pattern of the number of death cases well. The appropriate of these models was justified by higher values of R-square. Gompertz model seemed to be better for

fitting the total number of death cases based on AIC and other criteria as well. After fitting models, confirmed and death cases were forecasted by using the ARIMA model and the accuracy of the model was judged by various criteria and was found to be a good forecaster.

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APPENDIX

Appendix 1. Summary statistics

Statistic	Daily cases	Daily recovery	Daily death	Daily PCR
Mean	596.58	457.30	3.36	5667.82
Median	148.50	43	0	4688
Standard deviation	1002.14	839.53	5.32	5184.80
Coefficient of variation	167.98%	183.58%	158.33%	91.47%
Skewness	2.47	2.297	1.761	0.557
Kurtosis	6.452	4.88	2.418	-0.792
Minimum	0	0	0	0
Maximum	5743	4096	26	20118
First Quartile	0	0	0	392
Third Quartile	740.75	458.25	5	10378.50

Appendix 2. Forecasted confirmed cases with confidence intervals

Date	Day	Forecast	Lo 80	Hi 80	Lo 95	Hi 95
31-Oct	283	171711.7	171255.8	172167.5	171014.5	172408.8
1-Nov	284	174670.7	173919.1	175422.2	173521.3	175820.0
2-Nov	285	177544.3	176347.0	178741.6	175713.2	179375.4
3-Nov	286	180561.2	178939.5	182182.9	178081.0	183041.4
4-Nov	287	183410.7	181389.4	185432.1	180319.3	186502.1
5-Nov	288	186276.4	183802.5	188750.4	182492.8	190060.0
6-Nov	289	189208.6	186278.3	192138.8	184727.1	193690.0
7-Nov	290	192068.3	188675.8	195460.8	186880.0	197256.6
8-Nov	291	194947.1	191061.6	198832.5	189004.8	200889.4
9-Nov	292	197850.7	193461.1	202240.2	191137.5	204563.9
10-Nov	293	200721.8	195814.4	205629.2	193216.6	208227.0
11-Nov	294	203605.5	198158.4	209052.6	195274.9	211936.2
12-Nov	295	206497.5	200497.1	212497.8	197320.7	215674.2
13-Nov	296	209375.2	202806.3	215944.0	199329.0	219421.3
14-Nov	297	212260.0	205105.0	219415.0	201317.3	223202.7
15-Nov	298	215147.1	207391.9	222902.4	203286.5	227007.7
16-Nov	299	218028.2	209657.7	226398.6	205226.7	230829.6
17-Nov	300	220913.0	211911.9	229914.1	207147.0	234679.0
18-Nov	301	223798.2	214152.5	233443.8	209046.4	238549.9
19-Nov	302	226680.8	216376.4	236985.3	210921.6	242440.1
20-Nov	303	229565.4	218588.0	240542.8	212777.0	246353.8
21-Nov	304	232449.8	220786.2	244113.5	214611.8	250287.9
22-Nov	305	235333.3	222969.8	247696.8	216425.0	254241.6
23-Nov	306	238217.7	225141.2	251294.1	218218.9	258216.4
24-Nov	307	241101.8	227299.5	254904.2	219992.9	262210.7
25-Nov	308	243985.6	229444.6	258526.6	221747.1	266224.1
26-Nov	309	246869.8	231577.7	262162.0	223482.5	270257.2
27-Nov	310	249753.9	233698.3	265809.5	225199.0	274308.9
28-Nov	311	252637.9	235806.6	269469.1	226896.7	278379.0
29-Nov	312	255522.0	237903.2	273140.8	228576.4	282467.7
30-Nov	313	258406.1	239987.9	276824.2	230237.9	286574.2
1-Dec	314	261290.1	242060.9	280519.2	231881.6	290698.5
2-Dec	315	264174.2	244122.6	284225.8	233507.9	294840.5
3-Dec	316	267058.2	246172.9	287943.6	235116.9	298999.6
4-Dec	317	269942.3	248212.1	291672.5	236708.8	303175.8
5-Dec	318	272826.4	250240.2	295412.5	238283.8	307368.9
6-Dec	319	275710.4	252257.5	299163.4	239842.3	311578.6
7-Dec	320	278594.5	254264.0	302925.0	241384.2	315804.7
8-Dec	321	281478.6	256259.9	306697.2	242910.0	320047.1
9-Dec	322	284362.6	258245.3	310479.9	244419.7	324305.6
10-Dec	323	287246.7	260220.4	314273.0	245913.5	328579.9
11-Dec	324	290130.7	262185.1	318076.3	247391.6	332869.8
12-Dec	325	293014.8	264139.8	321889.8	248854.2	337175.4
13-Dec	326	295898.9	266084.3	325713.4	250301.5	341496.2

14-Dec	327	298782.9	268019.0	329546.8	251733.6	345832.3
15-Dec	328	301667.0	269943.8	333390.2	253150.6	350183.4
16-Dec	329	304551.0	271858.9	337243.2	254552.7	354549.4
17-Dec	330	307435.1	273764.3	341105.9	255940.1	358930.1
18-Dec	331	310319.2	275660.2	344978.1	257312.9	363325.4
19-Dec	332	313203.2	277546.7	348859.8	258671.2	367735.2
20-Dec	333	316087.3	279423.8	352750.8	260015.3	372159.3
21-Dec	334	318971.4	281291.5	356651.2	261345.1	376597.6
22-Dec	335	321855.4	283150.1	360560.7	262660.8	381050.0
23-Dec	336	324739.5	284999.6	364479.3	263962.6	385516.3
24-Dec	337	327623.5	286840.1	368407.0	265250.6	389996.5
25-Dec	338	330507.6	288671.6	372343.6	266524.9	394490.3
26-Dec	339	333391.7	290494.2	376289.2	267785.6	398997.7
27-Dec	340	336275.7	292307.9	380243.5	269032.8	403518.7
28-Dec	341	339159.8	294113.0	384206.6	270266.6	408052.9
29-Dec	342	342043.8	295909.4	388178.3	271487.2	412600.5
30-Dec	343	344927.9	297697.1	392158.7	272694.7	417161.1
31-Dec	344	347812.0	299476.4	396147.6	273889.0	421734.9

Appendix 3. Forecasted death cases with confidence interval

Date	Day	Forecast	Lo 80	Hi 80	Lo 95	Hi 95
31-Oct	283	933.4600	930.4275	936.4925	928.8222	938.0978
1-Nov	284	946.9137	942.5016	951.3258	940.1659	953.6615
2-Nov	285	960.3631	954.6777	966.0485	951.6681	969.0582
3-Nov	286	973.8096	966.7946	980.8246	963.0811	984.5382
4-Nov	287	987.2541	978.7926	995.7155	974.3134	1000.1947
5-Nov	288	1000.6971	990.6483	1010.7460	985.3287	1016.0656
6-Nov	289	1014.1393	1002.3545	1025.9240	996.1161	1032.1625
7-Nov	290	1027.5807	1013.9127	1041.2488	1006.6772	1048.4843
8-Nov	291	1041.0218	1025.3277	1056.7158	1017.0198	1065.0237
9-Nov	292	1054.4625	1036.6064	1072.3185	1027.1540	1081.7709
10-Nov	293	1067.9030	1047.7558	1088.0501	1037.0906	1098.7154
11-Nov	294	1081.3433	1058.7827	1103.9040	1046.8399	1115.8468
12-Nov	295	1094.7836	1069.6935	1119.8737	1056.4116	1133.1556
13-Nov	296	1108.2238	1080.4939	1135.9537	1065.8145	1150.6330
14-Nov	297	1121.6639	1091.1890	1152.1388	1075.0566	1168.2713
15-Nov	298	1135.1040	1101.7836	1168.4245	1084.1448	1186.0633
16-Nov	299	1148.5441	1112.2816	1184.8066	1093.0854	1204.0028
17-Nov	300	1161.9842	1122.6869	1201.2815	1101.8841	1222.0843
18-Nov	301	1175.4243	1133.0026	1217.8460	1110.5459	1240.3026
19-Nov	302	1188.8643	1143.2317	1234.4970	1119.0753	1258.6534
20-Nov	303	1202.3044	1153.3769	1251.2318	1127.4763	1277.1325
21-Nov	304	1215.7444	1163.4407	1268.0482	1135.7527	1295.7361
22-Nov	305	1229.1845	1173.4252	1284.9438	1143.9080	1314.4610
23-Nov	306	1242.6245	1183.3324	1301.9166	1151.9451	1333.3039
24-Nov	307	1256.0646	1193.1643	1318.9648	1159.8670	1352.2622
25-Nov	308	1269.5046	1202.9226	1336.0866	1167.6762	1371.3330
26-Nov	309	1282.9446	1212.6088	1353.2805	1175.3753	1390.5140
27-Nov	310	1296.3847	1222.2245	1370.5449	1182.9665	1409.8029
28-Nov	311	1309.8247	1231.7711	1387.8784	1190.4519	1429.1975
29-Nov	312	1323.2648	1241.2498	1405.2798	1197.8336	1448.6959
30-Nov	313	1336.7048	1250.6619	1422.7478	1205.1135	1468.2962
1-Dec	314	1350.1449	1260.0085	1440.2812	1212.2932	1487.9965
2-Dec	315	1363.5849	1269.2908	1457.8790	1219.3745	1507.7953
3-Dec	316	1377.0249	1278.5098	1475.5401	1226.3590	1527.6909
4-Dec	317	1390.4650	1287.6664	1493.2635	1233.2482	1547.6818
5-Dec	318	1403.9050	1296.7617	1511.0483	1240.0435	1567.7665
6-Dec	319	1417.3451	1305.7965	1528.8936	1246.7463	1587.9438
7-Dec	320	1430.7851	1314.7717	1546.7985	1253.3579	1608.2123
8-Dec	321	1444.2251	1323.6880	1564.7623	1259.8795	1628.5708
9-Dec	322	1457.6652	1332.5463	1582.7841	1266.3124	1649.0180

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10-Dec	323	1471.1052	1341.3473	1600.8631	1272.6576	1669.5528
11-Dec	324	1484.5453	1350.0918	1618.9987	1278.9164	1690.1741
12-Dec	325	1497.9853	1358.7804	1637.1902	1285.0897	1710.8809
13-Dec	326	1511.4253	1367.4138	1655.4369	1291.1786	1731.6721
14-Dec	327	1524.8654	1375.9926	1673.7382	1297.1841	1752.5467
15-Dec	328	1538.3054	1384.5175	1692.0934	1303.1071	1773.5038
16-Dec	329	1551.7455	1392.9890	1710.5019	1308.9485	1794.5425
17-Dec	330	1565.1855	1401.4078	1728.9632	1314.7092	1815.6618
18-Dec	331	1578.6255	1409.7744	1747.4766	1320.3901	1836.8610
19-Dec	332	1592.0656	1418.0894	1766.0418	1325.9919	1858.1392
20-Dec	333	1605.5056	1426.3532	1784.6581	1331.5156	1879.4956
21-Dec	334	1618.9457	1434.5664	1803.3250	1336.9619	1900.9294
22-Dec	335	1632.3857	1442.7294	1822.0420	1342.3315	1922.4399
23-Dec	336	1645.8257	1450.8428	1840.8087	1347.6251	1944.0264
24-Dec	337	1659.2658	1458.9071	1859.6245	1352.8436	1965.6880
25-Dec	338	1672.7058	1466.9226	1878.4891	1357.9875	1987.4242
26-Dec	339	1686.1459	1474.8897	1897.4020	1363.0575	2009.2342
27-Dec	340	1699.5859	1482.8091	1916.3628	1368.0543	2031.1175
28-Dec	341	1713.0260	1490.6809	1935.3710	1372.9786	2053.0733
29-Dec	342	1726.4660	1498.5058	1954.4262	1377.8309	2075.1011
30-Dec	343	1739.9060	1506.2839	1973.5281	1382.6119	2097.2002
31-Dec	344	1753.3461	1514.0159	1992.6763	1387.3221	2119.3700
