

# Technical and Vocational Education and Training from the Vantage Point

The Covid-19 pandemic has posed severe threat to human life. In addition to health sector, the economic, social and educational activities are at the receiving end of global crisis. Protecting life is the top priority everywhere the coronavirus spread. Nepal too could not escape the pandemic. Despite such crisis, the CTEVT has tried to continue its activities.

Obviously, the continuation of TEVT journal amid Covid-19 pandemic remained a challenging task. The pious academic work of CTEVT, is, however, continued with reduced presence as compared with the previous years. This time, we have been able to publish only eight articles.

The aim of the journal publication is not only to create informed public on multifarious issues of TVET via the articles prepared with academic rigor but also to bring into light the CTEVT activities and foster debate for augmenting the value of TVET in Nepal. The CTVET believes this publication contributes to this front.

In this edition, the article 'Coping COVID-19 Pandemic-Induced Adversities through Parental Involvement: Experiences of Late Adolescents Pursuing Diploma program from Kathmandu Valley' by Ramila Subedi is the article on how the adolescents experienced adversities caused by COVID-19 and how they coped with them through parental involvement. With purposive selection of three adolescents who had been pursuing diploma programs from the Kathmandu Valley, the writer found that adolescents experienced socio-economic adversities along with the risk induced by their indulgence in online platforms. The study underscores the role of familial and parental involvement in managing the adversities facing their adolescent children.

Likewise, Anil Muni Bajracharya explains the challenges of the informal skill learners that are encountered during the accreditation of their skills through the National Skill Testing Board. In his article, 'Addressing Informal Skill Learners' Challenges in Skill Test in Nepal', he mentions despite having the benefits of recognition of the prior learning and establishment of testing system for forty-five years, the number of the informal skills learners appearing for the skill test is not encouraging. According to

him, massive awareness on the testing authority is imperative to integrate the informal learners into the formal education system for the decent employment, gainful income and to eliminate the underemployment.

'Occupational Shift in Semi-urban Areas of Nepal: A Socio-cultural Dynamics' by Rakshya Acharya focuses the importance of socio-cultural dynamics in the occupational shift, especially abandoning the agriculture. Several socio-cultural aspects, such as modernization, urbanization, industrialization have greater influence in this process, the writer concludes in the paper after listening, narrating and reflecting to the life stories of people in the outskirts of Kathmandu Valley. She also stresses the need for redefining agricultural policy to attract youths in it, thereby envisioning technical and vocational education.

In the article, 'Instructional Leadership Behavior among Principals of Two Schools in Lalitpur, Nepal', writer Bishnu Lamsal points out that in a successful school, schoolheads or principals' leadership plays a vital role in the academic achievement of the students. Conducting the study on two renowned private schools of Lalitpur district, the author says in recent years, principals in schools are more sincere and serious about their knowledge and skills to enhance the academic quality of students, which he believes, would lead Nepal's education system to a new height in the days ahead. This study will help school administrators and other stakeholders know more about how the improvement in instructions can be carried out and educational excellence promoted.

Similarly, Rajendra Bahadur Shrestha throws light on the existing situation, explores issues, and shares some innovative initiations to strengthen the employer engagement in CTEVT technical schools in the article, 'Strengthening Employer Engagement in CTEVT Technical Schools: Some Practices and Initiatives'. Arguing that the employer engagement in the TVET programs of the CTEVT is under-explored in Nepal, the writer suggests the country should have national level policies that guide the engagement of employers and employer associations in TVET programs. Stakeholders' awareness and sensitization on the importance of public private partnerships in TVET system should be enhanced from federal to local levels, he adds.

Moreover, Ramesh Adhikari, Bidur Bastola, Unnata Timalsina, and Ranju KC have found in the study that female migrants, physically disabled migrants, who had elderly in their houses, and migrants from poor households were more likely to experience violence. In their joint article, 'Experience of Violence due to COVID-19 among Returnee Migrants of Sudurpaschim Province of Nepal', they present the study report focusing people from Sudurpaschim Province who have experienced violence after

they returned home from foreign employment. The writers point out the need for a comprehensive awareness program and services that can help to prevent violence among returnee migrants.

In the article named 'COVID-19 and Its Association with Psychological Health of Children, Adolescents and Young Adults', writer Rojina Basnet makes an attempt to identify the association of COVID-19 pandemic with the psychological health of children, adolescents and young adults. In the total 18 primary studies with most of them being cross sectional descriptive studies, the review the writers made found that the prevalence of anxiety levels among children ranged from 23.87 % to 38%. Reasoning that restriction on movement, social distancing, closures of schools, little interaction with peers, educational status, smart phone and internet addiction, and frequent watching, listening, or reading news related with COVID-19 resulted into anxiety, need for initiation of efforts to improve services within the country are underscored to overcome the increasing mental health problems.

'Skilling People in Nepal: Reality Vs Dream' is the article that stresses the need for more holistic approach for skilling people in Nepal rather than compartmentalizing into different components or programs. The writers Hari Prasad Lamsal and Anil Muni Bajracharya, however, view the cost to provide skill training to a large number of youths and adults is a concern of skilling people. According to them, adequate attention is required for the design and implementation of skill development program in an integrated manner.

Amidst chaotic situation caused by the pandemic, the research division at CTEVT became able to connect the experts, researchers and scholars to its academic endeavor.

The editorial team is grateful to the CTEVT management and staffs, and all authors for their cooperation and support in spite of hostility caused by the pandemic. Similar support and cooperation is expected in the years to come from the experts, researchers and scholars. As always, the feedback to the publication helps CTEVT improve its works and encourage for betterment.

The ideas and opinions expressed in these articles are purely of the authors and do not reflect CTEVT's views. The ideas expressed in the articles do not represent the authors institutional representation as the articles are authors' personal opinions.