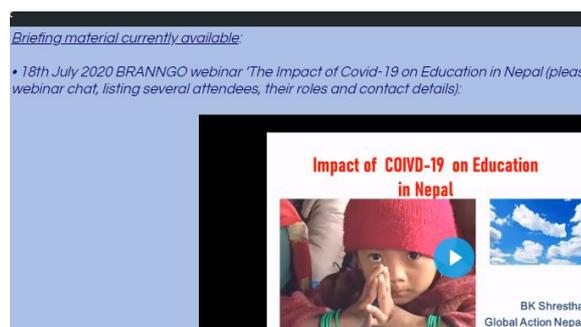


## Impact of Covid 19 on Education in Nepal -

A BRANNGO webinar was held Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2020 which Zoe attended and Linda accessed later.

Presentations were made providing data and explanation of current position and then questions and discussion were held.



### COVID -19 in Nepal (update )

- 308,498 tests through Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) method.
- Infectious 17,445.
- 22,756 people under quarantine
- 6,113 people are in isolation, receiving treatment.
- **11,534 people have been discharged from hospitals.**
- 40 People Died
- Corona Free districts: Terathum, Bhojpur, Solukhumbu, Rasuwa, Mustang and Manang

### Access to learning

As all schools are closed, the Government is faced with challenges of how to reach children and provide some sort of education. Initiatives for alternative education sources include the Radio, TV, You Tube, E library and learning portal but with much dependence on internet this may be limited for many and so of course raises concerns.

Though increased access to books was looked at there is not the possibility to print enough due to lockdown and also this is not necessarily of benefit without teachers help encouragement and explanation.

### Face to Face

With this limitation then there is increasing encouragement from the government that teachers should aim to reach the most disadvantaged in the community face to face. Using a communal room to access a TV or holding outside classes where teachers can work with small groups to at least keep them in touch with learning is the current aim. Linda recently had a conversation with Laxman in Gorkha who was also discussing this initiative and helping to develop the programme in the field.

### Exams

After such a long disruption it is now understood that end of year exams will not be held but those taking year 10 SLC (GCSE equivalent) will be reported by the teachers. Those taking year 12 exams (A level equivalent) will undertake these exams when safe to do so after Covid crisis.

## Opportunities and Challenges

It is clear there are many similarities to the concerns in the UK re education and indeed the global situation, but of course developing countries face more of a challenge through limited resources.

Increased drop out from school through increased poverty, child labour and marriage is feared.

However, as with the UK there are also benefits which have arisen from the crisis.

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## Opportunities and Challenges

### Opportunities

- Time With family
- Clean /green environment
- Expose to ICT/distance learning
- Global Connectivity
- Innovative window
- Towards Self dependent
- Linkage between Ed. to Agriculture

### Challenges

- Digital Gap
- Child health
- Depression
- Struggle /hand to mouth
- Disruptive food system
- Multitude effects

## Future

Through questions and discussions it was clear from presenter BK Shrestha from Global Action in Nepal, that the crisis is providing time to re think and move forward the changes being piloted moving away from 'teach the test' ie exam based learning, to more **integrative curriculum to include health, finance and vocational training to help with life and the workplace**. All of these changes needed to reduce the trafficking of children and the migration to cities and overseas where Nepali labour is seen as unskilled and cheap. Now back home let us hope that families can be rebuilt as can the incredibly special country of Nepal.

Linda Blunt

20/7/20

Slides taken from the BRANNGO presentations. <http://www.branngo.org.uk/>