

Editorial

Health Education Association of Nepal (HEAN) is a non-profit professional organization of health educators established in 1991. It aims to improve the health status of the people through health education and empower the people in informed decision-making. Since its establishment, it has been proclaiming the need for hygiene, sanitation, immunization, nutrition, school health promotion, health policy, eye care, prevention of diabetes, dental health, prevention of heart disease, reproductive health, health behavior, global health promotion, research methods, academic writing, community-led sanitation, prevention of pandemic, Covid-19 and so on. It has organized health education campaigns several times to include health and physical education as a compulsory subject in secondary school education. It is equally committed to the professional development of health education professionals in Nepal.

The publication of the journal is one of the vital activities of HEAN, which has been publishing Journal of Health Education (JHP) since 2005, embracing school health, environmental health, health education curriculum, pedagogy, reproductive health, philosophy of health education, nutrition, health promotion, etc. Since 2018, it has been publishing this journal via print and online annually. In this current issue, in comparison to previous years, an encouraging number of papers from health education professionals have been received on the diverse issues of health education and promotion. Among the collected manuscripts, the editorial board sorted out ten papers and an equal number of papers were rejected based on the review. As a result of peer reviews and revisions, the editorial board of JHP is immensely pleased to publish this professional journal timely in consonance with the aim of HEAN.

The current issue consists of ten articles. Among them, Edwin and his friends have written a guest paper on the need of understanding health education, health promotion, and public health. They have suggested placing health education within health promotion and health promotion itself in the center of the overarching disciplines of education and public health. Moreover, three articles are on reproductive health in one of which Bhabani Adhikari as a corresponding author has tried to review access and utilization of the youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services in Nepal. She proclaimed that despite the Government of Nepal has the legal provision of ASRH, the youths are not found to utilize them properly. The reasons that promoted this negligence could be multiple factors such as inadequate service, long distance to the service providers, judgmental attitude of health care providers, unfriendly service providers, untrained health care providers, fear of stigmatization, and lack of privacy and confidentiality. Likewise, Sharmila Pokharel as a corresponding author has attempted to examine antenatal care among women in Chitwan district of Nepal. She revealed that the educational level of the respondents and the occupation of their partners, the number of pregnancies and live births, and the place of delivery were significantly linked to the use of antenatal care. Similarly, as a corresponding author, Mohan Kumar Sharma has paid well attention to maternal health care services in Nepal. Moreover, Mr. Sharma has observed the perception and decision-making-autonomy of women, the role of mothers-in-law, husbands, peers and neighbors, and safe motherhood program, health facilities, cultural taboos and beliefs as the significant factors for the utilization of maternal and child healthcare-seeking-behaviors.

Two articles are associated with Covid -19 in the first of which Sudha Ghimire as a corresponding author has attempted to identify COVID-19 infected persons during isolation in Nepal. She revealed anxiety, irritation, lack of sleep, and loss of appetite as the outcomes of stress, whilst during the coping mechanism of the stress, most of the participants were found using mobile phones, playing games, watching movies, and talking to family members. In the second article, Shanti Prasad Khanal and his friends endeavored to analyze the perceived threats towards the COVID-19 pandemic among Nepali migrant workers who returned from India. They have found that the participants who regarded

the threat of COVID-19 as low and the severity of COVID-19 was thought to be greater than the vulnerability of the people. Besides, gender, age, caste, education, health status, and perceived susceptibility did not correlate with perceived susceptibility.

This volume is enriched by two other articles which are associated with health behavior. Among them, Bhagwan Aryal as a corresponding author investigated to explore teachers' persuasion to modify health behaviors among the students of Bagmati Province. From the study result, the author has concluded that teachers were found to involve in the act of persuasion. However, their action was mostly moving around the 'instruction' and 'advise' as the tools for modifying the student's health deteriorating behaviors. Similarly, Ramesh Adhikari and his friends have tried to investigate women's smoking behavior of reproductive age in Nepal. Their study has disclosed that tobacco use among women in Nepal is common. In addition, age, education, marital status, caste/ethnicity, wealth index, and employment are significant predictors of smoking behavior among women.

In addition, Devraj Acharya and his friends wrote a paper on the ethnocultural influences for zoonoses transmission in multi-ethnic communities in Nepal. The authors have claimed that the intimacy of people with the animal for several reasons like cultural, religious, and ethnomedical practices play an important role in the transmission of zoonoses. Usha Acharya as a co-author researched to examine the body mass index (BMI) of vegetarian and non-vegetarian children in Nepal. She found that the average BMI of non-vegetarian children was significantly higher than the vegetarian in both sex groups. The findings of the study clearly showed that vegetarian diet practice in children is found to have lower BMI than the non-vegetarian practice.

In the capacity of the editors, we hope the papers published in this journal will be a valuable asset to the students, researchers, professionals and research scholars to enhance understanding of the respected issues. We always welcome creative and genuine comments and feedback from the readers to make this journal an academic platform. This publication is the result of the cooperation, efforts and contributions of the outstanding peer reviewers and editors from the county and abroad. Finally, the editorial board would like to express sincere thanks and gratefulness to all valuable contributors.

Editorial Board

7th November 2021