Press Note
May 7, 2021

NHRC monitors the citizens' health treatment and the overall human rights situation

Commission draws attention of the government of Nepal for the protection of human rights in the COVID – 19 pandemics

National Human Rights Commission of Nepal draws the attention of the government towards the risk of lives of people in the crisis of the rising number of coronavirus cases and number of death and those being infected are deprived of their right to health. With regard to this the Commission sent a letter drawing attention to the government monitoring by its central and provincial and provincial branch offices.

As per the Commission received the facts and information through monitoring, the Covid-19 patients have been suffering from the lack of beds in hospitals, short supply of oxygen and exorbitant charge by the private hospitals, the hospitals are overwhelmed with the increasing cases of infections, the patients are compelled to receive the treatments in the lobby and yards in the lack of beds and the hospitals are running through the shortage of oxygen. Some private hospitals are even refusing to treat those infected with Covid-19 while others are charging exorbitantly, medical equipment and the medicines like Remdesivir are being sold at inflated prices while the people entering Nepal from India without proper screening. This leads to expansion of COVID infection upto the local units.

The April 30, 2021 statement of the Ministry of Health and Population stated that "it was not possible to provide beds to those infected with Covid-19" demonstrates the government’s disregard for the plight of the people that cause serious psychological impacts upon the people, the predetermined vaccination is also affected due to delayed process of procuring the vaccine of COVID – 19, so that further dreadful situation can be supposed due to lack of ensure the vulnerable community and citizens.

The Commission has provided directive orders to the government of Nepal to address the all the impacts of COVID – 19, pay necessary attention towards ensuring the supply of the medicine, access to daily essentials services and commodities for life, health etc, to manage and regulate the supply and announce the programme targeted to keep the morale of the frontline workers high and to ensure that the low-income group and daily wage workers don’t have the problem for livelihood. The Commission draws the attention of all tiers of governments to work in collaboration for the treatment of the infected persons and to fight against the crisis generated by the COVID – 19 pandemics and appeals to the political parties to make meaningful efforts for maintaining national solidarity to control and prevent the COVID – 19 pandemics.

Dr. Tika Ram Pokharel
Joint Secretary/Spokesperson