Nepal on the verge of becoming the next Covid hotspot

Thursday 6 May, 2021

The new Indian variant has reached Nepal and with almost 50% of daily tests proving positive, the cases of coronavirus are getting out of control and new lockdowns are in place.The lockdowns are regional and very strict, meaning that people cannot leave their houses even to do shopping. That means no work opportunities for the majority of the population, especially those living in the rural areas.

Many of the Dalit (untouchable) castes have no citizenship and thus do not qualify for any government support (and that is rarely available for anyone in Nepal anyway). The government have not made any plans yet for any relief distribution and the poorest communities are already experiencing incredible hardship. Hospitals have no free beds, no ventilators, and private hospitals turn people who cannot afford the daily rate down. Daily charges for hospital beds start at around £100 a day what for many people is their monthly income. There are reports of people dying on the streets after being unable to receive any support.

A UK charity, Our Sansar, that works in Southern Nepal to assist children experiencing hardship, trafficking, homelessness, have decided to help as much as possible in the region. Due to political and other issues, there are very charities working in the region despite huge need. To provide basic food provisions for 2 weeks for a family of 5 costs around £10.

An actor Amrita Acharia, whom many will know from the Game of Thrones or the Good Karma Hospital, joined with Our Sansar in their relief efforts for Nepal. This is a public appeal and anyone who donates will be updated on the progress (if they wish so). For more information and updates please visit the charity's website and the Facebook page.

You can donate here: https://bit.ly/2Sh7LX6

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