

Semi-structured interviews

(These are only guides to prompt interviewer and interviewee to adhere to the topic. Please feel free to add the themes and concerns as you see fit)

AUDIO FILE NAME:

Introduction (please adapt as you see fit):

I am XYZ from institute: Manmohan Memorial Institute of Health Sciences, Kathmandu, Nepal. I am a health science student and I am approaching you to conduct a study related to current COVID-19 pandemic. As you know the current pandemic is straining our health system, I would like to know your perspectives regarding its management, preparedness, challenges and recommendations. Your opinion will guide the policies regarding the management of current epidemic in Nepal. If you agree to participate, I would like to inform you that this interview will be anonymized, thus the information you will provide will be confidential. There are no consequences attached to participating in this study. In addition, if you agree, I would like to audio-record this interview for transcription and analysis. However, feel free to drop out of the interview at any time and you don't have to give me reasons for dropping out. If you agree, I would like to start with the socio-demographic characteristics.

SECTION-I: Clinicians and policy makers

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| Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents | 1. Age | |
| | 2. Gender | |
| | 3. Place | |
| | 4. Education | |
| | 5. Qualification | |
| | 6. Type of job (government/private) | |
| | 7. Type of workplace (Government/Private) | |
| | 8. Level of health care (primary health centre, Clinics, district, zonal and central hospital) | |

SECTION-II: Clinicians

| Themes | Guide |
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| 1.COVID-19 and Clinical/ public health Management | 9. What is your opinion on current COVID-19 pandemic? 10. Has it affected you? How has it changed your daily routine? 11. What motivates you to work amidst the fear of COVID-19? 12. Have you managed the suspected cases of COVID-19 so far? And how are you going to manage them? 13. What precautions have you taken to prevent COVID-19 infection? 14. Is the current preparedness at your health center/hospital adequate to control the infection? If yes, what are they? If not, why? |

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| | 15. Do you think the current public health measures taken by government are helpful for the control of COVID-19 infections? If yes, why and if not why? |
| 2.Characteristics of Nepal's Health System | <p>16. In your opinion, is our (Nepal's) health care system prepared to manage the clinical cases of COVID-19? Please elaborate.</p> <p>17. In terms of infrastructure and resources, what are the limitations and challenges that you have experienced or foresee in managing COVID-19 cases in Nepal? What kind of things do you think could be done by the Nepal government to overcome those challenges?</p> <p>18. As a frontline worker, are any of those challenges restraining or limiting your professional responsibility of patient care? And can you tell us why?</p> |
| 3.Human resources | <p>19. Do you think there are adequate frontline health workers at your workplace/Nepal to handle the COVID-19 crisis? If not, why?</p> <p>20. At your workplace, have you and other health workers been given guidelines on managing and reporting COVID-19 cases?</p> <p>21. Are you provided with the personal protective equipment to handle the COVID patients?</p> <p>22. Do you think health workers are prepared with the adequate infection control measures?</p> <p>23. Can you talk about the impact of the outbreak on frontline health workers (prompts: fear of being infected, financial hardship, increased stress and workload)?</p> <p>24. Have you faced discrimination or stigma from your friends or community because you deal with COVID patients?</p> |
| 4.Equipment/Resources (space, equipment and facilities) | <p>25. Do you think your workplace has adequate medical equipment to take care of COVID-19 cases? What equipment are lacking? And why do you think are they lacking?</p> <p>26. Does your workplace have adequate space/area/beds allocated specially for COVID 19 cases, isolation wards, ICU etc. to provide care to COVID-19 cases? If no, why do you think is it lacking?</p> <p>27. What in your opinion would have assisted you and health workers like you amongst the lacking (equipment/resources) to take care of COVID-19</p> |

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| | cases? |
| 5.Recommendations/ Way forward | <p>28. What are your projections for the near future for COVID-19 in Nepal?</p> <p>29. Could you please use this opportunity to categorize your recommendations in regard to the limitations?</p> <p>30. What should be the way forward in terms of preparing hospitals and health workers to fight against COVID-19 or similar epidemic in future?</p> <p>31. If Nepal is hard hit by COVID-19, what would be your recommendations concerning its management, including planning, preparation and delivery of care for patients? (training, supportive supervision)</p> |
| SECTION-III: Policymakers | |
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is your opinion on current COVID-19 pandemic? 2. Has it affected you? How has it changed your daily routine? 3. Even though you are not a frontline health worker, as a policy maker involved in planning, policy and management, what motivates you to work amidst the fear of COVID-19? 4. What precautions have you taken to prevent COVID-19 infection? 5. Is the preparedness of health care facilities in your province adequate to control the infection? If yes, what are they? If not, why? 6. Do you think the current public health measures taken by central/provincial government are sufficient for the control of COVID-19 infections? If yes, why and if not why? 7. Do you think there are adequate frontline health workers in Nepal/your Province to handle the COVID-19 crisis? If not, why? 8. Recently there have been advertisement for recruitment of health workers on temporary basis for COVID 19. Do you think the frontline health worker would be attracted to join government on temporary basis during this epidemic without any incentives? 9. Since your province shares its border with India and the COVID cases are on the rise in India, what preventive measures have been implemented by your Province government in these border districts? (Only for province that shares border with India) Rephrase this question so that its suits for both central and federal policymaker |

10. To what level do you think the current structure of health system of Nepal is ready to fight against such epidemic?
11. Are the guidelines on managing and reporting COVID-19 cases available in health facilities across Nepal/ in your Province?
12. Can you tell us something about discrimination or stigma faced by some patients with fever/upper respiratory tract infection during this COVID 19?
13. Can you tell us something about discrimination or stigma faced by frontline health workers during this COVID 19?
14. What are your projections for the near future for COVID-19 in Nepal?
15. If Nepal was hard hit by COVID-19, what are your recommendations concerning its management, including planning, preparation and delivery of care for patients?
16. What do you think should we invest more in preparedness of health system using the lessons learned from this epidemic?
17. Would you like to express on any other issues that are left in our discussion?

The End