



Global Campus
of Human Rights



NEPAL SCHOOL MOOTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

FEBRUARY - MAY 2021
KATHMANDU SCHOOL OF LAW



THE
RIGHT
LIVELIHOOD
FOUNDATION



Centre for
Human Rights
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA



1. MAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT

Reference Number: A1C943

Title: The Nepal School Moot on Human Rights

Name of grantee and affiliated entity: Professor Yubaraj Sangroula, Kathmandu School of Law

Address of the grantee: Suryabinayak-4, Bhaktapur, Bagmati Province, Nepal

Period covered: January 2021 – July 2021

Country in which the project activities take place: Nepal

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



2.1 BACKGROUND

An informed and continued demand by people of their rights can help ensure human rights.¹ Ensuring human rights is possible only if people understand what it entails to think in human rights terms from an early age.² This is possible through the means of education. Universal Declaration of Human Rights fortifies the importance of education in development and strengthening human rights.³ UN conferences⁴ and UN General Assembly resolutions⁵ have reiterated the importance of education in strengthening human rights.

With the rise of moot courts on the global university landscape, it has also become an integral part of the legal education. They can also be used as a powerful tool on the domestic school level. Using moots in schools would help elevate the education, articulation, research as well as oration skills of the students. In order to enhance such skills in human rights law, the Nepal School Moots on Human Rights (hereinafter the Competition) has been envisioned. It is a competition open to all the schools/colleges in Nepal with legal studies in their high school curriculum.

Nepal School Moots on Human Rights aims to help students understand and analyze the necessary foundation of the human rights principles and objective, ultimately leading to its better understanding and articulation. It also aims to guide students to incorporate human rights issues with the changing world and become cognizant of the basic founding principles of human rights

¹OHCHR, 'Human Rights Education and Training', available at; <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ISSUES/EDUCATION/TRAINING/Pages/HREducationTrainingIndex.aspx>.

² Kgomosotho, Gift; Heyns, Christof H.; and Majola, Bongani. (2018). "Notes From the Field: Bringing New Life to Human Rights Globally: The Powerful Tool of Schools' Moots," International Journal of Human Rights Education, 2(1). Retrieved from <https://repository.usfca.edu/ijhre/vol2/iss1/8>.

³ Article 26 (2), UDHR.

⁴ https://legal.un.org/avl/pdf/ha/fatchr/Final_Act_of_TehranConf.pdf.

⁵<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N11/467/04/PDF/N1146704.pdf?OpenElement>.

at the domestic level. Additionally, it also intends to bring students from different regions of the nation fostering diversity leading to the contextual comprehension of human rights ethos and principles.

One of the major focus of the competition is also to foster a friendly competitive environment which will enhance the students' working efficiency even in a difficult situation and use school moots to encourage a vibrant and cooperative community to strengthen human rights by assigning tutors to the young participants, providing them with adequate resources to train and acquaint themselves with drafting and speaking skills.



2.2 DESCRIPTION OF SPECIFIC EVENTS

2.2.1 Moot Court Coordination and Moot Problem

The Nepal School Moot on Human Rights was coordinated by Ms Pranjali Kanel and Ms Anusha Kharel. The coordinators were responsible for the overall management and completion of the competition.

The Moot Court Problem was drafted by Ms Mamta Siwakoti and reviewed by Ms Yugichha Sangroula. The process of drafting and reviewing the moot problem was done in consultation with the organizing committee of the Nepal School Moots on Human Rights.

2.2.2 Team Registration

High schools with law in their curriculum were invited to register themselves for the Nepal School Moots on Human Rights. While the initial deadline for the registration was set 15 February 2021; owing to the final examination of the high schools in Nepal, the deadline was set to 8th March 2021. A total of 12 teams had registered for the competition.

2.2.3 Allotment of Tutors

6 tutors, with an experience of participation in Moot Courts, were identified and were assigned to the tutor 2 teams each. The tutors that were assigned two teams each are:

1. Anmol Marasini
2. Anusha Shrestha
3. Srijan Pant
4. Prekshya Niroula
5. Shradha Khanal
6. Sudridh Joshi

The tutors are students pursuing their undergraduate degree at Kathmandu School of Law.

2.2.4 Virtual Training

Due to the increase of the COVID cases in Nepal and the lockdown imposed by the government, we were unable to conduct an in-person training session. Instead, the same training modality was

adopted into the virtual structure. A two-day virtual training session regarding the memorial (essay) writing and oral pleadings were scheduled for 21st and 22nd March 2021.

1. Memorial writing-

Assistant Professor Swechhya Sangroula led the training session for memorial writing which was technically assisted by Assistant Professor Rubin Shrestha.

2. Oral pleading-

Their session on writing memorial was complimented by Pranjali Kanel, Anusha Kharel and Prekshya Niroula's session on the basics of oral pleadings based on their experience of participating and training Moot Courts participants in the Kathmandu School of Law.

2. 2. 5 Memorial Submission

The teams were official constituted as participants once they submitted the memorial by the deadline which was set 15th April 2021. A total of eight teams submitted their memorial writing; thus, making the participating schools in the Nepal School Moots on Human Rights to be eight. The teams that participated in the Moot Court Competition were:

Participating Teams -

1. Uniglobe SS/ College, Kamaladi
2. Aadim National SS/College, Chabahil
3. Modern Boarding Secondary School, Bhaktapur
4. Morgan International College, Basundhara
5. Triton International College, Tinkune
6. Kathmandu Model College (KMC), Bagbazar
7. Khwopa Secondary School, Bhaktapur
8. Kathmandu Model Secondary School (KMC)-Balkumari

2. 2 .6 Practice Rounds and Technical Configuration

A practice rounds of the teams before the oral pleadings were conducted on the request of the participants to acquaint themselves with the basic etiquettes of the oral submissions. The practice rounds were conducted on 7th May 2021. The participations were also oriented about the technical configuration for their smooth participation.

2. 2. 7 Volunteers

An open call for first- and second-year law students in Kathmandu School of Law to volunteer was made. Based on the first come basis, 22 volunteers were selected to help towards the successful completion of the competition. While the volunteers were envisioned for the in-person event that was planned earlier, they were part of the virtual modality which aided in the smooth functioning and completion of the competition.

2. 2. 8 Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony of the Nepal School Moots on Human Rights was concluded virtually on 13th May 2021. Professor Yubaraj Sangroula, Professor Geeta Pathak Sangroula and Retired Judge Binod Prasad Sharma spoke on the necessity of the Moot Courts in high school and how it helps in the development of a law student after university.

It was live streamed through the official Facebook page of Kathmandu School of Law. The video is available at: <https://www.facebook.com/KathmanduSchoolofLaw/videos/532573881069549>.

2. 2. 9 Oral Pleadings

The Oral Pleadings were conducted on three levels. The Preliminary Rounds and the Advanced Rounds were concluded on 13th May 2021 and the Championship Rounds were concluded on 14th May 2021.

The participants were assessed based on the following in the oral rounds:

- i. Knowledge of the facts (Correct and articulate analysis of the issues)
- ii. Knowledge of the law (Familiarity with national and international authorities and the knowledge of legal principles and case laws to the fact)
- iii. Organization and Time Management (Poise, Demeanor, and Clarity)
- iv. Questions and Answers (Response to questions, ingenuity, and persuasiveness)

Each of these criteria consists of 25 marks each with a total of 100 marks.

Preliminary Rounds-

- i. During the Preliminary Rounds, each team argued two times. Once for the Applicant and the other for the Respondent.
- ii. The scores for each round was determined by counting the average of the team's memorial score and the oral rounds score.

- iii. Four highest scoring teams qualified to the Advanced Rounds.

Advanced Rounds-

- i. The top four teams from the Preliminary Rounds qualified to compete in the Advanced Rounds.
- ii. There was one Advanced Round, wherein each team will argued once, either as Applicant and the other time as Respondent. The side from which the team would be arguing from was decided 30 minutes prior the rounds by a draw of lots carried out by the organizers.
- iii. The scores were determined by counting the team's memorial score as one-third of the total score and oral score as two-thirds of the total score.

Championship Rounds-

- i. The top two Teams from the Advanced Rounds qualified to compete in the Final Round.
- ii. There was only one round of the Championship Round, wherein each team argued one time, as Applicant or as Respondent.
- iii. The determination of which Team is to plead as Applicant/Respondent was determined by a draw of lots carried out by the Organizers.
- iv. The team with the greater score (Oral Submissions only) in the Final Round was declared as the Moot Court Winning Team. The teams' memorial scores was not factored into the score for the Championship Round.

2. 2. 10 Closing Ceremony and Award Distribution

Closing ceremony of the competition was done virtually and live streamed through the official Facebook page of Kathmandu School of Law. The closing ceremony was followed with the announcement of the awards for the following titles- Winner, Runner Up, Third Best Team, Best Memorial, Best Speaker (Finals), Best Speaker (Preliminary) and Team Spirit Award.

The awards will be distributed in an in-person event when the situation with the cases settle down and the Nepal government lifts the restrictions it has imposed. The award distribution will follow all the required health protocols concerning COVID-19 with maintenance of social distance.



2.3 NOTEWORTHY RESULTS

2.3.1 Team Registration

The number of schools that were receptive towards the completion despite the ongoing pandemic situation in Nepal was remarkable. A total of 12 teams that registered for the Nepal School Moots on Human Rights are-

1. Bagmati Boarding High School, Sokedhara Bagmati
2. Uniglobe SS/ College, Kamaladi
3. Aadim National SS/College, Chabahil
4. Modern Boarding Secondary School, Bhaktapur
5. Morgan International College, Basundhara
6. Aadarsha Janpremi English Secondary School, Kausaltar
7. Triton International College, Tinkune
8. Kathmandu Model College (KMC), Bagbazar
9. Khwopa Secondary School, Bhaktapur
10. Hrit Academy, Basundhara Chauki
11. Kathmandu Model Secondary School (KMC)-Balkumari
12. LRI School

2.3.2 Allotment of Tutors

All the 12 teams were given code names and were allotted to the six tutors that were identified. The engagement of the students who were completely new to Moot Courts with the students studying law and experienced in at least one Moot Court gave a very contextual and necessary guidance as well as a networking platform.

Tutors	Teams Assigned	
Anmol Marasini <u>anmolmarasini@gmail.com</u>	Team 101 : Bagmati Boarding High School, Sokedhara	Team 102 : Uniglobe SS/ College, Kamaladi
Anusha Shrestha <u>shrestha.anusha2017@gmail.com</u>	Team 103: Aadim National SS/College, Chabahil	Team 104: Modern Boarding Secondary School, Bhaktapur
Srijan Pant <u>srijan.pant98@gmail.com</u>	Team 105: Morgan International College, Basundhara	Team 106: Aadarsha Janpremi English Secondary School, Kausaltar
Prekshya Niroula <u>prekshyanir@gmail.com</u>	Team 107: Triton International College, Tinkune	Team 108: Kathmandu Model College (KMC), Bagbazar
Shradha Khanal <u>sshradha.kkhanal@gmail.com</u>	Team 109: Khwopa Secondary School, Bhaktapur	Team 110: Hrit Academy, Basundhara Chauki
Sudridh Joshi <u>sudridhjoshi@gmail.com</u>	Team 111: Kathmandu Model Secondary School (KMC)-Balkumari	Team 112: LRI School

2.3.3 Virtual Training

All the 12 teams and their respective college representatives were present in the virtual training of the competition. In addition to the basics of writing memorial and oral pleadings, the high school students were given a brief about-

1. Human Rights
2. Legal research and resources
3. Plagiarism and Citation

2.3.4 Oral Pleadings

The oral pleadings were conducted on 13th and 14th May with results being live streamed through the official Facebook page of Kathmandu School of Law.

Preliminary Rounds-

The preliminary rounds were conducted immediately after the opening ceremony of the Nepal School Moots on Human Rights. Conducted in parallel session, the following table depicts the matches between the teams. The four court rooms had three different judges to assess the participant's oral skills.

Court Room	First Prelims (8:30 – 9:15 AM)	Second Prelims (9:30 – 10:15 AM)
Court Room A	104 (Applicant) v 102 (Respondent)	111 (Applicant) v 103 (Respondent)
Court Room B	103 (Applicant) v 108 (Respondent)	102 (Applicant) v 109 (Respondent)
Court Room C	105 (Applicant) v 111 (Respondent)	107 (Applicant) v 104 (Respondent)
Court Room D	109 (Applicant) v 107 (Respondent)	108 (Applicant) v 105 (Respondent)

Advanced Rounds-

The top four teams from the Preliminary Rounds that qualified to compete in the Advanced Rounds are:

1. Uniglobe SS/ College, Kamaladi
2. Morgan International College, Basundhara
3. Kathmandu Model College (KMC), Bagbazar
4. Khwopa Secondary School, Bhaktapur

The announcement of the results for the teams qualifying from the Preliminary Rounds can be viewed at: <https://www.facebook.com/115749351869872/videos/849659202560987> .

Championship Rounds-

The two teams that qualified for the Championship Rounds are, the announcement for which can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/115749351869872/videos/512825546529141> :

1. Morgan International College, Basundhara
2. Khwopa Secondary School, Bhaktapur

2.3.5 Closing Ceremony and Results

The Closing Ceremony and the overall results were announced by the Honorable Justice Nahakul Subedi, Judge of the Supreme Court of Nepal. He was one of the judges in the Championship rounds along with Professor Yubaraj Sangroula, Former Attorney General of Nepal, Nepal, Professor Geeta Pathak, Professor In-Charge, Kathmandu School of Law, Nepal, Professor Sanoj Rajan, Distinguished Professor of International Law and Human Rights, Zhejiang Gongshang University, China and Professor Thamil Venthan Ananthavinayagan, University of Nottingham, United Kingdom.

The results for the following award titles were announced and was live streamed through the official Facebook page of Kathmandu School of Law which is available at <https://www.facebook.com/KathmanduSchoolofLaw/videos/3845093675537795> :

1. Winner-

Khwopa Secondary School (Team 109): Babin Bhattarai and Ayasha Thakulawat

2. Runner Up Team-

Morgan International College (Team 105): Sujina Dhoju and Shristi Lammichhane

3. Third Best Team- Shared between

Unigloble College (Team 102): Jeniva Dangal and Indu Aryal and KMC Bagbazar (Team 108): Ritika Shah and Shruti Timilsina

4. Best Memorial-

Khwopa Secondary School (Team 109): Babin Bhattarai and Ayasha Thakulawat

5. Best Speaker (Finals)-

Ayasha Thakulawat: Khwopa Secondary School (Team 109)

6. Best Speaker (Preliminary)-

Kripa Bhandari: Modern Boarding Secondary College (Team 109)

7. Team Spirit Award-

Triton International College (Team 107) - Dina Karki and Rabina Sharma

ADDITIONAL
DETAILS:

Specific to Project



3.1 QUALITATIVE INDICATORS

Real word Impact

The concept of conducting Moot Courts for high school students is new in Nepal. While Moot Courts have become integral part in the Universities of Nepal, it is still seen an activity reserved for a specific group of people.

Instilling the concept of Moot Courts from high school level allows the positive reception towards mooting to increase furthering its reach to a wider audience. This increase in audience and reception allows the primary objective of moot courts- elevate the education, articulation, research as well as oration skills of the students, to be carried out efficiently and effectively shaping the students into well-rounded members of the society with the understanding of human rights and professional ethos

Attitudes

The competition saw the involvement of voluntary participation of young students who were enthusiastic about learning and knowing more about human rights. The induction of new concept of engaging young people to write and review moot problems, participate, and mentor each other while volunteering opens the gates of reception of moot court in general.

This reception not only helps clear confusion concerning moot courts but build the positive attitude around moot courts depicting it as a means of change and education to further human rights and other social fabrics.

Knowledge Gained

While human rights is a topic that the people in Nepal are generally aware about, the active participation of the young high schoolers and their interest in human rights and moot courts in general was remarkable yet surprising. Activities like moot courts are usually engaged with during the undergraduate degree in Nepal and was not thought of for students in eleven and twelfth grade.

The adaption to virtual modality, the writing and oral pleading in the competition resulted in the attainment of following knowledge:

1. The high schools teaching law in their curriculum are interested and invested in adopting moot courts in their education modality

2. A wider range of high schools from Nepal could be covered in the competition if it is open for in Nepali language (the official working language in Nepal)
3. The participants in the competition could be ambassadors to highlight the importance of the moot court in legal education

Tools and Skills

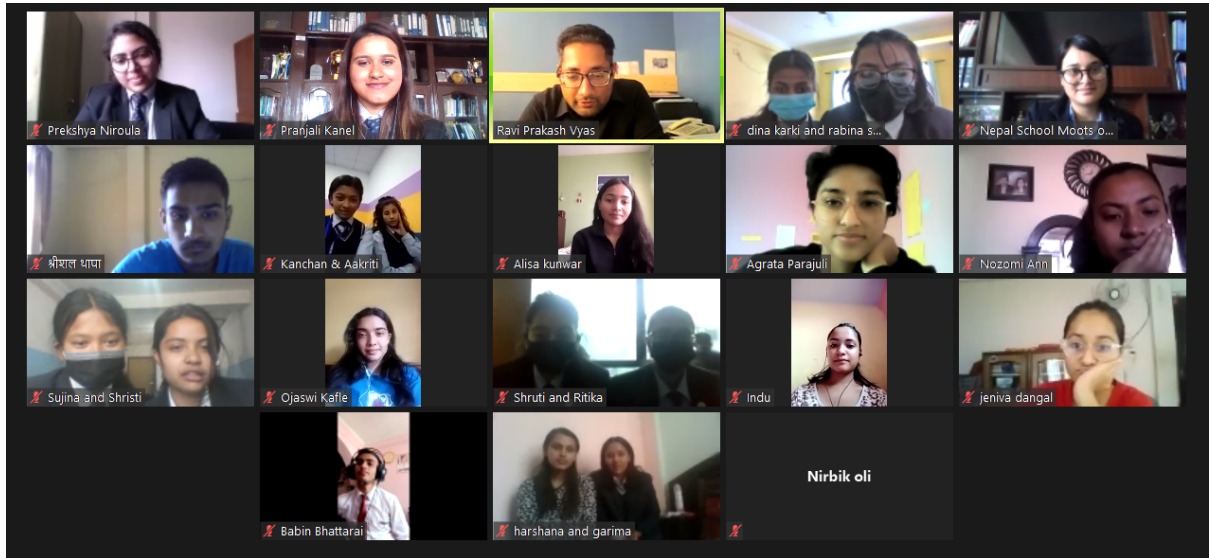
Nepal School Moots on Human Rights and its modality provided an opportunity to high school students with the resources, trainers, tutors to help them with legal research and draft memorials with proper reasoning and articulation. They were also assisted in polishing their existing speaking abilities.

The competition was an opportunity for the organizers of the competition to make use of proper networking, communication, and managerial skills in terms of conducting a moot court competition.

The volunteers were able to see the operational aspect of moot courts and put their effort in it. It allowed their skill to adapt and work in changing circumstances owing to the change in modality due to COVID to sharpen.



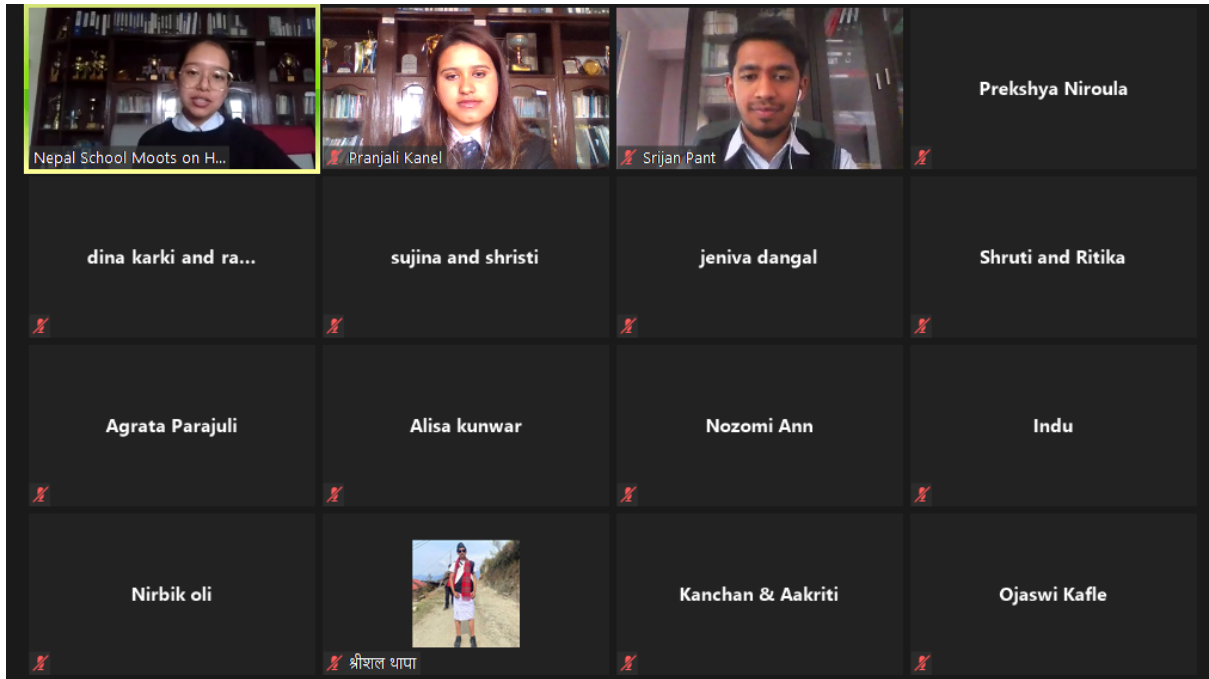
3.2 VISUAL MATERIAL



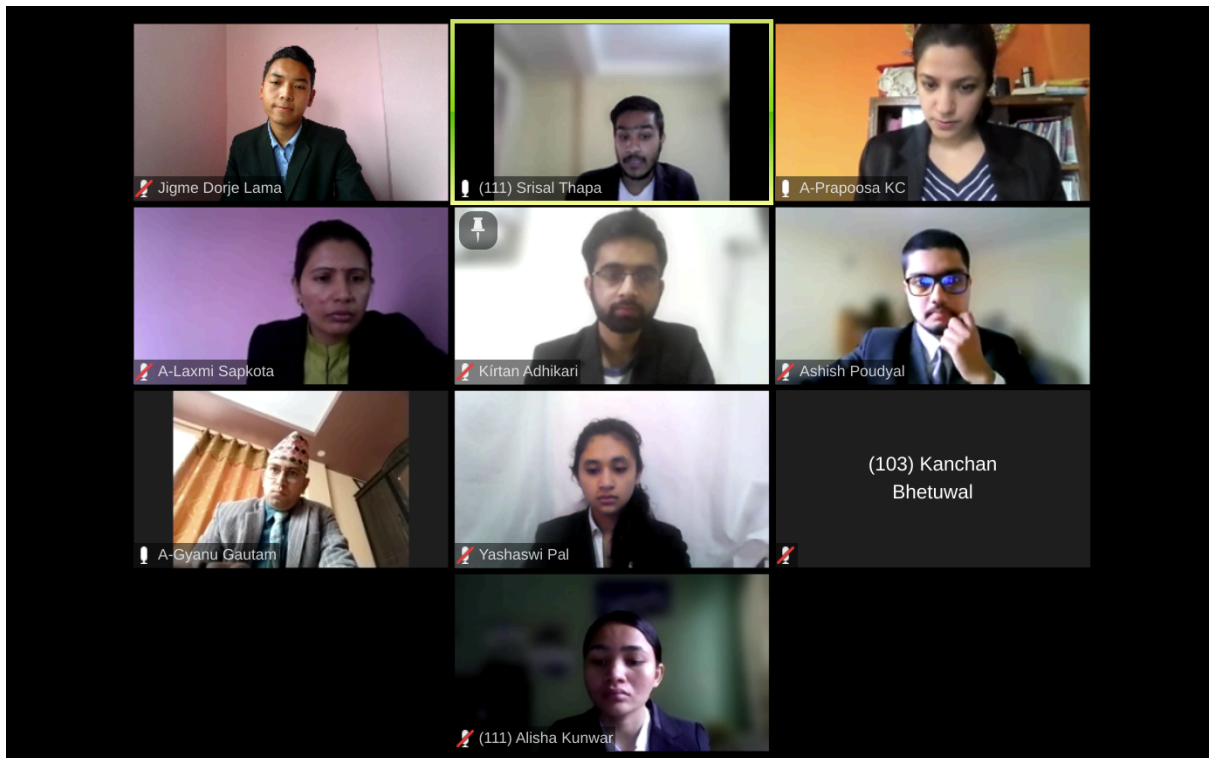
Picture 1- Virtual Training Cohort- 21st and 22nd March



Picture 2- Opening Ceremony with the Judges



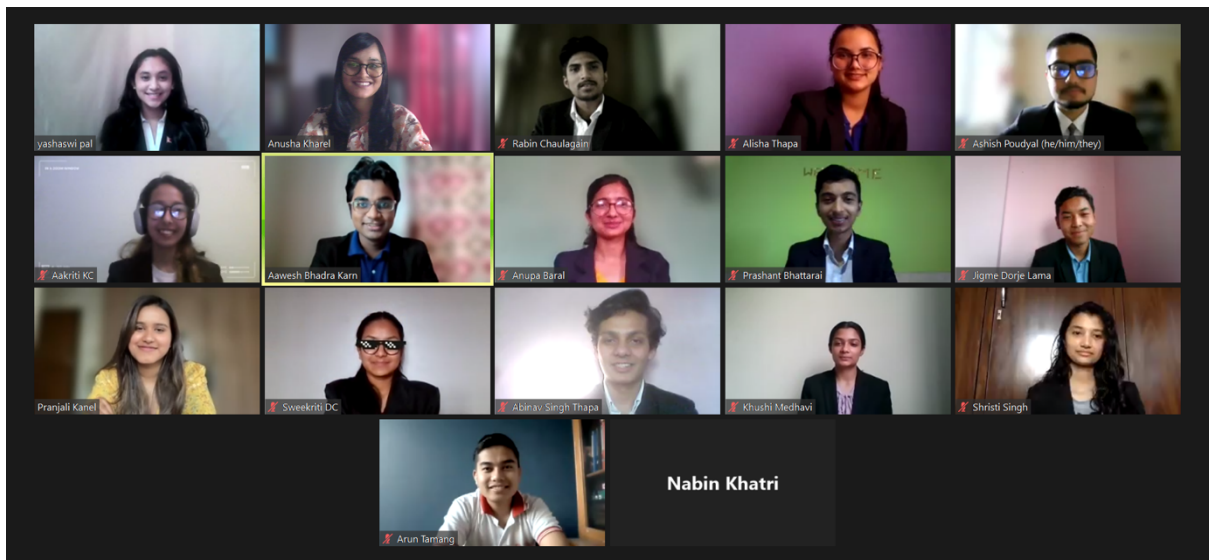
Picture 3- Tutors Anusha Shrestha and Srijan Pant with Trainer Pranjali Kanel (22nd March 2021)



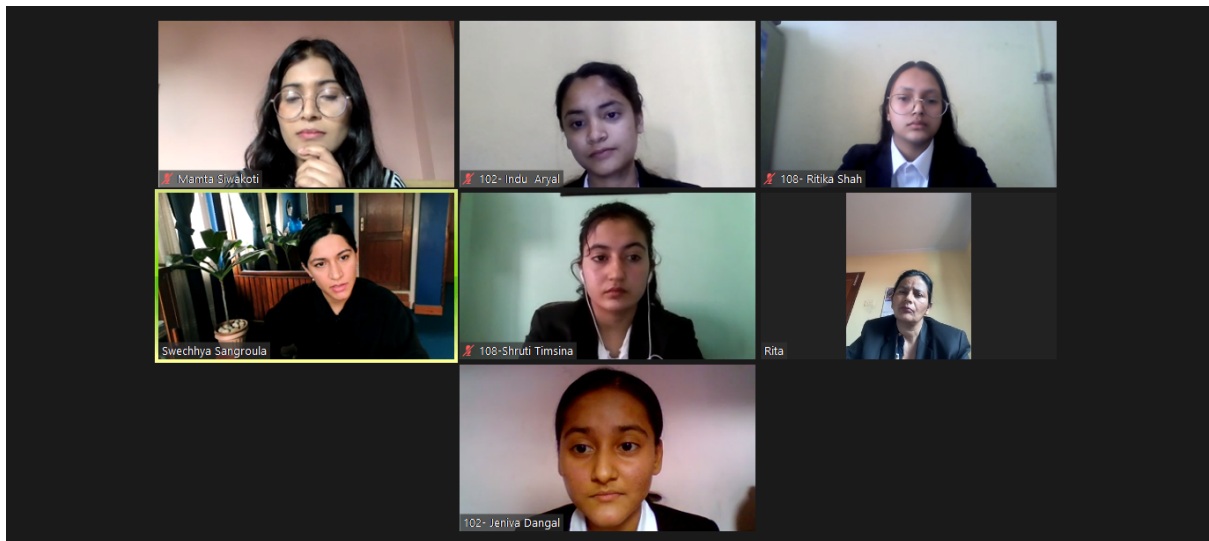
Picture 4- Preliminary Rounds (Team 111 v Team 103)



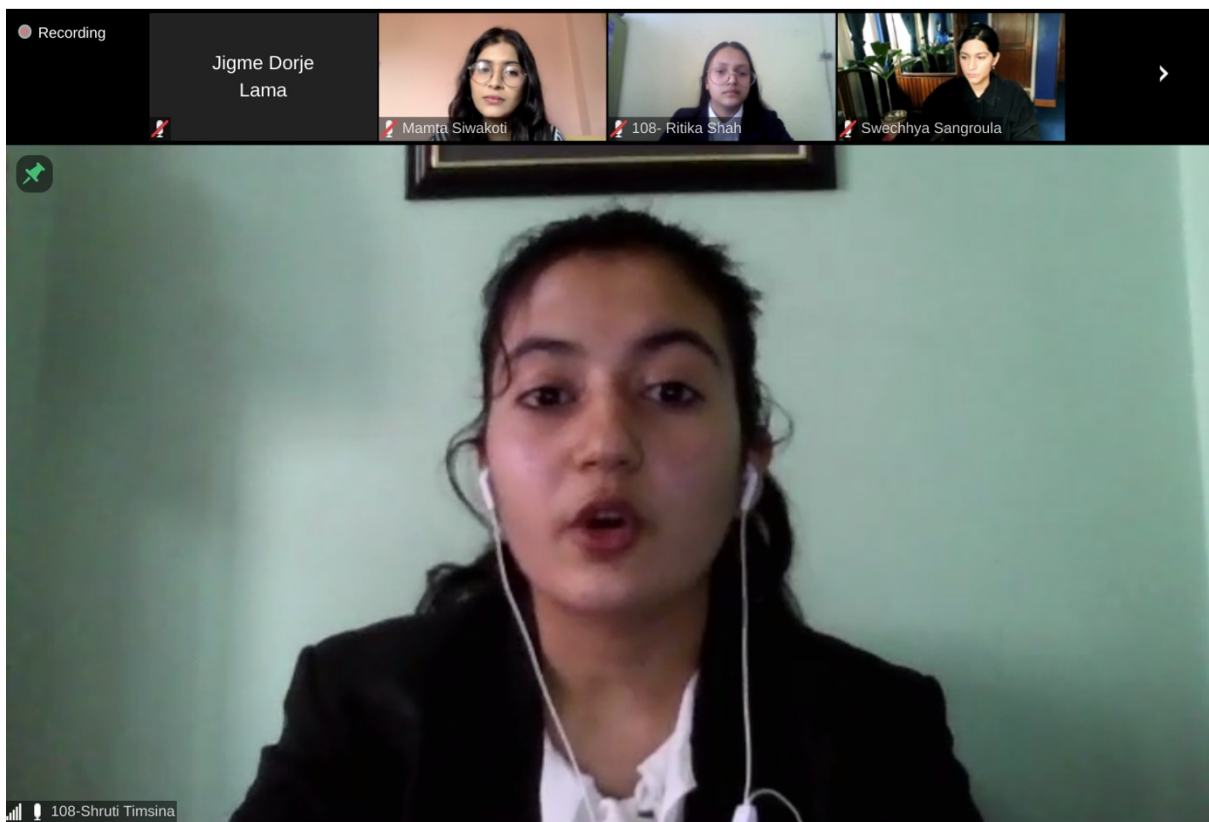
Picture 5- Participant pleading in the Preliminary Rounds



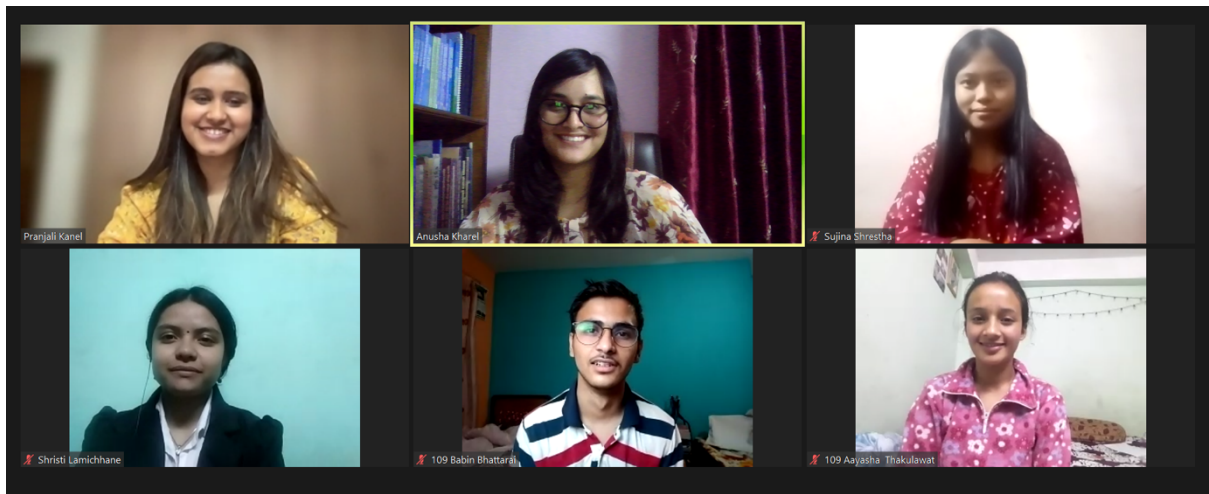
Picture 6- Post Preliminary Rounds: Debriefing with the Volunteers



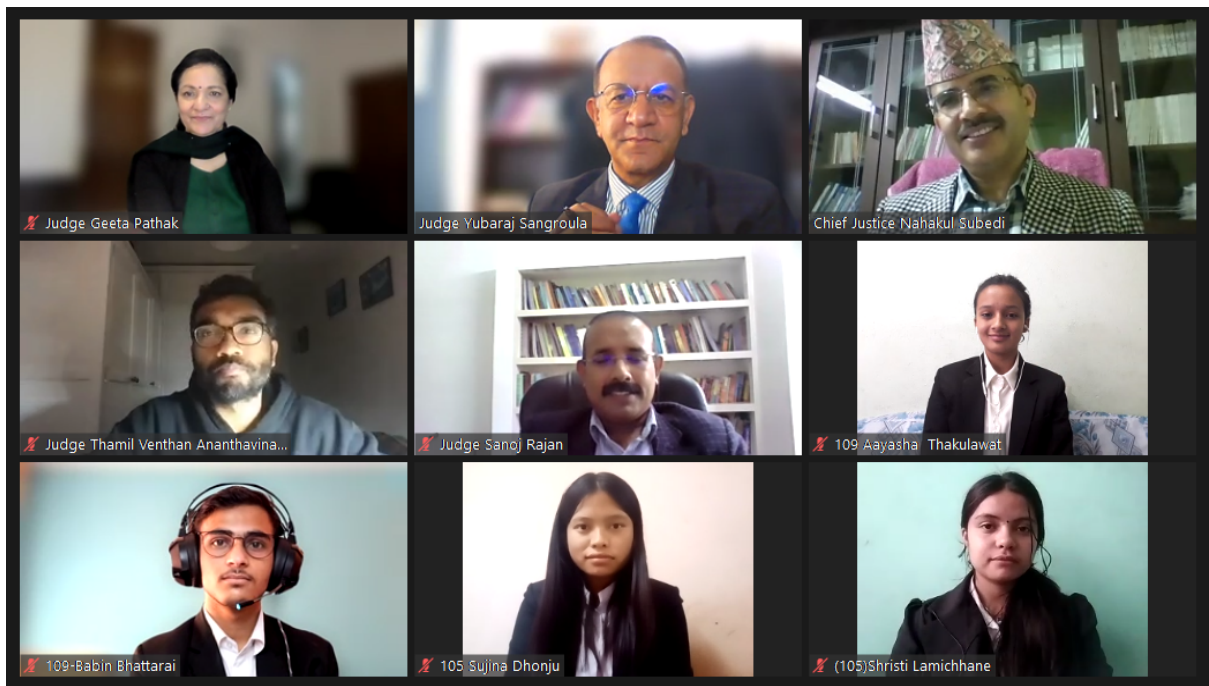
Picture 7- Advanced Rounds (Team 102 v Team 106)



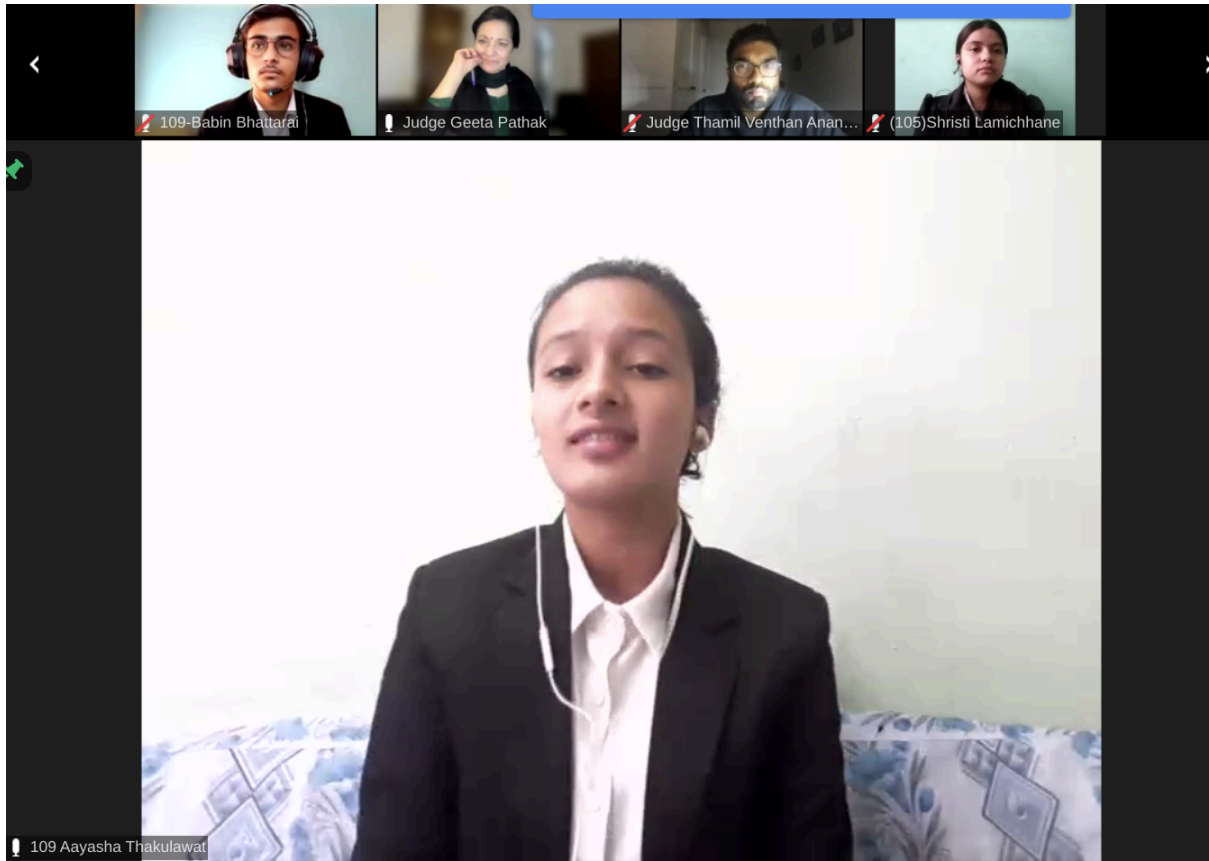
Picture 8- Participant pleading in the Advanced Rounds



Picture 9- Draw of lots through tossing coins with the Finalist for the Championship Rounds



Picture 10- Championship Rounds: Judges with the Finalists



Picture 11- Participant Speaking at the Championship Rounds



Picture 12- Preview of the Poster in the Championship Round

