In Nepal, there has been a troubling surge in violence against doctors following the outbreak of COVID-19. Nepal has witnessed a 460% increase in medical attacks since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. This violence has swiftly escalated into a nationwide issue, casting a shadow over the nation’s healthcare system.

As the violence against doctors continues to rise, it is altering the morale of healthcare workers, creating health service shortages, and deterring other health workers from continuing their service in Nepal, leading many to seek safer opportunities abroad.

To compound matters, a study by the Medical Education Commission has revealed that the severity of the situation when the same institutions that are supposed to protect health workers if and when they feel unsafe. However, an elected ward chair in Lamjung district has been implicated in acts of violence against doctors, and even security personnel themselves have been involved in acts of violence against health workers.

While there are legal provisions in place, such as the Security of the Health Workers Act, the Medical Education Commission, and the Health Workers Protection Act, these provisions are not being adequately enforced.

This violence has quickly escalated into a nationwide issue, casting a pall over the entire healthcare sector.

In response to threats and attacks, many doctors have refused to work under these conditions, leading to the closure of health facilities and raising concerns about the access to healthcare services but also risk the destruction of healthcare services.

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