

Preface

Bhutan - in fact humanity - is at yet another crossroads. Today, the juncture is defined by the COVID-19 pandemic, the most devastating crisis the world has seen in recent decades. The pandemic has forced us to reflect on the situation that humanity finds itself in and also stimulated thoughts about the future.

There are efforts worldwide to imagine a sense of the world after COVID-19, which means re-imagining national visions.

The objective of this issue of The Druk Journal is to take a look at the situation of Bhutanese youth today to imagine what tomorrow may be, and can be. What are the hopes and dreams, concerns and doubts, potential and drive of young Bhutanese today? What are the challenges that need to be overcome for them to grow as empowered citizens of the future?

The journal aims to provide decision-makers, parents, teachers, and youth with a sense of the needs and situation of children and youth in Bhutan. The articles in this issue explore these questions so that Bhutanese society can get a clearer insight into the aspirations, anxieties - even the mandate - of youth. The three sections look at the current situation of youth, the impact of these trends on society, and the responses initiated as well as specific actions needed for long term social wellbeing.

It is important that we understand the values that characterise youth. It is vital that youth understand the world that they will inherit. The Druk Journal offers ideas and the space for this discourse. We invited interested writers, particularly young minds, to share their thoughts and ideas as Bhutan plans a vision for the future.

It is the decisions made today that have an impact on the citizens of tomorrow. It is critical that the thoughts, the aspirations, and concerns of the youth are known, as we frame the policies and build a regulatory environment that sets the stage for tomorrow.

Young Bhutanese need to reflect on questions that are as fundamental, and as important, as what does it mean to be Bhutanese? With this, they need to ask, what are the responsibilities of being the new generation?