

Awareness of Community People towards Novel Corona Virus Disease (COVID 19): A Cross Sectional Study

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Abstract: *Corona viruses are a large group of viruses that are rather common throughout the community. Historically, evidence has shown that the virus is transmitted through birds and mammals, with humans being particularly vulnerable to infection and transmission of the virus. Corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an ongoing pandemic, for which appropriate infection prevention and control measures need to be adopted. The aim of this study was to assess the awareness of Community People towards Novel Corona Virus Disease (COVID 19). **Methods:** A cross sectional online survey was conducted to assess the awareness of COVID 19. The study comprised of 75 community people. The survey questionnaire was used to collect the data towards COVID 19. The questionnaire consisted of 10 true and false questions. Convenience sampling technique was used for data collection. Formal permission was obtained from concerned authority for data collection. The analysis of the data was done by using descriptive statistics. **Result:** The results showed that, Majority 57.33% of the community people were in the age group of 31 - 40 years and majority 76% were males. 89.33% of community people were completed their post graduation. Most of the community people 77.33% gained information from social media and 16% gained from newspaper. Based on mean score of the participants demonstrated that, the majority of the participants are aware about COVID 19. Mean awareness score of community people towards COVID 19 was 7.68. There was no significant association found between the findings with selected demographic variables among community people. **Conclusion:** The study showed that, the participants have adequate awareness about COVID 19. This study will help community people to understand about COVID 19 and its prevention.*

Keywords: Awareness, COVID, Community people, community, Novel Corona Virus Disease

1. Introduction

Corona viruses are a large group of viruses that are rather common throughout the community. Historically, evidence has shown that the virus is transmitted through birds and mammals, with humans being particularly vulnerable to infection and transmission of the virus.¹

The novel Corona virus, officially known as SARS-CoV-2 or Corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) was first reported in December 2019, as a cluster of acute respiratory illness in Wuhan, China, from where it spread rapidly to over 198 countries. It was declared as a global pandemic by WHO on 12th March 2020.²

SARS-CoV-2 belongs to the larger family of ribonucleic acid (RNA) viruses, leading to infections, from the common cold, to more serious diseases, such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV). The main symptoms of COVID-19 have been identified as fever, dry cough, fatigue, myalgia, shortness of breath, and dyspnoea.⁴

COVID-19 is characterized by rapid transmission, and can occur by close contact with an infected person. The details on the disease are evolving. As such, this may not be the only way the transmission is occurring. COVID-19 has spread widely and rapidly, from Wuhan city, to other parts of the world, threatening the lives of many people.⁵

In India, by early April 2020, country officials had identified several areas as hotspots of COVID-19 infections in the country. India faces threat of a serious outbreak due to deep challenges in practicing social distancing and access to water and soap for hand washing, with densely populated urban areas and a highly mobile population in some states.⁶

In order to introduce and implement effective control measures, having knowledge about basic hygiene principles, modes of disease transmission, and measures in such an environment is, therefore, of vitally importance. To achieve an ultimate success against the ongoing encounter against COVID-19, people's commitment to these control measures is necessary. According to the KAP theory, this is generally affected by their knowledge, attitude, and practices concerning COVID-19 (9, 10). Public education is considered as one of the most important measures that can help control the diseases, as has been the case regarding SARS.⁷

Cross-sectional online survey conducted in the month of March. A sample of 3,791 adults in Jordan who were representative of the general population by gender, age, occupation, marital status, employment status and educational level. Measurements: Response to 23 survey questions. Participants generally had satisfactory knowledge of the main mode of disease transmission and the common symptoms of COVID-19, as half of the participants confirmed that transmission is via droplets from sneezing or coughing and from contaminated surfaces.⁸

2. Objectives

- 1) To assess the awareness of community people towards COVID 19.
- 2) To associate the findings with the selected demographic variables.

3. Methods and Material

A cross sectional online survey was conducted to assess the awareness of COVID 19. The study was conducted in Aug 2020. The study comprised of 75 community people. The survey questionnaire was used to assess the awareness of community people towards COVID 19. The questionnaire consisted of 10 true and false questions. It covered the demographic variables and awareness questionnaire regarding COVID 19. Convenience sampling technique was used for data collection. The survey was conducted through a link shared on social networking sites. Google Form was created and participants were invited to complete and submit the form. Reliability of the instrument was calculated by using Karl Pearson Correlation Coefficient formula and significance of correlation was tested using Spearman Brown prophecy formula and the tool was found reliable. Formal permission was obtained from concerned authority for data collection. The analysis of the data was done by using descriptive statistics.

4. Result

Analysis and interpretation is based on the objectives of the study. The analysis was done with the help of descriptive and inferential statistics.

Table 1: Percentage wise distribution of community people according to their demographic characteristics, n=75

Age in years	Frequency	Percentage
21 - 30 yrs	22	29.33
31 - 40 yrs	43	57.33
41 - 50 yrs	10	13.34
Above 51 years	00	00
Gender		
Male	57	76.00
Female	18	24.00
Education		
Illiterate	00	00
Primary	00	00
Secondary	00	00
Higher Secondary	00	00
Graduation	08	10.67
Post Graduation	67	89.33
Occupation		
Self Employed	17	22.67
Government Service	13	17.33
Private Service	45	60.00
No occupation	00	00
Source of Information		
Social Media	58	77.33
Newspaper	12	16.00
Family and Friends	05	6.67
Book and journal	00	00

The above Table 1 shows that distribution of community people according to age, gender, education, occupation and

source of information. Majority 57.33% of the community people were in the age group of 31 - 40 years and majority 76% were males. 89.33% of community people were completed their post graduation. Most of the community people 77.33% gained information from social media and 16% gained from newspaper.

Table 2: Level of Awareness score of community people towards COVID 19, n=75

Level of awareness Score	Frequency	Percentage
Poor	00	00
Average	13	17.33
Good	32	42.67
Excellent	30	40.00

The above table 2 shows that, 42.67% of the samples had good level of awareness and 40% had excellent level of awareness score regarding COVID 19.

Table 3: Assessment of Awareness score of community people towards COVID 19, n=75

Category	Minimum score	Maximum score	Mean	Standard deviation	Mean percentage
Awareness	6	10	7.68	1.60	76.8

The above table 3 indicates that most of the community people were having excellent awareness towards COVID 19. Mean awareness score of community people towards COVID 19 was 7.68.

5. Discussion

The present study shows that, Majority 57.33% of the community people were in the age group of 31 - 40 years and majority 76% were males. 89.33% of community people were completed their post graduation. Most of the community people 77.33% gained information from social media and 16% gained from newspaper. Based on mean score of the participants demonstrated that, the majority of the participants are aware about COVID 19. Mean awareness score of community people towards COVID 19 was 7.68. There was no significant association found between the findings with selected demographic variables among community people.

A study attempted to assess the awareness, threat, symptoms and its prevention among people of India about the COVID-19. A total of 522 responses from all over India were received. The respondents have adequate awareness for COVID-19 outbreak and its preventive measures, out of total, 98% (513) answered that the virus spreads from one person to another, 95% (494) answered that the disease is caused by a virus. Peoples understand the importance of social distancing and other preventive measures prescribed by the government with good attitude for coronavirus.⁹

6. Conclusion

The aim of this study was to assess the awareness of community people towards COVID 19. Finding of the study suggest that, the participants have adequate awareness about COVID 19. This study will help community people to understand about COVID 19 and its prevention.

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