

Awareness And Practices Related To Covid 19 Among Public In Coimbatore

Dr. W Saranya¹, Hariprasath.L²

^{1,2}Dept of Commerce with Professional Accounting

^{1,2} Sri Ramakrishna College of Arts & Science

Abstract- The main objective of the study is to know the awareness of people and their practices against novel corona virus (covid 19) among people of Coimbatore city. It started with general introduction to research objectives, statement of the problem and purpose of the study. This was followed by the comprehensive literature review of awareness of people against covid with reference to Coimbatore city. The researcher made use of the of the survey design to gather necessary information. Simple random sampling was used to select sample of population. Through the research methodology involving collection of data from a sample of residents of Coimbatore, the researcher applied self-administered questionnaire to obtain primary data through the means of google form and analyze.

I. INTRODUCTION

COVID-19 started from one city of China in December 2019, but in a short span of time, it covered almost all over the world. Nearly 216 countries of the whole world are struggling for their civilization and livelihood against the coronavirus pandemic. On January 11, 2020, China declared first death of their 61 years old citizen due to COVID-19, who was exposed to the seafood market, but now death reached exponentially to 357,736 on 29th May 2020. On February 11, 2020, WHO announced this coronavirus disease as COVID-19 and pandemic on March 11, 2020, after reaching the virus infection to 114 countries across the world.

On 30 January, India reported its first case of COVID-19 in Kerala, which rose to three cases by 3 February; all were students who had returned from Wuhan, China.(Davyreid 2020) On 24 March 2020, the Government of India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi ordered a nationwide lockdown for 21 days, limiting movement of the entire 1.3 billion population of India as a preventive measure against the COVID-19 pandemic in India.

COVID-19 symptoms range from mild to severe. It takes 2-14 days after exposure for symptoms to develop.

Symptoms may include:

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath
- chills
- repeated shaking with chills
- muscle pain
- headache
- sore throat
- new loss of taste or smell

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To study about the level of awareness of Covid 19 among the people.
2. To know their practices against Covid 19.
3. To study the current measures taken against Covid 19 after 2 waves of the pandemic.
4. To study and research about the attitude of people against Covid 19 in the year 2022.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

There are emerging signs of the negative impact of Covid 19 among people. They face difficulties in travelling places, worried about their daily commute to work and worried about their family safety against the deadly virus. So the researcher wants to know the awareness and practices and attitudes of people in the current situation.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Globally, the COVID-19 pandemic has become a major concern despite developed or developing countries; it is one of the most dominant challenges globally. Countries worldwide adopted and still adopting unprecedented infection prevention and control measures to urgently curtail the transmission of COVID-19. As aforementioned, COVID-19 was first reported by WHO on the 31st December 2019 and announced a global pandemic on the 11th March 2020.

Several studies have been conducted associated with COVID-19 effects in global economies, individuals and

communities studied a sample of 20 countries, and estimated a decline of over 10 to 15% in GDP. Further, it is stated that service-oriented economies will be negatively affected and may have more job risks. And countries highly dependent on foreign trade are ever more negatively affected. Similarly, Nicola et al.¹⁹ predicted that social distancing, travel restriction and social isolation might lead to a reduced workforce in most sectors and caused unemployment.

The COVID-19 outbreak is severely disrupting the world economy. Almost all the economies are struggling to slow down the diseases spread by imposing lockdowns, quarantining suspected cases, testing and treating patients, etc. COVID-19 has a great effect on society and the global environment.

Despite the effects on society, the global environment and the economy some studies have investigated the knowledge, attitude and practices/behavior of individuals regarding COVID-19. For instance, It also measures the knowledge, attitudes and practices towards COVID-19 among people in North-Central Nigeria also evidenced that individuals having sound knowledge exhibits a positive attitude and adopted practices to lessen the spread of COVID-19.

III. RESEARCH OF METHODOLOGY

Research area:

The study was carried out in the Coimbatore city, Tamil Nadu. Area of the study refers to the Coimbatore city which is the Manchester of south India. It is 2nd most populated city in TamilNadu next to Chennai which is capital city of Tamil Nadu. The population of Coimbatore is 28,00,000 according to research conducted in 2021.

Sampling method:

Convenience sampling is the method used to collect the data from the respondents by questionnaire. The study uses only primary data. For the purpose of collection of data, the questionnaire has been prepared and data collected from the Coimbatore city.

Sampling Size:

Sampling size taken in this study is 105 respondents.

Limitation of study:

- The analysis is the awareness and practices of people against covid 19.
- The respondents of research were only 105 respondents.
- The findings of the study are applicable to the people only in the selected study areas and cannot be generalised for other areas.

IV. TOOLS USED FOR ANALYSIS

Percentage analysis

Gender

S.no	Gender	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Male	70	63.6
2	Female	40	36.4
	Total	110	100

Source: Primary data

Interpretation:

From the analysis, it shows that 63.6% respondents are male, 36.4% respondents are female, thus the majority of respondents are male.

Age

S.no	Age	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	18-23	55	50
2	24-30	20	18.2
3	30-35	15	13.6
4	35 above	20	18.2
	Total	110	100

Source: Primary data

Interpretation:

From the analysis, it shows that 50% respondents are in the age 18-23, 18.2% respondents are in the age 24-30, 13.6% respondents are in the age 30-35, 18.2% are in the age 35 above, thus the majority of respondents are in the age 18-23.

Do you wear a face mask while going outside, after the COVID-19 pandemic has started

S.no	Do you wear a face mask while going outside, after the COVID-19 pandemic has started	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	45	40.9
2	No	20	18.2
3	May be	45	40.9
	Total	110	100

Source: Primary data

Interpretation:

From the analysis, it shows that 40.9% wear masks, 18.2% don't wear masks and 40.9% wear masks sometimes, thus the majority of respondents wear mask.

Do you got infected by COVID - 19?

S.no	Do you got infected by COVID 19?	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	55	50
2	No	55	50
	Total	110	100

Source: Primary data

Interpretation:

From the above analysis, it shows that 50% got affected by COVID-19 and 50% did not get affected by COVID-19.

What are the common symptom?s of COVID-19

S.no	What are the common symptoms of COVID-19?	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Fever	50	45.5%
2	cold	15	13.6%
3	cough	5	4.5%
4	difficulty in breathing	10	13.6%
5	None of the above	30	27.3%
		110	100%

Source: Primary data

Interpretation:

From the above analysis it shows that, 45.5% got fever, 13.6% got cold, 4.5% got cough, 13.6% had difficulty in breathing and 27.3% did not get any of the above symptoms, thus the majority of the respondents got affected by fever.

Do you practise social distancing from other people while being outside?

S.no	Do you practise social distancing from other people while being outside?	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Yes, everytime	15	13.6%
2	Yes, mostly	20	18.2%
3	Yes, rarely	30	27.3%
4	No, I don't	25	40.9%
	Total	110	100%

Source: Primary data

Interpretation:

From the analysis, it shows that 13.6% people follow social distancing everytime, 18.2% will follow social distancing mostly, 27.3% will follow social distancing rarely and 40.9% will not follow social distancing. Thus, the majority of the people will not follow social distancing

What type of mask you wear while going outside?

S.no	What type of mask you wear while going outside?	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Cloth	20	18.2%
2	Surgical or Medical Mask	40	36.4%
3	N95 or equivalent	50	45.5%
	Total	110	100%

Source: Primary data

Interpretation:

From the analysis, it show that 18.2% wear cloth, 36.4% wear Surgical or Medical Mask and 45.5% wear N95 or Equivalent while going outside, thus the majority of the people wear N95 or Equivalent while going outside

.Have you vaccinated?

S.no	Have you vaccinated ?	No. of respondents	Percent age
1	Yes	80	72.7%
2	Yes, only 1 st dose	20	18.2%
3	No	10	9.2%
	Total	110	100%

Source: Primary data

Interpretation:

From the analysis, it shows that 72.7% people have vaccinated both the dose, 18.2% people have vaccinated only one dose and 9,2% have not vaccinated. Thus, the majority of the people have vaccinated both the dose.

Are you currently taking any home remedies or immune boosting foods to protect against COVID-19?

S.no	Are you currently taking any home remedies or immune boosting foods to protect against COVID-19?	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	35	31.8%
2	No	25	22.7%
3	Sometimes	50	45.5%
	Total	110	100%

Source: Primary data

Interpretation:

From the analysis, it shows that 31.8% taking home remedies or immune boosting foods to protect against COVID-19, 22.7% not taking home remedies or immune boosting foods to protect against COVID-19 and 45.5% sometimes taking home remedies or immune boosting foods to protect against COVID-19.

Have you engaged in any physical activities after the pandemic?

S.no	Have you engaged in any physical activities after the pandemic ?	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	35	31.8%
2	No	25	22.7%
3	Sometimes	50	45.5%
	Total	110	100%

Source: Primary data

Interpretation:

From the analysis, it shows that 31.8% have engaged in any physical activities, 22.7% have not engaged in any physical activities and 45.5% sometimes engaged in any physical activities.

V. FINDINGS

- Majority of the people will not follow social distancing.
- Majority of the people wear N95-Equivalent type of mask while going outside.
- 72.7% people vaccinated both the dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- 50% people got affected by COVID-19
- 50% people not affected by COVID-19
- 22.7% people engaged in physical activities after the pandemic
- Majority of the people wear mask.
- 45.5% sometimes taking home remedies or immune boosting foods to protect against COVID-19.
- 9.2% people have not vaccinated COVID-19 vaccine.
- 45.5% sometimes taking home remedies or immune boosting foods to protect against COVID-19.

VI. SUGGESTION

Tailored education programs and emphasis by public health authorities on sustained compliance of protective measures by the public is necessary for individuals with low practice of personal protective measures. Increased awareness and practice were associated with females, high socioeconomic status and high levels of education. Adherence of public to the advised personal protective measures by the WHO, including hand hygiene and wearing gloves and masks, is crucial to control the COVID-19. The price of the face mask and hand sanitizer need to be determined. The government can subsidize here so that people of all levers can buy masks and hand sanitizer. Posters and billboards with various religious

instructions about the epidemic can be put up in public areas. Public transport must be brought under strict control. Before a journey by buses, trains and launches it has to ensure that everyone is washing hands and wearing a mask. In this case, the government can give some incentive to bus and launch owners associations. Which will encourage them and public awareness will raise. The government should be strict. In particular, meeting, seminars, human chains or markets should be less crowded. The government may set up police checkpoints where public gatherings are more frequent. In this case, if the hygiene rules are not followed, an effective penalty system can be introduced. All government and non-government organizations need to work collaboratively to increase public awareness. As a result of the lack of collaboration, it is seen that everyone is working in the same area again and again but in some areas, nothing is being done at all. The government can provide incentives for non-governmental organizations that are playing a very good role in raising public awareness.

VII. CONCLUSION

In summary, the degree of awareness portrayed by the studied populations is mildly adequate, yet lacking in specific dimensions such as transmission and treatment awareness. It seems that both populations exhibit similar trends of attitudes and perceptions toward the COVID-19 pandemic, hence their analogous cultures. Concerned authorities should allocate time and resources into raising awareness through official platforms and extensive social media campaigns, in an effort to help the populace overcome the challenges of the emergent pandemic. Despite the moderate public awareness, their attitude and practice were better. Therefore, Public awareness must be improved to be prepared for epidemic and pandemic situations. A comprehensive public health education program is important to increase awareness and to reach sufficient knowledge. The government has taken many steps to raise public awareness but these are not reaching the people in remote areas. The main reason for this is that the government has been able to increase public involvement. In this case, the government should provide online and offline training to the volunteers of various volunteer organizations. Then all these volunteers will be able to campaign by area. Local government representatives need to work in a frank way to increase awareness. Many times they can't come to a conclusion for fear of losing popularity. They need to make psychological changes in this case. People who have been recovered from the coronavirus can be involved in raising and how they recover, it can play a vital role in raising public awareness.

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