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A study to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding COVID -19 among the students of selected University Guwahati Assam

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Abstract

Corona virus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Most people infected with the virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. However, some will become seriously ill and require medical attention. Older people and those with underlying medical conditions like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, or cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. Anyone can get sick with COVID-19 and become seriously ill or die at any age. A Descriptive research design was adopted for the study. Samples were taken from a selected University Guwahati, Assam. In this Descriptive study we have found that majority of the sample that is 74%(111) were having adequate knowledge regarding COVID -19 and 26%(39) were having moderate knowledge and the findings also shows that 60%(90) having positive attitude and from there 57% strongly agreed that “we may get infected while taking care of COVID-19 patients”, 39.6% strongly agreed that “prevalence can be stop if all health care workers taken active participation”, 55.9% strongly agreed that “Early detection of COVID-19 can improve the treatment and outcome”. Where again 31.1 % agree that “COVID-19 is a curable disease” and Maximum 45.5% disagree that “COVID-19 can be treated at home.” .Majority 33.9% agree that “All information available about COVID-19 in India is sufficient”, where as 40% were neutral regarding Government performance of control the COVID-19 outbreak,62.5% also strongly agree that “If COVID -19 cases increase lockdown of cities should be continued”, 51.4 % strongly agree that “health workers taking care of COVID-19 patient should be kept in Isolation .49% strongly agree that “travel restriction should be there to control the COVID-19 outbreak and reduce transmission”, 29.5% strongly agree that “health education can prevent COVID-19” and 50% also agree that using PPE Kit can prevent the health worker from getting infection”. The findings also showed that ($r=0.082$) there is no correlation between knowledge and attitude regarding COVID-19.

Keywords: Attitude, COVID -19, knowledge, university student

Introduction

Gopalakrishnan S. *et al* conducted a cross-sectional study on 2020 conducted among HCWs. The questionnaire identified participants’ demographics and the current KAP related to COVID-19. The result of the study were 1,429 total participants, 71.9% belonged to age group 21-40 years. Female workers constituted 61.5%. Only 40.2% received any infection control training and 62.7% relied upon single source of information update. However, 82.9% of participants had adequate knowledge. Being married, urban dwelling and higher qualification were associated with knowledge adequacy ($p<0.001$). Interestingly, senior HCWs (age 41-50 years) were least likely to have adequate knowledge (74.1%). 84.2% had positive attitude towards COVID. Notably, 83.8% feared providing care to COVID patient. 93% practiced safety precautions correctly most of the times and training had no influence on practice. Positive correlation was recognized between adequate knowledge and positive attitude ($r=0.26$). More than 80% of HCWs in India had adequate knowledge, positive attitude and practiced safely most of the time. However pitfalls like poor training, knowledge uncertainties and fear of disease acquisition among HCWs need to be addressed. Adverse outcomes can be averted by structured training sessions and psychological support programs for HCWs.

For this research study a descriptive research design was adopted, and participants were from a selected university, Guwahati, Assam. The findings shows that Majority of the sample that is 74% (111) were having adequate knowledge regarding COVID -19 and 26% (39) were

having moderate knowledge and The findings shows that 60%(90) having positive attitude and from there 57% strongly agreed that “we may get infected while taking care of COVID-19 patients”, 39.6% strongly agreed that “prevalence can be stop if all health care workers taken active participation”, 55.9% strongly agreed that “Early detection of COVID -19 can improve the treatment and outcome”. Whereas again 31.1% agree that “COVID -19 is a curable disease” and Maximum 45.5% disagree that “COVID -19 can be treated at home.” Majority 33.9% agree that “ All information available about COVID -19 in India is sufficient”, where as 40% were neutral regarding Government performance of control the COVID -19 outbreak.62.5% also strongly agree that “If COVID -19 cases increase lockdown of cities should be continued”, 51.4% strongly agree that “health workers taking care of COVID -19 patient should be kept in Isolation. 49% strongly agree that “travel restriction should be there to control the COVID-19 outbreak and reduce transmission”, 29.5% strongly agree that “health education can prevent COVID -19” and 50% also agree that using PPE Kit can prevent the health worker from getting infection”.

Back ground of the study

The pandemic caused by SARS-CoV-2 has swept through the world causing unprecedented loss of lives and livelihood. Successful outbreak containment requires sound knowledge of the disease and a positive attitude among affected population. Research efforts in China revealed that an optimistic attitude among general population was conducive to gain victory over COVID-19 pandemic. India is the second most populous country on the globe with a population density of 382 persons/square km. Recent updates reveal a case load of 35, 42, 733 with 63,498 COVID-19 deaths, the third highest in the world. Overcrowding and low literacy levels establish India as a fertile ground for COVID-19 propagation. The Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) of key stakeholders influence the dynamics of pandemic behavior. The human community has seen epidemics before which have evoked anxiety and fear responses among affected populations. Poor knowledge and improper practices of hospital workers propagate rather than contain the infection. Today, the Indian Health Care Worker (HCW) is walking the tight rope balancing an exhaustive work burden and perceived insecurity to life. Going to war with a tired and demoralized work force spells catastrophe for the Health System. As our country bravely battles against the pandemic, HCWs’ KAP need to be assessed to identify knowledge gaps and gauge the psychological impact on them. Previous research works have either unveiled the KAP of general public or investigated the mind set of isolated groups (students, doctors, patients, etc.) preferential. The information available so far is piecemeal which cannot be construed into a meaningful representation of the wholesome health care team. To our knowledge, this is the first effort in our country to assess the COVID related KAP of the entire health care team.

Problem Statement

“A study to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding COVID -19 among the students of selected University Guwahati Assam

Objectives

1. To assess knowledge.
2. To assess attitude.
3. To find out the correlation between knowledge and attitude.

Purpose

The purpose of the study was to determine the knowledge and attitude of student regarding COVID -19 among students to strengthening ongoing preventive measures and precaution against COVID -19 which will help in increase the awareness about it.

Methodology

Research Approach

The descriptive research approach was adopted.

Variables

Research variable

Knowledge and attitude of students regarding. COVID -19

Demographic Variable

Age, Gender, residence, professional qualification, type of family, prior information regarding COVID -19 and source of information.

Assumption

1. Students may not have adequate knowledge regarding COVID -19
2. Students may not have positive attitude towards COVID -19.

Setting of the Study

The setting of the study was

Assam downtown University, Panikhaiti Guwahati Assam.

Population

In this study target population comprised of all the students of Assam Down Town University.

Sample

Students of Assam Down Town University.

Sampling Criteria

Stratified Random Sampling technique was adopted for the present Study.

Sample Size

The sample size selected were 150 number of student according to convenient of the research study.

Data Collection Tools

The following tools were used

1. **Tool I:** Demographic Proforma to know the sample characteristics, It include total 7 items after validation and suggestion given by expert.
2. **Tool II:** Structured check list was used to assess the knowledge regarding COVID -19
3. **Tool III:** Structured 5 point likert scale was used to assess the attitude towards COVID -19

Validity of the Tool

To determine the content validity, the draft if tool along

with the criterion checklist was submitted to five experts from different field of nursing. 2 from the field of medical surgical nursing, 2 from the field of community health Nursing and one more from the field of Psychiatric nursing.

Reliability and Pretesting

The reliability of the tool III was done by using Cronbach's alpha and the 'r' value was found 0.76.

The reliability of the tool II was established by administering the tool III to 20 number of student and it was calculated by using Split Half technique and correlation was computed by using 'Sperman Brown Prophecy' and the 'r' value was found 0.82. So it was found that both the tool was reliable for the study.

Review of literature

The review of literature was done under two headings

- Studies Related to Knowledge About COVID -19
- Studies Related to Attitude towards COVID -19

Major findings of this study

1) Demographic data of the sample

- a) **Age:** Maximum of the sample that is (62%) were from the age group of 22 – 25 years of age.
- b) **Sex:** Majority of the sample belongs to male gender that is (95%).
- c) **Residence:** Under residence Majority are from urban area that is 57.7% and 20.57% from city area.
- d) **Educational qualification:** Majority of the sample that is 90% were under graduate and rest 10% were post graduate.
- e) **Type of family:** Majority that is 66.7% were from nuclear family whereas 29.1% from others.
- f) **Prior information regarding COVID -19:** Majority that is 88.5% had received prior information regarding COVID -19.
- g) **Source of information:** In case of source of information majority that is 42.7% got prior information regarding COVID -19 from electronic Media.

2) Assessment of knowledge regarding COVID -19 among students of Assam Down Town University.

The findings shows that Majority of the sample that is 74% (111) were having adequate knowledge regarding COVID -19 and 26% (39) were having moderate knowledge.

3) Assessment of Attitude towards COVID -19 among students of Assam Down Town University.

The findings shows that 60%(90) having positive attitude and from there 57% strongly agreed that "we may get infected while taking care of COVID-19 patients", 39.6% strongly agreed that "prevalence can be stop if all health care workers taken active participation", 55.9% strongly agreed that "Early detection of COVID -19 can improve the treatment and outcome".

Where again 31.1% agree that "COVID -19 is a curable disease" and Maximum 45.5% disagree that "COVID -19 can be treated at home."

Majority 33.9% agree that "All information available about COVID -19 in India is sufficient", where as 40% were neutral regarding Government performance of control the COVID -19 outbreak.

62.5% also strongly agree that "If COVID -19 cases

increase lockdown of cities should be continued", 51.4% strongly agree that "health workers taking care of COVID -19 patient should be kept in Isolation.

49% strongly agree that "travel restriction should be there to control the COVID-19 outbreak and reduce transmission", 29.5% strongly agree that "health education can prevent COVID -19" and 50% also agree that using PPE Kit can prevent the health worker from getting infection".

4. Correlation between knowledge and attitude regarding COVID -19.

The findings showed that (r=0.082) there is no correlation between knowledge and attitude regarding COVID -19

Discussion

In this descriptive study we have found that Majority of the sample that is 74% (111) were having adequate knowledge regarding COVID -19 and 26% (39) were having moderate knowledge.

The findings shows that 60%(90) having positive attitude and from there 57% strongly agreed that "we may get infected while taking care of COVID-19 patients", 39.6% strongly agreed that "prevalence can be stop if all health care workers taken active participation", 55.9% strongly agreed that "Early detection of COVID -19 can improve the treatment and outcome".

Where again 31.1% agree that "COVID -19 is a curable disease" and Maximum 45.5% disagree that "COVID -19 can be treated at home." Majority 33.9% agree that "All information available about COVID -19 in India is sufficient", where as 40% were neutral regarding Government performance of control the COVID -19 outbreak. 62.5% also strongly agree that "If COVID -19 cases increase lockdown of cities should be continued", 51.4% strongly agree that "health workers taking care of COVID -19 patient should be kept in Isolation. 49% strongly agree that "travel restriction should be there to control the COVID-19 outbreak and reduce transmission", 29.5% strongly agree that "health education can prevent COVID -19" and 50% also agree that using PPE Kit can prevent the health worker from getting infection "and is no correlation between knowledge and attitude regarding COVID -19

Similar studies were conducted by Srivastava. A, Bala. R, Ratan Chandra, Kumar Shaw. P The study aimed to assess knowledge, attitude, practices, and perception (KAP) toward COVID-19 among the population of eight North Eastern (NE) states of India. Methods: A cross-sectional study from June 30 to July 13, 2020 was carried out through a self-reported, structured questionnaire that was circulated online to participants of age group of 18 years or above. Convenient sampling was used to recruit respondents for the study. Results: The study received responses from 8309 participants. Key findings revealed that most respondents had good knowledge of preventive measures and common symptoms of COVID-19. The majority of the respondents showed a good attitude and adopted preventive practices. The mean score of knowledge was 7.137, attitude was 16.132, practice was 9.379, and perception was 13.583. The scores of four KAP categories significantly differed across most of the demographic variables ($p < 0.001$). The majority of people took homoeopathic medicine as prophylaxis for immune booster. Conclusion: The study highlights that the focus on behavioral change communication in all the NE

states could be strengthened, especially in rural areas. Advocacy based on the comprehensive list of symptoms for COVID-19 may also be bolstered. There is scope for strategically promoting knowledge, immunity boosting, and self-care practices suggested in the AYUSH systems of medicine

Conclusion

The success of battle against COVID-19 depends on public adherence towards infection control measures, which is greatly affected by their knowledge, perception, and practices towards this infection.

Majority of the sample that is 74% (111) were having adequate knowledge regarding COVID -19 and 26%(39) were having moderate knowledge and The findings shows that 60% (90) having positive attitude and from there 57% strongly agreed that “we may get infected while taking care of COVID-19 patients”, 39.6% strongly agreed that “prevalence can be stop if all health care workers taken active participation”, 55.9% strongly agreed that “ Early detection of COVID -19 can improve the treatment and outcome”. Whereas again 31.1% agree that “COVID -19 is a curable disease” and Maximum 45.5% disagree that “COVID -19 can be treated at home.” Majority 33.9% agree that “ All information available about COVID -19 in India is sufficient”, where as 40% were neutral regarding Government performance of control the COVID -19 outbreak. 62.5% also strongly agree that “If COVID -19 cases increase lockdown of cities should be continued”, 51.4% strongly agree that “health workers taking care of COVID -19 patient should be kept in Isolation. 49% strongly agree that “travel restriction should be there to control the COVID-19 outbreak and reduce transmission”, 29.5% strongly agree that “health education can prevent COVID -19” and 50% also agree that using PPE Kit can prevent the health worker from getting infection”.

So we can conclude that University Students were having moderate knowledge regarding COVID -19.

Spreading more knowledge and awareness regarding COVID -19 can help to develop a positive towards the various preventive aspects of the disease.

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