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Scientific Paper Presentation

A Study to Assess the Awareness on Covid Appropriate Behaviour Among General Public Visiting a Selected Hospital in Bengaluru

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The coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) is a contagious disease caused by SARS-COV-2 that was first identified in Wuhan, China. The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared its outbreak as a public health emergency of international concern on 30 January 2020, and a pandemic on 11 March 2020. WHO announced Covid-19 as the new disease on 11 February 2020. According to World Health statistics as in November 2021, around 24.9 crore new cases, and 50.3 lakh deaths were reported. The global number of new cases reported seems to be plateauing after increasing for nearly two months since mid-June 2021.

Need for the Study

The rate of spread of Covid-19 disease has been quite fast. The trend has shown that it has been tremendously increasing over with passage of time. So, the need for maintaining CAB was enforced by the Government. Covid-appropriate behaviour (CAB) such as using face masks, frequently washing hands with soap and water, social distancing etc. were emphasised in order to prevent and control the disease. These measures were expected to reduce the number of cases.

A cross-sectional study in India on public awareness on prevention of spread of Covid-19 among 21,406 adult participants by extensive survey method revealed that the level of public awareness is inadequate in India and there is a need to extend the knowledge among individuals.

The Government has already taken many initiatives like promulgation of Karnataka Epidemic Disease Act, 2020 which was brought into force on 24 March 2020. It provided fine upon violating CAB. It is felt that improving the knowledge, attitude and practice of the public regarding CAB will help control the spread of disease.

We have a diverse population in our country including the educated and uneducated. It is considered important to identify the level of their awareness. A large study has also shown that there

is an inadequate level of awareness among people. Hence the investigator was interested to undertake the study.

Significance in Nursing

Coronavirus which came appeared unaware towards the end of 2019 has still no signs of being decimated towards the end of 2021. This goes to establish that now it is the core responsibility of each citizen to make sure it is eliminated. After it turned into a pandemic with its strains proliferating, the fear across the globe for the upcoming wave was natural. Nurses being the frontline workers play a vital role in uplifting the society from this crisis. Their roles extend from providing health education, preventing nosocomial infection, advising on appropriate precautions and preparations for patient care, protection of patient with immune deficits and to provide holistic care.

Objectives

- To assess the awareness among general public on Covid-appropriate behaviour.
- To determine the association between awareness on Covid-appropriate behaviour with selected baseline variables.

Hypothesis

H1: There will be a significant association between awareness on CAB with selected baseline variable at 0.05 level of significance.

Projected outcome: Findings of study will reveal the existing awareness regarding CAB and it serve as base for development of awareness programme.

Assumption: The general public may have some knowledge about the precautionary measures.

Delimitation: The study is limited to the patients who are attending OPD of single tertiary care hospital of Bengaluru.

Review of Literature

A cross sectional study was done in India on aware-

Table 1: Range, Mean, Mean, Percent and standard deviation of subjects on overall awareness on CAB (N=100)

Characteristics	Maximum Score	Range of score	Mean	SD	Mean (%)
Awareness on Covid-appropriate behaviour	20	9-20	16.54	2.39	82.7

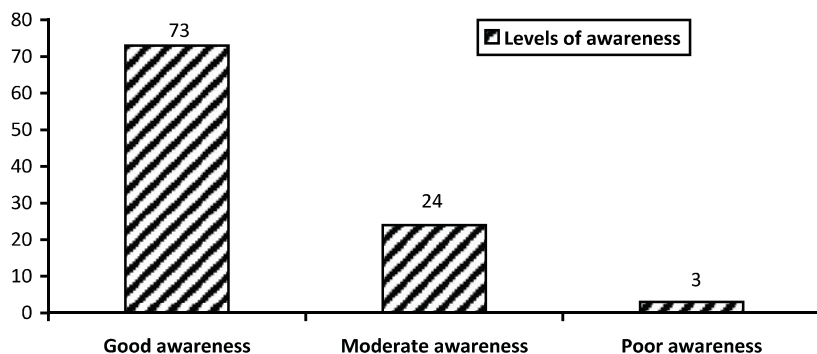


Figure 1: Levels of awareness on Covid-appropriate behaviour.

ness among general public towards Covid-19. A self-administered questionnaire was administered to 600 participants. The result showed that 39.7 percent of the individuals have adequate knowledge, 82.1 percent and 82.9 percent revealed appropriate practice. An appropriate practice was seen in the majority whereas inadequate knowledge was there in the greatest number of participants.

Another cross-sectional study was done in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on public awareness on Covid-19. Close-ended questionnaire was administered to 575 participants. The results showed that 60 percent of subjects thought that their knowledge about Covid-19 was insufficient. Analysis of practices revealed that majority (76.2%) had good habits including commitment to hand hygiene, cough etiquette, and limiting social interaction.

Methodology

The research approach adopted was Quantitative Research type. It used Descriptive Survey design. The study was set in a tertiary care hospital having 1350 beds. The study population consisted of all the patients and their attendants coming to the OPD of SJMCH. Sample size was 100. Convenient sampling technique was used in the study.

The tool consisted of

a structured questionnaire on awareness on CAB having 20 items; 75-100 percent is good awareness, 51-75 percent moderate awareness and less than 50 percent poor awareness.

Results

Overall awareness on CAB among subjects

Table 1 shows that overall mean awareness of the subject is 16.54 ± 2.39 with the mean percentage of 82.7, hence there is a good awareness on the Covid-appropriate behaviour.

Figure 1 shows that 73 percent subjects had good awareness, 24 percent had moderate awareness, and only 3 percent had poor awareness.

Figure 2 shows that all participants (100%) were aware of necessity of hand wash with soap and water, 40 percent were aware about protection

from Covid vaccine.

Association between awareness on CAB and baseline variables

Table 2 depicts that there is significant association between annual income and awareness as well as between type of family and awareness. There was no significant association between awareness and any other baseline variables.

Discussion

Findings related to Overall awareness regarding Covid appropriate behaviour

In the present study the overall mean awareness of the subjects is 16.54 ± 2.39 with a mean percent-

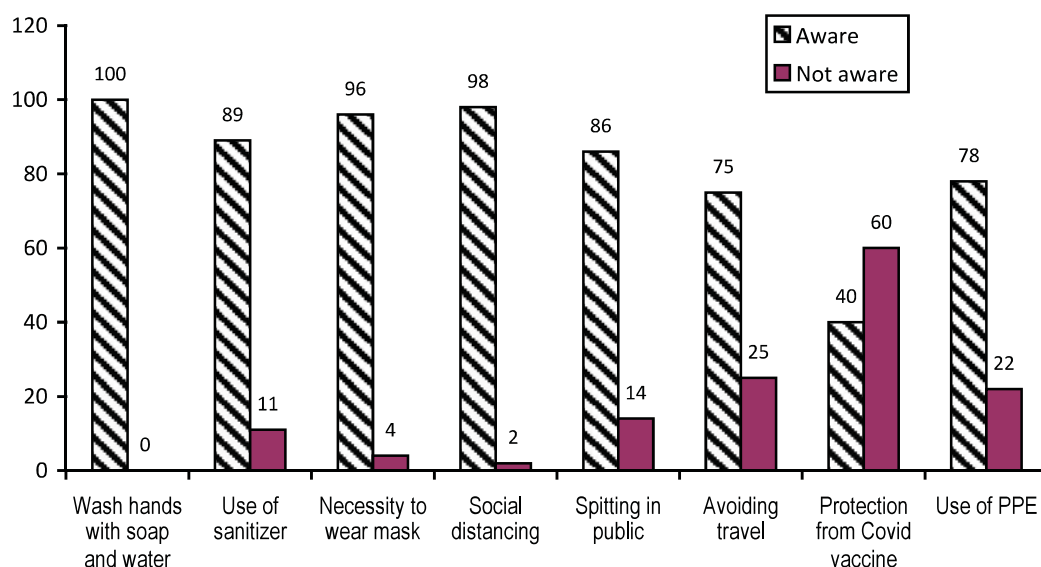


Figure 2: Domain-wise Covid appropriate behaviour.

Table 2: Association between awareness on CAB and baseline variables (N=100)

Sl. No	Variables	Poor aware	Moderate	Good aware	Test of significance	p value
1	Age 18-38 years 38-58 years 58-78 years	03 0 0	18 06 0	54 15 04	2.078 (Fisher exact)	0.765 NS
2	Gender Male Female	03 0	15 09	47 26	1.269 (Fisher exact)	0.696 NS
3	Education Primary School Middle School High School Graduate	0 0 1 2	0 0 12 12	7 8 20 38	7.882 (Fisher exact)	0.189 NS
4	Occupation Skilled worker Semi-skilled Unskilled worker Semi-professional	2 0 0 1	6 5 8 5	34 10 13 16	6.231 (Fisher exact)	0.326 NS
5	Residence Urban Rural	2 1	9 15	22 51	2.136 (Fisher exact)	0.361 NS
6	Type of family Nuclear Joint	1 2	5 19	40 33	9.733 (Fisher exact)	0.026*
7	Annual Income (Rs) ≤ 19,516 > 19,516	3 0	4 20	11 62	9.585 (Fisher exact)	0.008*
8	Previous H/O Covid Yes No	0 3	1 23	9 64	1.189 (Fisher exact)	0.595 NS
9	Co-morbidities Yes No	0 3	3 21	4 69	1.792 (Fisher exact)	0.486 NS
10	Source of Information Newspaper Arogya Setu App Social Media Television	0 2 0 1	4 2 7 11	13 17 17 26	5.885 (Fisher exact)	0.369 NS

* Significant at 0.05 level.

age of 82.7 percent. Only 3 percent had poor awareness; however, 73 percent had good awareness. The domain-wise data shows that all the subjects (100%) had complete awareness on hand hygiene while 40 percent had least awareness regarding protection from Covid vaccine. A similar cross-sectional study conducted online among Indian society showed 505 (96.7%) practiced hand washing, 515 (98.6%) maintained social distancing and 510 (97%) felt the need for wearing mask.

Findings related to association between awareness on CAB and baseline variables

The present study shows a statistically significant

association between awareness and type of family, as members of nuclear family devote more time among themselves and mostly remain under protection. There is also a significant association between awareness and annual income, which justifies that increased income leads to increased socioeconomic status and better living conditions. This condition leads to better awareness of people.

Implication of the study

The findings of the study throw light on need for a customised health education programme by the nursing students.

The study emphasises that it is the core responsibility of the nurse to include health teaching as part of care for patients and the general public. It serves as data base to develop teaching modules and to take up further similar studies.

Recommendation

The study can be undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness of awareness of CAB.

The study can be undertaken to observe the actual practice on CAB.

A study can be undertaken to compare practice of Covid-Appropriate Behaviour among different strata.

Conclusion

The study findings have thrown light on the existing overall awareness levels of people. It showed that 73 percent of the subjects had good awareness, 24 percent had moderate awareness and only 3 percent of them had poor awareness. Thus, there is a need to provide tailored

health education and to observe the practices of the population so as to change the practice of inappropriate to Covid-appropriate behaviour.

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