

AWARENESS AND PREVALENCE OF TELANGANA PEOPLE TOWARDS COVID-19 IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Corona virus is a new strain of virus which comes under SARS family. The first case of corona was detected in the month of January on 30th in India. It has been recognized as a Pandemic by WHO which was originated in Wuhan, China in the month of December 2019. To prevent the spreading of the Virus, all the Nations of the World have taken efforts in developing awareness in the public to overcome the virus spread. The main Aim of the study is to access the knowledge, perceptions, and awareness on Covid19 Virus. In this context, I have prepared a questionnaire on the Pandemic in Google forms to check the awareness in people on the Virus especially in Telangana State,

India. The survey questionnaire was attempted by a total of 150 people irrespective of Age groups, Gender and occupation. The mean awareness of people was 73%.

KEYWORDS: Corona, Awareness, Safety measures.

INTRODUCTION

Corona virus 2019 (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by **Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Corona virus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)**. It was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, China, and has since spread globally, resulting in an ongoing Pandemic. As of 24th May 2020, more than 5.31 million cases have been reported across 188 countries and territories, resulting in more than 342,000 deaths and more than 2.11 million people have recovered.

Common symptoms include fever, cough, fatigue, shortness of breath, and loss of smell and taste. Most of the people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Elderly people,

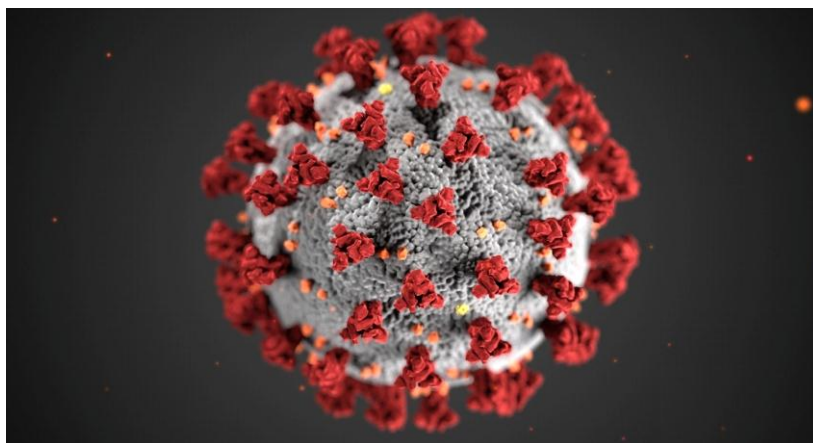
and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness.

While the majority of cases result in mild symptoms, some progress to **Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS)** likely precipitated by a cytokine storm, multi-organ failure, septic shock, and blood clots. The time from exposure to onset of symptoms is typically around five days but may range from two to fourteen days. The virus is primarily spread between people during close contact, most often via small droplets produced by coughing, sneezing, and talking. The droplets usually fall to the ground or onto surfaces rather than travelling through air over long distances. Less commonly, people may become infected by touching a contaminated surface and then touching their face. It is most contagious during the first three days after the onset of symptoms, although spread is possible before symptoms appear, and from people who do not show symptoms. The standard method of diagnosis is by **real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR)** from a nasopharyngeal swab. Chest CT imaging may also be helpful for diagnosis in individuals where there is a high suspicion of infection based on symptoms and risk factors; however, guidelines do not recommend using CT imaging for routine screening.

Recommended measures to prevent infection include frequent hand washing, maintaining physical distance from others (especially from those with symptoms), quarantine (especially for those with symptoms), covering coughs, and keeping unwashed hands away from the face. In addition, the use of a face covering is recommended for those who suspect they have the virus and their caregivers. Recommendations for face covering use by the general public vary, with some authorities recommending for them, some recommending against them (to conserve masks for healthcare workers), and others requiring their use. There is limited evidence for or against the use of masks (medical or other) in healthy individuals in the wider community. The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is be well informed about the COVID-19 virus, the disease it causes and how it spreads. Protect yourself and others from infection by washing your hands or using an alcohol based rub frequently and not touching your face.

According to the World Health Organization, there are no available vaccines nor specific antiviral treatments for COVID-19. On 1 May 2020, the United States gave emergency use authorization to the antiviral remedy for people hospitalized with severe COVID19. Management involves the treatment of symptoms, supportive care, isolation, and

experimental measures. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID19 outbreak a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) on 30 January 2020 and a pandemic on 11 March 2020. Local transmission of the disease has occurred in most countries across all six WHO regions.



CORONA VIRUS (COVID 19) IN INDIA

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.

The transmission escalated during March, after several cases were reported all over the country, most of which were linked to people with a travel history to affected countries. The number of COVID19 cases in India on May 24th to 1,31,868 lakh with 6,767 new infections reported in the last 24 hours. Of these, 73,560 cases are active infections, while 54,440 patients have been discharged. The death toll has climbed to 3,867.

Government response

Major Indian cities and many states made wearing facial masks compulsory.

Travel and entry restrictions

Screening

Closedown and curfews

Lockdown

Zonal classification

The Government Divided the entire nation into three zones – Green Zone, Red Zone, Orange Zone, and relaxation will be allowed accordingly.

- **Red zone (Hotspots)** – districts with high doubling rate and high number of active cases
- **Orange zone (Non-hotspots)** – Districts with fewer cases
- **Green zone** – Districts without confirmed cases or without new cases in last 21 days

SUBJECTS AND METHODS

Study design

A survey was designed for the study and conducted in May 2020 among people in Telangana state India of different age groups and occupation. The survey was conducted through a link shared on social network.

Study tool

The survey questioner includes 20 questions in English which covers age, gender, occupation and knowledge regarding Covid -19 and also includes the awareness of people to overcome from the virus effect.

Data collection

An online survey portal, google form was created and participants are invited to fill the form and submit through social networks.

DATA ANALYSIS

One hundred and fifty people have responded to the survey within 3 days and I have closed the acceptance of responses.

The data was analyzed by using graphs and noted.

Perceptions and awareness questions

Gender	Male 48.2%	Female 51.8%
Age	>30yrs 58.8%	< 30yrs 41.2%
	Correct answers	Wrong answers
Pandemic disease	93.2%	6.8%
Covid names	40%	60%
Origin of Corona	85.3%	14.7%
Causing agent of corona	52.7%	47.3%
Spread of Covid	50%	50%
Common symptoms	81.5%	18.5%
Rare symptoms	53.4%	46.6%
Incubation period	70.9%	29.1%
Organ effected	93.3%	6.7%
Host cell access	11.6%	88.4%
Active time on metal	42.1%	57.9%

Diagnostic study	45.7%	54.3%
Precautionary measures	74.5%	25.5%
Stop spreading	78.65	21.4%
PPE means	68.3%	31.7%
Meaning of social distance	57.3%	42.7%
Time to wash hands	78.8%	21.2%
Disinfectant to clean	47.2%	52.8%

**These are the percentage of answers collected from respondents.

DISCUSSIONS

Out of all respondents few people are having good knowledge on Covid 19.

In our study participants had good general knowledge about the disease; it's of method of spreads and preventive measures according to the information provided by the WHO. I divided the symptoms of the disease into common and less common ones and asked the participants about the symptoms which denote a good level of knowledge about this point. The Corona Virus was originated in Wuhan china in December 2019 it was answered correctly by majority of people.

A good percent of people know the meaning of pandemic disease. i.e., spread to whole world at a time. The other names of Covid 19 was not known by a majority people, the other names include SARS-CoV 2, Carona, COVID 19, novel corona virus pneumonia and 2019- ncov acute respiratory disease.

The causing agent of corona is the virus comes from the SARs family which effects the upper respiratory tract and it is SARS-CoV- 2, maximum people answered right.

The next question is regarding spreading of virus which was answered very accurately and includes like airborne, bio aerosol and through fomites.

The symptoms of corona are divided into two categories like common and un common or rare symptoms, in my questionire i have included two questions and noticed that people are not having idea on symptoms as they answered that fatigue is the common symptom along with high fever, sore throught. and rare symptoms includes loss of smell, joint pains, diarrhoea etc.

As we all know that the incubation period of virus is 14 days and it's the reason the affected person asks to isolate for that period. So it is answered by many people.

And the virus affects all organs but firstly impact is shown on lungs as it enters through respiratory system and uses ACE2 receptors to attach to the alveolar cells. The percentage of respondents gave correct answer on virus affected organ but they have no knowledge regarding the receptor that the virus used to access in our cells.

virus have different time periods to stay active on different surfaces, so I have asked the time that remains active on stainless steel only 42% gave right answer that is 72hrs.

Respondents answered that only Rt-PCR is the only test to diagnose the virus, they have no idea on antibody test, polymerase chain reaction test.

All the respondents answered that social distancing, personal hygiene are the main tools to protect from the virus and stop spreading of the virus.

PPE is the personal protective equipment, which is used by the persons working closely with infected patients, maximum respondents didn't answer it.

The meaning of social distancing is maintaining a distance of 1.8m, but the respondents are misled by 1m distance. All the respondents are having awareness on washing hands for about 20 sec according to the guidelines of WHO.

In order to sanitize the open space or things to protect from virus we have to use 1% sodium hypochlorite as disinfectant, it is more effective to kill the virus than bactericidal solutions like benzalkonium chloride and chlorhexidine.

CONCLUSION

As of 150 respondents only the 75% are having basic knowledge on virus. and there is a need for government, NGO's to educate people to protect themselves and society from corona virus.

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