A Descriptive Study to Assess the Prevalence of Covid Appropriate Behavior among the General Population Residing in Selected Areas of District Mohali, Punjab

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ABSTRACT

AIM: - To assess the prevalence of covid appropriate behavior among general population.

METHOD: -A non-experimental research design was adopted. Convenient sampling technique was used and 496 sample has participated from selected areas of district Mohali Punjab. Descriptive statistics was used to analyze the data.

RESULT: -The study finding reveals that majority of the subjects are adhering to mask (99.6%), wash hands frequently (96.8%), practice disinfection of frequently touched surface (86%), avoid social gatherings (81.98%), using elbow corner for sneezing and coughing(85.5%) and(80.48%) practice elbow pushing to open door.

CONCLUSION: -The study concludes that majority of the general population residing in selected areas of district Mohali, Punjab practicing covid appropriate behavior and practices on regular basis.

KEYWORDS: Prevalence, covid appropriate behavior, general population

INTRODUCTION

Covid-19 is an illness caused by a novel corona virus, now called severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus.(2) It is a respiratory infection that was first discovered in December 2019, in Wuhan city, china.

Symptoms of covid-19 have been identified as fever, dry cough, fatigue, myalgia, shortness of breath, and dyspnoea. (1)

Covid-19 has ravaged countries around the world. The number of lives taken globally now exceeds more than 550,000 and the number of infections is already above 12 million, of which 60 percent are in emerging and developing economies. The rising number of infections in emerging and developing economies represents a third global wave of COVID-19 outbreaks, following an initial wave in China and neighboring countries that largely subsided and a second wave in advanced economies that was mostly under control until the recent surge in the United States. (2)

In India, which has a massive population of almost 1.37 billion, the first wave peaked in September 2020, while the second wave has been continuing to cause devastation since the beginning of April 2021. Using their formula, the researchers estimated that the highest single-day case peak during the second wave would be 350,000 on May 14, 2021, from a starting number of 8,600 on February 1, 2021.

In turn, the highest single-day case total for the third wave is predicted to be 622,000 on September 5, 2021. Altogether, the number of infected people after three waves was estimated to be approximately 63 million.

"The behavior of the virus cannot be controlled by human behaviour of social distancing and wearing mask. The third wave will come "if invited" either by human behaviour or that of the virus." (3)

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To assess the prevalence of covid appropriate behavior among general population residing in the selected areas of distt. Mohali Punjab.

2. To assess public awareness about the covid preventive measures among general population residing in the selected areas of distt. Mohali Punjab.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Research Approach and Design:
Quantitative approach and Non-Experimental research design was used to assess the prevalence of covid appropriate behaviour among the general population. The present study was conducted in selected areas of distt. Mohali,Punjab.

Sample Size and Sampling Technique:
The sample size was 496 sample. Convenient sampling technique was used you collect the data.

Description of Research Tool:
Asurvey was carried outto assess the prevalence of covid appropriate behavior among general population residing in the selected areas of Distt.Mohali Punjab.

Section A: Socio Demographic Data .it consist of 6 items.

Section B: Self structured questionnaire to assess covid appropriate behavior among general population.

Ethical Considerations: -
Permission was taken from the concerned authorities. Informed written consent was

taken from the subjects prior to the data collection after explaining the purpose of the study. The main study was conducted on 496 subjects which were selected by using the convenient sampling technique in the month of September 2021.

Result: -

Table .1 Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic data

S. No.	Socio Demographic variable	f	%
1.	**Age (in years)**		
	18-28	448	90.3%
	29-39	32	6.5%
	40-50	10	2.0%
	51 & above	6	1.2%
2.	**Gender**		
	Male	132	26.6%
	Female	364	73.4%
3.	**Occupation**		
	Student	443	87.1%
	Academicians	7	1.5%
	Health care professionals	27	5.4%
	Homemakers	7	1.5%
	Agriculture	2	0.5%
	Other	20	4%
4.	**Qualifications**		
	Matric	25	5%
	Senior secondary	274	55.2%
	Graduate	161	32.5%
	Post graduate and above	36	7.3%
5.	**Area of Residence**		
	Rural	300	60.5%
	Urban	196	39.5%

Table no. 1 shows the frequency and percentage distribution of subjects according to selected demographic variables. Majority of subjects between the age group of 18-28 years were 90.3%, followed by 6.5% between 29-39 years. Regarding gender, 73.48% subjects were female and26.6 % were males. With regard to qualification, 55.3% were secondary standard followed by 32% graduates. According to area of residence, 60.5% of subjects belongs to rural area and 39.5 & were from Regarding occupation, majority 87.1% of subjects were students and 13.9% were homemakers, academicians, health care professionals, agriculture respectively

Table 2 Frequency &Percentage distribution of Subjects according to Covid Appropriate Behavior

S. No.	Items	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Adhering to mask	494	99.6
2.	Wash hands frequently (96.8%),	480	96.8
3.	Practice disinfection of frequently touched surface	428	86
4.	Avoid social gathering	406	81.98
5.	Using elbow corner for sneezing and coughing	424	85.5
6.	Practice elbow pushing for opening door	399	80.48

Table 2reveals the covid appropriate behavior among general population of district Mohali, Punjab. Majority of the subjects were adhering to mask (99.6%), wash their hands frequently (96.8%), practice disinfection of frequently touched surface(86%) , avoid social gatherings (81.98%),using elbow corner (85.5%) sneezing and coughing and (80.48%) were practicing elbow pushing for opening door.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, research findings suggests that general population demonstrated good knowledge, positive attitudes and reasonable practices regarding COVID-19 during the outbreak. Furthermore, based on the significant results regarding practices followed by subjects, health education programs, particularly targeting higher knowledge among individuals regarding COVID-19 is essential for encouraging positive attitude and maintain safe practices. Hopefully, by increasing knowledge via public health policy-makers, and the cooperation of concerned authorities and the general population, optimistic control and elimination of the disease can be anticipated.

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