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A study to assess the knowledge regarding coronavirus among the students of selected government degree college of district kangra {H.P.}

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ABSTRACT

Coronavirus disease (Covid-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. A coronavirus is a group of viruses that can cause illnesses such as common cold, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). The objective of the study are to assess the level of knowledge of govt. college students regarding coronavirus and to compare the knowledge of govt. college students regarding coronavirus and to compare the knowledge of govt. college students regarding coronavirus and to compare the knowledge of govt. college students regarding coronavirus and to compare the knowledge of govt. college students regarding coronavirus and to compare the knowledge of govt. college students regarding coronavirus and to compare the knowledge of govt. college students regarding coronavirus and to compare the knowledge of govt. college students regarding coronavirus with their socio-demographic variables. Descriptive research design was used for the study, 100 college students were selected by non-probability convenient sampling technique. The tool developed and used for the data collection was structured knowledge questionnaire. The data obtained was analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. The result depicted that there is association among the socio-demographic variables when the chi square value is < 0.005 and there is no association among the socio-demographic variables when the value is >0.005. The findings of the study revealed that the level of knowledge in half of the students was average and other had poor knowledge.

1.Background of study"

"Nothing In Life Is To Be Feared, It Is Only To Be Understood. Now Is The Time To Understand More, So That We May Fear Less."

- Marie Curie A virus is an infectious agent of small size and simple composition that can multiply only in living cells of animals, plants, or bacteria.

Coronavirus disease (Covid-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. A coronavirus is a group of viruses that can cause illnesses such as common cold, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). Scientists first identified a human corona virus in 1965. It caused a common cold. Later that decade, researchers found a group of similar humans and animal viruses and named them after their crown-like appearance. The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has emerged as a major healthcare challenge worldwide.

"The World Health Organization" declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern regarding COVID-19 on 30 January 2020 and later declared a pandemic on 11 March 2020. As of 15 June 2021, more than 176 million cases have been confirmed, with more than 3.81 million confirmed deaths attributed to COVID-19, making it one of the deadliest pandemics in history. Although the exact origin of the virus is still unknown ^[1] the first outbreak started in Wuhan, Hubei, China in late 2019. Many early cases of COVID-19 were linked to people who had visited the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in Wuhan, ^[2]but it is possible that human-to-human transmission was already happening before this.^[3] PCR

test: Also called a molecular test, this COVID-19 test detects the genetic material of the virus using a lab technique called polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Antigen test: This COVID-19 test detects certain proteins in the virus. Using a long nasal swab to get a fluid sample, some antigen tests can produce results in minutes. Others may be sent to a lab for analysis.

To prevent infection and to slow transmission of COVID-19, the following steps are recommended: Wash your hands regularly with soap and water, or clean them with an alcohol-based hand rub. Maintain at least a 1-meter distance between you and people coughing or sneezing. Avoid touching your face. Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing. Stay home if you feel unwell. Refrain from smoking and other activities that weaken the lungs. Practice physical distancing by avoiding unnecessary travel and staying away from large groups of people.^[4]

The need to conduct the researches around the world was to determine the origin of SARS-CoV-2, as it is the underpinning of endeavours to restrain the source of infection, locate potential intermediate hosts, and cut-off transmission routes.

The main cause of the high mortality and morbidity rate in India was its low literacy and poor knowledge among the citizens. It was estimated that the maximum of the citizens was having no or zero knowledge and were not taking the precautions seriously and many were misguided by the friends, family, and media regarding coronavirus. Due to the sudden outbreak, the people were unprepared for such a pandemic that led to the speedy transmission of the disease from one another. The need for the study arose because the coronavirus is viewed as challenging and a threat among the citizens due to its high virulence and high mortality. Coronavirus has emerged as a threat to every age group and had led to a major impact not only on the global economy but on every single person and family.

The purpose of the study is to assess the importance of the study relative to individual values and the need for study is to inform, act, gather evidence for theories, and contribute to developing knowledge in the field of study. It plays an important role in discovering new treatments and making sure that we use existing treatments in the best possible ways. Research can find answers to things that are known, filling gaps in knowledge and changing the ways that health care professionals work and the youth of the country. It is a tool for building knowledge and facilitates learning. It helps the researcher to have a detailed analysis of everything, when you have a proper in-depth analysis of any topic the result comes out to be fruitful and knowledge is enhanced. It is a way to understand the issue and increase public awareness about coronavirus.

It promotes the showing of valuable information. The study must be conducted to find out the major cause of corona virus and the treatment should be based on the sign and symptoms appear to the patient and the best possible measures could be taken to prevent it and limit its transmission. Therefore, the need for the study is because of its impact on every individual and worldwide and the role of an individual in preventing this disease and finding the relation between knowledge and its morbidity.

Keywords: COVID-19, SARS, College students, knowledge

2. Material & Methods

Research methodology is the activity of research how to proceed and how to measure progress and constitutes success. Methodology of research indicates the general pattern from organizing the procedure for the empirical study together with the method of obtaining valuable and reliable data for an investigation.

RESEARCH APPROACH: The approach adopted for the present study was a qualitative research approach adopted to accomplish the objectives of the study that is to assess the knowledge regarding coronavirus among college students.

RESEARCH DESIGN: The research design adopted for the present study was a Descriptive Non-Experimental research design to accomplish the objectives.

RESEARCH SETTING: The present study was conducted in Shaheed Captain Vikram Batra Government Degree College, Palampur, Distt. Kangra (H.P.). The rationale for these settings for the study was the researcher's familiarity with the setting, geographical proximity, and availability of subjects.

POPULATION: The entire set of individuals having some common characteristics related to the research study.

In the present study, we selected a population that is student group> 18 years.

TARGET POPULATION: In the present study, the target populations were all students who are above 18 years of age and studying in the selected colleges of Palampur, Distt. Kangra (H.P.)

ACCESSIBLE POPULATION: They were the population above 18 years of age studying in the government Degree College Palampur.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE: The technique included in the study was non-probability convenient sampling techniques.

SAMPLE: We adopted a sample of students above the age group of 18 years.

SAMPLE SIZE: In the present study, the sample size is 100.

INCLUSION CRITERIA: -

- 1. Students above the age group of 18 years.
- 2. Students who are present at the time of data collection.
- 3. Students who are willing to participate in the study.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA: -

- 1. Students absent at the time of data collection.
- 2. Students who are not willing to participate in the study.

TOOL: A research instrument is a device used to measure the concepts of interest in a research project that a researcher uses to collect data. The tool for data collection adopted for the present study was a self-structured knowledge questionnaire.

TECHNIQUE: The means of gathering data with the use of specific tools used in given methods are known as a technique of data collection. The technique adopted for this study is questioning.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOOL

The tool was constructed to assess the level of knowledge regarding coronavirus among students. A selfstructured knowledge questionnaire was developed to assess the level of knowledge regarding coronavirus.

Tool consist of two sections:

SECTION A: This part was including selected demographic variables which consist of six items such as age, gender, qualifications, marital status, religion, source of information.

SECTION B: This part includes a self-structured knowledge questionnaire on Covid-19 consisting of 30 questions.

SCORING: Each correct answer was scored one and each wrong answer was scored as zero.

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE REGARDING CORONAVIRUS

Table 1					
Knowledge score(%)	Level of knowledge				
21-30 (<65%)	Good				
11 - 20 (51 - 65%)	Average				
0-10 (> 50%)	Poor				

4. Data analysis and interpretation

Analysis and Interpretation were done following the objectives laid down for the study. The purpose of the analysis is to reduce the data interpretation and meaningful form so that the result can be compared and significance can be identified.

PLAN FOR DATA INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS:

Analysis of data is done in accordance with the objectives. The data analysis had been done by calculating descriptive and inferential statistics. The level of significance chosen was P<0.05

ORGANIZATION OF DATA FOR ANALYSIS

Section A: Selected socio-demographic variables.

Section B: Findings related to range, mean, median, standard deviation, frequency, and percentage of the level of knowledge score of students age group above 18 years.

Section C: Findings related to the association of students above age 18 with their selected demographic variables.

SECTION A DESCRIPTION OF SOCIO DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES OF COLLEGE STUDENTS TABLE -2

Frequency and percentage distribution of selected demographic variable of students. N= 100

Selected demographic variables	(f)	Percentage
1 Condon		
I.Genuer M.L	10	100/
Male	49	49%
Female	51	51%
2.Age	0.5	0.50
18-20	85	85%
21-25	05	5%
25-30	06	6%
>30	04	4%
3.Qualifications		
B.A	52	52%
BBA	05	5%
BCOM	11	11%
BSC	06	6%
BCA	26	26%
4.Religion		
Hindu	89	89%
Muslim	08	8%
Christian	02	2%
Sikh	01	1%
5.Marital status		
Married	06	6%
Unmarried	94	94%
6.Previous Knowledge		
Yes	83	83%
No	17	17%

Selected Demographic Variables:

Depicts that out of 100 subjects

- ✤ 49% were Male and 51% were Female.
- ✤ 85% of students were in the age group of 18-20 years,5% were in the age group of 21-25 years, 6% were in the age group of 25-30 years and 4% were above 30.
- According to Qualification, 26% students were studying B.C.A., 52% were studying B.A. 6% were studying BSC,11% were studying BCom and 5% were studying BBA.
- According to religion 89% students were Hindu,8% were Muslim, 2% were Christian and 1% were Sikh students.
- ✤ 6% students were married and 94% were unmarried.
- 83% of the students were having previous knowledge on Covid 19 and 17% were not having any information about Covid 19.

SECTION B

Table No.3: Table Showing Level of Scores.

CRITERIA MEASURE OF KNOWLEDGE SCORE						
Level of Scores N= 100	Percentage	Frequency				
Good .(21-30)	12%	12				
Average .(11-20)	74%	74				
Poor .(0-10)	14%	14				

Maximum =30 Minimum=0

Figure No.1: Diagram showing Level of Scores



Level of Scores

					N=	100	
Descriptive Statistics	Mean	Median	S.D.	Maximum	Minimum	Range	Mean %
KNOWLEDGE SCORE	15.88	16	4.56	28	5	23	52.93
36 3 00 36							

Maximum=30 Minimum=0

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SECTION C

Table No.4: Table Showing Association of Scores and Demographic Variables

This section deals with the findings related to the association between score and selected demographic variables. The chi-square test was used to determine the association between the score levels and selected demographic variables.

Demographic Data			Levels (N=100)			Association with KNOWLEDGE Score				
Variab	les	Opts	Good	Average	Poor	Chi Test	P Value	df	Table Value	Result
Gender		Male	5	41	3	5 732	0.057	2	5 001	Not
		Female	7	33	11	5.152	0.037	2	J.771	Significant
Age (in ye	ars	18- 20 Years	11	62	12					
		21 -25 Years	0	5	0	2 075	0.004	-	10 500	Not
		25-30 Years	0	5	1	3.8/5	0.694	6	12.592	Significant
		>30 Years	1	2	1					
Education	al	B.A.	5	35	12					
Quanneat	10 n	B.B.A.	3	2	0					
		BCom.	0	9	2	22.643	0.004	8	15.507	Significant
		B.Sc.	0	6	0		1	2		
		Any other	4	22	0		U ser			
Religion	-	Hindu	10	67	12					
		Muslim	0	6	2					
	Christian	2	0	0	16.751	0.010	6	12.592	Significant	
		Sikh	0	1	0				C	
Marital St	tatus	Married	1	4	1	0.1		3		Not
		Unmarried	11	70	13	0.195	0.907	- 2	5.991	Significant
Previous		Yes	10	61	12	0.001	0.07.			Not
Knowledge	No	2	13	2	0.091	0.956	2	5.991	Significant	

Table no. 4: Based on the objectives used to Chi-square test used to associate the level of knowledge and Educational Qualification, Religion demographic variables. There is significance association between the level of scores and educational qualification and religion. The calculated chi-square values were more than the table value at the 0.05 level of significance. There is no significance association between the level of scores and age,gender, marital status and previous knowledge. The calculated chi-square values were less than the table value at the 0.05 level of significance.

Variables	Opts	Percentage(%)	Frequency(f)	
Gender	Male	49%	49	
	Female	51%	51	
Age (in years	18-20 Years	85%	85	
	21 -25 Years	5%	5	
	25-30 Years	6%	6	
	>30 Years	4%	4	
Educational	B.A.	52%	52	
Qualification	B.B.A.	5%	5	
	BCom.	11%	11	
	B.Sc.	6%	6	
	Any other	26%	26	
Religion	Hindu	89%	89	
	Muslim	8%	8	
	Christian	2%	2	
	Sikh	1%	1	
Marital	Married	6%	6	
Status	Unmarried	94%	94	
Previous	Yes	83%	83	
Knowledge	No	17%	17	

Table No.5 : Frequency Distribution of Demographic variables.

Table No.6:Descriptive score according to Demographic variables.

Variables	Opts	Mean%	Mean	SD	N
Gend <mark>er</mark>	Male	56.05	16.8	3.90	49
	Female	49.93	15. <mark>0</mark>	4.98	51
Age	18-20 Years	52.31	15.7	4.58	85
	21 - 25 Years	58.67	17. <mark>6</mark>	2.07	5
	25-30 Years	55.56	16.7	4.97	6
	>30 Years	55.00	16.5	6.56	4
Educational	B.A.	47.18	14.2	4.43	52
Qualification	B.B.A.	73.33	22.0	4.47	5
	B.com	46.97	14.1	4.25	11
	B.Sc.	58.33	17.5	2.88	6
	Any other	61.79	18.5	2.64	26
Religion	Hindu	52.66	15.8	4.49	89
	Muslim	48.75	14.6	4.84	8
	Christian	75.00	22.5	0.71	2
	Sikh	66.67	20.0		1
Marital Status	Married	55.56	16.7	5.24	6
	Unmarried	52.77	15.8	4.54	94
Previous	Yes	52.65	15.8	4.61	83
Knowledge	No	54.31	16.3	4.37	17

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on he present study, the following recommendations have been made for further study:

- 1. A similar study may be replicated on a large sample; thereby findings can be generalized for the large population.
- 2. A descriptive study was carried out to assess the prevalence of coronavirus and its health impact among adolescents.
- 3. A descriptive study was carried out to assess the level of knowledge regarding coronavirus among the students of the selected government college of district Kangra

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