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## A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE REGARDING COVID-19 AMONG PEOPLE IN SELECTED AREAS OF CHENNAI AND THIRUVALLUR DISTRICT (TAMIL NADU)

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### ABSTRACT :

**Background:** The present study was conducted to assess the knowledge, attitude and practice regarding Covid-19 among people in Chennai and Thiruvallur district (Tamil Nadu).

**Methods:** A cross sectional study conducted among the people at in and out communities of Thiruvallur and Chennai. The size of sample was 220 members. A prior tested questionnaire after taking their verbal consent to participate in study.

**Results:** Insignificant difference in knowledge about Covid-19 was found between male and female respondents. More than 65% of respondents found to have correct knowledge regarding sign and symptom, mode of acquiring corona and way of preventing corona.

**Conclusion:** Health education directed towards improve knowledge and bringing a change in attitude and practice among people is needed to create awareness and remove myths about Corona Virus (CV) in groups of people in the community.

**Keywords:** Corona Virus (CV), Covid-19, Knowledge, Sign and symptoms, Transmission, Prevention.

### Introduction:

“In early 2020, after a December 2019 outbreak in China, the World Health Organization identified SARS-CoV-2 as a new type of coronavirus (CV). The outbreak quickly spread around the world”. [2020 WebMD, LLC] Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will

experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. [WHO] The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes. 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. [WHO] CV is one of the major outbreak in the year 2020 and affecting huge number of population every day, “as on Sep 1 - 3,691,166 confirmed cases, 65,288 deaths, 2,839,882 recovered and 785,996 active cases in India. 25,484,767 confirmed cases, 850,535 deaths and 7,814,640 active cases worldwide” [Times of India]. Thus assessment of knowledge, attitude, and health-seeking practice is essential to plan, implement, and evaluate advocacy, communication, and social mobilization work. Therefore, the objective of this study is to assess the knowledge, attitude, and health-seeking practice and associated factors toward Covid-19, CV.

### Objective of the study

1. To assess the knowledge of people regarding the CV.
2. To access the knowledge about mode of transmission of CV.
3. To access the knowledge about Prevention of CV.
4. To compare the knowledge, attitude and practice

of male and female patients regarding CV.

**Methods:** The cross sectional study has been conducted among 220 members in and around the communities of Thiruvallur and Chennai. The information has been collected on a pre-tested, pre-structured, well designed scheduled questionnaire prepared to fulfill the objectives of the study. **Inclusion criteria** –Age, above 15 and those who are interested to participate in the study.

**Exclusion criteria-** 1) those who don't know how to read Tamil, English. 2) Those who are not interested to participate in the study.

Statistical analysis was done using ratio and proportion. For finding significance of knowledge about Corona virus among both genders, chi square test was used.

**RESULTS:**

Variables		Male (%) N <sub>1</sub> =118	Female (%) N <sub>2</sub> =102	Total (%) N=220
Age (years)	15-29	33 (27.97)	27 (26.47)	60 (27.27)
	30 -44	69 (58.47)	59 (57.84)	128 (58.18)
	45-59	13 (11.02)	12 (11.77)	25 (11.36)
	60- 74	03 (02.54)	04 (03.92)	7 (3.18)
Area	Rural	72 (61.02)	60 (58.82)	132 (60.0)
	Urban	46 (38.98)	42 (41.18)	88 (40.0)
Education	Illiterate	31 (26.27)	25 (24.51)	56 (25.45)
	Institutional	82 (69.49)	71 (69.61)	153 (69.55)
	Informal	5 (04.24)	6 (05.88)	11 (5.00)
History of communicable diseases in Family	Yes	46 (38.98)	20 (19.61)	66 (30.00)
	No	72 (61.02)	82 (80.39)	154 (70.00)

Table 1: socio demographic variables.

Knowledge about CV		Male (%) (N <sub>1</sub> =118)	Female (%) (N <sub>2</sub> =102)	Total (%) (N=220)	χ <sup>2</sup> value	P value
Sign and Symptoms	Know	81 (68.64)	67 (65.69)	148 (67.27)	0.104	0.747
	Don't know	37 (31.36)	35 (34.31)	72 (32.73)		
Mode of transmission	Know	79 (66.95)	65 (63.72)	144 (65.45)	0.129	0.719
	Don't know	39 (33.05)	37 (36.27)	76 (34.55)		
how to prevention	Know	81 (68.64)	78 (76.47)	159 (72.27)	0.283	0.595
	Don't know	37 (31.36)	24 (23.53)	61 (27.73)		
Length of Treatment	Know	56 (47.46)	36 (35.29)	92 (41.82)	2.846	0.092
	Don't know	62 (52.54)	66 (64.71)	128 (58.18)		
Mode of treatment	Know	46 (38.98)	34 (33.33)	80 (36.36)	0.530	0.467
	Don't know	72 (61.02)	68 (66.67)	140 (63.64)		
Is treatment free of cost	Know	78 (66.10)	69 (67.65)	147 (66.82)	0.010	0.921
	Don't know	40 (33.90)	33 (32.35)	73 (33.18)		
Seriousness of the disease	Know	56 (47.46)	61 (59.80)	117 (53.18)	2.872	0.090
	Don't know	62 (52.54)	41 (40.20)	103 (46.82)		
Proper place of treatment	Know	58 (49.15)	49 (48.04)	107 (48.64)	0.001	0.976
	Don't know	60 (50.85)	53 (51.96)	113 (51.36)		
Personal protective measures	Know	39 (33.05)	29 (28.43)	68 (30.91)	0.352	0.553
	Don't know	79 (66.95)	73 (71.57)	152 (69.09)		

Table 2: Knowledge regarding Corona Virus .

Mode of transmission of CV	Total (%) N=144	Prevention of CV	Total(%)N=159
Droplets or aerosols	100 (69)	Covering mouth and nose	130 (82)
Airborne transmission	91 (63)	Social distancing	72 (45)
Surface transmission	88 (61)	Hand wash	73 (46)
Fecal-oral	56 (39)	Avoiding crowd's	43 (27)
Pets	6 (4)		
None	2 (1)		

Table 3: Knowledge towards mode of transmission and prevention of CV.

More than 65 of respondents found to have correct knowledge regarding sign and symptom, mode of acquiring CV and mode of preventing CV. 42 members had mentioned the right duration of treatment whereas 58 were unknown of the duration of treatment which shows significant difference (p=0.024). 67 respondents knows that CV treatment is free of cost at government hospitals, whereas 33 found to be unknown of this and found significant (p<0001). Regarding the seriousness of disease 53 respondents thought CV as very serious and 47 don't know about its seriousness (p=0.420).

### DISCUSSION

#### Knowledge about Covid-19

In this study, fairly a good level of knowledge was found regarding sign and symptoms, modes of acquiring Covid-19 and also the modes of prevention of Covid-19. Insignificant difference in knowledge was found between males and females. In this study a majority of respondents defined covid-19 as a curable disease but less knew about the mode of treatment disease, whereas not many respondents were aware of the free charge of Covid-19 diagnosis and treatment.

## REFERENCES :

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