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1**Awareness and attitude towards COVID-19 Among General Indian Population: A Survey**Sangita. V. Badgujar^{1*}, Vishal B. Badgujar²¹R.C. Patel Institute of Pharmacy, Shirpur - 425405, Dhule, Maharashtra, India.²Swami Institute of Pharmacy, Abhona, Nashik, Maharashtra, India.

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ABSTRACT: This survey-based study was focused to investigate the awareness of Indian people about the knowledge or information of COVID-19. The study was conducted through an indorsed questionnaire, which help to examine the level of awareness about COVID-19 among Indians at various education levels and age. Data were collected online mode from a Google form. More than 100 respondents were involved in this study. The major findings of this study are that most people have moderate knowledge about COVID-19, its transmission and prevention methods. Different Ages, levels of education, and occupations were factors that affect the level of awareness. Respondents from medical professions and ages between 25 to 40 showed more awareness about COVID-19, whereas low-education respondents showed less awareness. There is a need to educate and create awareness regarding the epidemiology of the COVID-19. Health professionals can help in educating other groups.

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INTRODUCTION:

COVID-19 epidemic is the major global health disaster today. The coronaviruses can be seen under the electron microscope as it possesses a crown-like appearance. The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has caused a sudden significant increase in hospitalizations for pneumonia with the multiorgan disease. COVID-19 is caused by the novel severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). SARS-CoV-2 infection may be asymptomatic or it may cause mild symptoms of upper respiratory tract infection and life-threatening sepsis. COVID-19 first emerged in December 2019, when a cluster of patients with pneumonia of unknown

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cause was recognized in Wuhan, China. Coronaviruses represent a major group of viruses mostly affecting human beings through zoonotic transmission. In the past two decades, this is the third instance of the emergence of a novel coronavirus, after severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2003 and Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in 2012. There is a dearth of studies on the awareness and defiance of the Indian towards infectious diseases. Novel Coronavirus or COVID-19 is the new strain of viruses that can infect humans. Bats are considered natural hosts of these viruses [1-4]. The modes of transmission of COVID-19 viruses are transmitted from person to person and symptoms like flu are observed. The virus seems to be transmitted mainly via respiratory droplets that people sneeze, cough, or exhale. The virus can also survive for several hours on surfaces such as tables and door handles [5]. The incubation period for COVID-19 is estimated at between 2-14 days. At this stage, the virus can be transmitted from person to person [6]. There is no vaccine to date and no specific treatment for this virus. As it is a new virus, nobody has prior immunity means that the entire human population is potentially susceptible to COVID-19 infection COVID-19 affects different people in different ways. Most infected people will develop mild to moderate symptoms and recover without hospitalization [7].

The most common symptoms are Fever, Dry cough, and Tiredness. Less common symptoms are Aches, pains, Sore throat, Diarrhoea, Conjunctivitis, Headache, Loss of taste or smell, a rash on the skin, or discoloration of fingers or toes. People who are at greater risk are elderly people and with disorders such as diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and chronic respiratory disease. Children are less susceptible to infection [8-9]. There is no published evidence yet on the severity of illness among pregnant women after COVID-19 infection [10]. Treatment provided is only symptomatic (e.g. fever, difficulty breathing) of patients and supportive [11-12]. It is important to assess the knowledge, attitudes of the public towards prevalent infectious diseases. Data information provides a baseline for the prevention and control of these diseases by the Government. The main aim of this study is to assess the level of awareness of the Indian people about COVID-19.

METHODOLOGY:

An indorsed COVID-19 pandemic questionnaire was prepared and distributed among over participants by online means. The questionnaire consists of two sections. The first part was about demographic and socioeconomic data while the second part was about epidemiological data of COVID-19. After collecting the questionnaires, the points were added for each question and the responses were classified as a percentage of correct answers.

The epidemiological section of the questionnaire contained 20 questions was as follows [13-17];

- COVID 19 is caused by a virus?
- Incubation period of COVID-19 is 2–14 days
- Can COVID-19 be transmitted by infected persons?
- COVID-19 is transmitted by droplets in the air?
- COVID-19 is transmitted by droplets on surfaces?
- COVID-19 is transmitted by cough and sneeze?
- COVID-19 is transmitted by exhalation?
- COVID-19 has upper respiratory and lower respiratory symptoms?
- COVID-19 has Fever and muscle pain?
- COVID-19 mortality rate is higher in the elderly?
- COVID-19 can be prevented by wearing a mask?
- Hands hygiene important in preventing the spread of the virus?
- Are symptoms of COVID-19 less severe in patients with good immunity?
- COVID-19 can be prevented by balanced nutrition?
- COVID-19 can be prevented by Vaccine?
- No specific drug treatment available for COVID-19?
- COVID-19 patient needs a ventilator to survive?
- Vitamin C is important in COVID-19 treatment.
- Can COVID-19 be cured with antibiotics?
- Do you know where to go if you start developing symptoms?

RESULTS:

Most of the population is aware of symptoms, modes of transmission through sneezing, coughing, droplets like flu. Many are aware of wearing masks, social distance can prevent transmission of the coronavirus. The role of Antibiotics in coronavirus is not clear in minds of the population. More or less are misguided about vaccines and their role in coronavirus. Moreover, a substantial proportion showed a false belief regarding the effectiveness of vitamin as a treatment for COVID-19.

DISCUSSION:

COVID-19 is spreading worldwide rapidly, Social media plays a vital role in the transfer of information, yet most of the population is misleading the information. There is a need in the community to create awareness about COVID-19.

CONCLUSIONS:

COVID-19 considering pandemic, the population needs to have sufficient awareness about COVID-19.

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