

Knowledge of Covid -19 and Death toll cases in Manipur

ABSTRACT

Background: SARS-CoV-2 is a novel virus. It is about 65 -125 nm (nanometre) containing single strains of RNA and provided with crown like spike on the outer surface (1). Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARs-Cov-2) causes coronavirus diseases (covid-19) which led to loss of million people worldwide.

Objective: The objective of the present aims at examining the awareness about Coronavirus disease (COVID -19) among the study participants.

Setting: The study was conducted in the campuses of D.M. college of Arts and Science, Dhanamanjuri University, Imphal, Manipur during pandemic of Covid-19.

Subject and Methods: A total of 200 participants (boys=110 and girls =90) aged 20-30 years were interviewed regarding the awareness of SARS CoV-2 and its disease Covid-19. **Design:** The study design is a Cross-sectional study.

Results: Maximum participants (83.5%) considered Covid-19 as virus, 1.0 % thought as bacteria, but 15.5% knew that Covid -19 is a disease. Amongst them, 4.5% and 8.5% had incomplete knowledge about of the mysterious novel coronavirus disease and its mode of transmission, 10% didn't used mask regularly in the public places. As well as, only 34% respondents kept masks improperly inside the pocket or bag, and 5.5% didn't washed hands or sanitised. It was also found among the participants that only 30.0 % was tested for knowing Covid -19 status. Among the tested persons, 8.0 % got infection and suffered from Covid-19 disease. Results indicated that there is lack of sufficient knowledge about Covid-19 among some section of the participants. The lack of complete knowledge of any novel fatal disease or virus is a major risk to the whole public. However, immune responds can play role in defending the risk of the disease.

Keywords: Knowledge, Covid-19, death toll, Manipur.

INTRODUCTION

The COVID -19 pandemic has led the human life an uncertain future, causing anxiety, fear, depression, psychological and physical illness and loss of million of people. SARs-Cov-2 was first identified in December in the Wuhan city, China. The virus, now named SARS-CoV-2, contains a single positive stranded RNA (ribonucleic acid) of 30 kilobases, which encodes for 10 genes (2). Researchers have shown that the virus can enter cells by binding the angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2), through its receptor binding domain in the spike protein (3).

In the Indian context, the first SARS CoV -2 positive case was reported in Kerela on January 30th, 2020. Over 98 million confirmed cases of Covid-19 have been reported all over the world and the global death toll due to Covid-19 stands at 2,107,388. The US has recorded 24,821,815 confirmed cases of Covid-19, with the highest death toll with 414,107 fatalities, while India is in second place with 10,639,684 cases, having with death cases of 153,184 (4). Manipur is a state, which lies in the north eastern part of India. A total of 4,90,599 samples were tested for Covid -19 with total confirmed cases of 28,693 and deceased cases of 365 have been recorded as on Jan 11th, 2021 (5). The total population of Manipur according to 2011 Census Survey report was 2855794 of which 1438586 was males and 1417290 was females (6).

It is reported that the recent outbreak of Covid-19 in is similar to the previous outbreaks of SARS and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) that merged in 2003 and 2012 in China and Saudi Arabia, respectively (7). Several people with good nutrition don't fall sick despite an infection and recovered quickly. Good nutrition with certain kinds of foods play important role in the immune mechanisms of human beings. However, the loss of food diversity and traditional food plants are diminishing day by day due to industrialisation. In many developed countries, genetically modified foods are consumed as such traditional foods are neglected. Changes in our diet along with the external environments deteriorated our immunity (8). The objective of the present study is to study the awareness about Covid -19 and it impact on the death toll in Manipur.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A total of 200 participants (boys=110 and girls =90) aged 20-30 years were interviewed keeping physical distance who were present in the college campus during the month of November, 2020 regarding the awareness of SARS CoV-2 and its disease Covid-19. The age of the participants was from 20-30 years.

ANALYSIS AND RESULT

Table 1 highlights the knowledge of Covid -19 (Corona Virus Disease) among the study participants. As regards to knowledge of Covid -19, maximum 83.5% considered this disease as virus, 1.0 % thought as bacteria, but 15.5% knew that Covid -19 is a disease. Out of the total, a few of them 4.5% and 8.5% had incomplete knowledge about of the mysterious novel coronavirus disease and its mode of transmission. Some of them didn't know how SARS CoV -2 passes from one person to another through direct or indirect contact with infected persons through the secretion such as saliva respiratory droplets, which are expelled when an infected individual cough or sneezes or talk without mask. Among the study participants, 10% didn't used mask on regularly in the public places even though people are advised to use mask and to maintain physical distancing. Moreover, 21.0 % kept the used masks improperly inside the pocket, 7.5 % kept the masks hanging with other cloths and 5.5 % threw away after using the masks. However, 66.0 % responded that the masks were kept separately in the sunlight. Washing hands with soap or sanitised whenever necessary was not done by 5.5% participants. A well as, Covid- 19 test was also low among the participants. Only 30.0 % was tested and the remaining 70.0 % of participants were not willing to know their Covid -19 status. Among the tested persons, 8.0 % got infection and suffered from the symptom of Covid-19.

Table 1: Frequency distribution of participants about the knowledge of Covid -19

| Sl. No | | f | p.c |
|--------|----------|----|------|
| 1. | Disease | 31 | 15.5 |
| | Bacteria | 02 | 1.0 |

| | | | |
|----|---|-----|------|
| | Virus | 167 | 83.5 |
| | Total | 200 | 100 |
| 2. | Having knowledge of covid -19 symptoms | 191 | 95.5 |
| | Incomplete knowledge of Covid -19 symptoms | 09 | 4.5 |
| | Total | 200 | 100 |
| 3. | Having knowledge of Covid-19 mode of transmission | 185 | 92.5 |
| | Incomplete knowledge | 17 | 8.5 |
| | Total | 200 | 100 |
| 4. | Regular used of mask | 179 | 89.5 |
| | Irregular used of mask | 21 | 10.5 |
| | Total | 200 | 100 |
| 5. | Separate placing of mask in the sun light | 132 | 66.0 |
| | Improper placing of mask inside the pocket or bag | 42 | 21 |
| | Hanging on the wall with other cloths | 15 | 7.5 |
| | Used and throw on the roadside | 11 | 5.5 |
| | Total | 200 | 100 |
| 6. | Washing hands or sanitised after removing mask | 189 | 94.5 |
| | Not washed | 11 | 5.5 |
| | Total | 200 | 100 |
| 7. | Covid -19 tested | 60 | 30 |
| | Not tested | 140 | 70 |
| | Total | 200 | 100 |
| 8. | Ever infected and suffered | 16 | 8.0 |
| | Not infected | 184 | 92.0 |
| | Total | 200 | 100 |

DISCUSSION

The above foregoing results have indicated that the preventive measures of Covid-19 were not taken up by all participants. In many social occasions, physical distancing was not maintained and many invites, particularly the young ladies didn't used mask. Public negligence or ignorance is a main problem to spread infectious diseases, which can pass from one person to another. Therefore, there is suspicion and possibility of high transmission rate of Covid - 19 in the state. In spite of having such negligence the death toll was to 369 as on 22nd Jan. 2021, and remains unchanged till 26th Jan., 2021. It was reported that more men died than women in the state. Of the total 295 death cases, 210 was for male and 85 was for female. The death rate was highest in

between the age 61-70 years. In each age group of 46-60 years and 76-90 years the same frequency of death cases 93 was recorded and most of the diseased were in the co-morbid conditions (9). The possible reason behind total low death toll i.e 369 would be due to better immune system of the people.

Manipur is a state where varieties of vegetables are grown and available throughout the state, in addition to this, many fermented foods are consumed on daily basis and mention may be made of fermented dry fish. Due to high probiotic content, fermented food can give immune system boost and reduce the chance of infections. Moreover, vast majority of the people don't depend on sedentary life. They engaged in physical work even during the lockdown. Exercise or physical work can change in antibodies and white blood cells and reduces stress. Fortunately, Serum Institute's Covishield vaccination was launched on 16th Jan nationwide in India and health worker front liners have been priority. However, Government advise to follow protocols for preventing Covid -19 even after vaccination also. It seems likely that a person's immune system will win that arms race, but scientists don't have the data yet to say that with confidence. That's why people who have been vaccinated are still supposed to wear a mask and take other precautions – until that gets sorted out (10).

CONCLUSION

The lack of complete knowledge of any novel fatal disease or virus is a major risk to the whole public. However, immune responds can play role in defending the risk of the disease.

CONSENT

It is not applicable.

ETHICAL APPROVAL

It is not applicable.

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