

## Knowledge of Covid -19and Death toll cases in Manipur

### ABSTRACT

**Background:**The disease Covid-19 led to loss of million people worldwide and this disease is caused by a novel virus called SARS-CoV-2.

**Objective:** The objective of the present study aims at examining the knowledge of Coronavirus disease (COVID -19) and death toll cases in Manipur.

**Setting:** The study was conducted in the campuses of Dhanamanjuri Colleges of Arts, Science and Commerce, Dhanamanjuri University, Imphal, Manipur.

**Subjects and Method:** A total of 200 participants (boys=110 and girls =90) aged 20-30 years were considered for this present study. Data were collected using interview schedule containing Covid -19 related variables.

**Design:**The design of the present study is a Cross-sectional study.

**Results:**Results indicated that maximum participants (83.5%) considered Covid-19 as virus, 1.0 % thought as bacteria, but 15.5% knew that Covid -19 is a disease. A very high percentage of students (95.5%) knew the various symptoms of the disease. Amongst them, 92.5% of participants also knew the mode of transmission of the novel Virus. However,4.5% and 8.5% of them had incomplete knowledge about of the mysterious novel coronavirus diseasesymptoms and its mode of transmission. While maintaining the preventive measures,10.5 % of participants used masksirregularlyin the public places.As well as, only 34.0 % of respondents kept masks inside the pocket or bag, and 5.5% of the subjects didn't have the idea of washing hands or sanitisation. It was also found among the participants that some of them (30.0%) were aware of testing to know the status of Covid-19 and the number of confirmed cases was 8.0 %. From the above results, it may be said that there was lack of proper knowledge among some section of the participants.The lack of proper knowledge of any novel fatal disease or virus and its related preventive measures 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 novel SARS-CoV-2 is about 65 -125 nm (nanometre) containing single strains of RNA and provided with crown like spike on the outer surface (1). 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 Kerelaon January 30<sup>th</sup>, 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. A total of 365 deceased cases have been recorded as on Jan 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (5). The total population of Manipur according to 2011 Census Survey report was 28, 55,794 of which 14, 38,586 were males and 14, 17,290 were females (6).

The central and state governments have adopted several measures and protocols to prevent wide spread and infection of the disease. 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 (7).

This paper aims at studying the present knowledge of Covid-19 and death toll cases among the student participants of Dhanamanjuri Colleges of Arts, Science and Commerce, Imphal, Manipur.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The present research work is based on cross sectional study. Data of the present study consists of a total of 200 participants, out of which 110 are boys and 90 are girls. The ages of the subjects were from 20-30 years whose educational standards were from BSc first semester to MSc second semester. Participants were randomly chosen and interviewed using interview schedule containing name, gender, age, educational qualification, and SARS CoV-2 and its disease Covid-19 related variables in the month of November, 2020 during the pandemic.

## **STATISTICAL METHODS**

For analysis of this present paper, no software such as SPSS and Excel were used. Only frequencies of individuals were sorted out manually for each variable.

## **ANALYSIS AND RESULT**

Table 1 highlights the knowledge of Covid -19 (CoronaVirus Disease) among the study participants. As regards to the knowledge of Covid -19, maximum 83.5% of participants considered this disease as virus, 1.0 % of them thought as bacteria, but 15.5% of respondents knew that Covid -19 is a disease. A high number of participants (95.5%) knew the various symptoms of the disease. Amongst them, 92.5% of participants also knew the mode of transmission of the novel Virus. Out of the total, a few of them that is 4.5% and 8.5% of participants had incomplete knowledge about of the mysterious novel coronavirus diseasesymptoms 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, 10.5 % didn't used masks regularly in the public places even though people are advised to use mask and to maintain physical distancing. Moreover, 21.0 % of subjects kept the used masks inside the pocket, 7.5 % of

participants 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% of participants. As 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 individuals, 8.0 % was confirmed 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
	<b>Total</b>	200	100
2.	Having knowledge of Covid -19 symptoms	191	95.5
	Incomplete knowledge of Covid -19 symptoms	09	4.5
	<b>Total</b>	200	100
3.	Having knowledge of Covid-19 mode of transmission	185	92.5
	Incomplete knowledge	17	8.5
	<b>Total</b>	200	100
4.	Regular used of mask	179	89.5
	Irregular used of mask	21	10.5
	<b>Total</b>	200	100
5.	Separate placing of mask in the sun light	132	66.0
	Improper placing of mask inside the pocket or bag	42	21.0
	Hanging on the wall with other cloths	15	7.5
	Used and throw on the roadside	11	5.5
	<b>Total</b>	200	100
6.	Washing hands or sanitised after removing mask	189	94.5
	Not washed	11	5.5
	<b>Total</b>	200	100
7.	Covid -19 tested	60	30.0
	Not tested	140	70
	<b>Total</b>	200	100
8.	Ever infected and suffered	16	8.0
	Not infected	184	92.0

**Comment [E1]:** Very good knowledge

**Comment [E2]:** High level of knowledge

<b>Total</b>	200	100
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## DISCUSSION

The above foregoing results have indicated that majority of the participants (95.5%) had very good knowledge about the (Covid-19) symptoms and 92.5% subjects also had high knowledge about the mode of transmission. While maintaining the preventive measures of Covid-19, it was found that some participants were unaware to follow the guidelines. In many social occasions, physical distancing was not maintained and many invites, particularly the young ladies didn't use 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 369 as on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan. 2021, and remains unchanged till 26<sup>th</sup> Jan., 2021. 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 a 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 reduce stress. Fortunately, Serum Institute's Covishield vaccination was launched on 16<sup>th</sup> Jan nationwide in India and health worker front liners have been given 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(8).

## CONCLUSION

The present study has led to the conclusion that majority of the participants (95.5%) had very good knowledge about the (Covid-19) symptoms and 92.5% of subjects also had high knowledge about the mode of transmission. Although, while maintaining the preventive guidelines, regular use of masks in the public places were not aware by some of the respondents (10.5%), which is one of the important preventing measures to fight against Covid-19. In spite of all these, there are low death toll cases in the state. It may be said that better nutrition with physical activities might boost the immune system of the people in defending the risk of the disease.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Researchers would like to recommend that during the crisis of pandemic, public should be made aware about severity of the new virus or bacteria, and also how to adopt the guidelines in a proper manner so as to prevent against the disease. Moreover, people should give more emphasis on good nutrition and regular exercise. These are important measures in the struggle for existence during the critical juncture of pandemic.

## **CONSENT**

The authors declare that "consent was obtained from the subjects under study for data collection and publication of this study".

## **ETHICAL APPROVAL**

It is not applicable.

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