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KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE OF BASRAH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ABOUT COVID-19 AT AL- QARMA LOCATION

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ABSTRACT

In late December 2019 a new (novel) coronavirus was identified in China causing severe respiratory disease including pneumonia. It was originally named Novel Coronavirus and The World Health Organization (WHO) advised the following language associated with the virus. The virus causing the infection has been named – severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

The disease caused as a result of infection is named – coronavirus disease (COVID-19). COVID-19 has been categorized as an airborne High Consequence Infections Disease.

SARS-CoV-2 is spreading between people globally and can be seen on the WHO situation reports dashboard.

Methodology:

Setting of the project: We prepared an electronic questionnaire and it was distributed to the students of Al Karma University in general, through social networking sites and WhatsApp groups, and it was filled out well by the students.

_ Sample of the study: The study community was Al-qarma university students to participate in the study. The total sample size was (483).

- The project instrument:

An assessment tool is adopted the researchers to assess knowledge and attitude about covid-19 among Al- Qarma university students in Basrah.

A Questionnaire was made to study the information of the university students on covid-19

After completing the questions was distributed and presented to a panel of experts

The data will be collected by designing an electronic form on the subject of the study

Researcher Study Tool (Questionnaire): The questionnaire consists three parts

Part 1: the first section is socio- demographic characteristics sheet consists (7) Items which includes (Age- Gender- Marital status- stage – Type of the study- College- Residence)

Part 2: Questions about knowledge about covid-19

Part 3: Questions about attitude about covid-19

- statistical data analysis:

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The analysis was performed using SPSS version 17 (statical package for social sciences) and the data is expressed in (Frequency- Percentage)

The results showed that higher percentage of the sample female, sample age were 21-25 years. the highest Percentage Address was for the districts/sub-districts, high level of knowledge of the students about covid-19 were reported and high level of wright attitude regarding covid-19 were reported.

KEYWORDS: Knowledge, Attitude, Students about COVID-19

1. INTRODUCTION

Coronaviruses (CoV) are a broad family of viruses that are known to cause serious and sometimes fatal pulmonary diseases such as, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS-) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-). [(1)] In 2002–03, SARS-CoV first identified as a pneumonia in Guangdong, China, which later turned into life-threatening respiratory failure. Initially, it was only animal-human interspecies transmission that further progressed into human to human transmission. The virus infected about 8500 people with fatality rate of 10% [(2), (3)] Similarly in 2012, the MERS-CoV epidemic appeared in Saudi Arabia where people experienced symptoms similar to SARS-CoV but dying at a much higher rate of 36%. It was mainly transmitted to humans from dromedary camels. [(4)]

In December 2019, similar cases were reported in Wuhan city, China. The virus was identified as a new form of Coronavirus (novel Coronavirus-2019) and also the illness it causes was named as COVID-19[(5)] The World Health Organization (WHO) on January 30, 2020, declared COVID-19 a public health emergency and later on March 11, 2020, the outbreak was declared pandemic. According to the WHO situation report, globally approximately 3349786 confirmed cases of COVID-19 caused by the SARS-CoV-2 were reported, including an estimated 238,628 deaths as on May 03, 2020. [(6), (7)]

Preliminary scientific reports revealed that, COVID-19 would be possibly spread via animals to humans but the current findings states that human to human transmission could also occur through direct contact, and respiratory droplets[(8),(9)] The incubation period of COVID-19 is 2–14 days[(10),(11)] and the initial symptoms would appear as fever, cough, shortness of breath, trouble breathing, pain or pressure in the chest, fatigue, myalgia or arthralgia, confusion, bluish lips or face.[(12),(13)]

Standard recommendations to prevent infection spread includes, maintaining hand hygiene, covering mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness as well as to prevent unprotected contact with farm or wild animals. [(1), (14)] Till date, no vaccine or an antiviral treatment has been launched into the market for the prevention or management of COVID-19. Current treatment guidelines of Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as WHO majorly focus on symptomatic management and application of infection prevention measures. However, medications such as, chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine, remdesivir and lopinavir/ritonavir are presently being tested in clinical trials. [(15)]

Found that while game addiction leads to negative academic performance, moderate engagement in gaming can lead to improved performance in an academic setting. This is of great significance to adolescents, as using effective social interactions is essential for behavioral, emotional adaption and successful functioning. Children and adolescent socialization ability improve their communication skills and makes them more receptive to social influence, and grow better with good communication skills. (16)

METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the research design used in this study, design of the study ,instrument of the study setting of the study ,sample of the study and statistical analysis.

1-3 -design of the study:

A descriptive study has been carried to identify the knowledge and a attitude about covid-19among university students in Basra city during the period 3 of May to 30 of June2021

The sample was collected using an electronic form. In a random way in the Basra

2-3 the instrument of the study:

An assessment tool is adopted the researchers to assess the knowledge and attitude about covid-19 among university students in Basra city.

A Questionnaire was made to study the information of the university students on covid-19

After completing the questions was distributed and presented to a panel of experts

The data will be collected by designing an electronic form on the subject of the study .Researcher Study Tool (Questionnaire): The questionnaire consists three parts:

Part 1: the first section is socio- demographic characteristics sheet consists (7) Items which includes (Age- Gender- Marital status- stage – Type of the study- College- Residence)

Part 2: Questions about knowledge about covid-19

Part 3: Questions about attitude about covid-19

3-3-setting of the study: We prepared an electronic questionnaire and it was distributed to the students of Al Karma University in general, through social networking sites and WhatsApp groups, and it was filled out well by the students.

4-3 the sample of the study:

The study community was Al-qarma university students to participate in the study. The total sample size was (680).

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5-3 -statistical analysis:

The analysis was performed using SPSS version 17 (statical package for social sciences) and the data is expressed in (Frequency- Percentage)

RESULTS:

Table (4.1): Socio-demographic characteristics of students

Age	Frequency	Percent
18-20	271	39.85%
21-25	375	55.14%
26-30	23	3.38%
More than 31	11	1.61%
Total	680	100%
Gender	**Frequency**	**Percent**
Male	269	39.55%
Female	411	60.44%
Total	680	100%
Marital status	**Frequency**	**Percent**
Married	80	11.76%
Unmarried	579	85.14%
Divorced	9	1.32%
Widowed	12	1.76%
Total	680	100%
Stage	**Frequency**	**Percent**
First	277	40.73%
Second	131	19.26%
Third	169	24.85%
Fourth	97	14.26%
Fifth	6	0.88%
Total	680	100%
Type of study	**Frequency**	**Percent**
Morning	577	84.85%
Evening	103	15.14%
Total	680	100%
Address	**Frequency**	**Percent**
Districts/sub-districts	358	52.64%
City center	322	47.35%

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Total	680	100%
College	**Frequency**	**Percent**
Science	200	29.41%
Education	74	10.88%
Pharmacy	135	19.86%
Veterinary Medicine	40	5.88%
Agriculture	45	6.61%
Engineering	30	4.41%
Physical Education and Sports Sciences	156	22.94%
Total	680	100%

This table showing the higher percentage of the sample female 411(60.44%)and the lower percentage male 269(39.55%) were 375 (55.14%) of the sample age among 21-25 years the highest Percentage Address was for the Districts/sub-districts 358 (52.64%) and the marital statue 579 (85.14%) were unmarried the highest percentage of the sample collected from the Science college 200 (29.41%) and first stage 277 (40.73%) .Higher percentage of study type was Morning 577 (84.85%) while the evening study was Evening 103 (15.14%).

Table 2: distribution of the students according to their knowledge about covid-19

No.	**Items**	**Yes**		**Maybe**		**No**		**MS**
		F	**%**	**F**	**%**	**F**	**%**	
1	**Corona virus covid-19 belongs to the large family of viruses previously known to us.**	311	45.73%	256	37.64%	113	16.61%	**2.29**
2	The main symptoms of coronavirus include (fever, dry cough, loss of taste and smell, difficulty breathing and extreme fatigue)	495	72.79%	142	20.88%	43	6.32%	**2.81**
3	The incubation period for the Corona virus is 14 days.	536	78.82%	121	17.79%	23	3.38%	**2.75**
4	Corona virus is a respiratory coronavirus.	365	53.67%	279	41.04%	36	5.29%	**2.48**

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5	Eating and direct contact with wild animals can 4 infections with the Corona virus.	290	42.64%	260	38.23%	130	19.11%	**2.23**
6	An antibiotic is an effective drug in the treatment of coronavirus.	193	28.38%	331	48.67%	156	22.94%	**2.05**
7	Corona infection can be caught from a person who does not show symptoms of the disease.	490	72.05%	130	19.11%	60	8.82%	**2.63**
8	Age and gender may influence the pattern of behaviors followed by the corona risk.	483	71.02%	155	22.79%	42	6.17%	**2.64**
9	Corona virus is transmitted from one person to another through small droplets that are scattered from the nose and mouth when an infected person sneezes or coughs.	590	86.76%	78	11.47%	12	1.76%	**2.85**
10	Children and infants do not need to take preventive measures against this virus.	109	16.02%	167	24.55%	404	59.41%	**2**

The table showed that there was significant high level of knowledge of the students about covid-19

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Table 3: the distribution of the students according to their Attitude of the students toward COVID -19

No.	Items	Yes		Maybe		No		MS
		F	%	F	%	F	%	
1	If the symptoms are mild, there is no need to seek medical care, just stay at home and isolate yourself and follow an immunity diet.i	529	77.79%	102	15%	49	7.20%	**2.70**
2	You will ask for a test if you feel unwell or have symptoms of coronavirus	513	75.44%	126	18.52%	41	6.02%	**2.69**
3	Avoid attending weddings and events of all kinds	574	84.41%	79	11.61%	27	3.97%	**2.80**
4	I keep myself from injury, not only for me but for my family at the same time.	648	95.29%	18	2.64%	14	2.05%	**2.93**
5	Do not bring shoes inside the house and take them off at the entrance.	558	82.05%	91	13.38%	31	4.55%	**2.77**
6	Maintaining social distancing in the classroom.	609	89.55%	46	6.76%	25	3.67%	**2.85**
7	I'm afraid of recovered patients who were previously infected with the Corona virus.	276	40.58%	173	25.44%	231	33.97 %	**2.06**
8	Early isolation and patient care are effective in reducing the risk of infection.	595	87.5%	76	11.17%	9	1.32%	**2.86**
9	I am worried about my injury.	261	38.38%	163	23.97%	256	37.64 %	**2**
10	The best way to protect yourself is to clean hands, maintain a distance of one meter, and wear a mask.	622	91.47%	51	7.5%	7	1.02%	**2.90**

The table showed there were high level of wright attitude regarding covid -19

DISCUSSION

The Knowledge, Attitude and for a particular infectious illness can be influenced by various factors namely, the gravity of the illness, severity of its spread and the fatality rate. Ever since the announcement of COVID-19 as a pandemic by the WHO3, the knowledge, attitude and practices toward COVID-19 has been growing day by day.

Our study was a descriptive cross-sectional study using electronic forma directed toward Basrah university students at Qarmat Ali location, to assess their knowledge and attitude about COVID-19. From the result of our study, we found that students had high level of knowledge about COVID-19, which is similar to a study done in Jordon (1)

Also our results similar to a study done in Ethiopia (2) were the student of Mizan university had good knowledge about the virus Also our study similar to study in china so cross-sectional survey on 872 undergraduate students found that most of them were well informed with COVID-19 related knowledge,showed positive attitude and proactive practice during the outbreak, indicating that effective health education was delivered by the massive public education campaigns (especially via Internet). This result is consistent with many other reports on H1N1 related KAP among university students in South Korea, UK and Hong Kong [8][9][10]. Our study also revealed that females had signicantly higher score on the knowledge of "main clinical manifestation of COVID-19", in line with the result of an investigation on MERS in Saudi Arabian [11]. It has been shown that women is superior to men in terms of the knowledge and practice (hand hygiene, wearing a mask) related to infectious diseases (e.g.: H1N1, SARS, and MERS, etc.) [10][11][12][13][14][15]. This gender difference also has been shown in our study that are evidenced by a better score on attitude score and KAP total score for females than males, including proper rational and protective measurements to reduce the risk of human-to-human transmission and aversion to wild animal consumption. Students from public schools and medical programs showed a higher score for COVID-19 related knowledge. This could be explained by the characteristic educational situations in China. Since the past two decades, private universities have been begun to be established as a role-player supplementary to the public education system as per governmental policies.

CONCLUSIONS

1-higher percentage of the sample female sample age were 21-25 years

2-the highest Percentage Address was for the districts/sub-districts

3-high level of knowledge of the students about covid-19 were reported

4-high level of wright attitude regarding covid-19 were reported

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RECOMMENDATION

1-Advice the students to wear face mask

2-Follow the standard hygiene advice for covid-19 like social distance and hand washing

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