



## Knowledge Attitude and Practice of Health Care Workers towards COVID-19 in Nowshera Pakistan

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Corona Virus disease termed as COVID-19, is an emerging highly contagious respiratory disease that is caused by novel corona virus. It was first reported from Wuhan China in December 2019. Its main clinical symptoms are fever, dry cough, fatigue, myalgia and dyspnea [1].

Case fatality rate of 2.3% has been reported from China that is lower than SARS (9.5%), MERS (34.4%) and H7N9 (39%) [2].

To facilitate the management and administration of district Nowshera, of KP state of Pakistan to handle COVID-19, We feel a dire need to know the healthcare workers awareness about 2019-nCoV, in the early epidemic of COVID-19 across the country, hence a KAP study was conducted.

We observed that (73.5%) of the responders were of the opinion that they had knowledge about COVID19 since 3 months with its first outbreak in China. (16.3%) were of the opinion to have been familiar with this virus since 1 month. In majority of the cases (93.2%) the source of information about the corona outbreak was social media. For risk stratification we observed that (32.0%) of the respondents were of the opinion that an immunity gap is a risk factor for acquiring COVID-19 infection. While (18.4%) attributed age less than 5 years and more than 70 years are at risk of getting infection.

Out of total, (89.8%) strongly agree that isolation and quarantine is the only precautionary measure to combat this deadly disease and must be strictly observed.

We observed that (87%) of the respondents strongly agreed that all types of gatherings, celebrations, invitations in groups are dangerous in regard to this pandemic disease.

We observed a significant association of education with treatment approach ( $p = 0.001$ ). The specialist cadre medics attributed precautions and to some extent with use of antiviral and anti-malarial (Hydroxyl Chloroquine (HCQ) for treatment of COVID-19.

The levels of understanding the importance of isolation and social distancing are the key to contain virus. China did it very well. The National Health Commission of China issued protocols and guidelines with the slogan of "Big isolation and big disinfection" during the Chinese spring festival on 28th January 2020 [3].

The New York Time has also reported that corona virus is affecting more Italian males as compared to females in extremes of age because of their weak immune status. They further elaborated that Italian model of mortality is a trend mirror of what they observed in China with more causalities in male gender and at extreme age [4].

China has taken measures in the province of Hubei, Wuhan Stat, including suspension of public transport, closing of recreation places, ban on social gathering and isolation and care of suspected cases in quarantine to succeed the fight against Corona [5].

It is concluded that though we have a confidence in the level of understanding of our health worker regarding the COVID-19. It is further suggested that all health workers should understand the basics of 2019nCoV, its clinical presentation and precautionary measures to safeguard themselves and to save the community with increased surveillance for COVID-19.

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