PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS COVID-19 AND AWARENESS ABOUT PREVENTIVE MEASURES

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Abstract

This study investigates the safety measures people take in multiple situations and their importance during the covid-19 Pandemic. The primary aim of this study is to analyze people's perceptional behaviour towards the virus. A sample of 185 people is taken from different from India. Descriptive analysis was used to examine the data. The investigation resulted in the perception that not wearing the masks, not practising social distancing, and mass gatherings and events are three key reasons behind the rapid spread of the covid-19 virus. Also, people are aware of the preventive measures to stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Over 50% of people agree that vaccine helps limit the spread of covid. Almost all people wear the mask correctly, covering the nose and mouth in all public places. They frequently wash hands with soap and water before entering home and office, go to the washroom, and before my meals. They avoid going to crowd places such as marketplaces, religious sites, gatherings.

Keywords: Covid-19, preventive measures, social distancing, perception,

Introduction

The coronavirus is a virus that has started in Wuhan, China. This virus was/is contagious fast, causing the World Health Organization (WHO) to declare it a global pandemic on 11th March 2020. many affected cases are recorded in India. The spread was found because of restrictions and efficiency in controlling the Covid virus. The Indian government has also implemented a lockdown and enforced social distancing measures to stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus and the number of affected patients. That lasted for some months and is now loosening up (unlocked). The restricted lockdown causes schools to close, executes work from home, no public gatherings, etc. Also, transportation is restricted. So here, we will mainly focus on the pre and post effects of the vehicle before and after the lockdown. Several areas will be touched on, but to mention a few, will look at the frequency of travel, spending (if it increased or decreased), mode of transportation used (public or private), etc.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has caused panic worldwide, isolating people from the physical world around them. Governments have adopted various lockdown, quarantine, and quarantine measures, closing facilities, restricting travel,

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and cancelling social gatherings. Cities worldwide are abandoned, citizens are trapped in their homes, whether by choice or government. They have left a profound social, economic, and political trauma. In one of the most radical virus outbreaks in recent history, social cohesion, community awareness, collaboration, and mutual support have become powerful catalysts for building resilience and adapting to unprecedented pressures, risks, and changes. These unprecedented times have revealed the importance of living in a comprehensive community with all necessary facilities and facilities and having a dedicated team to ensure that the community develops harmoniously despite adversity. In response to the current emergency, the scientific and innovative communities are making essential contributions to the crisis. In the past few months, we have witnessed many initiatives promoting exchange opportunities, promoting interaction between different participants (health, industry, government, academia, ordinary people), and developing innovative solutions and collaborative infrastructure. Bring COVID-19.

When responding to the COVID-19 crisis, it is essential to take an open and collaborative approach and join forces. Allowing the masses to become innovation partners can also play a supportive role. Therefore, our work aims to review and categorize initiatives started in response to emergencies caused by the new coronavirus pandemic based on a crowdsourcing model.

Covid-19 has changed our world. The general risk of infectious diseases has challenged our existing service methods. This approach has undergone profound changes and shows that health and safety are of far-reaching importance in all aspects of our lives. The Pandemic also highlights the urgency of human-centred innovation in global health and the need for these solutions to be driven by the communities they serve. The virus exposes and exploits existing social and ethnic inequalities, leaving many communities with insufficient medical services and susceptible to disease. These problems occurred before Covid-19 but exacerbated the consequences. If left untreated, they will persist and become infected. Health is safety. By investing heavily in people and supporting community-led innovation, we can prepare for crises without being disturbed by concerns. The scale, impact, and complexity of Covid-19 have surpassed many of our existing solutions. There has been too much time spent repairing broken systems and structures, and it is now time to work together across departments to innovate new ones.

AIM OF THE STUDY

The following objectives are determined to study the prevention of the covid-19 outbreak.

1. The importance of safety measures during the Pandemic is being studied.
2. The people's perceptional behaviour towards the virus is being investigated.
3. To find the safety measures taken by the people in various situations.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Social distancing has been a popular measure used during the current Pandemic to check its spread since it lowers the risk of infection while coughing, sneezing, and speaking at gatherings (De Vos, 2020). Research showed that social distancing measures affect participation (De Vos, 2020). It was assumed that people would travel less and prefer personal vehicles in times of social distancing to avoid the risk of using public transportation (De Vos, 2020). Similarly, other studies suggest that observance of social distancing and limited travel activity may significantly check the spread of the Pandemic (Beck & Hensher, 2020; Fenichel, 2013).

Social distancing is more effective than travel limitations in preventing the spread of the COVID-19. The study of Olagnier and Mogensen (2020) suggested a positive role of social distancing in delaying the pandemic peak. When people started travelling for various purposes during the initial unlocking phase, the fear of getting infected remained constant. Pawar et al. (2020) reported that travel restrictions and social distancing commuters stopped travelling, significantly reducing travel demand.

Alkhaldi et al. (2021) examine the public perception of COVID-19, adoption of preventive measures, and ability and willingness to self-isolate during and post-lockdown periods of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The study was conducted in Saudi Arabia. According to the findings, 74% of those polled were concerned about the COVID-19 outbreak, and 27% believed they would become infected with the virus if it spreads.. 16% thought it would be life-threatening or severe. High percentages of respondents reported being able and willing to self-isolate. A significant increase in anxiety levels perceived effectiveness of social distancing and hygiene practices was reported in the post-lockdown compared to during the

lockdown. A study conducted by Narayan et al. (2020) in the Indian context revealed that most of the respondents showed a correct rate of perception (57.6%) and practices (88.1%) towards COVID-19. Respondents over 40 years, higher education level, living in urban areas, and pursuing healthcare professions were positively associated with increased knowledge, perception, and practices scores towards COVID-19. As per Zhang et al. (2021), social distancing is a significant factor in determining the spread of this disease. Social distancing is strongly affected by the local travel behaviour of people in large cities. Mahmood et al. (2020) assessed Pakistani people's attitude, perception, and knowledge toward COVID-19 disease. 65.2% of the people are practising social distancing, whereas 85.1% think social gatherings cause the spread of the disease. Participants had expert knowledge about the disease and a positive attitude toward protective measures.

RESEARCH Methodology

Research design and sampling

This study aims to investigate the descriptive research design is applied. Convenience sampling is employed to reach and get the responses. The convenient sample is most common, which is cost-effective timesaving. The data were collected in different states of India.

Data collection tool

Primary data through a self-developed questionnaire was collected. A Self-developed questionnaire was used to manage the data from the targeted population. A questionnaire was developed on Google Form. The variable to create the questionnaire were extracted from the literature review. Closed-ended and open-ended questions were asked. However, most questions were closed-ended, having multiple options. Twenty questions were asked.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The data related to respondents' demographic profiles are reported in Table 1. Most of the respondents are from Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand respectively, 37.3%, 17.8%, 16.2 and 5.4%. Data related to gender shows 68.60% males and 30.8% females. Most people ranged between 18-25, i.e., 60% of respondents are young. Respondents' outlook towards vaccination is also explored. Over 50 respondents were vaccinated.

Table 1: Demographic profile of the respondents

		Frequency	**Percentage**
Age brackets	18-25	116	62.7
	26-34	41	22.2
	35-44	11	5.9
	45-54	5	2.7
	55-64	2	1.1
	Below 18	10	5.4
Gender	Female	57	30.8
	Male	127	68.6
	Third gender	1	0.5
	Total	185	100.0
Resident of the respondents	Bihar	10	5.4
	Delhi	33	17.8
	Haryana	9	4.9

	Madhya Pradesh	4	2.2
	Maharashtra	7	3.8
	Rajasthan	11	5.9
	Uttar Pradesh	69	37.3
	Uttarakhand	30	16.2
	Other States	12	
	Total	185	100.0
Outlook towards vaccinating	I am planning to vaccinate myself	63	34.1
	I do not intend to vaccinate myself	1	0.5
	I have already vaccinated myself (both doses)	15	8.1
	I have already vaccinated myself (first dose)	106	57.3

In this study, people's perception of the spread of the covid virus rapidly in India is investigated. For this purpose, covid-19 pandemic protocols are used. Data from Table 2 shows that not wearing the masks, not practising social distancing and mass gatherings and events are three key reasons behind the rapid spread of the covid-19 virus.

Table 2: People's perception about the covid spread of rapidly

	Frequency	**Percentage**
People do not practice social distancing	15	8.1
People do not practice social distancing. People do not wash their hands regularly.	1	0.5
People do not practice social distancing. People go to mass gatherings and events.	6	3.2
People do not practice social distancing. People go to mass gatherings and events. People do not wash their hands regularly.	1	0.5
People do not practice social distancing. People go to mass gatherings and events. The people don't wash their hands often. The people don't use hand sanitizers.	2	1.1
People do not wash their hands regularly. People do not use hand sanitizers.	1	0.5
People do not wear masks	11	5.9
People do not wear masks. People do not practice social distancing.	1 7	9.2
People do not wear masks. The people don't practice social distancing. People do not use hand sanitizers.	3	1.6
People do not wear masks. The people don't practice social distancing. People do not wash their hands regularly.	3	1.6
People do not wear masks. The people don't practice social distancing. People do not wash their hands regularly. People do not use hand sanitizers.	1	0.5
People do not wear masks. The people don't practice social distancing. People go to mass gatherings and events.	42	22.7

People do not wear masks. The people don't practice social distancing. People go to mass gatherings and events. People do not use hand sanitizers.	3	1.6
People do not wear masks. The people don't practice social distancing. People go to mass gatherings and events. The people don't wash their hands often.	19	10.3
People do not wear masks. The people don't practice social distancing. People go to mass gatherings and events. People do not wash their hands regularly. The people don't use hand sanitizers.	20	10.8
People do not wear masks. People do not practice social distancing. People go to mass gatherings and events. People do not wash their hands regularly. People do not use hand sanitizers, poor response of governments to COVID across the globe.	1	0.5
People do not wear masks. people do not use hand sanitizers	4	2.2
People do not wear masks. People do not wash their hands regularly.	6	3.2
People do not wear masks. The people don't wash their hands often. People do not use hand sanitizers.	4	2.2
People do not wear masks. People go to mass gatherings and events.	5	2.7
The people don't wear masks. People go to mass gatherings and events. People do not use hand sanitizers.	2	1.1
The people don't wear masks. People go to mass gatherings and events. People do not wash their hands regularly.	7	3.8
People go to mass gatherings and events	9	4.9
People go to mass gatherings and events. People do not wash their hands regularly. People do not use hand sanitizers.	1	0.5
The people's performance is good, but the government isn't taking care of their citizens. Lockdown is not the solution.	1	0.5
Total	185	100.0

As per the survey data, 58.40% of people think the vaccine helps limit the spread of covid whereas 37.80% think it is partially effective, 2.70% don't want to say anything, and only 1.1% think that vaccination is not effective in limiting this (see Table 3).

Table 3: vaccinations can be effective in limiting the spread of covid

	Frequency	**Percentage**
Can't say	5	2.7
Not at all	2	1.1
Only partly	70	37.8
Yes, absolutely	108	58.4
Total	185	100

Five questions were asked to know the people's perceptional behaviour or preventive measures. Data related to people's behaviour toward preventative measures are reported in Table 4. Almost all people wear the mask correctly, covering my nose and mouth in all public places. They frequently wash hands with soap and water before entering home and office, going to the washroom, and before my meals. The variation in data shows people do not frequently use sanitizer whenever they touch any public surface or need to shake hands. They avoid going to crowd places such as marketplaces, religious sites, gatherings, etc.

Table 4: Which of the following statements would best classify your behaviour?

		Frequency	**Percentage**
Wear a mask properly covering my nose and mouth in all public places	Always do so	143	77.3
	Mostly do so	34	18.4
	Only Sometimes	4	2.2
	Only when required or told to do this	4	2.2
Frequently wash hands with soap and water	Always do so	110	59.5
	Mostly do so	51	27.6
	Only Sometimes	18	9.7
	Only when required or told to do so	6	3.2
Wash hands with soap and water whenever I enter my home and office, go to the washroom, and before my meals.	Always do so	132	71.4
	Mostly do so	46	24.9
	Only Sometimes	6	3.2
	Only when required or told to do so	1	0.5
Use a sanitizer to clean hands whenever I tough any public surface or need to shake hands	Always do so	103	55.7
	Mostly do so	54	29.2
	Only Sometimes	27	14.6
	Only when required or told to do so	1	0.5
Avoid going to crowd places such as marketplaces, religious sites, gatherings, etc	Always do so	94	50.8
	Mostly do so	57	30.8
	Not possible for me to follow this	2	1.1
	Only Sometimes	19	10.3
	Only when required or told to do so	13	7

Conclusion

This study is based on "preventing covid: harnessing the power of communities". This Pandemic turned the entire world upside down. No one thought that the world could be arranged like this. The Covid-19 Pandemic has changed people's lives, societies, and organizations. Sudden security, work stoppages, and greater attention to previous life knowledge and experience without the impact of the virus have had a significant impact on people's health and organization. With no approved treatment for COVID-19, it is vital to prevent its spread in society. The main point is finger hygiene, social

distance, quarantine, vaccination, etc. Improved testing capabilities could help detect more positive patients in the community, reducing disease to stricter quarantine rules.

The study concluded that not wearing the masks, not practising social distancing and mass gatherings and events are three key reasons behind the rapid spread of the covid-19 virus. Over 50% of people agree that vaccine helps limit the spread of covid. Almost all people wear masks correctly, covering their nose and mouth in public places. They frequently wash hands with soap and water before entering home and office, going to the washroom, and before my meals. They avoid going to crowd places such as marketplaces, religious sites, gatherings, etc.

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