



Fear versus Attitude among the Students During Pandemic.

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ABSTRACT

Corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a contagious disease caused by a virus, the severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The first known case was identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. The disease quickly spread worldwide, resulting in the COVID-19 pandemic, causing heavy damage on the general public health. Covid 19 is a challenge for both the health and the education sector. This study attempted to assess the fear and attitude of the nursing students during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. An online survey was conducted among 98 nursing students using a semi-structured questionnaire using a non-probability snowball sampling technique. The results of the study portraits that mean score of the fear were 26.44 and anxiety was 20.34. Standard deviation for fear and anxiety were 5.432 and 20.34 respectively. The calculated Karl's Pearson correlation and co-efficient shows the fear and anxiety was positively correlated with each other. The value shows that, fear and anxiety was significant with anxiety at 0.01 level.

Keywords: Attitude, fear, COVID 19, lockdown.

INTRODUCTION

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. People at all ages are at risk for getting corona virus infection, some experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment but some people will become seriously ill and require medical attention. People with co-morbid illness like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, or cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. Health workers including nursing and other paramedical students are at the front line of the COVID-19 outbreak response and as such are exposed to different hazards that put them at risk. This study attempted to assess the fear and attitude of the nursing students during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.

METHODS

This study was conducted in the Union Territory of Puducherry, India, among the college students undergoing Nursing and various paramedical courses during the lockdown period due to the spread of COVID-19. The data were collected, through online mode using a self-administered questionnaire framed to assess the level of fear and anxiety from the study sample who were willing to participate in this study. By using Google form the tool was sent to all participants after obtaining the informed consent. The questionnaire was divided into 2 sections. Section A consisted of demographical variables and Section B consisted of the questions to assess the level of perceived fear and their attitude towards corona virus in which there were 8 items, self-reported questionnaire. The responses from each participant were marked on the Likers' Scale ranging from strongly agree (5), Moderately agree (4), Just agree (3), disagree strongly (2), disagree (1). Descriptive analysis was computed in terms of mean and standard deviation with the range for continuous variable and frequency with percentage for ordinal and nominal variable. All participants were guaranteed anonymity and they provided informed consent.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

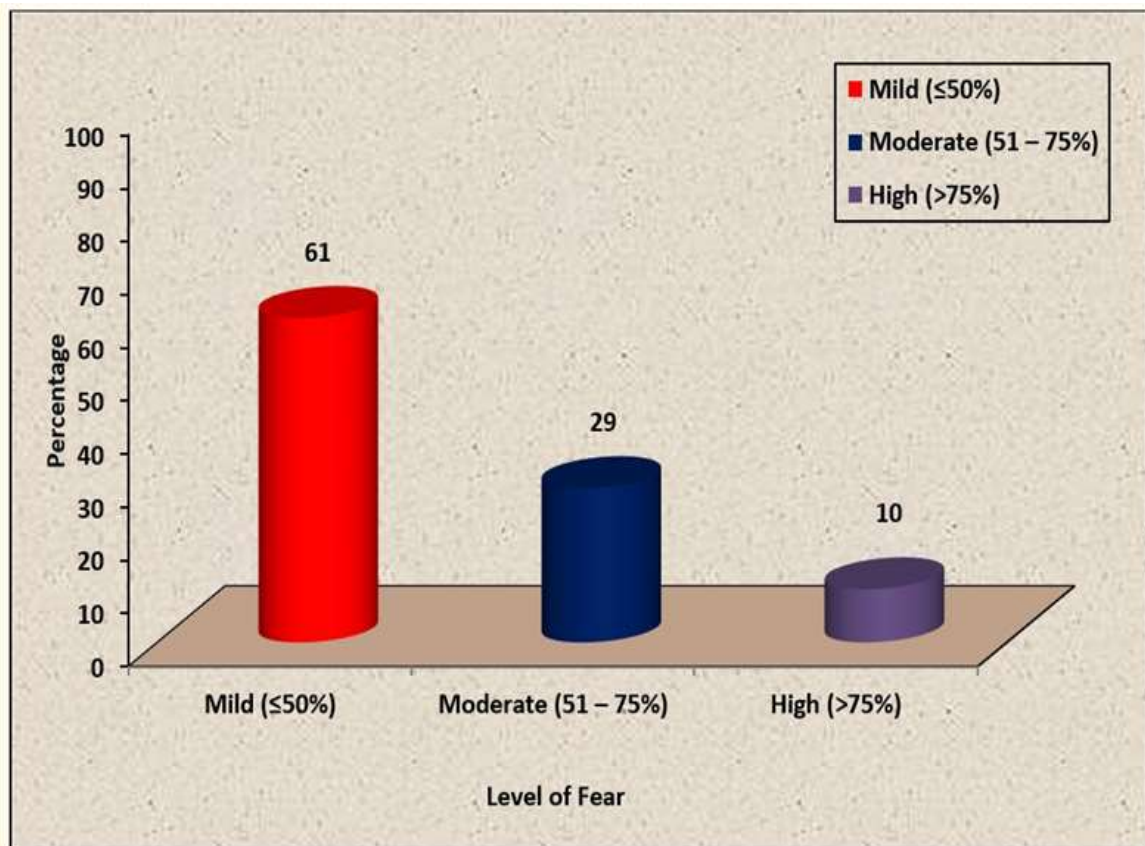
Descriptive statistics have been used in the study to analyse the findings. A total of 98 responses were recorded. All the participants were above 18 years of age and Indian origin. The study included only those participants who understood English and had access to the internet.

Part II : Fear of the students towards COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown.

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of level of fear among college students (N = 100).

Level of Fear	Frequency	Percentage
Mild ($\leq 50\%$)	61	61.0
Moderate (51 - 75%)	29	29.0
High ($> 75\%$)	10	10.0

The fear of the students towards COVID-19 pandemic during lockdown was assessed using the self-administered questionnaire. The level of fear was categorized into 3 as Mild ($\leq 50\%$), Moderate (51 - 75%), High ($> 75\%$). Here in table 1 and figure 1 show that the most of the participants were mild level of fear 61 (61%), Out of 100 participants 10 (10%) only were experiencing High level of fear.

**Figure 1: Percentage distribution of level of fear among college students.****Table 2: Mean score of fear level among college students (N = 100).**

Fear	Score	Mean	SD
Minimum	11.0	20.62	6.33
Maximum	35.0		

Table 2 depicts that most of the students score a maximum fear level of 35.0 and the minimum fear level scores of 11.0 The mean \pm standard deviation was about 20.62 ± 6.33 .

Part II : Attitude of the students towards COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown.

1. Frequent washing of hands decrease risk of covid19
97 responses

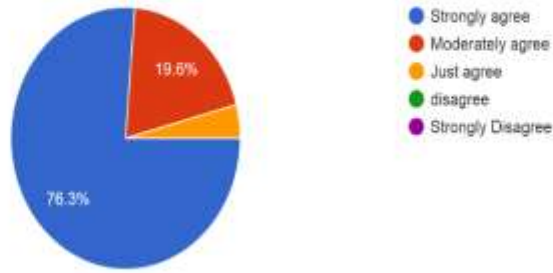


Figure 1: Attitude towards Handwashing

2. Social distancing is essential to stop the virus spread.
97 responses

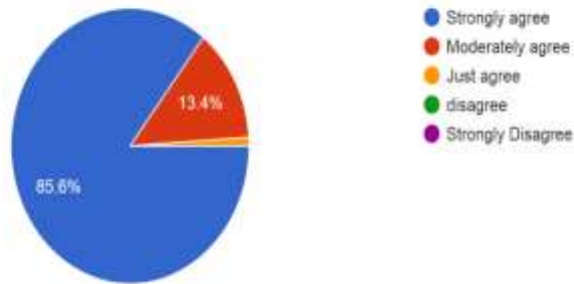


Figure 2: Attitude towards Social distancing

3. Am willing to be quarantined if I have a symptoms of corona.
97 responses

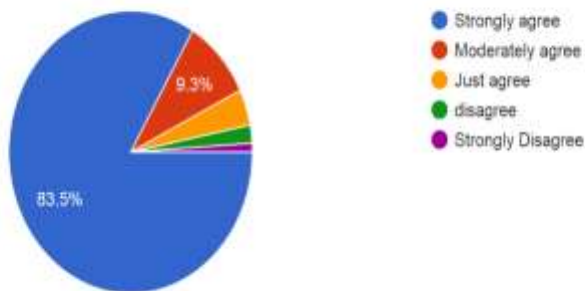


Figure3: Attitude towards self quarantine

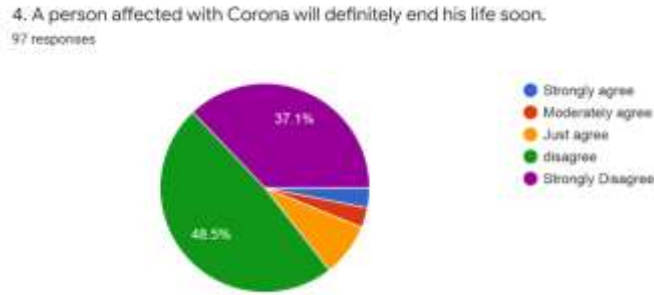


Figure 4: Attitude towards Prognosis of Corona infection

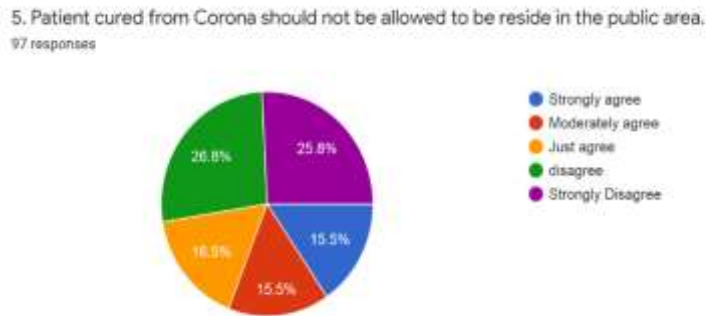


Figure 5: Attitude towards Social stigma

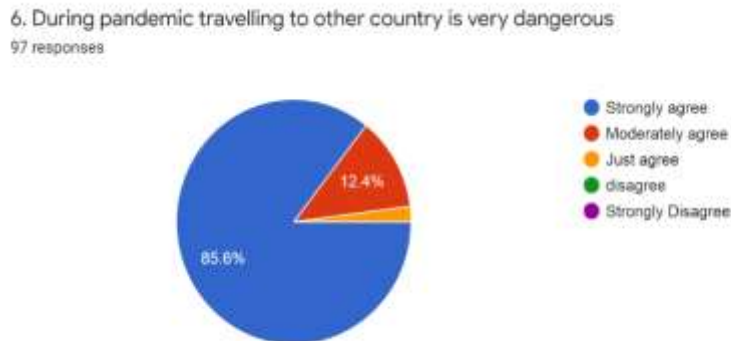


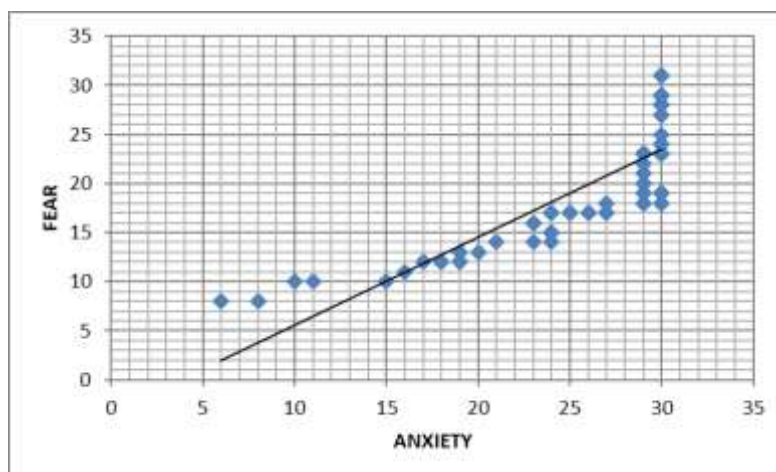
Figure 6: Attitude towards travel during pandemic

Part III- correlation of fear and anxiety

CORRELATION BETWEEN FEAR AND ANXIETY REGARDING CORONA

Variables	Mean	Standard deviation	r value p value
Fear	26.44	5.432	r = 1 p = 809*
Anxiety	20.34	6.065	

The above table portraits that mean score of the fear were 26.44 and anxiety was 20.34. Standard deviation for fear and anxiety were 5.432 and 20.34 respectively. The calculated Karl's Pearson correlation and co-efficient shows the fear and anxiety was positively correlated with each other. The value shows that, fear and anxiety was significant with anxiety at 0.01 level.



Conclusion:

Coronavirus disease is a highly infectious and fatal disease. people have experienced more distress in the form of fear, and anxiety among masses including the students. Reflection of fear among students suggests that adequate preventive steps, treatment options and proper supportive guidance may be planned to reduce the fear and anxiety among the students.

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