

# Knowledge and Attitude Towards COVID-19 among Paramedic and Nursing Students, Srinagar

## Abstract

**Background:** A corona virus pandemic has reached all over the world. It is a highly contagious virus spreading from human to human by respiratory droplet infection and close contact. Applying preventive measures is very important in tackling the spread of the disease since there is no curative antiviral drug. The pandemic of the virus has impacted different institutions including the university. **Aim:** To assess Knowledge and attitude of professional students who are trained in Nursing and Paramedic College, Srinagar. **Materials and Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted among 140 selected participants through convenient sampling. A self structured questionnaire was used to collect the data from May 2020 to June 2020. Data was analyzed by using SPSS16. **Results and conclusion:** In this study, 77(55%) of the students had Good knowledge and 45% had Poor knowledge score about the Covid-19 and 54% of the students had Negative attitude and 45% had positive attitude respectively. majority of students were belonging to age group of 20-22 (76.4), maximum were females109 (77.9%), mostly had rural domicile 100(70.9).It was found that maximum subjects in this study were GNM (38.6%),B.sc nursing (35.7%), and paramedics were(25.7%) Most of the subjects were found muslims124 (88.6%) followed by others9(6.4%) and Hindu7(5.0%). In this survey all of the students had heard about the Covid-19, with the majority 82(58.6%) gained information from all sources followed by mass media (26.4%), person 15(10.7%) and Books 6(4.3%). The Knowledge and attitude of the students towards the Covid-19 was good. Being a health sciences student was an explanatory variable for better knowledge significant with educational status. Awareness creation on preventive behaviors among the students is highly recommended among other students..

**Keywords:** Covid-19, knowledge, attitude, student.

## Introduction

COVID-19 is caused by a previously unreported strain of corona virus, officially named Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Corona virus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). It primarily spreads person to person through close contact and contaminated surfaces, often via

small droplets produced by the infected person through coughing, sneezing or talking (CDC, 2020a; WHO, 2020c). Therefore, it is important to empower people by educating them and effectively communicating accurate information about the preventive measures (e.g., hand washing, covering one's mouth while coughing or

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sneezing, maintaining social distancing and self-isolation). In this regard World Health Organization (WHO 2020) has initiated several online training sessions & materials on covid-19 in various languages to Strengthen preventive strategies including raising awareness and training HCWs in preparedness activities. In several instances, misunderstanding among HCWS have delayed controlling efforts to provide necessary treatment, led the rapid spread of infection in hospitals, and put patient lives at risk. Since college Students represent a special subset of the student population that has more autonomy and pressing needs to live independently but lacks life experience. Furthermore, college students are among the most active members of various social media platforms. Their perceptions and behaviors have a massive impact on the spread of a pandemic (Peng et al., 2020). Therefore, it is important to evaluate their understanding of the COVID-19 pandemic. We conducted a cross-sectional study to access the knowledge, attitude associated with COVID-19 among a group of professional health science students trained at AMT School and Nursing College, Srinagar.

## Objectives

- (I) To assess knowledge of covid-19 among students.
- (II) To assess attitude of covid-19 among students.
- (III) To find an association of knowledge and attitude with selected demographic variables.

## Method

A cross-sectional study was conducted at Srinagar Kashmir, India. Total 140 subjects were given questioner as Google form through WhatsApp and emails using purposive sampling technique. Data

was collected during month of May from 1<sup>st</sup> to 30th May 2021, studying at AMT school and college of Nursing GMC Srinagar who are aged between 18-25 years with their consent. An online google form self-structured questioner was used to collect the data.

## Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Inclusion criteria (1) Paramedic students (2) GNM Nursing (3) Bsc Nursing students (4) 18- 25 years of age.

## Exclusion Criteria

(1) Above 26 years of age (2) PG nursing (3) other academic students (4) who are not willing to participate. Self-designed a questionnaire used after reviewing several research papers (by Sakr et al. (2021) and Alqrache A.T., Mostafa M.M., Atta H.M (2020) on knowledge and attitude of students towards covid 19 and the WHO website). The questionnaire was formulated in English and measured the knowledge of the students about COVID-19 in 22 questions divided into five groups: six questions to assess their general information about COVID-19, four questions measure the knowledge about its transmission, four questions ask about the ways of prevention against it, three questions evaluate their understanding of its symptoms, and five questions measures the knowledge about COVID-19 treatments. Another three questions to assess the students attitude concerning COVID-19. The questionnaires were then collected through google sheet. Analysis was made by SPSS 16 for the statistical analysis. Permission was taken from Institute.

## Statistical Analysis

Quantitative data was analyzed using percentage, frequency and mean to describe the socio demographic variables and knowledge and attitude among students.

## Results

**Table 1**  
**Socio-demographic profile**

		Frequency &percentage
Age in years	17-19	15 (10.70)
	20-22	107(76.4)
	23-25	17(12.1)
	26 &above	1(0.7%)
GENDER	Male	31 (22.1%)
	Female	109 (77.9%)
Habitat	Rural	100(70.9%)
	Urban	40(28.9%)
Educational qualification	GNM	50(38.6%)
	Paramedic	36(25.7%)
	B.Sc Nursing	54(35.7)
	Muslim	124(88.6%)
Religion	Hindu	7(5.0%)
	Others	9(6.4%)
Source of information	Person	15(10.7%)
	Social media	37(26.4%)
	Books	6( 4.3%)
	All	82(58.6%)

**Table 2**  
**Knowledge Score and Attitude score**

Knowledge Score	poor (0-8)	63(45%)
	Good (9-16)	77(55%)
Attitude score	Positive attitude	76(54%)
	Negative attitude	64(46%)

**Table 3****Association of demographic variables and Knowledge score**

	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Age	2	0.669	.323	0.725
	106	2.073		
Gender	108			
	2	0.375	2.286	0.107
	106	0.164		
Domicile	108			
	2	0.232	1.113	0.332
	106	0.209		
Educational Qualification	108			
	2	2.389	4.445	0.014*
	106	0.538		
Religion	108			
	2	0.895	1.255	0.289
	106	0.713		
Source of information	108			
	2	2.926	2.248	0.111
	106	1.302		
	108			

\*significant

## Discussion

COVID-19 is highly contagious disease, protecting self and others depends on outline with the recommended protocols. The Knowledge and attitude are important determinants of desired protective behaviors' and may influence the clinical outcomes at individual and community levels. This study focused on evaluating the extent of Knowledge and attitude about the COVID-19 pandemic.

The study conducted reveals the findings as, majority of students were belonging to age group of 20-22 (76.4), maximum were females109 (77.9%), mostly had rural domicile 100(70.9).It was found that maximum students in this study were GNM (38.6%) B.sc nursing (35.7%), and paramedics were (25.7%). Most of the students were muslims 124 (88.6%)

followed by others 9 (6.4%) and Hindu 7 (5.0%). In this study all of the students had heard about the Covid-19, with the majority 82(58.6%) gained information from all sources followed by mass media (26.4%), person 15(10.7%) and Books 6(4.3%). A similar study was conducted by Alqrache A.T et. al (2020) at King Abdul-Aziz University revealed that their students had average knowledge of the virus with many misconceptions and moderate attitude. This finding is supported by a study conducted by YalingPeng et al (2020) shown that students from health sciences have more level of knowledge about Covid19 compared to those none health sciences students. Also study conducted by AbiyTadesse Angelo (2020),In this study, 47%, 54%, and 42.8% of the students had good knowledge, positive attitude, respectively. Having knowledge about a given disease is very important in applying appropriate

effective preventive measures. When doing this, the spread of the disease can be easily tackled. This study also revealed that there is no significant association of socio-demographic variables with the knowledge score except educational qualification 0.014\* which is significant with knowledge score.

## Conclusion

The knowledge, attitude towards Covid-19 among students were found to be good and positive. It means that students who are trained in health care have good knowledge score with positive attitude. Students must be encouraged to get the correct information from trusted sources. Provide proper information about the viruses as early as possible will help the students to control its spread in future.

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