

## **AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON AWARENESS OF COVID- 19 PANDEMIC AND SAFETY MEASURES OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN MYSORE DISTRICT**

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### **Abstract**

*As a preventive measure against Covid-19 pandemic, as per the government order, university announced holidays for the students from 16 march 2020. Government Of India announced nationwide voluntary public curfew on 22 march followed by lockdown which paused the movement of 1.38 billion population of India. No one ever thought that they will be locked inside the four walls and entire businesses will shut. It was a shock for many migrants and business man. everything was stand still for 21 days. then there were phases of lockdown 2.0, lockdown 3.0 , lockdown 4.0 for coming months and from june unlock 1.0 and in july unlock 2.0 was ordered. The universities are meant for traditional teaching adopted to online teaching as per the guidelines of UGC. An attempt is made to study the awareness level of university students towards covid-19 and the safety measures taken by them. around 550 students are surveyed through google forms and responses are analysed and presented in this paper.*

*Key words: Covid19, Pandemic, mask, social distancing, students*

### **1. Introduction**

The rapid and extensive spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has become a major cause of concern for everyone. The schools and colleges are closed one week before the lockdown as a best measure taken by the government . students are still at home and attending online classes . The aim of this study is to assess the awareness of COVID-19 disease and related infection control practices among students in Mysore district. The UG and PG students are considered for the study thinking that they are educated and follow the norms and requirements of the crisis.

### **Research Methodology**

The study is exploratory and descriptive in nature. Around 550 students studying graduate and post graduate degree in Mysore district are considered for the study. The data is collected through the Google forms and analysed using SPSS. The frequency and cross tabulation is used to analyse the data.

Particular	Sub-Category	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	226	41.1
	Female	324	58.9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Studying	UG	383	69.6
	PG	167	30.4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Staying in hostel	Yes	151	27.5
	NO	399	72.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Father occupation	Govt job	82	14.9
	Private job	64	11.6
	Business	96	17.5
	Agriculture	180	32.7
	Daily wage employee	102	18.5
	Job loss due to lockdown	26	4.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Mother Occupation	Govt job	28	5.1
	Private job	17	3.1
	Business	6	1.1
	Agriculture	30	5.5
	Daily wage employee	33	6.0
	Job loss due to lockdown	7	1.3
	House wife	429	78.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Monthly Income of the family	upto Rs20000	311	56.5
	Rs.20001-30000	79	14.4
	30001-40000	45	8.2
	40001-50000	19	3.5
	50000 plus	96	17.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Out of 550 responses collected for the study reveals that, 41% are male and 59% are female. 69.6% are UG students, 30.4% are PG students. 27.5% staying in hostel during their studies. 33 parents which accounts for 6% have lost their job

due Pandemic, which is alarming fact. majority of the student surveyed belongs to income level Rs.20000 per month and 17.5% belongs to the income above Rs.50000 and more. so the survey involves both low income parents and high income parents.

The statements related to awareness and measures taken by students are analysed with cross tabulation with gender of the students.

Table 2

		I am aware of the covid19 and take precautions					Total	P value
		strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	strongly agree		
gender	male	N 6	6	23	108	83	226	0.801
	%	1.1%	1.1%	4.2%	19.6%	15.1%	41.1%	
	female	N 6	8	38	166	106	324	
	%	1.1%	1.5%	6.9%	30.2%	19.3%	58.9%	
	Total	N 12	14	61	274	189	550	
	%	2.2%	2.5%	11.1%	49.8%	34.4%	100.0%	

**H1(0)-** There is no difference in the gender of students and precautions taken by students

**H1(1)-** There is a difference in the gender of students and precautions taken by students

**H1(0)-** accepted, **H1(1)-** rejected, which states that there is no gender difference in their opinion.

**Table 3**

Crosstab									P value
		I wear mask whenever I go out						Total	
		strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	strongly agree			
gender	male	N	5	2	6	73	140	226	0.340
		%	.9%	.4%	1.1%	13.3%	25.5%	41.1%	
	female	N	4	0	10	95	215	324	
		%	.7%	.0%	1.8%	17.3%	39.1%	58.9%	
Total		N	9	2	16	168	355	550	
		%	1.6%	.4%	2.9%	30.5%	64.5%	100.0%	

**H2(0)-** There is no difference in the mask wearing pattern of the students

**H2(0)-** accepted, **H2(1)-** rejected, which states that there is no gender difference in their opinion

**H2(1)-** There is a difference in the mask wearing pattern of the students

**Table 4**

Crosstab									P value
		I wash my hands regularly						Total	
		strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	strongly agree			
gender	male	N	4	0	16	93	113	226	0.419
		%	.7%	.0%	2.9%	16.9%	20.5%	41.1%	
	female	N	2	2	19	126	175	324	
		%	.4%	.4%	3.5%	22.9%	31.8%	58.9%	
Total		N	6	2	35	219	288	550	
		%	1.1%	.4%	6.4%	39.8%	52.4%	100.0%	

**H3(0)-** There is no difference in the washing hands of the students

**H3(1)-** There is a difference in the washing hands of the students

**H3(0)-** accepted, **H3(1)-** rejected, which states that there is no gender difference in their opinion

Table 5

Crosstab									P value
		I maintain social distancing						Total	
			strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	strongly agree		
gender	male	N	5	3	25	94	99	226	0.202
		%	.9%	.5%	4.5%	17.1%	18.0%	41.1%	
	female	N	1	4	27	137	155	324	
		%	.2%	.7%	4.9%	24.9%	28.2%	58.9%	
Total		N	6	7	52	231	254	550	
		%	1.1%	1.3%	9.5%	42.0%	46.2%	100.0%	

p value is 0.202 , which is greater than 0.05, H4(0)- accepted and H4(1)- rejected, which states that there is no gender difference in their opinion.

**H4(0)-** there is no difference that students maintaining social distancing

**H4(1)-** there is a difference that students maintaining social distancing

Table 6

Crosstab									P value
		I am happy that institute is closed during covid19						Total	
			strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	strongly agree		
gender	male	N	30	22	46	49	79	226	0.001
		%	5.5%	4.0%	8.4%	8.9%	14.4%	41.1%	
	female	N	14	35	70	102	103	324	
		%	2.5%	6.4%	12.7%	18.5%	18.7%	58.9%	
Total		Count	57	116	151	182	550		
		% of Total	%	10.4%	21.1%	27.5%	33.1%	100.0%	

there is difference in the students opinion and it shows that female are more happy that institute is closed due to covid19.

**H5(0)-** there is no difference in the happiness of the students for closing of the institute

**H5(1)-** there is a difference in the happiness of the students for closing of the institute

p value is less than 0.05 which means H5(0) rejected and H5(1) accepted.

Table 7

Crosstab									P value
		I feel safe at home than going to college						Total	
		strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	strongly agree			
gender	male	Count	7	4	23	73	119	226	.010
		% of Total	1.3%	.7%	4.2%	13.3%	21.6%	41.1%	
	female	Count	3	2	14	112	193	324	
		% of Total	.5%	.4%	2.5%	20.4%	35.1%	58.9%	
Total		Count	10	6	37	185	312	550	
		% of Total	1.8%	1.1%	6.7%	33.6%	56.7%	100.0%	

H6(0)-There is a no significant difference between the opinions of the students to be at home

H6(1)-there is a significant difference in the opinions of the students to be at home

P =0.10 which is less than 0.05 which means null hypothesis H6(0) is rejected and alternate hypothesis H6(1) accepted. which means there is a difference in the opinion of the students.

There is difference in the students opinion and it shows that female feel safe at home than coming to college/institute.

**Conclusion:**

It is found from the study that, pandemic is affected university UG and PG students. it is significant that parents have lost job due to pandemic and it may affect the students education. Students have awareness about covid19 and taking precautionary measures such as wearing mask, washing hands regularly, maintaining social distance and staying at home. The government and university circulars and programmes are successful creating awareness. Though they are happy that institutions /colleges are closed, they have uncertainty about their studies.

Government need to take a decision based on the severity of the spread of the disease and plan accordingly.

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