

**Original Article****Awareness Regarding covid-19 among Market Vendors in Chidambaram.**

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**Abstract**

**Background:** COVID-19, which was initiated regionally at Wuhan of China, has become a global pandemic by infecting people of almost worldwide. Human civilizations are facing threat for their survival and livelihood. No country was getting any substantial relief and solution from this pandemic rather to convince their citizens to make aware and taking precautions by changing their living style. **Objective:** The objective of this study is to explore the awareness regarding COVID-19 among market vendors in Chidambaram. **Materials and Methods:** A well-designed awareness regarding the COVID-19 questionnaire was taken among over 100 vendors. The questionnaire consisted of two sections. One was about demographic and socioeconomic data (name, age, gender, income, and education), whereas section two was about epidemiological data of COVID-19. **Results:** The study concluded that COVID-19-related awareness among market vendors in Chidambaram, the awareness was more among male participants when compared to female participants. **Conclusion:** As the global threat of COVID-19 continues to emerge, it is critical to improve the awareness and preparedness of the targeted community members, especially the less educated ones. Educational interventions are urgently needed to reach the targeted residents beyond borders and further measures are warranted.

**Keywords:** Corona virus, knowledge, Pandemic.awareness, market vendors

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## INTRODUCTION

An ongoing outbreak of infection by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2), termed as COVID-19, aroused the attention of the entire world.<sup>[1]</sup> The first infected case of coronavirus (CoV) was reported on December 31, 2019, in Wuhan, China; within a few weeks, infections spread across China and to other countries globally.<sup>[2]</sup> On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the novel CoV outbreak a public health emergency of international concern, which was the 6<sup>th</sup> declaration of its kind in WHO history.<sup>[3]</sup> Surprisingly, during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of March 2020, devastating numbers of new cases were reported globally, and the WHO declared the COVID-19 outbreak a “pandemic” on March 11.<sup>[4]</sup> The outbreak has now spread to more than 200 countries, areas, or territories beyond China. SARS-CoV-2 is a novel strain of the CoV family that has not been previously identified in humans.<sup>[5]</sup> The disease spreads through person-to-person contact, and the posed potential public health threat is very high.<sup>[6]</sup> The scientists still have limited information about COVID-19, and as a result, the complete clinical picture of COVID-19 is not fully understood yet.<sup>[7]</sup> Based on the currently available information, COVID-19 is a highly contagious disease and its primary clinical symptoms include fever, dry cough, difficulty in breathing, fatigue, myalgia, and dyspnea.<sup>[8]</sup> Personal hygiene and public health practices such as handwashing and physical distancing are important in the quarantine of suspected or confirmed cases to minimize CoV spread.<sup>[9]</sup> However, it will be challenging to adhere to these practices in many cities and rural areas, especially in developing countries.<sup>[10]</sup> Without sustained bans on large gatherings such as culture-related behaviors and faith practices including mass prayer gatherings, large weddings, and funerals, these cases may create superspreading events with accelerated transmission.<sup>[11]</sup>

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This cross-sectional study was carried out on market vendors in Chidambaram. This study was started from February 5 to 8, 2021.

The data were collected using a questionnaire consisting of two sections, one was about demographic and socioeconomic data (name, age, gender, income, and education), whereas section two was about epidemiological data of COVID-19. It was designed in English questionnaire then translated into Tamil.

The questions were multiple choices and sought to gain insight into the respondent's awareness toward COVID-19. Participants are informed about the contents of the questionnaire, and they have to answer a yes/no, true or false, and some multiple choices question to confirm their willingness to participate.

These questionnaires included awareness regarding etiology, mode of transmission, signs and symptoms, age group of individuals, mortality rate, ways of prevention and isolation, animal to human transmission, susceptible to infection in pregnant women, and immune resistance to COVID-19.

The data were collected manually to all participants. The responses were enrolled by telling the questionnaire and multiple choices designed in English, being subsequently translated into Tamil for the convenience and ease of understanding of the participants.

## RESULTS

The study results show that COVID-19-related awareness among market vendors were 60% male participants and 40% female participants [Table 1].

1. Ninety-one percent of participants responds yes to COVID-19 is a dangerous disease, followed by 9% responds no to COVID-19 is a dangerous disease [Table 2]
2. Eighty-five percent of participants responds COVID-19 caused by the virus, followed by 15% of responds COVID-19 caused by bacteria [Table 3]
3. Twelve percent of participants responded fever is the mostcommon symptoms of COVID-19, followed by 20% of participants responded dry cough, 4% of participants responded tiredness, and 64% of participants respondedall the above [Table 4]
4. Fifty-five percent of participants responds yes toCOVID-19 transmitted by droplets on air, followed by 25% of responds no, and 20% of responds maybe [Table 5]
5. Fifty-seven percent of participants responds yes to weargeneral medical mask to prevent the infection by the COVID-19, followed 26% responds no, and 17% respondsmaybe [Table 6]
6. Twenty-four percent of participants responds yes to eatingor contacting animals would result in the infection by theCOVID-19, followed by 29% of responds no, and 47% of responds maybe [Table 7]
7. Ninety-eight percent of participants responds true toCOVID-19 can be prevented by having good immune system, followed by 2% of responds false [Table 8]
8. Ninety-seven percent of participants responds true to healthy foods and drinking water increase body's immune nd resistance to COVID-19 followed by 3% of responds false [Table 9]
9. Seventy-three percent of participants responds yes to whohave contacted someone infected with COVID-19 shouldbe immediately isolated followed by 4% of responds no,and 23% of responds do not know [Table 10]
10. Eighty-nine percent of participants responds yes to pregnant women are more susceptible to infection of COVID-19 than nonpregnant women followed by 11% responds were no [Table 11].

Table 1: Distribution of study subjects based on gender	
Valid	Frequency (%)
Females	40 (40.0)
Males	60 (60.0)
Total	100 (100.0)
40%-females, 60% -males	

Table 2: Is COVID-19 a dangerous disease? Yes, no	
Valid	Frequency (%)
Yes	91 (91.0)
No	9 (9.0)
Total	100 (100.0)
91%-Yes, 9%-No	

**Table 3: Is COVID-19 is caused by? Virus, bacteria**

Valid	Frequency (%)
Virus	85 (85.0)
bacteria	15 (15.0)
Total	100 (100.0)
85%-Virus, 15%-Bacteria	

**Table 4: What are the most common symptoms of COVID-19? Fever, dry cough, tiredness, and all the above**

Valid	Frequency
Fever	12 (12.0)
Dry cough	20 (20.0)
Tiredness	4 (4.0)
1All the above	64 (64.0)
Total	100 (100.0)

**Table 5: Is COVID-19 is transmitted by droplets in air?Yes, no, maybe**

Valid	Frequency (%)
Yes	55 (55.0)
No	25 (25.0)
May be	20 (20.0)
Total	100 (100.0)
55%-Yes, 25%-No, 20%-May be	

**Table 6: Can wear general medical mask to prevent theinfection by the COVID-19? Yes, no, maybe**

Valid	Frequency (%)
Yes	57 (57.0)
No	26 (26.0)
May be	17 (17.0)
Total	100 (100.0)
57%-Yes, 26%-No, 17%-May be	

**Table 7: Eating or contacting animals would result in theinfection by COVID-19? Yes, no, maybe**

Valid	Frequency (%)
Yes	24 (24.0)

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No	29 (29.0)
May be	47 (47.0)
Total	100 (100.0)

24%-Yes, 29%-No, 47%-May be

**Table 8: COVID 19 can be prevented by having good immune system? True, false**

Valid	Frequency (%)
True	98 (98.0)
False	2 (2.0)
Total	100 (100.0)

98%-True, 2%-False

**Table 9: Healthy foods and drinking water increase body'immunity and resistance to COVID-19? True, false**

Valid	Frequency (%)
True	97 (97.0)
False	3 (3.0)
Total	100 (100.0)

97%-True, 3%-False

**Table 10: Who has contacted someone infected with COVID-19 should be immediately isolated? Yes, no, donot know**

Valid	Frequency (%)
Yes	73 (73.0)
No	4 (4.0)
Don't know	23 (23.0)
Total	100 (100.0)

73%-Yes, 4%-No, 23%-Don't know

**Table 11: Pregnant women are more susceptible to infection of COVID-19 than nonpregnant women? Yes, no**

Valid	Frequency (%)
Yes	89 (89.0)
No	11 (11.0)
Total	100 (100.0)

89%-Yes, 11%-No

## **DISCUSSION**

COVID-19 is an emerging infectious disease that poses a significant threat to public health. Given the serious threats imposed by COVID-19 and the absence of a COVID-19 vaccine, preventive measures play an essential role in reducing infection rates and controlling the spread of the disease.

This indicates the necessity of public adherence to preventive and control measures. Thus, this study aimed to assess the awareness regarding COVID-19 among market vendors. The findings indicate that most of the study participants were aware about COVID-19. In this study, the high rate of correct answers to awareness-related questions among participants.

In that time, people may have gained awareness about the disease and its transmission through television, news, and its transmission through television, news, and media platforms, to protect themselves and their families. Most of the participants in our study were aware of the clinical symptoms, and knew that there is no clinically approved treatment. Viral infections have been documented to be highly contagious among people in close proximity.

However, approximately half of the respondents were aware that SARS-CoV-2 could spread from person to person in close proximity. These findings highlight the need to continue to encourage and emphasize maintaining social distancing, as a means of preventing the spread of the virus. It is important to note that there has been a great deal of effort at all levels by the government, including public awareness campaigns.

These early actions on engaging the public in prevention and control measures, as well as efforts to combat rumours and misinformation, have been greatly expanded. These measures include the lockdown, and the suspension of all domestic and international flights, prayer at mosques, schools, and universities, and the national curfew imposed on citizens. Female participants were significantly less likely to have awareness and appropriate or safe practices toward COVID-19 than male participants.

## **CONCLUSION**

The study concluded that awareness regarding COVID-19 among market vendors in Chidambaram, the awareness was more among male participants when compared to female participants and has overall positive awareness against the COVID-19 outbreak.

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### **Conflicts of interest**

There are no conflicts of interest.

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