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Awareness and Initiatives Taken by the Residents of Condominium in a Metro City to Prevent Infection (COVID-19) Spread - A Survey

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: A highly infectious disease COVID 19 caused by Coronavirus is rapidly spreading throughout the globe. Severe respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) is the causative factor for this disease. It has affected about 210 countries worldwide, resulting in over 1,26,000 deaths. Being a droplet infection, it spreads between people having close contact. It is contracted through small droplets produced by sneezing, coughing, and talking. The droplet could also fall on the ground and onto other surfaces and people touching these surfaces could also contract the infection. The role of the public in this is extremely crucial. The citizens should abide by the rules of social distancing strictly. Everyone must try to stay at home as much as possible, even though there is an exception for those in essential services like government jobs and medical facilities. Going out should be avoided as much as possible, people should only go if it is absolutely necessary and even then not meet people or stand in groups. The study aimed to assess the awareness and initiative taken by the condominium office administrators and residents among the metro cities during an infection (COVID-19) spread.

Materials and Methods: A questionnaire was distributed through an online Google form link to about 100 people living in condominiums belonging to all age groups. The results were collected and analyzed statistically using SPSS.

Results: The majority of the study population responded positively to the awareness and initiatives taken by condominium authorities and strict rules were laid.

Conclusion: The spread of awareness and the strict decisions taken by the public is very essential to fight against a pandemic such as COVID 19.

Key Words: Awareness, Initiatives taken, Condominium residents, Outbreak, COVID-19, Survey

INTRODUCTION

COVID 19 is an infectious disease caused by severe respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2). About 1.98 million cases have been reported worldwide by 15th April 2020¹ Over the past decade, research in nanotechnology^{2,3} cancer biology⁴ analysing the cytotoxicity of the substance, nanodrug modelling⁵⁻¹⁰ various *in vivo* studies^{11,12} phytochemical, and anti-oxidant analysis^{13,14,15} analysis of the benefits of various natural products and other advanced research have taken a priority in the scientific world. Now the pandemic COVID 19 has taken a major part of the research. In this research, the main focus is to learn how people living in con-

dominiums in metro cities are able to cope up and manage to get themselves prevented from infection. It has been reported in over 126,000 deaths worldwide. Being a droplet infection, it is easily communicable and spreads between people having close contact. It spreads via small droplets that could fall on the ground and other surfaces and the people touching these contaminated surfaces contract the infection. Maintaining people's hygiene and disinfecting common grounds regularly is crucial to keep a community safe^{16,17}. Next importantly, people staying in condominium complexes should be aware of the current situation and must adhere to all the rules laid down by the government strictly. Social distancing must be practiced and kids and old aged people should

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stay indoors and refrain from using common grounds¹⁸. The study is potential and needs to be understood that this is an important problem worldwide and has caused major losses. It is the need of the hour for people to keep themselves safe and aware in order to fight the infection. There has been no found cause, treatment, or vaccination to cure the infection, so it is best to prevent themselves from acquiring the disease. The challenges to this are poor cooperation from the citizens and the disease being novel, we do not know anything in detail about it; scientists are still researching to find out¹⁹. We live as a community, thus an outbreak like this can be fought only when everyone cooperates between them. Nowadays, in metro cities, people opt to live in big condominiums, since there are an increasing number of people dwelling per square meter. Thus, as a community, the condominium dwellers need to face an emergency situation like an infection outbreak. Even if there is a small disagreement or conflict among the community, might lead to an increased risk for the entire community. Fighting against infection or an emergency will certainly show much-needed cooperation. Thus to work as a team, these communities require good office bearers, who can think positively and instruct them according to the requirements²⁰. The aim of this study is to know how much knowledge and awareness the office administrators and the residents have to fight against this fast-spreading disease and the initiatives they have taken for the safety and welfare of the residents. Different other studies and support over current situations show that community decision making plays a key role in overcoming infectious outbreak²¹. The study aimed to assess the awareness and initiatives taken by the residents of condominiums among the metro cities during an infection (COVID-19) spread.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Self-administrated questionnaires based on the awareness and initiatives taken by the residents and office administrators of the condominium comprising 10 questions were distributed on an online Google form link: “https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeITyMb6a4zGlVBdIbaIQAdh3HqmH39KfUIA0KAjbuvjVfDcQ/viewform?usp=sf_link” The study population included people living in condominiums and of age 18 years and above. The participants were explained about the purpose of the study in detail; questions were carefully studied and corresponding answers were marked by the participants.

Statistical Analysis

The data was collected and analyzed statistically using SPSS software version 20. The study was approved by the Institutional review board.

RESULTS

The collected results data was analyzed and revealed that the majority of respondents said the condominium administrators and residents took the initiative to control the spread of infection during the outbreak. The total participants responded positively, that outright proves to be a positive report.

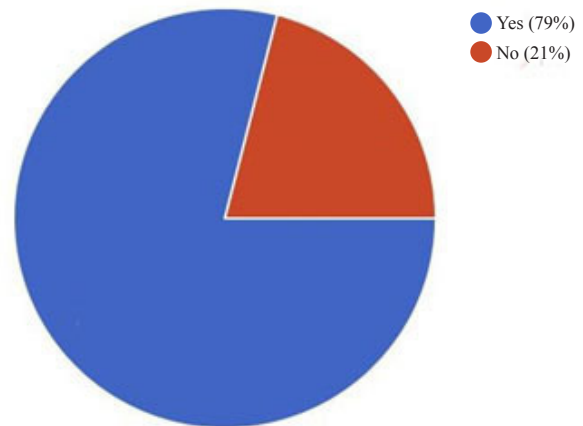


Figure 1: Figure represents the distribution of participants based on their opinion towards disinfecting their condominium premises to avoid infection, where 79% (blue) of the study participants agree and 21% (red) of them feel that it is not necessary.

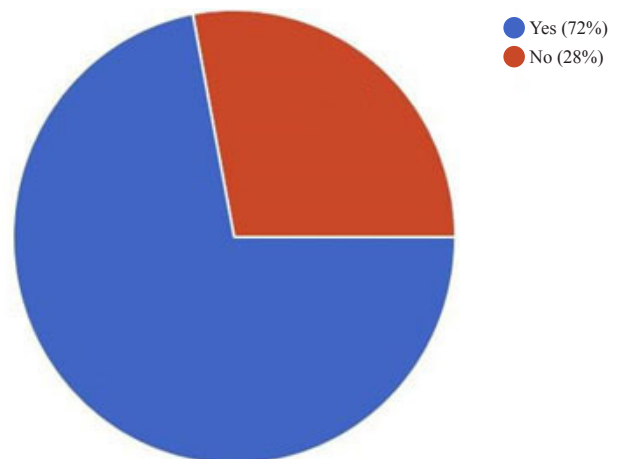


Figure 2: Figure represents the distribution of participants based on their opinion towards cooperating with the new rules to be laid by the association to prevent COVID 19 infection, where 72% (blue) of the study participants agree and 28% (red) of them feel that it is not necessary.

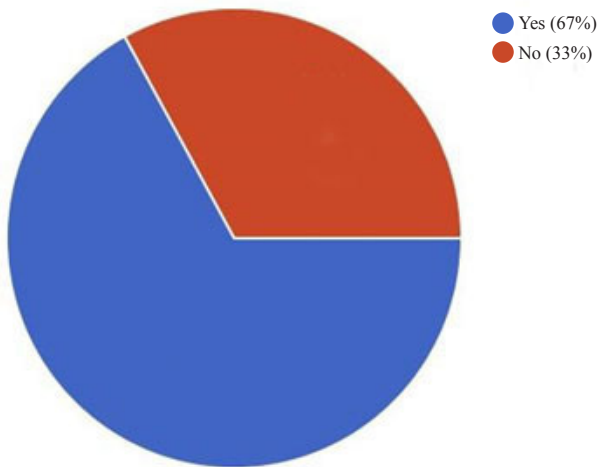


Figure 3: Figure represents the distribution of participants based on their opinion towards strictly locking their condominium gate after 6 pm to prevent COVID 19 infection, where 67% (blue) of the study participants agree and 33% (red) of them feel that it is not necessary.

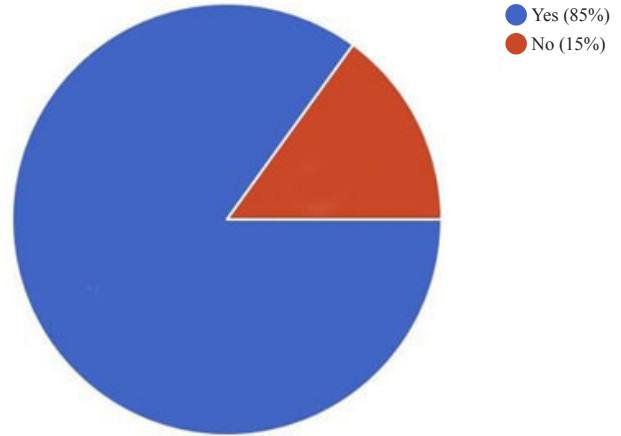


Figure 5: Figure represents the distribution of participants based on their opinion towards not permitting children to play in the common area of their condominium to prevent COVID 19 infection, where to this a majority of 85% (blue) of the study participants agreed to it and 15% (red) of them felt not necessary.

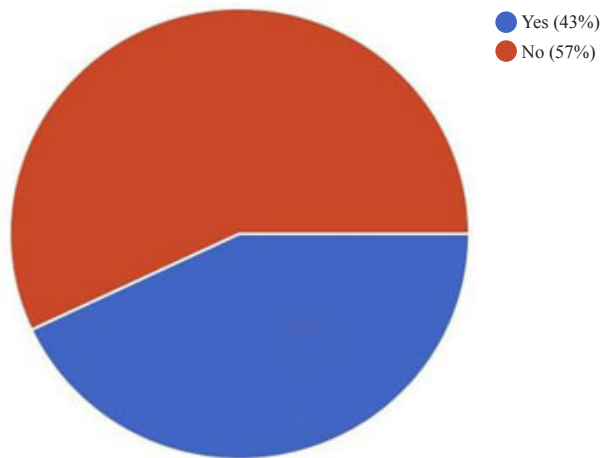


Figure 4: Figure represents the distribution of participants based on their opinion towards not to permit vegetable or fruit sellers inside their condominium to prevent COVID 19 infection, where only 43% (blue) of the study participants agreed to it and 57% (red) of them felt that as vegetables and fruits are essential, they wanted those sellers to be allowed.

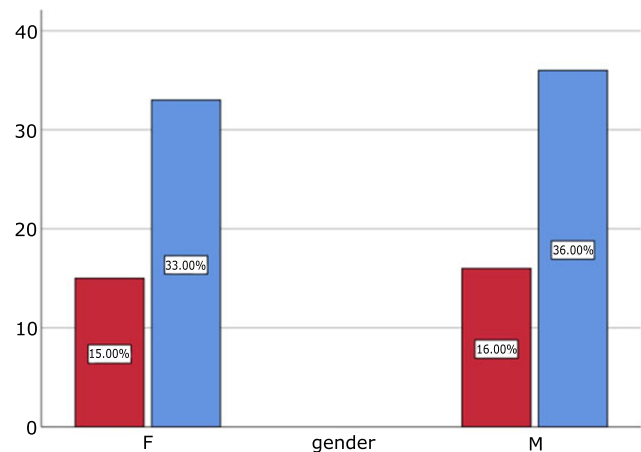


Figure 6: Bar chart showing the association between gender and their opinion to hold a meeting to discuss the rules to be laid to prevent COVID infection. X-axis represents Gender, Y-axis represents the number of responses who wanted to hold a meeting (Blue) and who don't want a meeting (Red). 33 females and 36 males agreed to have a meeting. Pearson's Chi-square analysis = 101.003, Pearson's Chi-square analysis done, p value= 0.000, (< 0.05), statistically significant. The majority of male and female participants were willing to hold meetings regarding COVID.

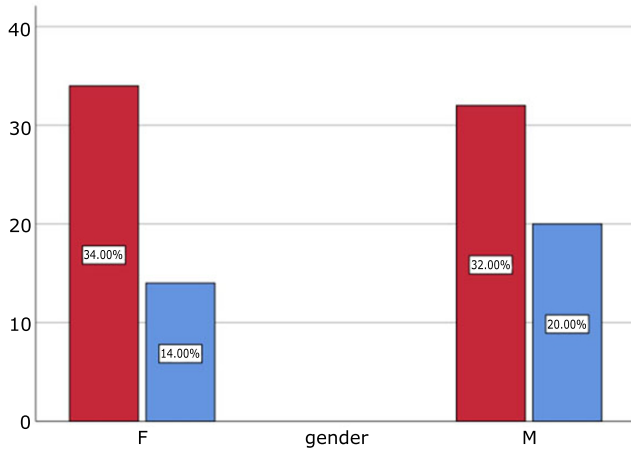


Figure 7: Bar chart showing the association between gender and their opinion not to allow servant maids inside their condominium to prevent COVID infection. X-axis represents Gender, Y-axis represents the number of responses; Blue- restrict the entry of servant maids; Red - who want their maids to come. Only 14 females and 20 males restricted the entry of maids to prevent COVID infection. The graph depicts the fact that when it comes to house help, people want to ease their norms. Pearson's Chi-square analysis =101.971, P - 0.000, P <0.05, statistically significant. The majority of the male and female respondents did not restrict the entry of maids.

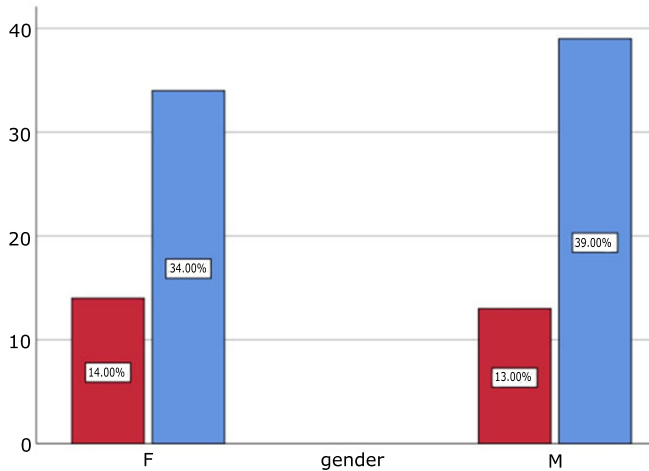


Figure 8: Bar chart showing the association between gender and their opinion to strictly instruct security not to allow visitors to enter the apartment premises in order to prevent COVID infection. X-axis represents Gender, Y-axis represents the number of responses who wanted to restrict the entry of visitors (Blue) and who wanted to allow entry of visitors (Red). 34 females and 39 males restricted the entry of visitors. Pearson's Chi-square analysis = 101.222, P value= 0.000, P<0.05, statistically significant. The majority of male and female respondents restricted the entry of visitors.

From the survey results, Figure 1 shows if steps have been taken to disinfect the condominium premises, a majority of the participants (79%) said that steps were being taken while 21% did not think so. Figure 2 depicts if all the residents of the condominium cooperated with the given instructions, a majority of the participants (72%) said Yes while 25% said No. Another study proves public cooperation is essential for the control and prevention of an infection outbreak²². Figure 3 depicts if the condominium gates are locked strictly after 6 PM, a majority of 67% said Yes it is locked while 33% said No. Another study talks about how strict rules will ensure the betterment of society²³. Figure 4 depicts if the condominium association allowed fruit and vegetable vendors inside the condominium premises, only 43% didn't allow vendors inside while 53% allowed vendors inside. Figure 5 portrays if children are restricted from the common area, A majority of the participants said yes (80%) they are restricted while only 20% said no. Another study talks about the initiatives taken at an Australian residential aged care facilities^{24,25}. Figure 6 depicts if the residents were educated about the current situation a majority 85% answered positively when only 18% answered negatively Figure 6 depicts if all the office bearers of the condominium have a meeting to lay instructions owing to this infectious situation, about 89% of the total population responded positively. Figure 7 shows if servant maids were allowed to enter the condominium during the lockdown, the majority of the participants 66% said no, the maids were not allowed whereas 34% said they were allowed^{26,27}. Washbasin and soaps have been arranged at the entrance to the condominium, the majority of the residents 74% said that soap and water are provided for cleansing while 26% says it is not provided^{28,29}. Another study talks about how structures are controlled in order to prevent key infections^{30,31}. Figure 8 shows if the security person is strictly instructed to not allow any visitors inside, the majority of the participants said Yes, the security has been instructed not to let any visitors inside while 27% said No. The literature review reveals a number of reports on how to maintain rules strictly in order to protect themselves^{32,33}.

When it comes to health and the preventive measures to be followed to keep us healthy, the role of women is more proactive than males. The study results also depict the same. The results are very positive and depict the cooperative nature of condominium dwellers especially during an emergency situation. Moreover, people residing in condominiums also take initiatives to lead during necessity; again this proves to be a positive sign of cooperation.

CONCLUSION

On a whole, from the survey, it is evident that, though the majority of the people dwelling in cities live as a micro family when a situation hits an emergency, they team up and

try to coordinate for the well being of the society. Credits have to be given especially for the condominium residential society managers and secretaries, as they do extra work to extend safety for their co dwellers. This study was conducted to understand the awareness of the people living in big condominiums and the initiatives taken by them to control the infection outbreak. The results of the study as a whole depict a positive approach of the condominium members in metro cities to fight and protect themselves during a pandemic.

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