

## The fear of coronavirus (COVID-19): predictors in an online study conducted in Bhavnagar

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### ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to investigate the difference in the fear of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Bhavnagar district people. To better understand predictors of the fear of coronavirus, we conducted an online survey (N = 238) between 25 and 29 April 2020, The survey was conducted five days after the outbreak of the corona virus in Bhavnagar created an atmosphere of fear. Prepared by a researcher in this survey Fear was measured by using Google Forms (2000) for questions such as virus transmission, rumours, news, quarantine area, death statistics, etc. the collected data was statically analysed with the help of “t” test. Result showed that there is no significant impact of rural and urban Area in type of resident ( $t = -0.34$ ), there is no significant impact of 40 year above and 40 year below Age in years ( $t = -0.11$ ), there is no significant impact of male and female in Gender ( $t = 0.12$ ).

**Keywords:** COVID-19, Pandemic, Fear of the coronavirus, Fear

The novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has infected over 5428 individuals with almost 290 deaths in Gujrat and Bhavnagar has recorded 17 new COVID-19 cases, taking the totally of cases in the district to 73 at the time of writing (Aarogya setu Application, govt. of India, 2020). COVID-19 has extraordinary spreading properties and is causing high rates of both morbidity and mortality. To respond to this situation, governments of India have started to issue unprecedented public policies such as social distancing, isolation, and self-quarantine (ABP News, 2020). The economic and psychosocial consequences of the COVID -19 pandemic have been far-reaching and unprecedented in the India. Millions of individuals all in the India have been told to remain in their houses (i.e., so-called ‘lockdowns’) and many have not been able to work (and earn money) because they are unable to do their job from home.

One psychological aspect of the COVID-19 pandemic is fear. Fear is defined as an unpleasant emotional state that is triggered by the perception of threatening stimuli (Pakpour, A.H. et al., 2020). Extraordinary situations such as disease outbreaks and epidemics can induce fear among many people. Such fear has led to individuals committing suicide because they thought they had COVID-19 even though the autopsies showed that they did not (Goyal et al., 2020; Mamun and Griffiths, 2020). Fear is a much researched psychological construct

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and this has led to the development of dozens of psychometric 'fear scales' assessing individuals' fear of many different things. There are those that assess the fear of being diagnosed with specific health conditions (e.g., fear of breast, fear of medical and paramedical-related situations)

Assessing fears is important. Without knowing the levels of fear about specific things among different groups by specific socio-demographic variables (e.g., gender, age, education, ethnicity, religiosity, etc.) it is difficult to know whether education and prevention programs are needed, and if they are needed which groups to target and where.

Researchers have developed a five-point scale that measures the Fear of the coronavirus using Google Forms for online study. The questionnaire was sent to people through the use of social media applications. The study was conducted between 25 and 29 April, 2020, in the days following the increase in the number of coronavirus patients in Gujarat (Aarogya setu Aap, govt. of india, 2020) and research in the week after India announced strict measures to eradicate coronavirus in the country.

### LITERATURE REVIEW

Timsit A. (March, 2020), explained in her article Humans have progressed themselves very below par to react the improbability of condition, due to any reason like Flu or COVID 19 people are really very panic. If the threat is uncertain you will find the persons to take more uncommon actions. You will find panic buying of months' of important goods and non-essential medicinal sources.

Gardner j. P. and Moallem p., (2015) authors have done the critical review of Psychological impact of SARS on English Language Literature and it is observed by them in their study that, post contamination there is fear amongst the people who were contaminated with the SARS, they were having fear for survival, fear of contaminating others, reduced the quality of life and psychological/emotional distress and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Sang Min Lee And others, authors observed that the medical staff who was dealing with MERS related work were at high risk of displaying symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder even after time had passed and the risk was symptoms related to sleep and numbness particularly with the implementation of home quarantine.

### METHODOLOGY

#### *Hypothesis:*

*The following things of hypothesis have been formulated for the investigation.*

- Ho<sub>1</sub> There is no significant difference of Fear of the coronavirus (COVID-19) among rural and urban area.
- Ho<sub>1</sub> There is no significant difference of Fear of the coronavirus (COVID-19) among 40 year above and 40 year below.
- Ho<sub>1</sub> There is no significant difference of Fear of the coronavirus (COVID-19) among male and female.

#### *Sample:*

Respondents for this study were recruited through online Google forms using social media platforms of the involved researchers (e.g., LinkedIn, WhatsApp Facebook, blog). Data from 311 respondents were recorded. However, 70 respondents did not complete the questionnaire and data from three additional respondents were removed because they did not answer all

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questions, so the final sample consisted of 238 respondents. The majority of our sample consisted of male (76.47%) and a large portion of the respondents lived in the urban (55.46%) (See Table 1 for a detailed overview of the demographics of our sample). Participation was on a voluntary basis.

*Table 1. Demographic information of the respondents (total N = 238).*

|                       | N   | %      |
|-----------------------|-----|--------|
| Type of resident area |     |        |
| Rural                 | 106 | 44.54% |
| Urban                 | 132 | 55.46% |
| Age in years          |     |        |
| 40 year above         | 60  | 25.21% |
| 40 year below         | 98  | 74.79% |
| Gender                |     |        |
| Male                  | 182 | 76.47% |
| Female                | 56  | 23.53% |

### **Tools:**

For collecting the pertinent data the following tools for used

#### **A. Personal information schedule :**

The main parses of this schedule is to collect certain pertinent data regarding the various information such as area, age and gender collected thru this schedule.

#### **B. Fear of coronavirus scale :**

This questionnaire has been prepared by the researcher (2020) keeping in view the coronavirus related literature, research and psychological complaints related to coronavirus and lockdown in current newspapers. For which Google Form was used. After the complete questionnaire was prepared, five experts were sent for review. Based on their suggestions, some changes were made in the questionnaire and finally the final questionnaire was given the form.

### **Procedure**

The questionnaire of Fear of coronavirus consist 20 sentential. The questionnaire is having Five options (1) strongly agree (2) agree (3) neutral (4) disagree (5) strongly disagree has both positive and negative sentences. 14 sentences are positive and giving the score 5,4,3,2,1 and 6 sentences are negative and giving the score 1,2,3,4,5. Respectively the maximum possible score is 100 and minimum possible is 20 low score in to be. Interpreted as having high score indicates a high Fear of coronavirus and a low score indicates a lack of Fear of coronavirus. These scores were statistically threaded for “**t**” test.

## RESULT

Table no: 2, Showing the summary of all - "t" value of the Fear of coronavirus in result table

| Variables     | N   | Mean  | S.D.  | df  | "t"  | Level of significant |
|---------------|-----|-------|-------|-----|------|----------------------|
| Rural area    | 106 | 71.16 | 14.63 | 236 | 0.34 | N.S.                 |
| Urban area    | 132 | 69.97 | 16.99 |     |      |                      |
| 40 Year above | 60  | 70.37 | 15.69 | 236 | 0.12 | N.S.                 |
| 40 Year below | 178 | 70.75 | 16.00 |     |      |                      |
| Male          | 182 | 70.69 | 15.95 | 236 | 0.11 | N.S.                 |
| Female        | 56  | 70.69 | 16.42 |     |      |                      |

N.S. = Not signification

## DISCUSSION

The aim of present investigation was to know the difference of the fear of coronavirus (COVID-19) Bhavnagar district people in the reference of their resident area, age and gender. We do not find any significant difference among Bhavnagar district people in the reference of their resident area, age and gender.

The results show that people in Bhavnagar district of urban and rural areas do not find the difference between coronavirus fear (COVID-19), as coronavirus fear is similar in both urban and rural areas. Therefore, the hypothesis is accepted. This means that a person living in any area is afraid of coronavirus. Its danger is more dangerous than coronavirus so such a result may have been achieved. Research by Gardner and Moallem (2015) also found that people were at risk of contracting the SARS virus. The research looked at people's survival, fear of disease and psycho-emotional problems. The result of this research coincides with the result of my research.

There is also no significant difference in the fear of coronavirus (COVID-19) between the ages of year 40 above and 40 below, which hypothesis is accepted. People believed that coronavirus only affects older people but later realized that it can affect people of any age. That's why people over the age of 40 and under the age of 40 feel the same fear of coronavirus infection. Everyone at any age is at fear of death. Timsit A. (2020), his article states that the flu and COVID-19 people are terrified. This research also found a similar fear of coronavirus in people of any age.

There is no difference between male and female regarding the fear of coronavirus (COVID-19) which hypothesis is accepted. People of any gender have the same fear of coronavirus. Coronavirus infection can occur in any gender to achieve such a result. Do not be afraid of coronavirus, 97% of people recover. Dr. Manvar (sanj samachar-2020). So there is no need to be afraid of coronaviruses, but it is necessary to be careful. Stay at home, be safe.

## CONCLUSION

- 1) There is no signification difference in the fear of coronavirus (COVID-19) between rural and urban area.
- 2) There is no signification difference in the fear of coronavirus (COVID-19) between 40 year above and 40 year below.
- 3) There is no signification difference in the fear of coronavirus (COVID-19) between male and female.

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### Conflict of Interest

The author declared no conflict of interest.

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