

IMPACT OF SARS COVID-19 ON THE LIVING OF SECURITY GUARDS IN BHUBANESWAR CITY-A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY

Dr. Priyal Raj, Kalinga Institute of Dental Sciences, KIIT Deemed to be University,
Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Dr. Dharendra Kumar Singh Department of Periodontology and Oral Implantology, Kalinga
Institute of Dental Sciences, KIIT Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Dr. Shaniya Afrin, Kalinga Institute of Dental Sciences, KIIT Deemed to be University,
Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Dr. Sonali Patel, Kalinga Institute of Dental Sciences, KIIT Deemed to be University,
Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Dr. Saismita Sahoo, Kalinga Institute of Dental Sciences, KIIT Deemed to be University,
Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Corresponding author: Dr. Dharendra Kumar Singh, Department of Periodontology and Oral
Implantology, Kalinga Institute of Dental Sciences, KIIT Deemed to be University,
Bhubaneswar, Odisha, Pincode-751024. Email id- dharendra.singh@kids.ac.in

Abstract

Aim: The devastating consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak have forced security personnel to alter their methods and behaviors. The aim of the study was to assess the knowledge, functioning and future implications of COVID-19 on the lives of security guards.

Methodology: A cross sectional questionnaire survey was conducted among the 296 security guards of Bhubaneswar city. A 18-item, closed-ended, self-structured questionnaire was designed to gather data. The questionnaire was designed on a 2 point likert scale. Data were analysed using IBM's SPSS version 26.0 for the Social Sciences. The frequency and percentages were used to describe categorical values. Chi-Square test and ANOVA were employed. The level of significance was fixed at 0.05.

Results: The majority of participants were between the ages of 31 and 40 (n=132, 44.6%) and that between 13,000 and 15,000 was the average monthly income for the security guards. All the participants were aware about the COVID -19 pandemic and its affect on human body. Sixty three personnel had been detected positive for COVID-19 and none of them used any preventive

measures. About 97% of the guards agreed that the pandemic had an influence on their work. Only 3% of the guards had taken on other jobs as a secondary source of income.

Conclusion: Security guards are an essential group of front-line healthcare providers offering additional services in the management of COVID-19. COVID-19 had a great impact on the economic lives of the security guards.

Keywords: COVID 19, Pandemics, Male, Knowledge, Income

Introduction: Security personnel or guards are generally hired to ensure that people, property, money, equipment, and other valuables in a particular location are safe from almost all threats. The provision of a safe and secure atmosphere has a favourable impact on an employee's output, the calibre of their job, and their sense of satisfaction. Within a company as well as between organisations, security guard tasks and responsibilities differ. The level of ability required varies depending on the type of protection an institute needs. They might be armed (as in banks) or they might just assist people in navigating festivals and other events. They can be hired by the government or by private businesses on a regular or contract basis. Typically, an outsourcing business hires security personnel and guarantees that all terms and conditions are followed. In addition to their regular places of duty, security guards were stationed at various locations during the COVID-19 pandemic such as triage areas, suspected COVID-19 wards, confirmed COVID-19 wards, i.e., isolation/communicable disease wards, and intensive care units in hospitals. [1]

From the pneumonic-like illnesses that started in Wuhan, People's Republic of China, the World Health Organisation discovered a new virus in December 2019. On February 11, 2020, the coronavirus 19 sickness that was brought on by the respiratory infection SARS-CoV-2 was designated as COVID-19. [2-8] The COVID-19 outbreak, which was documented in 200 rich and developing countries, left almost the whole world's population in shock and distress. [2-4]

Globally, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a terrible death toll and posed a previously unheard-of threat to food supply chains, public health, and the workplace. Tens of millions of people face the risk of living in extreme poverty as a result of the epidemic, and the number of undernourished people-which was previously estimated to be close to 690 million was on course to increase by as many as 132 million by the end of the previous year.[5]

The daily lives of security officers also felt the effects to a greater extent. The devastating consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak have forced security personnel to alter their methods

and behaviors. On January 30[9], India reported the first positive symptomatic case. The first case of COVID-19 was reported in Odisha on March 16 when a student from Italy who had returned home tested positive, five days after WHO proclaimed COVID-19 a pandemic[3-8].

To the best of our knowledge, no studies have looked at how this pandemic may have impacted on the lifestyles of security guard personnel in Bhubaneswar city. In light of the foregoing, the present study aimed at assessing the knowledge, functioning and future implications of COVID-19 on the lives of security guards.

Materials and Methods

Study Population and Sample size: A cross sectional questionnaire survey was conducted among the security guards of Bhubaneswar city from February 2022 to April 2022. Purposive sampling method was followed. The sample size consisted of 296 participants who gave informed consent.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria: Only male security guards were recruited. The study consisted of participants who were older than 20 years old. Participants who refused to give informed consent, female security guards were not allowed to participate in the study.

Data Collection: A 18-item, closed-ended, self-structured questionnaire was designed to gather data. The questionnaire was divided into four parts. The initial part included the sociodemographic data followed by knowledge, functioning of guards and future towards COVID-19. The second part of the questionnaire was designed on a 2 point likert scale (Yes, No). A pilot study that involved 54 individuals was done prior to the data collection, but it was not counted in the final sample size. Three specialists and a statistician from the Department of Periodontics and Implantology and Department of Public Health Dentistry at KIIT Deemed to be University validated the questionnaire. The questionnaire's Cronbach's alpha was 0.85.

Informed consent was taken from the participants. Five incomplete surveys were received, but they were excluded from the analysis at this time. Thus, 296 people made up the total sample size.

Statistical Analysis: Data were imported into Microsoft Excel and analysed using IBM's SPSS version 26.0 for the Social Sciences. The frequency and percentages were used to describe categorical values. Chi-Square test and ANOVA were employed. The level of significance was fixed at 0.05.

Results: There were 296 male participants in the study. They belonged to the group of people

whose ages ranged from 27 to 64. The majority of participants were between the ages of 31 and 40 (n=132,44.6%) and that between 13,000 and 15,000 was the average monthly income for the security guards.(Table 1)Statistical insignificance was found when age was compared with salary of the guards.(Table 2)

The knowledge of security guards about COVID -19 pandemic has been described in table 3. All the participants were aware about the COVID -19 pandemic and its affect on human body except one who was not aware about the severity of the virus. Sixty three personnel had been detected positive for COVID-19 and none of them used any preventive measures for COVID-19.

About 97% of the guards agreed that the pandemic had an influence on their work and that it had a financial impact on them all. Only 3% of the guards had taken on other jobs as a secondary source of income. Five percent of the participants in the study had to delay receiving medical care for themselves and members of their family because of financial constraints. None of them received any funding from their organisation. (Table 4)

The majority of research participants (80%) thought that the pandemic will continue to have an impact on their lives as it does now, and 93% of guards felt that they would continue to receive medical care in the future. (Table 5)

Table 1 -Sociodemographic data of study participants (n=296)

Variables	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	296	100
Age		
20-30 years	93	31.4
31-40 years	132	44.6
41-50 years	59	19.9
51 and above	12	4.1
Salary(per month)		
13000-15000	148	50.0
15001-18000	132	44.6

18001 and above	16	5.4
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Table 2 - Comparison of age with income per month

Age	13000	15001-18000	18001 and above	P value
20-30 years	50	38	5	0.340
31-40 years	69	57	6	
41-50 years	27	28	4	
51 and above	2	9	1	
Total	148	132	16	

Table 3 - Knowledge of study participants (n=296)

Knowledge		Frequency	F	P value
Aware about COVID 19 pandemic	Yes	296 (100)	1.34	.260
	No	0		
Aware about the effect of covid 19 on human body	Yes	296(100)	-	-
	No	0		
Severity of COVID-19	No	1(0.3)	.412	.745
	Yes	295(99.7)		
Have you ever tested positive for COVID 19?	No	233(78.7)	.091	.965
	Yes	63 (21.3)		
Do you use any prevention of COVID 19?	No	296 (100)	-	-
	Yes	0		

Table 4 - Functioning of study participants (n=296)

Functioning		Frequency	F	P value
Does COVID 19 effect your work?	No	10 (3.4)	2.06	.105
	Yes	286 (96.6)		
Has COVID 19 pandemic effected your financial stability?	Yes	296(100)		
Opted for any other source of revenue	No	285(96.3)	.564	.639
	Yes	11(3.7)		
Postponed any medical or dental treatment of yourself or your family members due to financial unstability due to COVID 19 ?	No	279 (94.3)	1.15	.328
	Yes	17(5.7)		
Have you received any financial support from your agency or institute during pandemic?	No	296 (100)	-	-
	Yes	0		

Table 5 - Future of study participants (n=296)

Future		Frequency	F	P value
Do you think COVID 19 pandemic scenario will continue further and effect your life?	No	61(20.6)	1.478	.221
	Yes	235 (79.4)		
Do you expect from your agency or institute for support during COVID 19 pandemic?	Yes	296(100)		
Have you marked any changes in the attitude of people visiting the campus during covid 19 pandemic?	Yes	296(100)		
Will you go for any medical/dental treatment, if COVID 19 pandemic continues?	No	20 (6.8)	.541	.655
	Yes	276 (93.2)		
As a security guard, do you have any expectation from people and students visiting the campus?	Yes	296 (100)		

Discussion: When the COVID-19 began, many security guards in heavily guarded areas in India were laid off, and those who remained on the job faced health hazards with no social security. Although the private security sector is organised and controlled, the majority of security people employed there are not.[10]In the present study, no security guards were laid off from their institutes.

Since these private security guards are employed by the residents, the latter do not pay much attention to the rules being enforced by these guards, who are engaged by the societies themselves to keep individuals in check. Even in these trying circumstances, many openly disobey private security personnel and act haughtily when they are inspected for lockdown infractions. Low social-distancing enforcements are a result of the security guards' demoralisation and discouragement. Because there are only so many police officers, switching duties is a substitute. Police officers can be released from those locations to impose lockdown in urban societies, clusters, lanes, and by lanes while private security guards can be deployed in regions with less traffic, such as police stations.

Many people were found to be COVID positive throughout the course of their duties, and were also unable to seek treatment owing to financial constraints, and the organisations offered them no assistance. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's COVID-19 vaccination guidelines list support employees as being at high risk of illness and in need of prompt immunisation, including drivers, security guards, and sanitation workers. Despite that, private security guards across the country, meanwhile, have been overlooked.[11]

In the current study, it was observed that the security personnel didn't take any safety precautions, such as wearing masks and using hand sanitizer, to shield themselves from the fatal virus. There is no immunisation programme in place, despite the fact that security organisations frequently remind their workers to follow safety rules and provide them with masks and sanitizers. According to a Ludhiana-based news source, hundreds of private security guards were allegedly not given priority by their employers for immunisation or vaccination as of March 2021. According to another study, this one from May 2021, there are more than 100,000 security personnel in Ernakulam, Kochi, Kerala, of whom 500 have COVID-19 and fewer than 2,000 have been immunised. [11]

COVID-19 has an obvious financial impact on security businesses all around the world. An unexpected, surprising, and globally significant incident like this one seems to have an impact on every industry. Of course, the security guard sector is similar. The need for security personnel at hotels and events is also declining as a result of the service sector's almost total shutdown. On the flip side of that, you observe a rise in the need for security personnel at grocery store chains, hospitals, critical enterprises, and temporarily abandoned buildings.

Many people think they won't get the illness. Each of us is exposed to social media today, which contributes to some negative while also confusing and misdirecting the public with bogus forwards. Here, the security officers can assume the duty of disseminating the real, authorised government version. The security agencies may be designated as the approved communicators, and the security personnel may use mobile public address systems to broadcast rules, prohibitions, and other information that the local government wishes to share with the general public in particular places.

Covid-19 has briefly posed a barrier to our way of life. The first guideline for combating this illness instructs people to avoid one another. This runs counter to how we have up to this point lived our lives. Many people reject the paradigm change required by the pandemic, but not out of resistance, but rather due to engrained behaviours that have been formed over many years. However, as there is now neither a defence nor a treatment for the coronavirus, we must adapt to a new way of life until we are able to eradicate it. When used effectively, private security is a resource that may ensure the imposition of lockdown procedures and help save lives.

The lifestyles of security guards in the city of Bhubaneswar have never been the subject of a research prior to this one. However, there are certain drawbacks, such as the sample size being too small to generalise a finding to the entire community and the inclusion of only male guards.

Conclusion: In conclusion, security guards are an essential group of front-line healthcare providers offering additional services in the management of COVID-19. They can communicate about behaviour change or serve as ambassadors for health promotion directly or indirectly, either through self-enforcement or other means. If the guidelines enforced by the security guards are properly followed, the spread of illness can be substantially decreased. They can also be deployed as a reserve health workforce with the right training and PPE. Finally, it's important to acknowledge and suitably reward these unsung heroes for their contribution to the fight against

COVID-19. This will inspire them and increase their effectiveness.

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