

A survey on problems faced by physically challenged people during the corona pandemic

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Type of study: Survey

Running title: The problems faced by physically challenged people during the corona pandemic - Survey based study

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ABSTRACT:

INTRODUCTION: The Covid- 19 pandemic has caused many drastic changes in the lives of the general population. Moreover, the people with physical disabilities were affected more, as they commonly encounter day to day life challenges in their life, such as barriers to mobility, reduced access to healthcare services, and high depression.

AIM: The study aims to create awareness and survey the problems faced by the physically disabled people during the Covid- 19 pandemic.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: The present study was conducted survey through online mode with the help of google forms through an e-questionnaire. The survey was conducted among the general population with a total of 101 responses. The obtained results were statistically analysed using SPSS software version 23.

RESULTS: Most of the general population have an awareness of the problems faced by the physically challenged people during the corona pandemic. Most of the population found this survey was useful.

CONCLUSION: Because of the lack of access to hospitals, drastic changes in lifestyle and social habits, no physical activity were all noted. From the present study, it is evident that most of the people are aware of the various problems faced by physically challenged people during COVID.

KEYWORDS:

Physically challenged people, corona, problems, stress, pandemic.

INTRODUCTION:

COVID- 19 which was declared as a global pandemic at the end of the year 2019, which affected more than 23 millions of cases by the end of August 20, 2020 (1). Some statistics show that the suicide rate may have increased due to this pandemic (2). Associated isolation and protective measures due to the COVID- 19 pandemic had led to drastic changes in the lives of the general population (3).

People with disabilities, 15% of the global population (4) commonly face some challenges in their daily activities like accessing public places, healthcare services, community mobility, and accessing public transportation (5). People with disabilities have high risk of depression, increased loneliness, lower satisfaction in life (6). A global pandemic like Covid- 19 has much greater potential to increase the daily challenges faced by the disabilities than the general population (7). People with disabilities are more considered to be vulnerable to the Covid- 19 pandemic. They find much difficulty in fulfilling their needs and are more dependent on others for their service (8). It is important that the governments, healthcare providers and the general population understand the problems and reality of the people with

disabilities and help them with the services required/necessary for the disabled people.(9–25)(26,27)

AIM: To create an awareness among the general population on the problems faced by the physically challenged people during the corona pandemic.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

A descriptive cross-sectional study was done to analyse knowledge about problems faced by physically challenged people during corona pandemic among the student population. Approval was obtained from the institutional review board to conduct an online survey. The survey was conducted among 101 individuals. A self-administered questionnaire of 11 close-ended and open questions was prepared and distributed among the general population through online based survey forms “google forms”. The questionnaire contained questions on demographic details also. A self-administered questionnaire was prepared. The method of sampling that is done is simple random sampling. The responses were collected, tabulated in the excel sheet and analysed. Data entered in SPSS, and the results were represented in a bar graph. Chi square test was used to analyse and compare the educational level of students and their awareness.

Questionnaire :

Are physically challenged people mentally stressed during the corona pandemic?

a) Strongly disagree b) Disagree c) Agree

2) Do physically challenged people have the fear of being infected by coronavirus?

a) Yes b) No

3) Is wearing a mask, problem among physically challenged people during COVID?

a) Yes b) No

4) Do the physically challenged people face difficulty in consulting a doctor during COVID?

a) Yes b) No c) Maybe

5) Do you think that they are more infected during the COVID time?

a) Yes b) No c) Maybe

6) Do they prefer to take more medications during COVID period if they are infected?

a) Yes b) No c) Maybe

7) Do they become more conscious towards COVID?

a) Yes b) No c) Maybe

8) Do the physically challenged people intentionally isolate themselves without any need?

a) Yes b) No c) Maybe

9) How do they fulfill their needs during COVID pandemic?

a) Help of other b) Caretaker c) Family d) Friends

10) On the scale of 10, rate the problems faced by physically challenged people during COVID?

a) 10-7 b) 7-5 c) 5-3 d) 3-1

11) Was this survey useful?

a) Very useful b) Useful c) Not useful

RESULTS

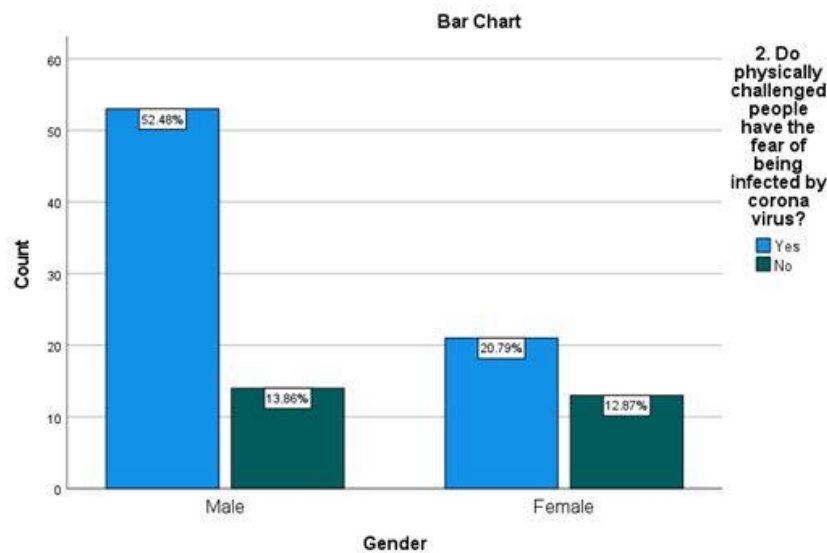


Fig 1 represents the different gender groups and their responses to the question “Do physically challenged people have the fear of being infected by corona virus”. The present observation shows statistically significant (0.129) between gender and “Do physically challenged people have the fear of being infected by corona virus “by using Pearson Chi square test with confidence level 95% with p value of 0.05.

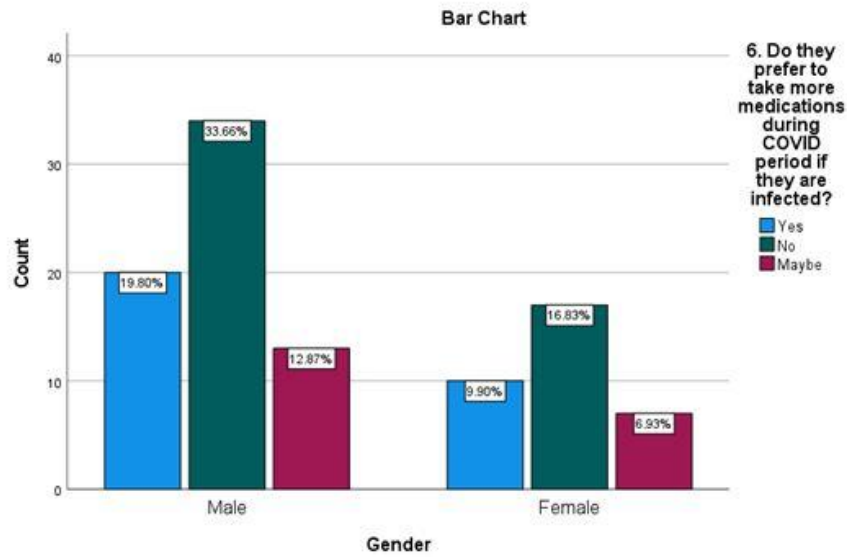


Fig 2 represents the different gender groups and their responses to the question “Do they prefer to take more medications during COVID period if they are infected?”. The present observation shows statistically not significant (1.000) between gender and “Do they prefer to take more medications during COVID period if they are infected “by using Pearson Chi square test with confidence level 95% with p value of 0.05.

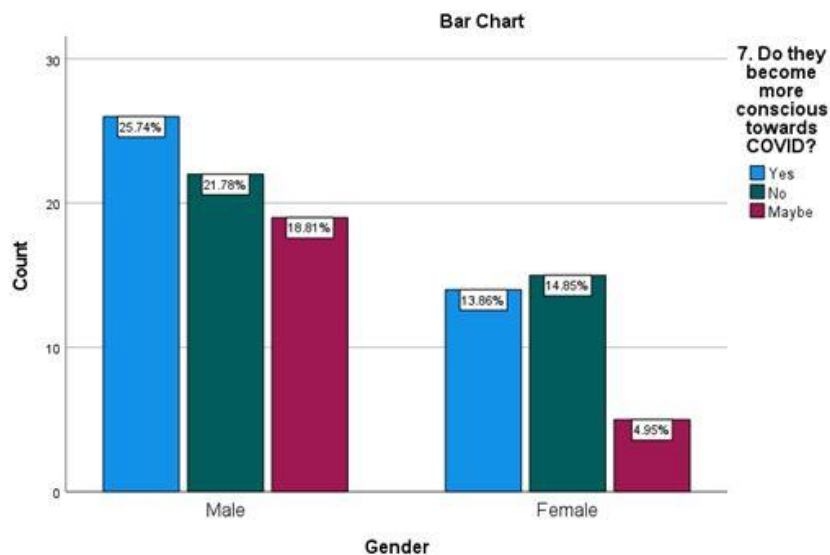


Fig 3 represents the different gender groups and their responses to the question “Do they become more conscious towards COVID?”. The present observation shows statistically not significant (0.257) between gender and “Do they become more conscious towards COVID” by using Pearson Chi square test with confidence level 95% with p value of 0.05.

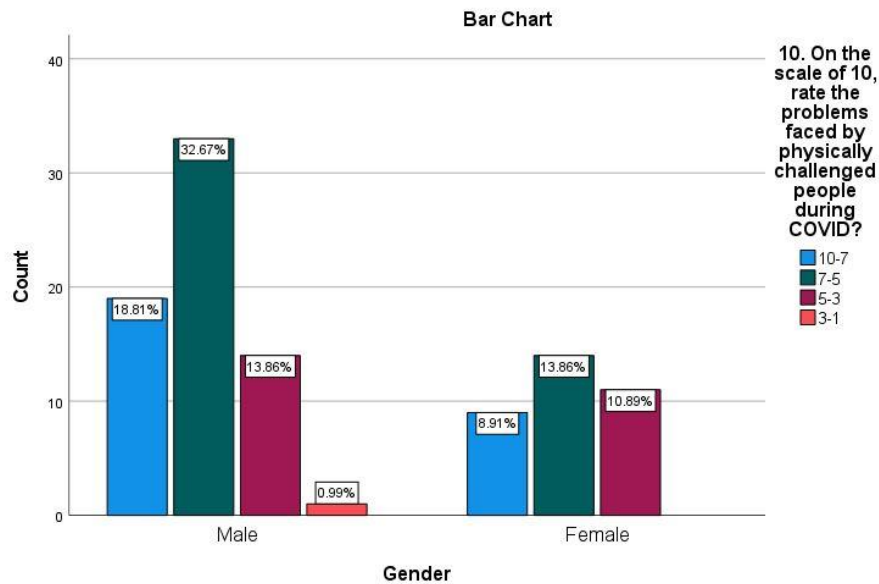


Fig 4 represents the different gender groups and their responses to the question “On the scale of 10, rate the problems faced by physically challenged people during COVID”. The present observation shows statistically not significant (0.663) between gender and “On the scale of 10, rate the problems faced by physically challenged people during COVID” by using Pearson Chi square test with confidence level 95% with p value of 0.05.

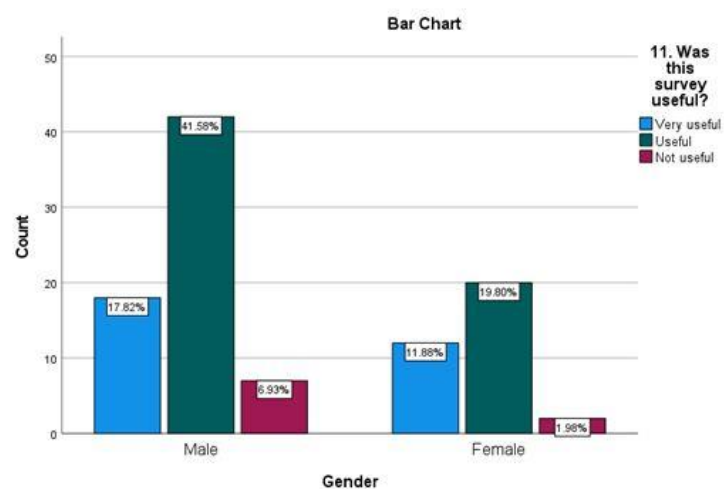


Fig 5 represents the different gender groups and their responses to the question “Was this survey useful”. The present observation shows statistically not significant (0.584) between gender and “Was this survey useful” by using Pearson Chi square test with confidence level 95% with p value of 0.05.

DISCUSSION

The objective of this paper is to create an awareness and collect the survey among the general population on the problems faced by physically challenged people during the corona pandemic. Even though 15% of the general population are physically disabled, there are only few research done on them and the problems faced by them (4) Decrease in the stroke admissions were noted significantly(28) and people's fear of consulting a doctor during the corona pandemic has increased and this fear may be a long-term effect (29).

It is important that in the future studies the reduction of rehabilitation, support of the community, and services based on these household requirements during the COVID-19 and get various impacts faced by them included in their study. Sleep disturbances and mood changes both are influenced during the COVID-19 pandemic. In spite of the limited evidence found regarding the impact of COVID-19 on people with disabilities is low, some problems are faced by them.

According to the present study, it is observed that most of the general population have an awareness of the problems faced by the physically challenged people during the corona pandemic. Most of the population find this survey to be useful. Most of the population say that they do not take any specific medications during the corona pandemic. They also share some knowledge of the problems faced by the physically challenged and how they fulfill their needs. Most think that they fulfill their needs with the help of other people surrounding their environment (Figure 1-5).

Limitation: This study was taken only among a limited population and was performed only among dental students and the data is limited to only a small group.

Future scope: This survey helps to know the problems faced by the physically challenged people and the survey among a huge population in future may result in varying results which may be useful for further studies.

CONCLUSION

From the present study, it is evident that most of the people are aware of the various problems faced by physically challenged people during COVID. It is also evident that physically challenged people face difficulty in consulting a doctor during COVID period. It is highly necessary for them to follow some measure to prevent COVID. It is not mandatory that the physically challenged people need to be isolated during the COVID pandemic. Hence from the survey we are clear that the physically challenged people face many problems during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Author contributions:

S. Bhavesh- A questionnaire was created by the author to analyze the problems faced by the dentists in treating heart patients. The data of the questionnaire and result of the questionnaire is also analyzed in detail.

Mrs.S.Sangeetha - Guiding the student, analysing the data and manuscript correction.

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Conflict of interest:

None to declare.

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