

## Knowledge, Attitudes And Practice Amongst Parents Regarding Covid-19 In Children Visiting Tertiary Care Hospital

Dr. Mitaben Arvindbhai Rathod\*, Dr. Dhvani Bharatbhai Chaudhari\*\*, Nisarg Paresh Bhavsar\*\*\*, Shreyansh Nilesh Kathrani\*\*\*, Mahammed Kaif Mubarakhusen Bhaniya\*\*\*, Yesha Paresh Patel\*\*\*, Dr. Bhanu R. Desai\*\*\*\*

\*First Year Pediatric Resident, \*\*Third Year Pediatric Resident, \*\*\*Intern, \*\*\*\*Professor & HOU, GCS Medical College & Hospital & Research Centre, Ahmedabad

**Abstract:** Background: Knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) are the major adherence factors for the successful implementation of prevention and control measures for COVID-19. Across the world, due to the spread of Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19), children are affected by physical distancing, quarantines and school closures. At the same time, various reports suggest that asymptomatic children may play a role in its transmission. Aim: To assess parents' KAP regarding general as well as specific preventive and control measures for children during COVID-19 pandemic. Material And Methods: This cross-sectional survey was conducted in 200 parents visiting tertiary care institute for a duration of 3 months. The study data was collected using questionnaire through interview. The questionnaire included data regarding socio-demographic details, knowledge regarding COVID-19, attitude and practice-based questions. Parents/guardians were interviewed in a separate room with all precautions recommended by WHO/CDC in the Covid-19 pandemic. Data was analyzed using SPSS version 15 software. Result: Majority, 194 (97%), knew about coronavirus, 88% were aware of all ways of coronavirus transmission. 47.5 % parents said that hand washing with soap and water is better than sanitizer. 67.5% knew that covid-19 can affect children. 90% told that their children cannot wear mask whole day. Around 80% were not in favour of opening of schools. 76% told that children below 2 years should not wear mask. 65% parents were not aware that COVID-19 spread through exchanging and playing with each other's toys. Around 90% did not sanitize the toys before passing from one child to other. Around 31% parents did not go for routine immunization of their children because they went to their native place during lockdown of children should also be given equal importance. Conclusion: Present study showed that the parents had overall good knowledge, positive attitude, and sensible practices regarding routes of transmission, distancing, quarantine during COVID-19 pandemic as compared to children related COVID-19 measures. It may be due to consistent efforts by the government for overall preventive and control measures. Information specific about the safety of children should also be given equal importance. [Rathod M Natl J Integr Res Med, 2023; 14(1): 28-31, Published on Dated: 20/01/2023]

**Key Words:** Attitude, Children, Covid-19, Knowledge, Practice

**Author for correspondence:** Dr. Mitaben Arvindbhai Rathod, First Year Pediatric Resident, GCS Medical College, Hospital & Research Centre, Ahmedabad E-Mail: mitarathod16.gaims@gmail.com

**Introduction:** The COVID-19 pandemic has become a major public health challenge requiring unprecedented infection prevention and control (IPC) measures to reduce the quantity of the corona virus available for dissemination by breaking the chain of transmission and proper handling of secretions and excretions.

Ubiquitous public health education programs, including messages on phone, TV broadcasting, multimedia reports, hoardings, e-hospital consultations and flyers of educational materials by Indian government are consistently going on to raise public's knowledge and awareness to change their attitudes and practices towards COVID-19. KAP of the people toward the IPC

measures like quarantine, isolation, distancing, frequent hand washing, wearing mask as well as their cooperation for ban on large gatherings are vitally important. Some studies have shown that, improved knowledge has increased the uptake of preventive measures and has influence on the protective behaviour at individual and community level. Present study was performed with an aim to assess the Knowledge, attitudes and practice of parents in OPD at tertiary care hospital about Covid-19.

Aims and Objectives: To assess parents' KAP regarding general as well as specific preventive and control measures for children during COVID-19 pandemic.

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), allowing third parties to copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format and to remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially, provided the original work is properly cited and states its license.

**Material & Methods:** This cross-sectional survey was conducted in 200 parents visiting tertiary care institute for duration of 3months from 15/01/2021 to 15/04/2021. The study data was collected using questionnaire through interview.

The questionnaire had four segments to collect data namely, socio-demographic details, knowledge regarding COVID-19, and attitude and practice-based questions.

Parents/guardians were interviewed in a separate room with all necessary precautions recommended by WHO/CDC in the Covid-19 pandemic.

The questionnaire had a user-friendly design and layout to avoid multiple responses.

**Results & Discussion:** Majority, 198 (99.5%), knew about coronavirus, 152(76%) were aware of all ways of coronavirus transmission, and 158 (79%) knew how to prevent oneself from coronavirus infection.

A total of 158 (79%) participants responded that all sources, while for other parents Internet and television were sources of awareness.

When questioned whether covid-19 can occur in children, 162(81.4%) parents had answered ‘yes’, while 152(76%) parents answered ‘no’ to COVID-19 spread through exchanging and playing with each other toys.

Around 103(52 %) parents told that hand washing with soap and water is better.

**Table 1: Knowledge Regarding COVID-19 Among Study Participants**

<b>Knowledge About Corona Virus</b>	Yes 198 (99.5%)	No 2 (0.5%)	-	-
<b>Source Of Knowledge</b>	TV 18 (9%)	News Paper 17 (8.5 %)	Social Media 13 (6.5%)	All 152 (76%)
<b>Mode Of Transmission</b>	Sneezing, Coughing, Touching 22 (11%)	Touching Eyes, Mouth, Nose With Unwashed Hand 17 (8.5%)	< 6 Feet Distance 9 (4.5%)	All Of This 158 (79%)
<b>Knowledge About Preventive Measures</b>	Yes 190 (95.5%)	No 5 (2.5%)	Not Sure 4 (2%)	
<b>Most Common Affected Age</b>	All Ages 161 (80.5%)	Only Elderly 24(12%)	Only Children 15 (7.5%)	
<b>Symptoms</b>	Cough 7 (3.5%)	Fever 5(2.5 %)	Shortness Of Breath 5 (2.5%)	All 191 (95%)
<b>Knowledge Of Availability Of Treatment</b>	Yes 196 (98%)	No 4 (2%)		
<b>Source Of Knowledge About Treatment</b>	TV 11 (5.5%)	News Paper 9 (4.5%)	Internet 10(5%)	All 174 (87.4%)
<b>Knowledge About Occurrence In Children</b>	Yes 162 (81.4%)	No 8 (4%)	Don't Know 29 (14.6%)	
<b>Can COVID-19 Spread Through Exchanging &amp; Playing With Each Other's Toys</b>	Yes 32 (16%)	No 16(8%)	Don't Know 152(76%)	
<b>Better Way To Prevent Spread</b>	Hand Washing With Soap & Water 103 (52%)	Hand Sanitizing 94(47.5%)	Don't Know 3(0.5%)	
<b>Is COVID-19 As Dangerous With Diabetes, Asthma &amp; Other Comorbidities In Children As In Elderly?</b>	Yes 64 (32%)	No 4 (2 %)	Don't Know 132 (66%)	

**Table 2: Attitude Regarding COVID-19 Among Study Participants**

Nature Of The Disease	Fatal 67 (33.5%)	Serious 128 (64%)	Mild 2(1%)	Don't Know 3 (1.5%)
Is government's initiative to prevent corona virus infection are adequate?	Yes 180(90%)	No 20 (10 %)		
Is wearing triple layer mask will protect you from corona virus?	Yes 139 (69.5%)	No 4 (2%)	Don't know 57(28.5%)	
How will you prepare your children to wear mask?	By wearing Mask to toys 27 (13.5%)	By showing photos of other child wearing Mask 112(56%)	By showing wearing mask yourself & showing yourself in mirror 63(31.5%)	
Seriousness of covid-19 among children	Very serious 36(18.1%)	Not serious at All 148 (74.4%)	Don't know 15(7.5%)	
Should children below 2 years wear mask?	Yes 184(93.4%)	No 4(2%)	Don't know 9(4.6%)	
What are your thoughts on opening of schools during covid-19 pandemic?	School Should not Open 190(95.5%)	School should open 7(3.5 %)	Can't say 2(1%)	

A total of 128 (64%) respondents felt that COVID-19 is a serious disease and 180 (90%) respondents considered that initiatives taken by administrations were adequate. By answering question how will you prepare your children to wear mask? Majority 112 (56%) of parents told that they will prepare by showing photos of other

children wearing masks. Majority 148 (74.4%) of parents told that their children are not very serious about Covid-1. Around 190(95.5%) parents are not in favour of opening of the school. By answering of question should children below 2 year wear mask, 184(93.4%) parents told that children below 2 year should wear mask.

**Table 3: Practice Regarding COVID-19 Among Study Participants**

Washing Hands With Soap & Water Regularly & Frequently	Yes 116 (58%)	No 15 (7.5%)	Sometimes 69(34.5%)
Wear Mask To Avoid Transmission	Yes 150 (75%)	No 50 (25 %)	
Maintaining Social Distance	Yes 68 (34%)	No 29 (14.5%)	Sometimes 103(51.5%)
Ability Of Children To Wear Mask Whole Day?	Yes 23 (11.5%)	No 127 (63.5%)	Can't Say 50(25%)
Do You Sanitize Toys Before Passing From One Child To Another?	Yes 8 (4%)	No 192 (96%)	
Have You Talked To Your Children About COVID-10?	Yes 161 (80.5%)	No 39 (19.5%)	
Have You Gone For Routine Immunization For Your Child During Lockdown?	Yes 51 (25.6%)	No 148(74.4%)	

Among the respondents, 150 (75%) reported regularly wearing mask and 68 (34%) reported maintaining social distancing. Around 192(96%) parents responded that they did not sanitize the toys before passing to one child to other. About 161(80.5 %) parents talked to their children about Covid-19. Around 148(74.4%) parents did not go for routine immunization of their children during lockdown as they have gone to their native place.

**Conclusions:** Present study showed that the parents had good knowledge, positive attitude, and good practices regarding general preventive & control measures of COVID-19 during the pandemic compared to specific preventive & control measures related to children.

Lots of efforts were put for the awareness of overall prevention and control of COVID-19. Same efforts and guidance should be given for children related Covid-19 measures to prevent COVID-19 infection & its complications in children.

**References:**

1. WHO Director-General's remarks.<http://www.who.int/dg/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-2019-ncov-on-11-february-2020>.
2. Meyerowitz EA, Richterman A, Gandhi RT, Sax PE. Transmission of SARS-CoV-2: A Review of Viral, Host, and Environmental Factors. *Ann Intern Med* 2020.
3. Morawska L, Milton DK. It is Time to Address Airborne Transmission of COVID-19. *Clin Infect Dis* 2020.
4. WHO. Transmission of SARS-CoV-2:<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/modes-of-transmission-of-virus-causing-covid-19-implications-for-ipc-precaution-recommendations>.
5. KlompasM, Rhee C. Airborne Transmission of SARS-CoV-2: Theoretical Considerations and Available Evidence. *JAMA* 2020.
6. Chagla Z, Hota S, Khan S, et al. Airborne Transmission of COVID-19. *Clin Infect Dis* 2020.
7. Heald-Sargent T, Muller WJ, Zheng X. Age-Related Differences in Nasopharyngeal SARS-CoV-2 Levels in Mild to Moderate COVID-19. *JAMA Pediatr* 2020; 174:902.
8. Yonker LM, Neilan AM. Pediatric SARS-CoV-2: Clinical Presentation, Infectivity, and Immune Responses. *J Pediatr* 2020.

9. Kelvin AA, Halperin S. COVID-19 in children: the link in the transmission chain. *Lancet Infect Dis* 2020; 20:633.
10. Huff HV, Singh A. Asymptomatic transmission during COVID-19 pandemic and implications for public health strategies. *Clin Infect Dis* 2020.
11. Lau, J.T.F., Kim, J.H., Tsui. Anticipated and current preventive behaviors in response to human-to-human H5N1 epidemic in Hong Kong. *BMC Infect Dis* 2007; 7, 18.<https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2334-7-18>.
12. Rapid Perception Survey on COVID19 Awareness and Economic Impact. BRAC; 2020.
13. WHO.COVID-2019 situation reports. 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>. (last accessed 10th August 2020)
14. McFadden SM, Malik AA. Perceptions of the adult US population regarding the novel coronavirus outbreak. *PLoS One* 2020; 15:e0231808.
15. Goni, Hasan, Naing, 2019. Assessment of KAP towards Prevention of Respiratory Tract Infections .Malaysia in 2018. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 16, 4569.<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph16224569>
16. Wolf MS, Serper M, Opsasnick L. Awareness, Attitudes, Actions Related to COVID-19 at Onset of U.S. Outbreak: *Ann Intern Med* 2020; M20-1239. Doi: 10.7326/M20-1239.
17. McFadden SM, Malik AA, Aguolu OG, Willebrand KS, Omer SB. Perceptions of adult US population regarding n-coronavirus outbreak. *PLoS One* 2020; 15:e0231808.

Conflict of interest: None
Funding: None
Cite this Article as: Rathod M, Chaudhari D, Bhavsar N, Kathrani S, Bhaniya M, Patel Y, Desai B. Knowledge, Attitudes And Practice Amongst Parents Regarding Covid-19 In Children Visiting Tertiary Care Hospital. <i>Natl J Integr Res Med</i> 2023; Vol.14(1): 28-31