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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices towards COVID-19 Transmission and Preventive Measures among Residents of Nigeria: A Population-Based Survey through Social Media

*Connaissances, attitudes et pratiques à l'égard de la transmission
du COVID-19 et mesures préventives parmi les résidents du Nigéria:
Une enquête basée sur la population à travers les médias sociaux*

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ABSTRACT

Background: COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 11th March 2020. Individuals with correct understanding about the risks and severity of the disease are more likely to respond positively and practice recommended preventive measures.

Objectives: To assess the knowledge, attitudes, and practices towards COVID-19 transmission and preventive measures among residents of Nigeria.

Methods: The study was cross-sectional and involved 469 participants from 1st July to 31st August 2020. A 36-item questionnaire with Cronbach alpha of 0.753 was adapted and administered through an online survey tool. A snowball sampling approach was employed whereby the questionnaire link was distributed through social media networks including WhatsApp[®], Facebook[®] and Instagram[®]. Data was analysed using SPSS 23 and a statistical significance level of 0.05 was used. Bivariate and multivariate analysis were employed to determine factors affecting the knowledge, attitude and practices towards COVID-19 transmission and prevention.

Results: The mean age of participants was 39±11.29years. Majority (54%) of the participants heard about COVID-19 through mass and social media. The study found that 71.6% of the participants had good knowledge, just 31.3% had good attitude while 84.9% of them had good practices towards COVID-19 in Nigeria. The high rates of the knowledge and practices were driven by income, age, education and marital status.

Conclusions: Majority of the study participants showed correct knowledge and adhered to recommended practices towards COVID-19. However, there were gaps in the understanding of the underlying realities and beliefs in certain myths about COVID-19. Hence, interventions such as jingles and posters in various languages that would serve to correct the negative perceptions and myths about COVID-19 instituted through mass media and social media are recommended. **WAJM 2021; 38 (4): 347-358**

Keywords: COVID-19, Corona virus, Knowledge, Attitude, Practices, Prevention, Nigeria

ABSTRAIT

L'arrière plan: Le COVID-19 a été déclaré pandémie par l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) le 11 mars 2020. Les personnes ayant une compréhension correcte des risques et de la gravité de la maladie sont plus susceptibles de réagir positivement et de pratiquer les mesures préventives recommandées.

A Évaluer les connaissances, les attitudes et les pratiques vis-à-vis de la transmission du COVID-19 et les mesures préventives parmi les résidents du Nigéria.

Méthodes: L'étude était transversale et impliquait 469 participants du 1er juillet au 31 août 2020. Un questionnaire de 36 items avec Cronbach alpha de 0,753 a été adapté et administré via un outil d'enquête en ligne. Une approche d'échantillonnage en boule de neige a été utilisée dans laquelle le lien du questionnaire a été distribué via les réseaux de médias sociaux, notamment WhatsApp[®], Facebook[®] et Instagram[®]. Les données ont été analysées à l'aide de SPSS 23 et un niveau de signification statistique de 0,05 a été utilisé. Des analyses bivariées et multivariées ont été utilisées pour déterminer les facteurs affectant les connaissances, l'attitude et les pratiques vis-à-vis de la transmission et de la prévention du COVID-19.

Résultats: L'âge moyen des participants était de 39 ± 11,29 ans. La majorité (54%) des participants ont entendu parler du COVID-19 par le biais des médias de masse et sociaux. L'étude a révélé que 71,6% des participants avaient de bonnes connaissances, seulement 31,3% avaient une bonne attitude tandis que 84,9% d'entre eux avaient de bonnes pratiques à l'égard du COVID-19 au Nigéria. Les taux élevés de connaissances et de pratiques étaient attribuables au revenu, à l'âge, à l'éducation et à l'état matrimonial.

Conclusions: La majorité des participants à l'étude ont montré des connaissances correctes et ont adhéré aux pratiques recommandées à l'égard du COVID-19. Cependant, il y avait des lacunes dans la compréhension des réalités et des croyances sous-jacentes à certains mythes sur le COVID-19. Par conséquent, des interventions telles que des jingles et des affiches dans diverses langues qui serviraient à corriger les perceptions négatives et les mythes sur le COVID-19 devraient être instituées par le biais des médias de masse et des médias sociaux. **WAJM 2021; 38 (4): 347-358**

Mots clés: COVID-19, virus Corona, connaissances, attitude, pratiques, prévention, Nigéria

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