

Knowledge, Perception and Psychosocial Impact of COVID-19 Misbeliefs among General Public in Malaysia 2020

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The World was challenged by out-break of Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in 2019 and it became Pandemic. At the beginning of pandemic, there were worries, uncertainties as well as misbeliefs and myths. A group of medical students at university Malaysia Sarawak did an online survey research to know the knowledge, perception, and misbeliefs among general population of Malaysia. Survey questionnaire form included Sociodemographic data and knowledge towards covid 19 virus as well as finding misbeliefs of participants. Research included video interview of expert medical professionals about misbeliefs and psychological impacts.

Total 1090 participants answered questionnaires aged between 18 and 60 years excluding medical professionals. Results showed participants had highest score in general knowledge of covid - 19 virus which was 83.84%. Knowledge level of respondents with tertiary education was significantly higher among different groups of educational level. (Table 1)

The results were presented in a documentary video which highlighted of survey findings and input from medical field experts on their views of the myths of COVID-19, as well as public respondents on how the misbeliefs has affected them psychosocially.

The research found out that modifications done by an individual on their daily life was determined by perceptions towards the disease on an individual and social levels. It rendered them effects and actions never experienced prior: precautionary measures and psychological impacts.

Table 1. Relationship Between Sociodemographic Data and Knowledge Level Towards COVID-19

Table 1. Relationship between sociodemographic profile and level of knowledge (n= 1090).

Sociodemographic profiles	Mean (SD ^a)	F-statistics (df ^b)	p-value ^{d,e}
<i>Age group (years old)</i>		9.42 (3)	< 0.001
Less than 18	25.0 (4.00)		
18 to 30	26.3 (3.74)		
31 to 59	27.0 (3.66)		
60 or more	26.3 (3.84)		
<i>Gender</i>		1.89 ^c (638)	0.060 ^f
Male	26.1 (4.34)		
Female	26.6 (3.47)		
<i>Level of Education</i>		7.63 (4)	< 0.001
None	26.1 (3.18)		
Primary education	24.8 (4.01)		
Secondary education	25.8 (3.85)		
Tertiary education	26.8 (4.95)		
Vocational education	25.6 (3.80)		

^a standard deviation ^b degree of freedom

^c t-statistic

^d p-value for one-way ANOVA

^e p-value of less than 0.05 is taken as significant

^f p-value for independent t-test