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# COVID-19 appropriate behaviour among the patient's visitors at selected hospital of Kamrup, Assam: A cross-sectional study

### Darshana Hazarika

#### Abstract

The Coronavirus disease 2019(COVID-19) pandemic is a major threat to public health and has had a significant impact on all aspects of life.

**Aim:** To assess COVID-19 appropriate behaviour among the patient's visitors of selected hospital of Kamrup, Assam.

**Methods:** A Descriptive (cross sectional) study was done among 100 Patient's visitors of NEMCARE hospital. Sample for the study was selected by using convenient sampling technique.

**Results:** Out of total 100 participants 4 (4%) had higher appropriate behaviour, 94 (94%) had moderate appropriate behaviour and 2(2%) had lower appropriate behaviour towards COVID-19

**Conclusion:** Analysis of the data showed that majority of the sample had moderate COVID appropriate behaviour.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, appropriate behaviour, patient's visitors

#### Introduction

The Corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic is a major threat to public health and has had a significant impact on all aspects of life. Corona virus disease (COVID 19) is a deadly disease which was identified in 2019 in Wuhan, China and continues to affect many countries in the world. This is caused by the new coronavirus strain SARS-CoV-2 which has become a serious public health concern worldwide.<sup>[1]</sup> At present in worldwide total cases of COVID19 are 22, 80,03,866, in India 3,33,84,263 and in Assam 3.33 crore<sup>[2]</sup>.

The COVID-19 pandemic gave an opportunity to adopt many appropriate changes in the behaviour of the people. The major reason of those behaviour changes were the enforcement by the government, fear about the disease, motivation and self-experiences with the time. Frequent hand hygiene, maintaining physical distancing, use of face mask, cough etiquettes, avoid greetings through physical contacts, fear in spitting at public places, changing cloth after exposing at public place, avoiding outside food are some of the examples of those appropriate behaviours are the measures to end COVID<sup>[3]</sup>. Kollampambil Umakrishnan, Oyenubi Adeola conducted a study on Behavioural response of residence of South Africa to COVID -19 pandemic in South Africa. The data were collected from 7073 individuals in wave 1 and 5676 individuals in wave 2. The findings showed that 92% reported changing their behaviour in wave 1 and 99.7% in wave 2<sup>[4]</sup>.

Azlan Arina Anis, Hamzah Rezal *et al.*, conducted a cross sectional study to assess "Public knowledge, attitudes and practices towards COVID-19 in Malaysia. The study findings showed that among 4,850 participants most participants were taking precautions such as avoiding crowds (83.4%) and practising proper hand hygiene (87.8%) in the week before the movement control order started. The wearing of face mask is less common (51.2%)<sup>[5]</sup>.

Research findings will help to acquire new knowledge and find out best appropriate behaviour and practices regarding COVID 19. Therefore the researcher in the present study felt the need to assess COVID-19 appropriate behaviour among the patient's visitors of selected hospital of Kamrup, Assam to find out the progression of COVID19 appropriate behaviour.

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## Problem Statement

COVID-19 appropriate behaviour among the patient's visitors at selected hospital of Kamrup, Assam: A cross-sectional study.

## Objectives

### The study objectives are

1. To assess COVID-19 appropriate behaviour among the patient's visitors of selected hospital of Kamrup, Assam.
2. To determine association between COVID-19 appropriate behaviour among the patient's visitors with the selected demographic variable.

## Hypothesis

Hypothesis was tested at 0.05 level of significance.

**H<sub>1</sub>:** There is a significant association between COVID-19 appropriate behaviour among the patient's visitors at selected hospital of Guwahati with the selective demographic variables.

## Review of literature

### Materials and Methods

A Descriptive (cross sectional) study was done among 100 Patient's visitors of NEMCARE hospital. Sample for the

study was selected by using convenient sampling technique. Patient's visitor's age below 10 years were excluded in this study.

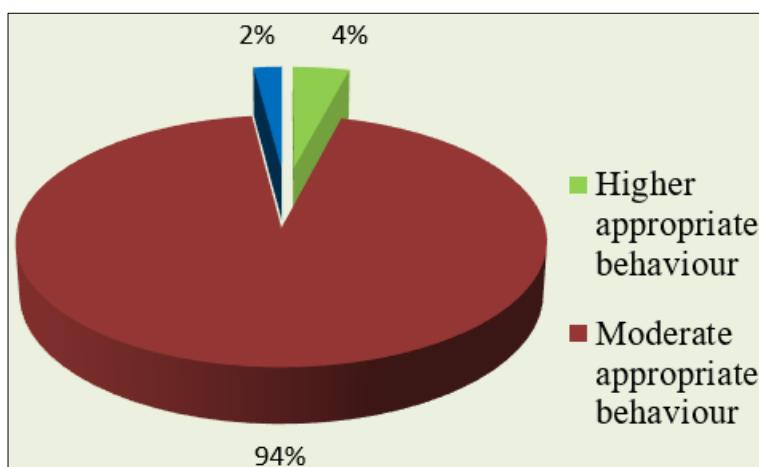
The study was started after getting ethical approval from the selected hospital as well as written consent from the participants. The investigators developed a tool, which was further divided into section A (demographic characteristic) and section B (15 questionnaires on COVID-19 appropriate behaviour) to collect data from the sample.

## Results and Discussion

Among the study participants most that is 55 (55%) were belongs to the age group of 21-40 yrs, 50 (50%) were male, 50 (50%) were female. Most that is 54 (54%) were residing in urban area. Most that is 77 (77%) patient's visitors were Hindu. Most that is 70 (70%) were belongs to the educational qualification graduation and above. 32 (32%) were private employee.

According to monthly family income 42 (42%) patient's Visitors income were between Rs 30001-60,000.

Finding of the study revealed as shown in fig 1: shows that 4 (4%) had higher appropriate behaviour, 94 (94%) had moderate appropriate behaviour and 2 (2%) had lower appropriate behaviour towards COVID-19.



**Fig 1:** Percentage distribution of COVID-19 appropriate behaviour among the patient's visitors n=100

**Table 1:** Association between COVID-19 appropriate behaviour among the patient's visitors at selected hospital of Guwahati with the selective demographic variables n=100

Sl. No	Sample Characteristics	Higher appropriate Behaviour	Moderate appropriate Behaviour	Lower appropriate Behaviour	$\chi^2$ value
1			<b>Age</b>		.143
	21-40yrs	3	49	2	
	41-60yrs	1	34	0	
	61-80yrs	0	11	0	
2			<b>Gender</b>		1.000
	Male	2	47	1	
	Female	2	47	1	
	Others	0	0	0	
3			<b>Types of residence</b>		.804
	Urban	4	50	0	
	Semi urban	0	9	0	
	Rural	0	35	2	
4			<b>Religion</b>		.545
	Hindu	4	72	1	
	Islam	0	20	1	
	Christian	0	2	0	
	Others	0	0	0	
5			<b>Education</b>		.508

	Illiterate	0	2	0	
	Primary school	0	6	0	
	Middle school	0	0	0	
	High school	1	8	1	
	Higher secondary	0	12	0	
	Higher secondary	3	66	1	
6	<b>Occupation</b>				2
	Unemployed	0	20	0	
	Daily workers	0	4	0	
	Govt employee	1	28	1	
	Private employee	2	29	1	
	Others	1	13	0	
7	<b>Monthly income</b>				.363
	10,000-30,000	4	20	1	
	30,001-60,000	0	41	1	
	60,001-90,000	0	26	0	
	≥90,000	0	7	0	

Significant at  $p<0.05$

Data presented in Table 2 reveals that COVID-19 appropriate behaviour of patient's visitors was insignificantly associated with age ( $p=.143$ ), gender ( $p=1.000$ ), residence ( $p=.804$ ), religion ( $p=.545$ ), education ( $p=.508$ ), occupation ( $p=.2$ ), monthly income ( $p=.363$ ). The calculated statistical value was more than tabulated value. Hence the formulated  $H_1$  is rejected at 0.05 level of significance.

Present study revealed that COVID-19 appropriate behaviour of patient's visitors was insignificantly associated with age ( $p=.143$ ), gender ( $p=1.000$ ), residence ( $p=.804$ ), religion ( $p=.545$ ), education ( $p=.508$ ), occupation ( $p=.2$ ), monthly income ( $p=.363$ ). This finding is supported by similar study conducted by Kumar. A. et al., on Adherence to COVID-19 appropriate behaviour among small scale workers in unorganized sector in Rajasthan. Findings showed that Adherence to all CAB measures was it was not found to be associated with age, gender, education level, residence and occupation [6].

### Recommendation

- Future similar study can be conducted among health care professionals as well as general public.
- Similar study can be carried out among larger sample to generalize the findings.
- Same study can be replicated in different settings.

### Conclusion

The present study assesses the COVID-19 appropriate behaviour among the patient's visitor of selected hospital. Analysis of the data showed that majority of the sample had moderate COVID appropriate behaviour. Consistent guideline and protocols from government and health authority can aid public to adopt higher COVID appropriate behaviour. Various awareness programmes, teaching modules and demonstrations on COVID -19 practices will be beneficial to adopt COVID appropriate behaviour.

### Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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