What Malaysians Tweeted about COVID 19? An Exploratory Study

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Conventional methods through population-based surveys to measure public perceptions and reactions during emergencies or pandemic times is a costly, labour intensive and time-consuming effort. To understand phenomenological experiences "now," it is crucial to complement measurement tools with real-time "infoveillance" approaches. We aimed to explore public perceptions and reactions towards the COVID-19 pandemic in Malaysia via content and thematic analyses using Twitter. **Methods:** Using time-series computational methods, we archived 18,467 tweets from 5932 Twitter users across Malaysia between May 10, 2020 till May 25, 2020 using R software (TwitteR package). Original tweets (excluding retweets) in English and Malay were retrieved using keywords "COVID-19," "coronavirus," "SARS-CoV-2," "2019nCoV," and/or "nCoV2019." An exploratory qualitative thematic and content analysis was performed on all eligible Tweets. Theme-wise favourite count and favourite ratios were yielded. **Results:** Three major themes and nine sub-themes emerged from the thematic-content analyses. The major theme "personal experiences (favourite ratio=17.18)" identified direct and indirect people's experiences to being infected or observing close relatives to be infected with COVID-19, while the second major theme "risk perceptions (favourite ratio=14.97)" highlighted sub-domains of "seriousness" of infectivity and "downplayed risks" of COVID-19 infections. The third major theme "expressions and reactions (favourite ratio=12.82)" conveyed five sub-domain themes of people's emotions towards the pandemic; "relief," "frustrations," "hope," "appreciation," and "appeal." **Conclusion:** This study highlights the need for real-time effective communication and accurate information to be disseminated to tackle psychological repercussions in unexpected times.

A Review on Mothers' Preference for Staff Gender During Childbirth

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Issues related to the needs of female doctors in Obstetrics and Gynecology (O&G) have been discussed openly in Malaysia especially through the social media. Studies in United Kingdom and United States of America showed that more than half of the mothers had no gender preference when selecting their O&G doctors. In contrast, a study among religious population in Israel revealed that majority of the mothers preferred female O&G doctors. This study was conducted to assess on the preference of staff gender of mothers during childbirth. **Methods:** This was a cross sectional study using a self-administered questionnaire. It involved post-natal mothers aged 18 and above, delivered via Spontaneous Vaginal Delivery (SVD) in 3 hospitals in East Coast of Malaysia. **Results:** A total of 171 post-natal mothers consented to take part. Their mean age was 29 (5.01) years old. In all 166 (97.1%) were Malays with Islam as the main religion (170, 99.4%). 147 mothers (86%) preferred female doctors for vaginal examination (VE) and 148 mothers (86.5%) preferred female doctors for delivery of the baby. Out of that, only 98 (66.7%) and 88 (59.5%) mothers were seen by female doctors for VE and childbirth respectively. Nevertheless, 125 (85.1%) mothers were attended by either female doctors or nurses during VE and 138 (93.3%) during childbirth. **Conclusion:** As Islam is the predominant religion among the mothers that we studied, majority of them preferred to be attended by female doctors during VE and childbirth. Even though fewer mothers were seen by female doctor during delivery, the percentage was good when we considered the combination of female doctors and nurses.