

Knowledge, attitude, and practice towards COVID-19 pandemic among adults in Kota Bharu district, Kelantan

Yusra Zahir, Munirah Mohd Adnan, Normastura Abd Rahman

Dental Public Health Unit, School of Dental Sciences, Health Campus, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Kubang Kerian, Kelantan, Malaysia

ABSTRACT

Introduction: The National Immunization Programme in Malaysia was implemented starting in February 2021, made progress in lowering the risk of COVID-19 infection until Malaysia entered the endemic phase on April 1st, 2022. However, awareness and practice of COVID-19 preventive measures at the individual level are still important. This study aimed to determine the knowledge, attitude and practice towards COVID-19 and its associated factors among adults in Kota Bharu, Kelantan. **Materials and Methods:** A cross-sectional study was carried out among 131 adult patients who attended USM Hospital and were selected through randomized convenient sampling during the COVID-19 pandemic between 22nd April 2021 and 27th May 2021. The knowledge, attitude and practices on the pandemic COVID-19 were assessed via a validated online questionnaire using a Google form. Data were analysed using IBM SPSS version 26.0. The analyses used were independent t-test, one-way ANOVA and Pearson and Spearman correlation coefficient with a significant value set at $P < 0.05$. The significant level was set at $p < 0.05$. **Results:** The mean age was 33.4 (11.47). The respondents' race were mostly Malays (96.9%) with the majority with at least a degree of academic qualification (65.6%). The mean scores of knowledge, attitude and practice during the COVID-19 pandemic were 19.6 (1.76), 15.7 (0.78) and 40.5 (4.80), respectively. Statistical analysis showed a significant negative correlation between household income and the mean score of the practice related to COVID-19 preventive measures. A higher mean score of practice related to COVID-19 preventive measures was found among low household income compared to high household income after being analyzed using the Spearman correlation coefficient ($r = -0.188$, $p = 0.031$). The knowledge of the COVID-19 pandemic score was positively correlated with the attitude towards the COVID-19 pandemic ($r = 0.29$, $p = 0.001$) and practice related to COVID-19 ($r = 0.21$, $p = 0.019$). **Conclusion:** The mean score of knowledge, attitude and practice on COVID-19 among adult patients attending Hospital USM was found to be relatively good. Household income was found to be correlated with the practice related to preventive measures during the COVID-19 pandemic. This study proved that good knowledge of COVID-19 will translate into positive attitudes and good practices on COVID-19. Therefore, progressive health education implemented by the authorities is crucial to cultivate a knowledgeable community that plays one of the main roles in the success of the battle against COVID-19 pandemic.