
PREFACE

There was an avalanche of evidence-based research and scientific knowledge in order to provide clarity to the global population and provide them with the means to tackle the pandemic. Additionally, an overwhelming number of clinical trials were also in motion with about 1100 trials listed in the National Library of Medicine Registry of Clinical Trials. Together, true information along with misinformation and disinformation have served to add oil to the fire of pandemic, in the form of an ‘infodemic’. Infodemic have always prompted stigma and discrimination amongst various ethnicities or classes of profession. In order to tackle the infodemic effectively, this study was conducted to gauge the current level of knowledge pertaining to the infodemic amongst healthcare workers, the impact of the infodemic on various aspects of their life, and the means of countermeasures provided to them to combat the rising infodemic. A self-structured custom-made questionnaire structured was designed to determine the knowledge of infodemics, its impact and coping strategies by doctors of Bharati Vidyapeeth hospitals of Mumbai, Pune and Sangli. Participants are the health professionals from medical and dental fields working in Bharati Vidyapeeth hospitals of Mumbai, Pune, and Sangli. Non – probability, purposive sampling was used for the questionnaire study, and based on the single proportion formula, and with prevalence of knowledge to be 50 percent, and standard error of 3%, 1068 dental and medical fraternity were questioned. This study highlighted the need for targeted information campaigns, especially among certain demographic groups that may be less aware of the infodemic. Moreover, efforts should be made to enhance health literacy and critical information evaluation skills, particularly among those who struggle to distinguish between myths and facts.