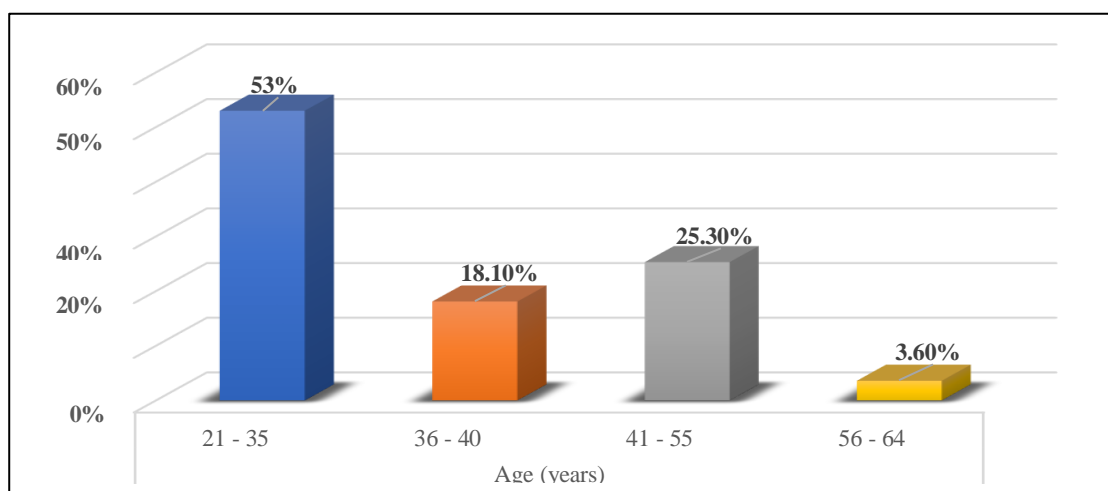


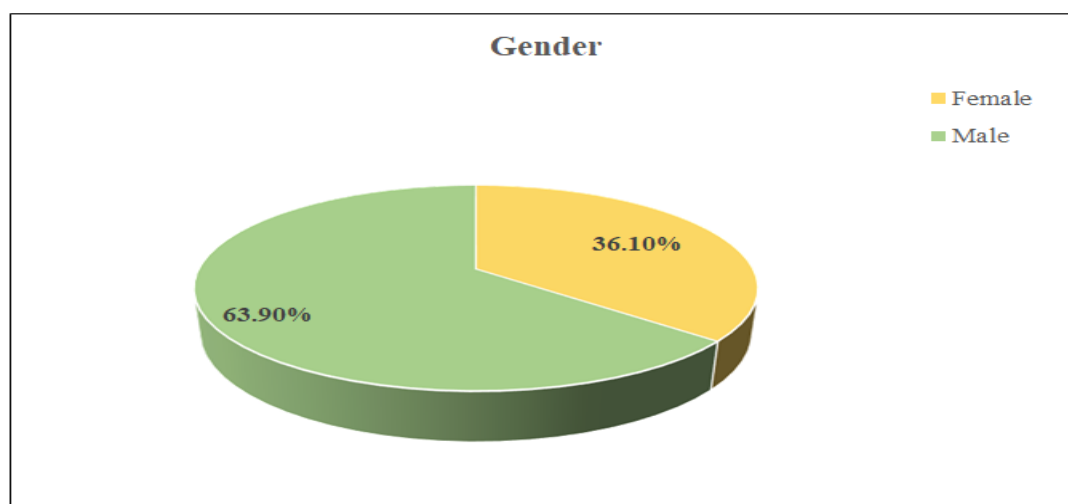
**RESULTS:****Table 1: Distribution of subjects according to age.**

Variables	Sub Category	Number of Subjects (%)
Age (years)	21 - 35	567 (53%)
	36 - 40	194 (18.1%)
	41 - 55	271 (25.3%)
	56 - 64	38 (3.6%)
	Mean $\pm$ SD	37.34 $\pm$ 8.78
	Median (Min, Max)	35 (21, 64)

Out of 1070 subjects, 567 (53%) were in age group 21-35 years, followed by 194 (18.1%) in the age group 36-40 and 271 (25.3%) of subjects were in 41-55 years age group. The mean of age was  $37.34 \pm 8.78$ .

**Figure 5: Distribution of subjects according to age (years).****Table 2: Distribution of subjects according to gender.**

Variables	Sub Category	Number of Subjects (%)
Gender	Female	386 (36.1%)
	Male	684 (63.9%)

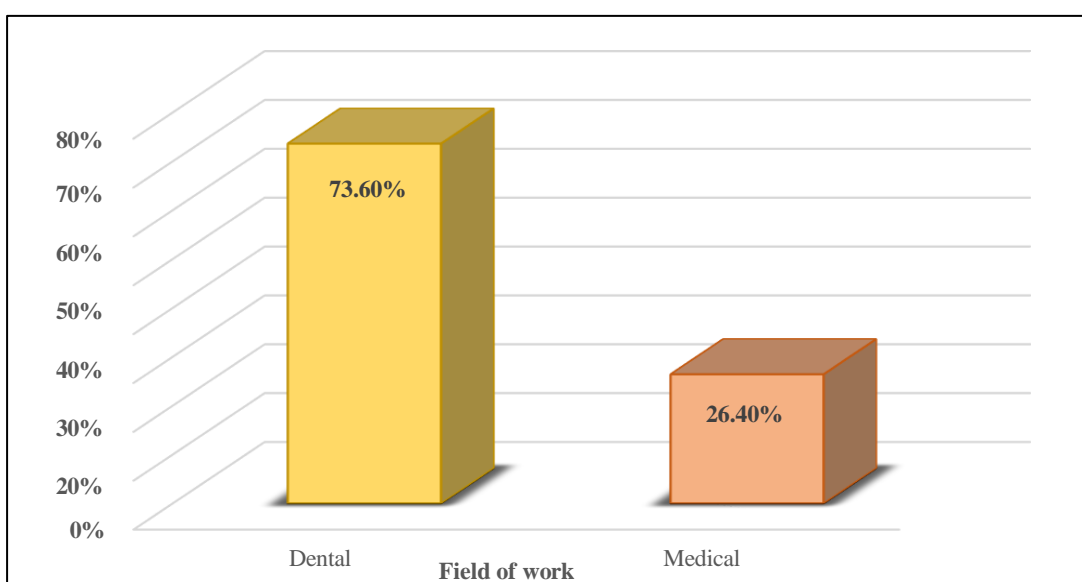


**Fig. 6 : Distribution of subjects according to gender**

**Table 3: Distribution of subjects according to Field of work**

Variables	Sub Category	Number of Subjects (%)
Field of work	Dental	787 (73.6%)
	Medical	283 (26.4%)

Out of 1070 subjects, 787 (73.6%) were in dental and 283 (26.4%) were in medical field of work.

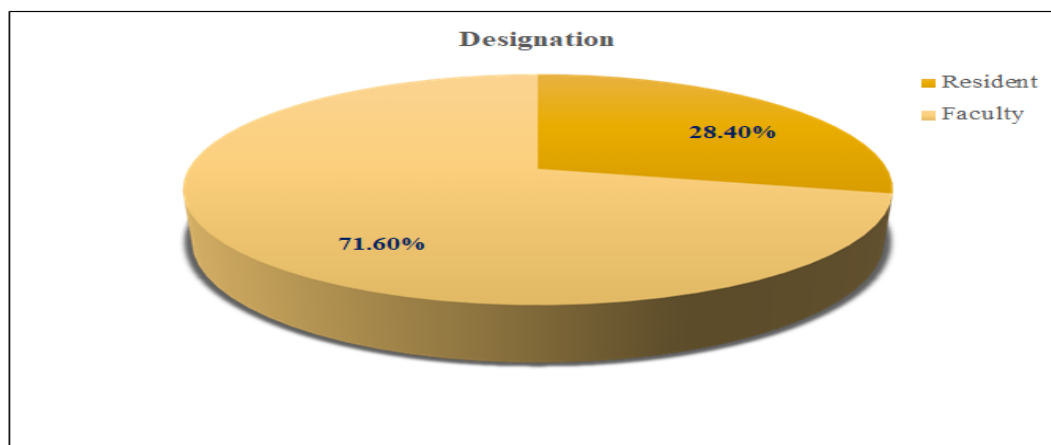


**Fig. 7 : Distribution of subjects according to field of work.**

**Table 4: Distribution of subjects according to designation**

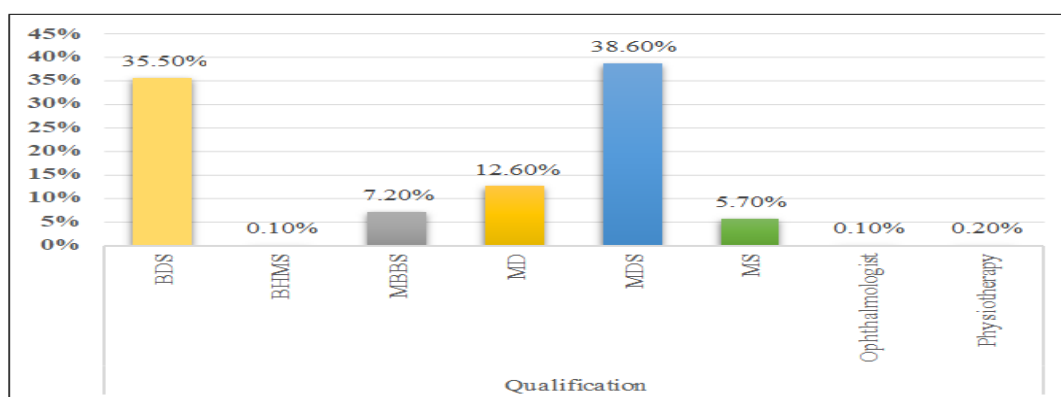
Variables	Sub Category	Number of Subjects (%)
Designation	Resident	304 (28.4%)
	Faculty	766 (71.6%)

Out of 1070 subjects, 304 (28.4%) were in residents and 766 (71.6%) were faculty.

**Fig. 8 : Distribution of subjects according to field of designation.****Table 5 : Distribution of subjects according to qualification**

Variables	Sub Category	Number of Subjects (%)
Qualification	BDS	380 (35.5%)
	BHMS	1 (0.1%)
	MBBS	77 (7.2%)
	MD	135 (12.6%)
	MDS	413 (38.6%)
	MS	61 (5.7%)
	Ophthalmologist	1 (0.1%)
	Physiotherapy	2 (0.2%)

Out of 1070 subjects, 413 (38.6%) were MDS, 380 (35.5%) were BDS, 135 (12.6%) were MD, 77 (7.2%) were MBBS qualified.

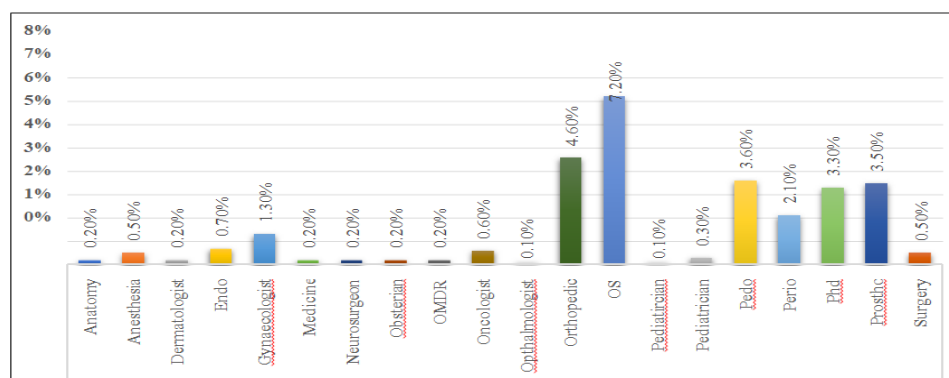


**Fig. 9: Distribution of subjects according to qualification**

**Table 6: Distribution of subjects according to speciality**

Variables	Sub Category	Number of Subjects (%)
Speciality#	Anatomy	2 (0.2%)
	Anesthesia	5 (0.5%)
	Dermatologist	2 (0.2%)
	Endo	7 (0.7%)
	Gynecologist	14 (1.3%)
	Medicine	2 (0.2%)
	Neurosurgeon	2 (0.2%)
	Obsterian	2 (0.2%)
	OMDR	2 (0.2%)
	Oncologist	6 (0.6%)
	Ophthalmologist	1 (0.1%)
	Orthopedic	49 (4.6%)
	OS	(7.2%77
	Pediatrician	1 (0.1%)
	Pediatrician	3 (0.3%)
	Pedo	39 (3.6%)
	Perio	22 (2.1%)
	PhD	35 (3.3%)
	Prosthodontics	37 (3.5%)
Surgery	5 (0.5%)	

# - indicates missing data



**Fig. 10 : Distribution of subjects according to speciality**

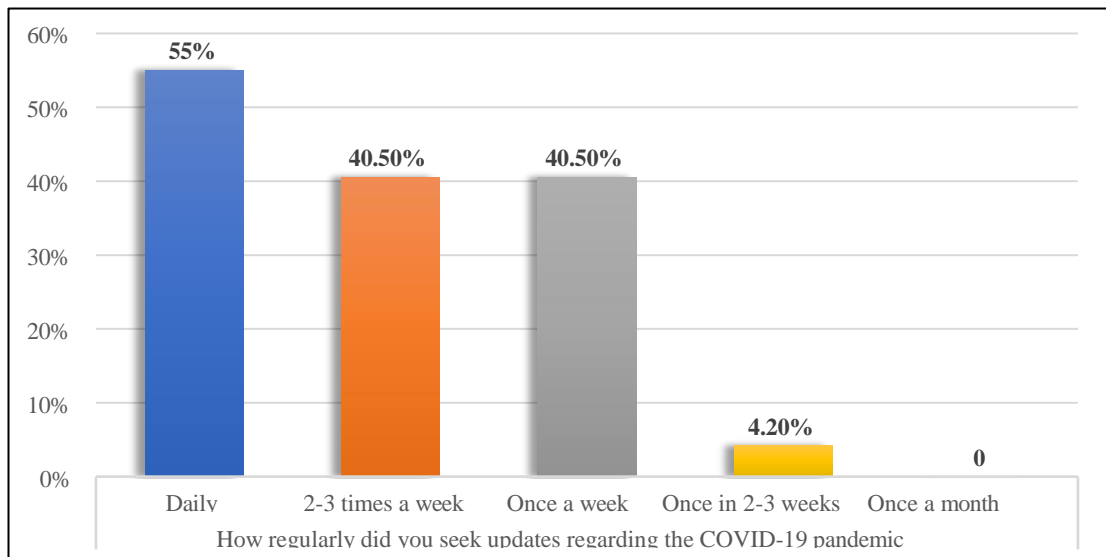
**Table 7 : Distribution of subjects according to years of experience**

Variables	Sub Category	Number of Subjects (%)
Experience in years	Mean $\pm$ SD	9.46 $\pm$ 8.48
	Median (Min, Max)	8 (0, 37)

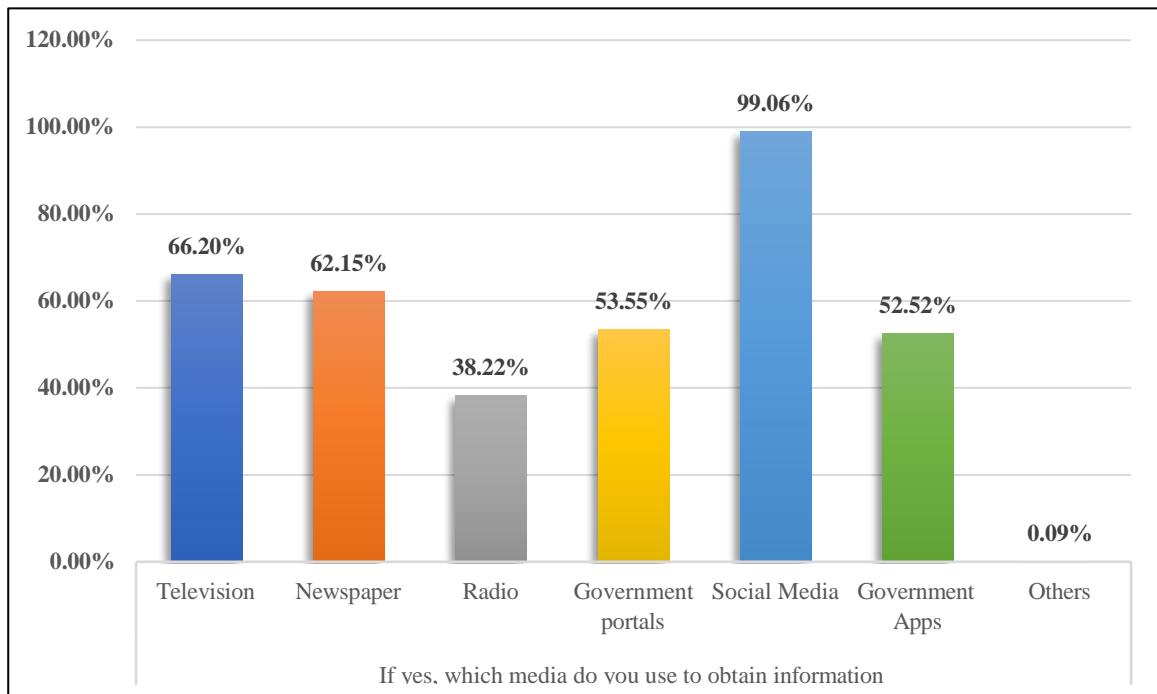
The mean of experience (years) is 9.46  $\pm$  8.48.

**Table 8 : Distribution of subjects according to other questions**

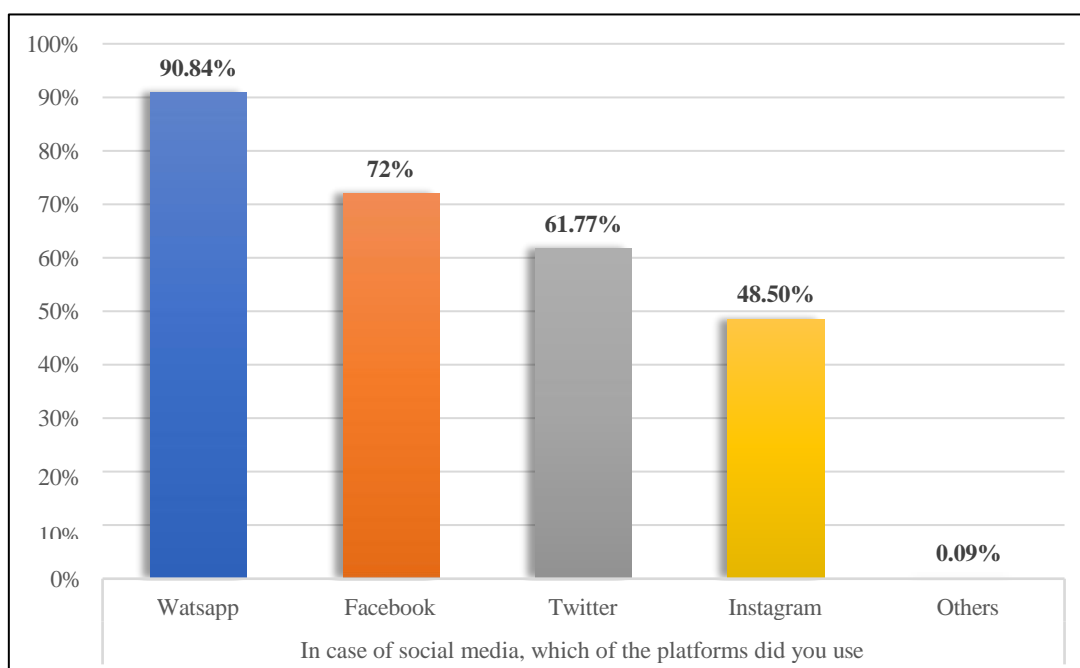
Variables	Sub Category	Number of Subjects (%)
How regularly did you seek updates regarding the COVID-19 pandemic	Daily	588 (55%)
	2-3 times a week	434 (40.5%)
	Once a week	45 (4.05%)
	Once in 2-3 weeks	4 (4.2%)
	Once a month	0
If yes, which media do you use to obtain information	Television	708 (66.2%)
	Newspaper	665 (62.15%)
	Radio	409 (38.22%)
	Government portals	573 (53.55%)
	Social Media	1060 (99.06%)
	Government Apps	562 (52.52%)
	Others	1 (0.093%)
In case of social media, which of the platforms did you use	Watsapp	972 (90.84%)
	Facebook	756 (72%)
	Twitter	661 (61.77%)
	Instagram	519 (48.5%)
	Others	1 (0.093%)



**Fig. 11 : Distribution of subjects according to- How regularly did you seek updates regarding the COVID-19 pandemic**



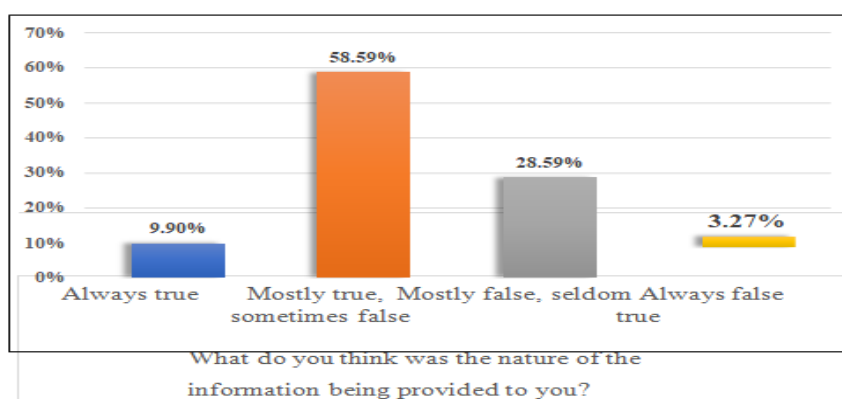
**Fig. 12 : Distribution of subjects according to- If yes, which media do you use to obtain information**



**Fig. 13 : Distribution of subjects according to- In case of social media, which of the platforms did you use**

**Table 9: Distribution of subjects according to- What do you think was the nature of the information being provided to you?**

Variables	Sub Category	Number of Subjects (%)
What do you think was the nature of the information being provided to you?	Always true	106 (9.9%)
	Mostly true, sometimes false	627 (58.59%)
	Mostly false, seldom true	306 (28.59%)
	Always false	35 (3.27%)

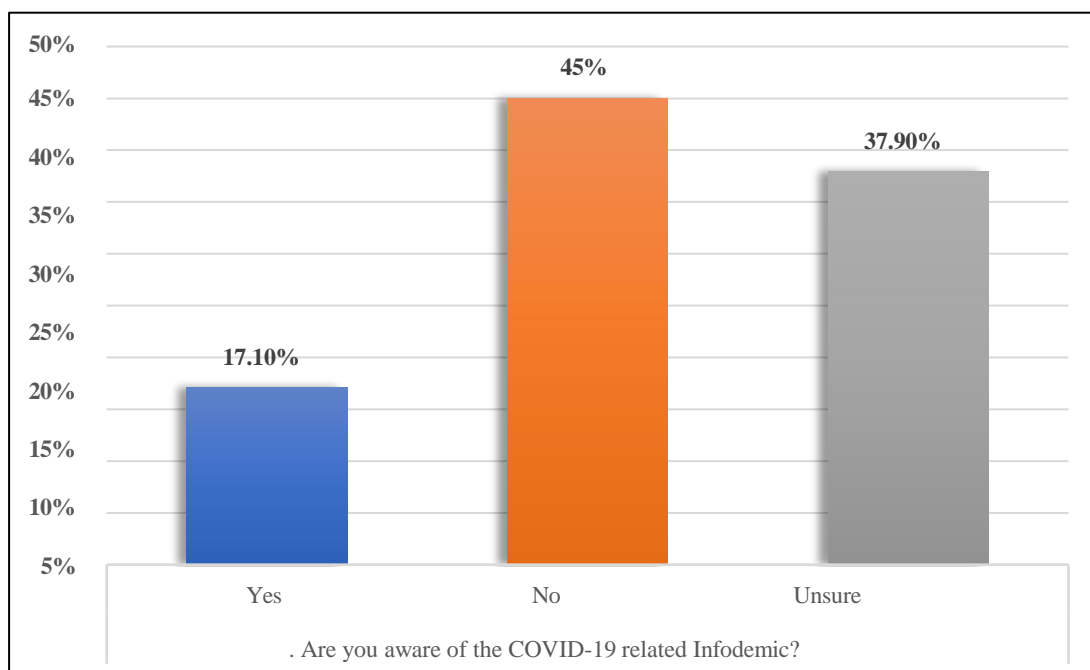


**Fig. 14 : Distribution of subjects according to- What do you think was the nature of the information being provided to you?**

**Table 10: Distribution of subjects according to- . Are you aware of the COVID-19 related Infodemic?**

Variables	Sub Category	Number of Subjects (%)
Are you aware of the COVID-19 related Info demic?	Yes	183 (17.1%)
	No	481 (45%)
	Unsure	406 (37.9%)

Out of 1070 subjects, 406 (37.9%) were unsure of COVID-19 Infodemic, 183 (17.1%) were aware and 481 (45%) were not aware of Infodemic.



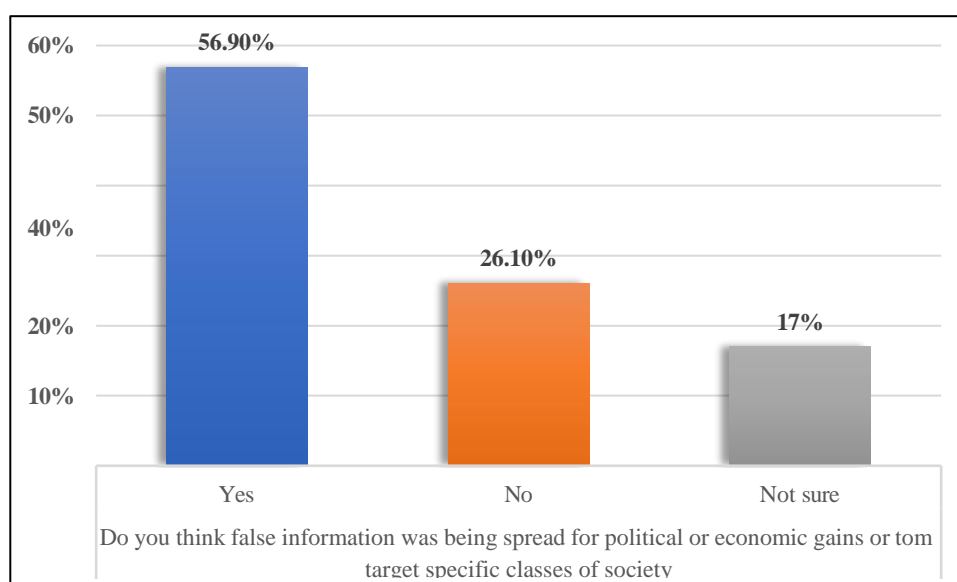
**Fig. 15: Distribution of subjects according to- Are you aware of the COVID- 19 related Infodemic?**

**Table 11: Distribution of subjects according to- Do you think false information was being spread for political or economic gains or tom target specific classes of society.**

Variables	Sub Category	Number of Subjects (%)
Do you think false information was being spread for political or economic gains or tom target specific classes of society	Yes	609 (56.9%)
	No	279 (26.1%)
	Not sure	182 (17%)

Out of 1070 subjects, 609 (56.9%) think false information was being spread.



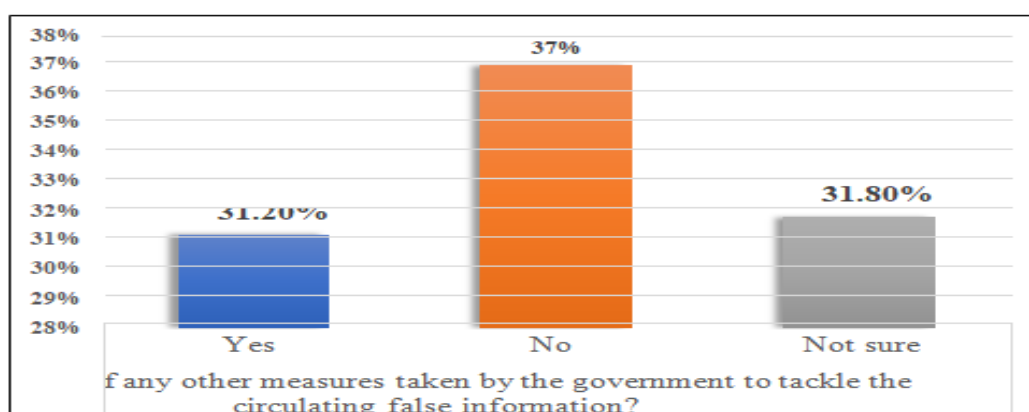


**Fig. 16 : Distribution of subjects according to- Do you think false information was being spread for political or economic gains or to target specific classes of society**

**Table 12: Distribution of subjects according to- Are you aware of any other measures taken by the government to tackle the circulating false information?**

Variables	Sub Category	Number of Subjects (%)
Are you aware of any other measures taken by the government to tackle the circulating false information?	Yes	334 (31.2%)
	No	396 (37%)
	Not sure	340 (31.8%)

Out of 1070 subjects, 334 (31.2%) were aware of measure taken by government, 396 (37%) were not aware and 340 (31.8%) were not sure.



**Fig. 17: Distribution of subjects according to- Are you aware of any other measures taken by the government to tackle the circulating false information?**

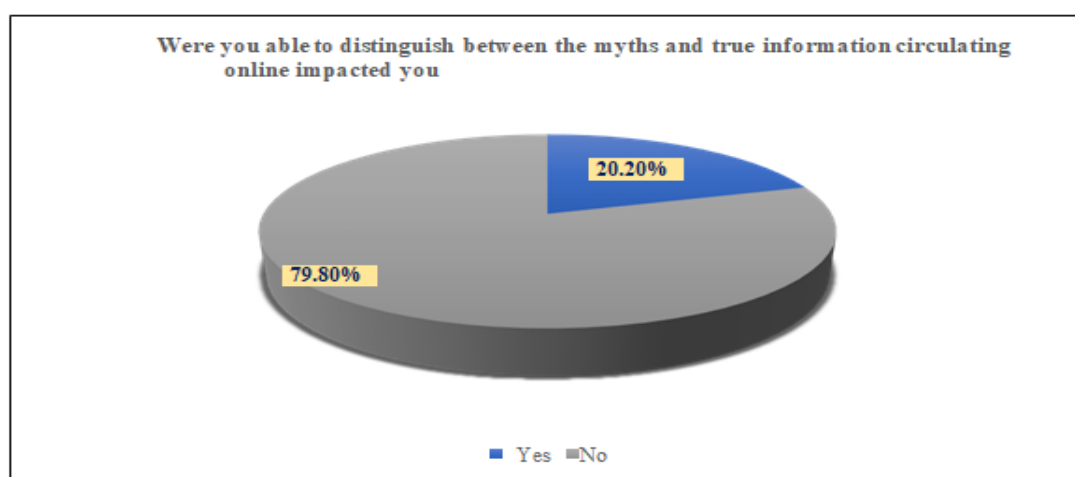
**Table 13 : Distribution of subjects according to- Which of the following media impacted you: Television, Newspaper, Radio, Government portal, Government app, Social Media and others.**

Variables	Sub Category	Number of Subjects (%)
<b>Which of the following media impacted you</b>		
<b>Television</b>	Never	97 (9.1%)
	Rarely	114 (10.7%)
	Sometimes	247 (23.1%)
	Always	612 (57.2%)
<b>News Paper</b>	Never	264 (24.7%)
	Rarely	308 (28.8%)
	Sometimes	260 (24.3%)
	Always	238 (22.2%)
<b>Radio</b>	Never	473 (44.2%)
	Rarely	280 (26.2%)
	Sometimes	222 (20.7%)
	Always	95 (8.9%)
<b>Government Portal</b>	Never	99 (9.3%)
	Rarely	113 (10.6%)
	Sometimes	383 (35.8%)
	Always	479 (44.8%)
<b>Government App</b>	Never	95 (8.9%)
	Rarely	113 (10.6%)
	Sometimes	383 (35.8%)
	Always	479 (44.8%)
<b>Social Media</b>	Never	263 (24.6%)
	Rarely	302 (28.2%)
	Sometimes	223 (20.8%)
	Always	282 (26.4%)
<b>Other</b>	Never	915 (85.5%)
	Rarely	40 (3.7%)
	Sometimes	60 (5.6%)
	Always	55 (5.1%)

**Table 14 : Distribution of subjects according to -Were you able to distinguish between the myths and true information circulating online impacted you**

Variables	Sub Category	Number of Subjects (%)
Were you able to distinguish between the myths and true information circulating online impacted you.	Yes	216 (20.2%)
	No	854 (79.8%)

Out of 1070 subjects, 854 (79.8%) were unable to distinguish between the myths and true information circulating online.

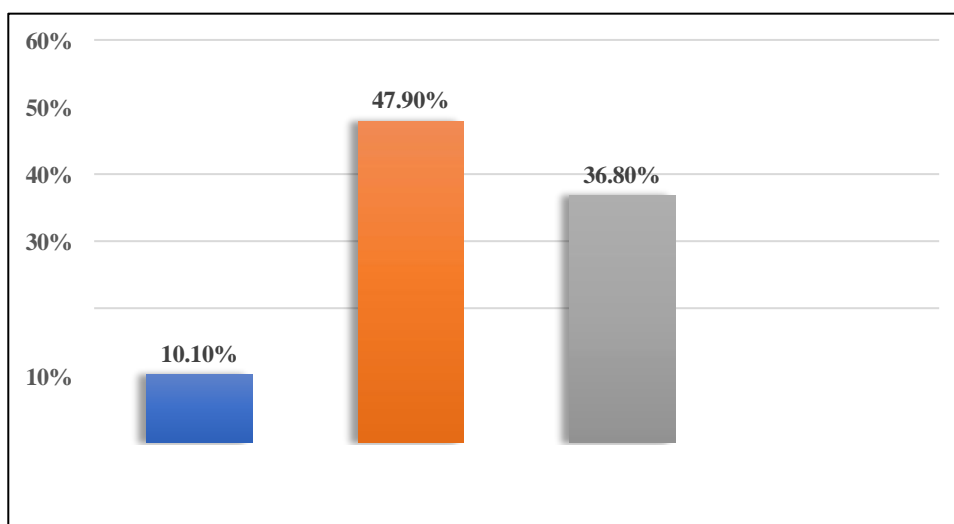


**Fig. 18: Distribution of subjects according to- Were you able to distinguish between the myths and true information circulating online impacted you.**

**Table 15 : Distribution of subjects according to -How often did you cross-check the information that had an impact being provided?**

Variables	Sub Category	Number of Subjects (%)
How often did you cross-check the information that had an impact being provided?	Always	108 (10.1%)
	Sometimes	512 (47.9%)
	Rarely	394 (36.8%)
	Never	56 (5.2%)

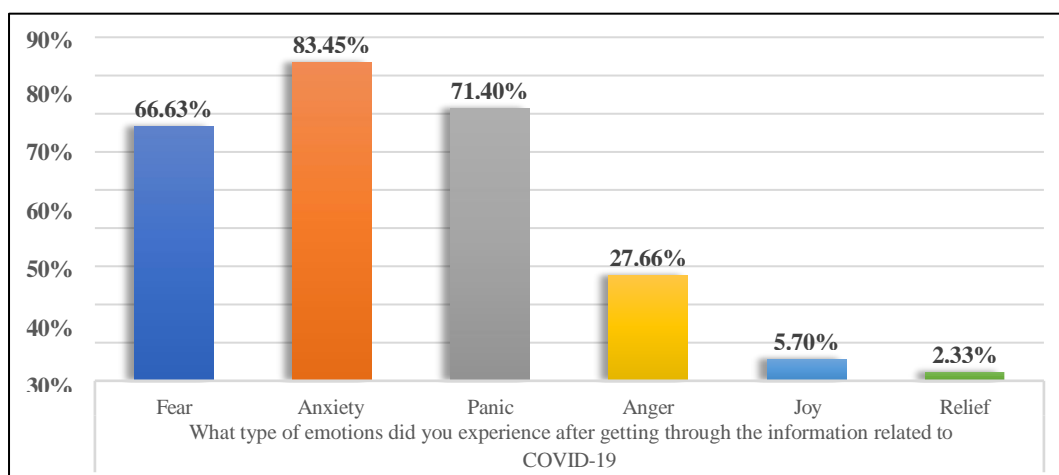
Out of 1070 subjects, 512 (47.9%) sometimes cross-check the information, 394 (36.8%) rarely cross-check the information that had an impact being provided.



**Fig. 19 : Distribution of subjects according to- How often did you cross-check the information that had an impact being provided?**

**Table 16 : Distribution of subjects according to - What type of emotions did you experience after getting through the information related to COVID-19.**

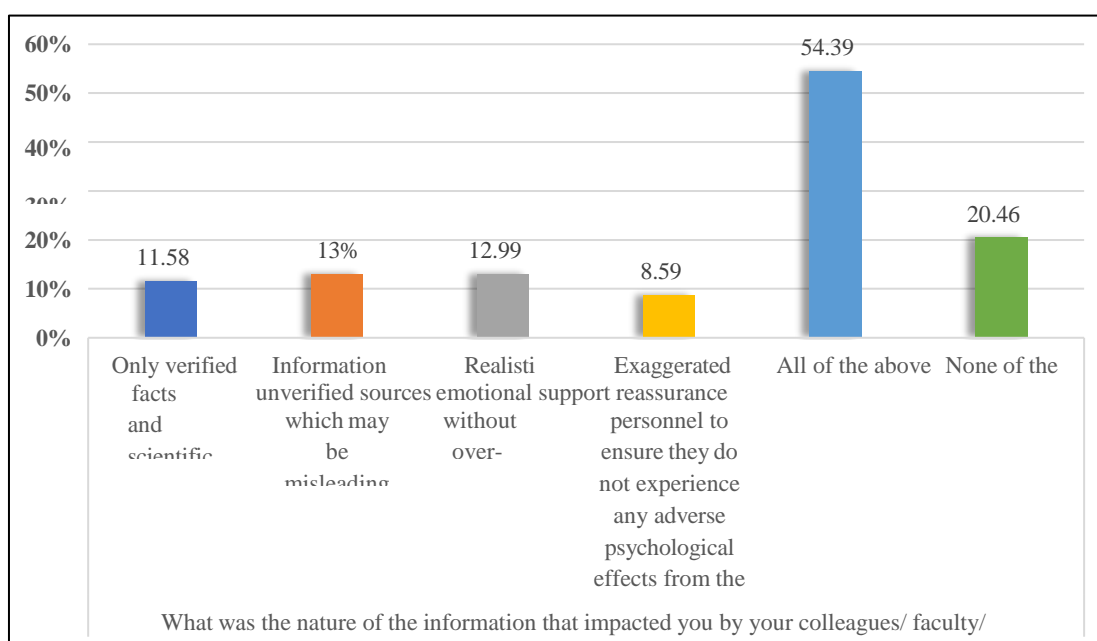
Variables	Sub Category	Number of Subjects (%)
How often did you cross-check the information that had an impact being provided?	Fear	713 (66.63%)
	Anxiety	893 (83.45%)
	Panic	764 (71.4%)
	Anger	296 (27.66%)
	Joy	61 (5.7%)
	Relief	25 (2.33%)



**Fig. 20: Distribution of subjects according to- What type of emotions did you experience after getting through the information related to COVID-19**

**Table 17 : Distribution of subjects according to - What was the nature of the information that impacted you by your colleagues/faculty/hospital?**

Variables	Sub Category	Number of Subjects (%)
What was the nature of the information that impacted you by your colleagues/ faculty/ hospital?	Only verified facts and scientific evidences	124 (11.58%)
	Information from unverified sources which may be misleading or untrue	139 (13%)
	Realistic emotional support without over- reassurance	137 (12.99%)
	Exaggerated reassurance of the personnel to ensure they do not experience any adverse psychological effects from the pandemic.	92 (8.59%)
	All of the above	582 (54.39%)
	None of the above	219 (20.46%)



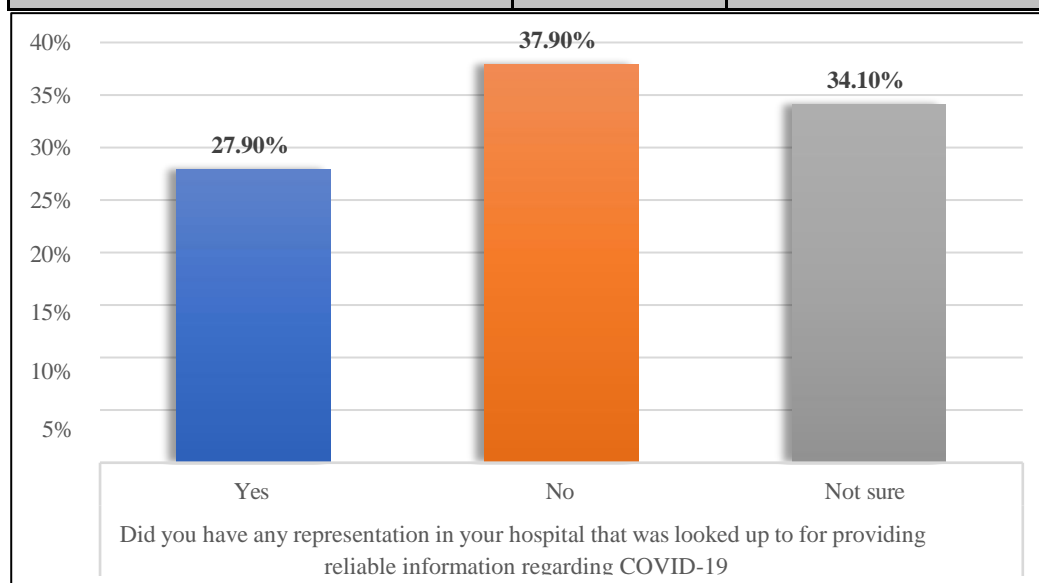
**Fig. 21: Distribution of subjects according to- What was the nature of the information that impacted you by your colleagues/ faculty/ hospital?**

**Table 18 : Distribution of subjects according to - Did the government or your hospital make any countermeasures provision to caution you about the false information and enable you to identify it?**

Variables	Sub Category	Number of Subjects (%)
Did the government or your hospital make any countermeasures provision to caution you about the false information and enable you to identify it?	A	354 (33.1%)
	B	272 (25.4%)
	C	443 (41.4%)
	D	1 (0.1%)

**Table 19 : Distribution of subjects according to - Did you have any representation in your hospital that was looked up to for providing reliable information regarding**

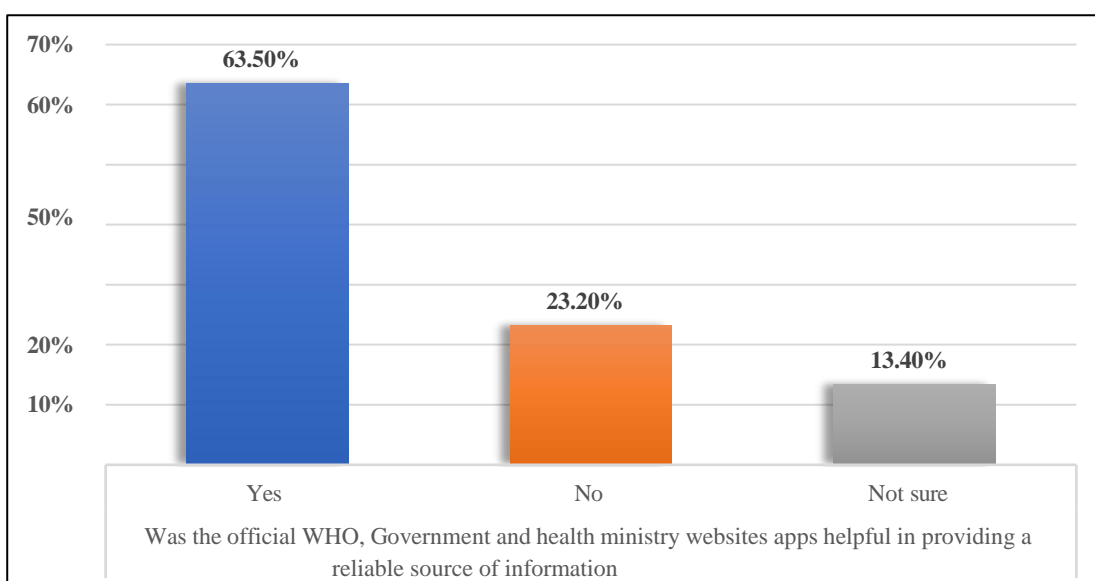
Variables	Sub Category	Number of Subjects (%)
Did you have any representation in your hospital that was looked up to for providing reliable information regarding COVID-19	Yes	299 (27.9%)
	No	406 (37.9%)
	Not sure	365 (34.1%)



**Figure 22: Distribution of subjects according to- Did you have any representation in your hospital that was looked up to for providing reliable information regarding COVID-19**

**Table 20 : Distribution of subjects according to - Was the official WHO, Government and health ministry websites apps helpful in providing a reliable source of information**

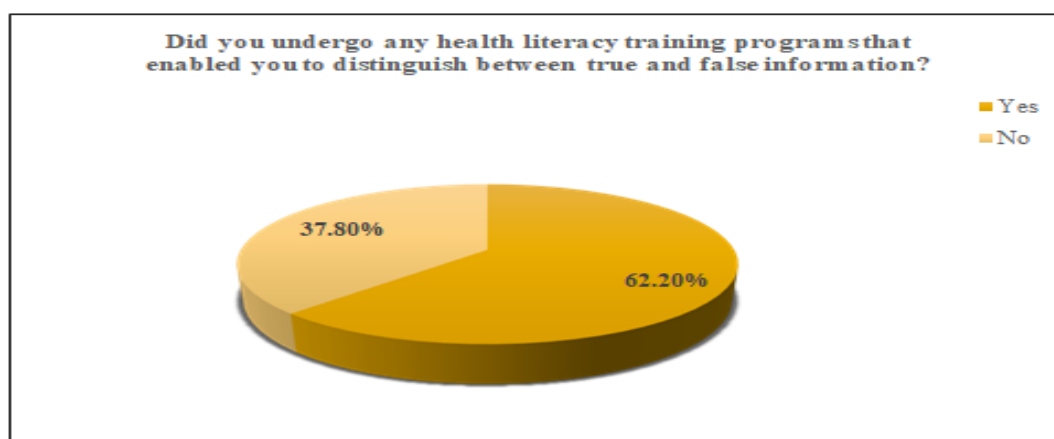
Variables	Sub Category	Number of Subjects (%)
Was the official WHO, Government and health ministry websites apps helpful in providing a reliable source of information	Yes	679 (63.5%)
	No	248 (23.2%)
	Not sure	143 (13.4%)



**Fig. 23: Distribution of subjects according to- Was the official WHO, Government and health ministry websites apps helpful in providing a reliable source of information**

**Table 21 : Distribution of subjects according to - Did you undergo any health literacy training programs that enabled you to distinguish between true and false information?**

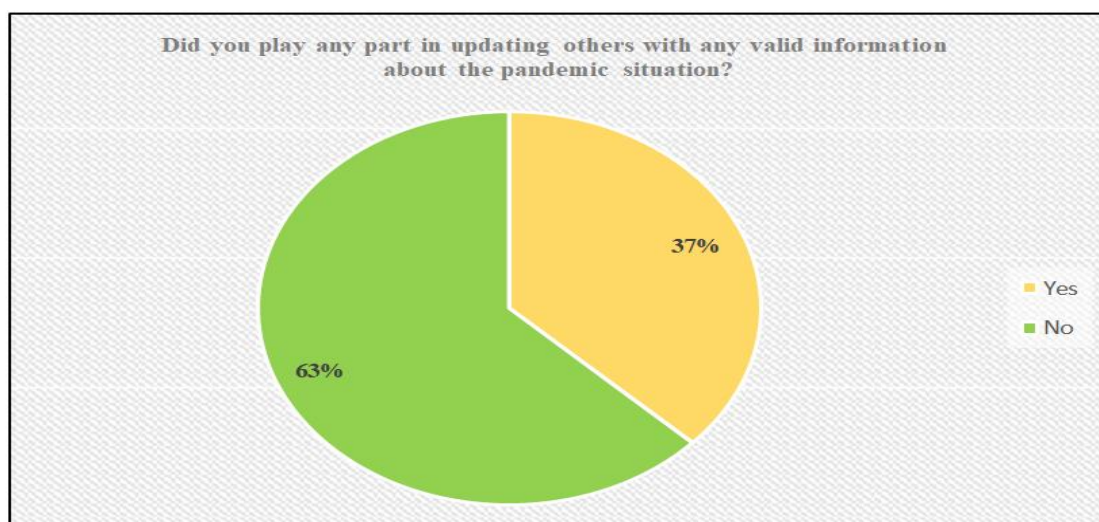
Variables	Sub Category	Number of Subjects (%)
Did you undergo any health literacy training programs that enabled you to distinguish between true and false information?	Yes	666 (62.2%)
	No	404 (37.8%)



**Fig. 24: Distribution of subjects according to- Did you undergo any health literacy training programs that enabled you to distinguish between true and false information?**

**Table 22 : Distribution of subjects according to - Did you play any part in updating others with any valid information about the pandemic situation?**

Variables	Sub Category	Number of Subjects (%)
Did you play any part in updating others with any valid information about the pandemic situation?	Yes	396 (37%)
	No	674 (63%)



**Fig. 25: Distribution of subjects according to- Did you play any part in updating others with any valid information about the pandemic situation?**



**Table 23 : Distribution of subjects according to - Did you play any part in updating others with any valid information about the pandemic situation? - If yes, how often do you verify the information before forwarding?**

Variables	Sub Category	Number of Subjects (%)
Did you play any part in updating others with any valid information about the pandemic situation?- If yes, how often do you verify the information before forwarding	Always	178 (16.6%)
	Occasionally	489 (45.7%)
	Rarely	276 (25.8%)
	Never	127 (11.9%)

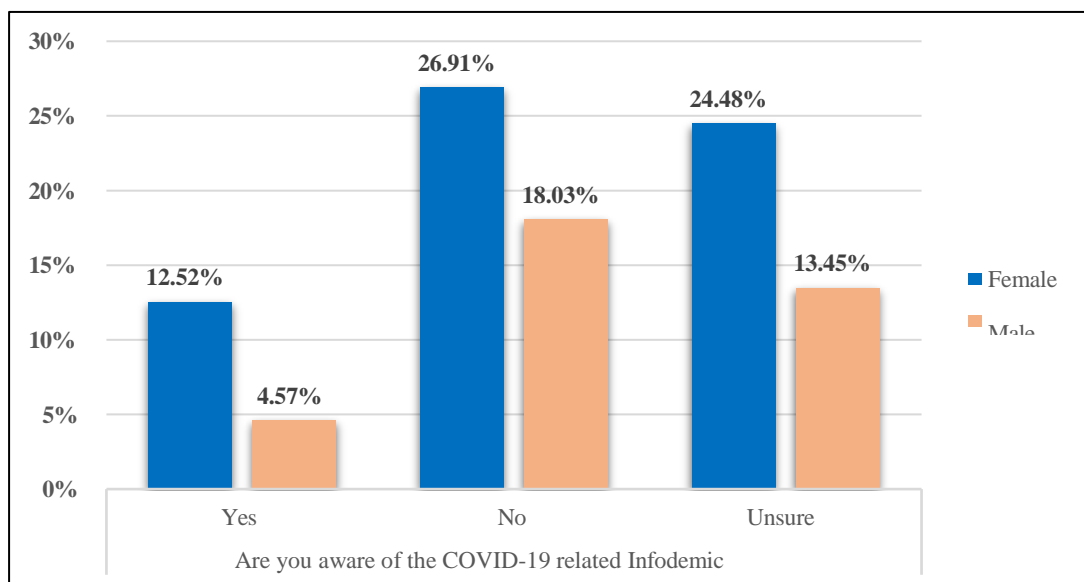
**Table 25: Association between various variables over gender.**

Variable	Sub category	Gender		Total	p-value
		Female	Male		
Are you aware of the COVID-19 related Infodemic	Yes	134 (12.52%)	49 (4.57%)	183 (17.09%)	0.006* <sup>C</sup>
	No	288 (26.91%)	193 (18.03%)	481 (44.94%)	
	Unsure	262 (24.48%)	144 (13.45%)	406 (37.93%)	
Do you think false information was being spread for political or economic gains, or tom target specific classes of society	Yes	373 (34.85%)	236 (22.05%)	609 (56.91%)	0.034* <sup>C</sup>
	No	196 (18.31%)	83 (7.75%)	279 (26.06%)	
	Not sure	115 (10.74%)	67 (6.26%)	182 (17.01%)	
Are you aware of any other measures taken by the government to tackle the circulating false information?	Yes	213 (19.9%)	121 (11.31%)	334 (31.21%)	0.857 <sup>C</sup>
	No	257 (24.02%)	139 (12.99%)	396 (37.01%)	
	Not sure	214 (20%)	126 (11.77%)	340 (31.77%)	
Were you able to	Yes	138 (12.89%)	78 (7.28%)	216 (20.18%)	

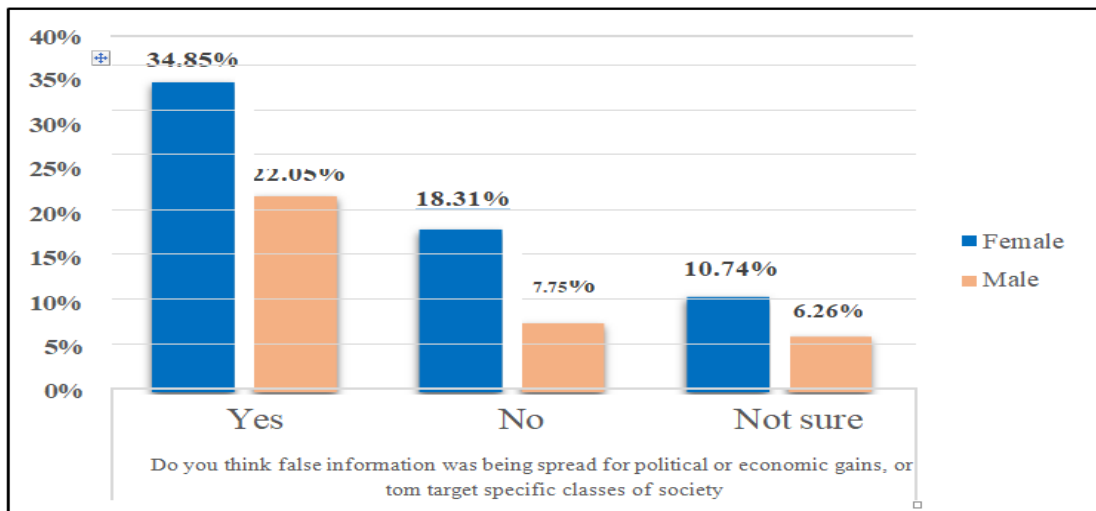
<b>distinguish between the myths and true information circulating online impacted you.</b>	No	546 (51.02%)	308 (28.78%)	854 (79.81%)	0.99 <sup>C</sup>
<b>Have often did you cross-check the information that had an impact being provided?</b>	Always	71 (6.63%)	37 (3.45%)	108 (10.09%)	0.048 <sup>*C</sup>
	Sometimes	332 (31.02%)	180 (16.82%)	512 (47.85%)	
	Rarely	255 (23.83%)	139 (12.99%)	394 (36.82%)	
	Never	26 (2.42%)	30 (2.8%)	56 (5.23%)	

Abbreviation: C- Chi square test, \*- indicates statistical significance

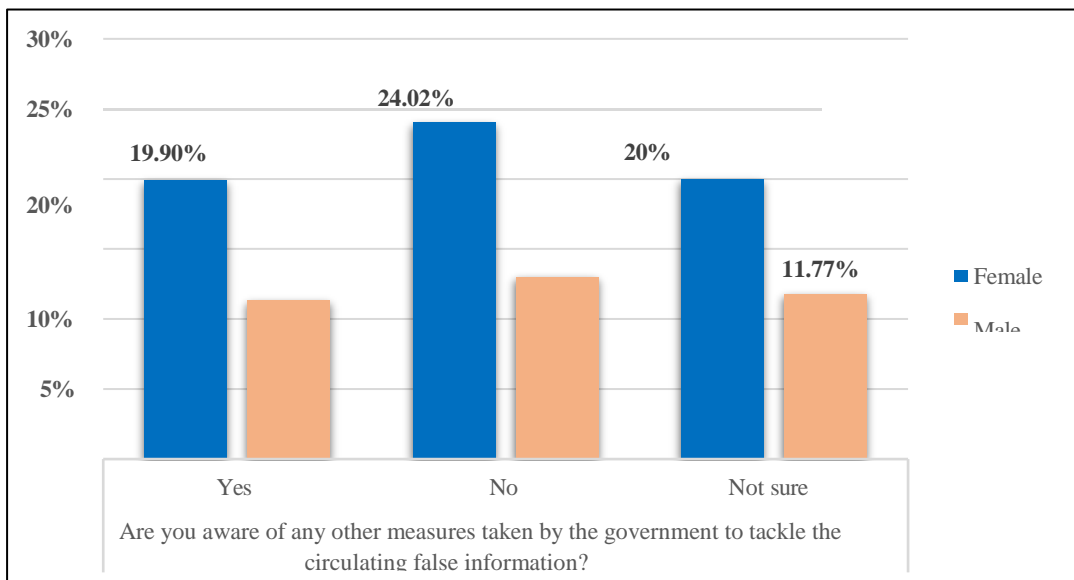
From Chi square test it can be observed that, there is significant association between gender and “Are you aware of the COVID-19 related Infodemic”, “Do you think false information was being spread for political or economic gains, or to target specific classes of society” and “Have often did you cross-check the information that had an impact being provided?”



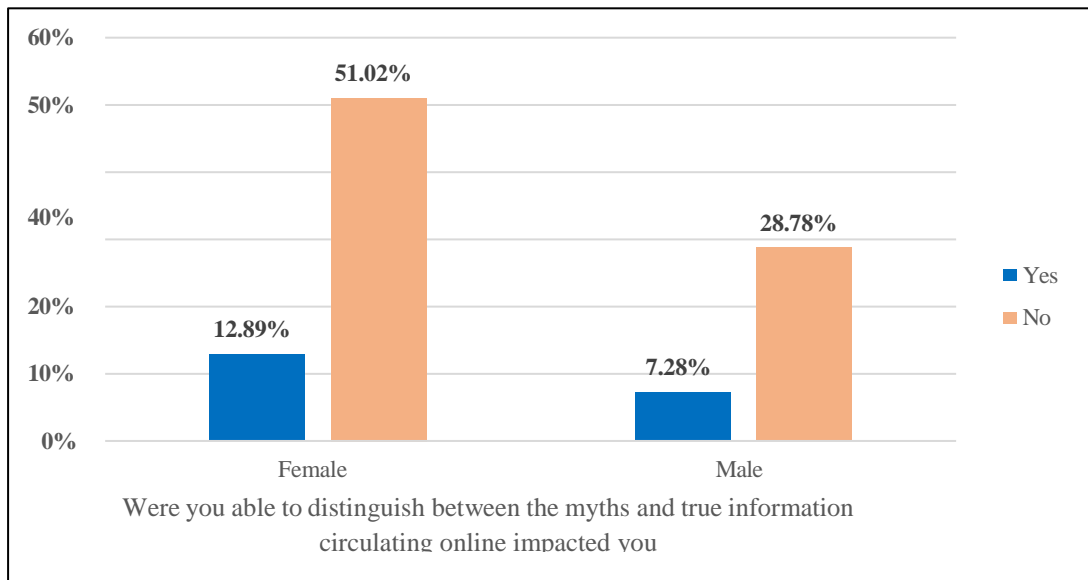
**Fig. 26: Distribution of subjects according Are you aware of the COVID-19 related Infodemic over gender.**



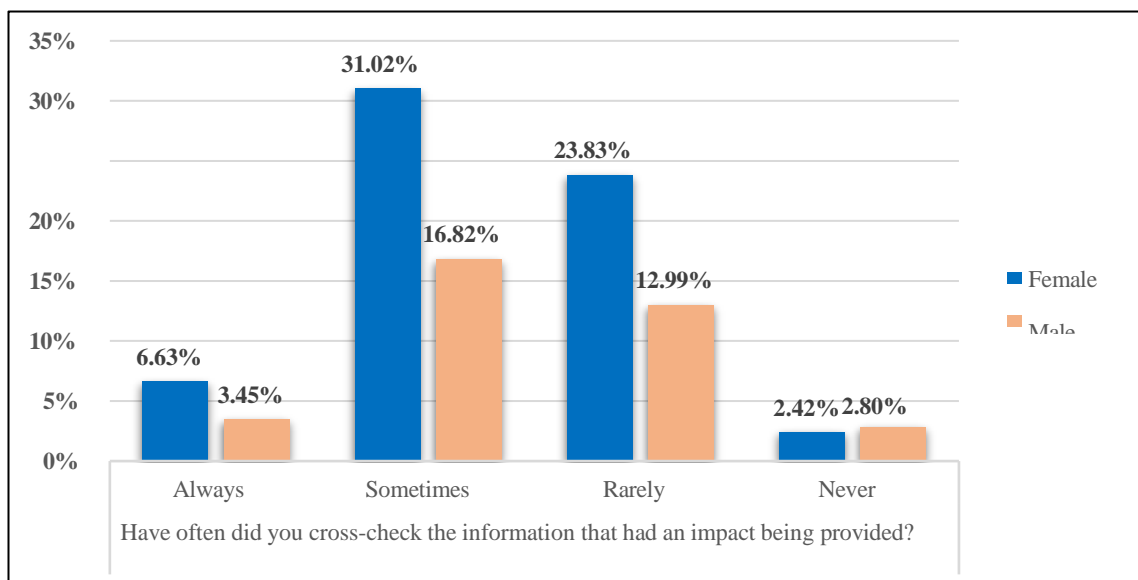
**Fig. 27: Distribution of subjects according to whether they think false information was being spread for political or economic gains, or to target specific classes of society over gender.**



**Fig. 28: Distribution of subjects according to whether they are aware of any other measures taken by the government to tackle the circulating false information? over gender.**



**Fig. 29: Distribution of subjects according to whether they were able to distinguish between the myths and true information circulating online impacted them over gender.**



**Fig. 30: Distribution of subjects according to how often they cross-checked the information that had an impact being provided? Over gender.**