

IMPACT OF COVID-19 AMONG CHILDREN

Dr. Sathia Sweetly. S*

*CNE Coordinator, PHCC, Qatar.

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.47211/idcij.2020.v07iws02.001>**ABSTRACT**

Children are not the face of this pandemic but they risk being among its biggest victims. While they have thankfully been largely spared from the direct health effects of COVID-19 and the crisis is having a profound effect on their wellbeing. The three main channels through which they affected by this crisis - infection with the virus itself, the immediate socioeconomic impacts of measures to stop transmission of virus and end the pandemic, and the potential longer-term effects of delayed implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Methodology: The researcher adopted descriptive approach. The samples were the children (n=100) between the age group of 5 and 15 years. Using general questionnaire the impacts were identified for the past 3 months among the children. Questionnaire was distributed and the responses recorded. Results: The findings of the study exhibit that the children were affected in different aspects like physically, psychologically, economically and socially. Most of the children facing challenges like movement limitations(homely), educational imbalances due to online classes, physically became obese, mentally disturbed due to social distancing(falling in to poverty, learning difficulties, threats to child survival and health, risk for child safety. Conclusion: To minimize the bad outcomes researcher planned to work together as a team to make progress on these three fronts-information, solidarity and action. This is an unprecedented crisis and it presents unprecedented risks to the rights and safety & development of the world's children. Community have a chance to not only defeat this pandemic, but to transform the way nurture and invest in the young generation. But this is the time to act decisively.

Key Words: Impact of COVID on Children, Children risks COVID.

ABOUT AUTHOR:

Author, Dr. Sathia Sweetly S. is the CNE Coordinator at PHCC, Qatar. She has presented research papers in various conferences and workshops.

INTRODUCTION

Children are not the face of this pandemic but they risk being among its biggest victims. While they have thankfully been largely spared from the direct health effects of COVID-19 - at least to date – the crisis is having a profound effect on their wellbeing. All children, of all ages, and in all countries, are being affected, in particular by the socio-economic impacts and, in some cases, by mitigation measures that may inadvertently do more harm than good. This is a universal crisis and, for some children, the impact will be lifelong. Moreover, the harmful effects of this pandemic will not be distributed equally. Children face challenges over their learning attitudes, physical and mental abilities and safety concerns.

There are three main channels through which children are affected by this crisis: infection with the virus itself; the immediate socioeconomic impacts of measures to stop transmission of the virus and end the pandemic; and the potential longer-term effects of delayed implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. All of this is affecting children in multiple ways: Falling into poverty, estimated 42-66 million children could fall into extreme poverty, Exacerbating the learning crisis-188 countries have imposed countrywide school closures, affecting more than 1.5 billion children and youth. Threats to child survival and health, economic hardship experienced by families as a result of the global economic downturn could result in hundreds of thousands of additional child deaths in 2020, reversing the last 2 to 3 years of progress in reducing infant mortality within a single year. And this alarming figure does not even take into account services disrupted due to the pandemic. Children in conflict settings, as well as those living in unsanitary and crowded conditions such as refugee and IDP settlements, are also at considerable risk.

OBJECTIVES

1. To evaluate the level of impact of COVID-19 among children.
2. To find out the association between the level of impact with the demographic variables.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research approach: Quantitative research

Research design: Descriptive research design

Research setting: Children of different families residing in and out of India.

Sample size: 100 children from different age group

Sampling Technique: The researcher adopted - Non probability (Convenience Sampling)

Delimitations: The study was delimited for the children between 5 and 16 years of age.

Theory: The researcher handled Goal attainment theory to prove the relationship between the variables.

RESEARCH TOOL

The tool has two sections which are demographic data and the formulated structured questionnaire. The demographic data includes age, gender, and educational status, learning difficulties, physical challenges, mental challenges and child risk safety. The questionnaire consists of 17 items to assess the level of impact of COVID-19 among children. Each item had one response. A score of one was allotted for a right answer and zero for wrong answer. The resulting score was interpreted as most of the participants (53%) have severe level of impact (76-100%) towards this pandemic COVID-19, where as 36% have moderate impact and 11% have mild impact over this pandemic.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

FREQUENCY AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF SAMPLES ON SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES (N =100)

Demographic Variables	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Age		
5-8 years	24	24
9-12 years	39	39
13-16 years	37	37
Gender		
Male	53	53
Female	47	47
Educational Status		
Preliminary	14	14
Primary	42	42
Secondary	44	44
Learning Difficulties		
Difficult in remote learning	53	53
Lack of interest for web learning	16	16
Lack of access for learning	31	31
Physical Challenges		
Obesity	41	41
Eye Strain due to long term computer usage	46	46
Others	13	13
Mental Challenges		
Feeling bored	39	39
Gap in Communication	47	47
Others	14	14
Child Safety Risk		
Yes	56	56
No	44	44

LEVEL OF IMPACT OF COVID-19 AMONG CHILDREN

Level of Impact	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Mild (Below 25%)	11	11
Moderate (25-75%)	36	36
Severe(76-100%)	53	53

The most of the participants (53%) have severe level of impact (76-100%) towards this pandemic COVID-19, whereas 36% have moderate impact and 11% have mild impact over this pandemic.

ASSOCIATION OF IMPACTS OF COVID-19 WITH DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES

Demographic Variables	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Table Value and Degree of freedom	Chi-square
Age					
5-8 years	2	9	13		
9-12 years	3	11	25	12.59 Df=6	2.8#
13-16 years	6	10	21		
Gender					
Male	9	16	28	3.84 Df=6	6.12*
Female	4	9	34		
Educational Status					
Preliminary	1	3	10		
Primary	7	11	24	12.59 Df=6	15.32*
Secondary	2	7	35		
Learning Difficulties					
Difficult in remote learning	3	16	34		
Lack of interest for web learning	2	6	8	15.16 Df=6	3.8*
Lack of access for learning	3	12	16		
Physical Challenges					
Obesity	1	6	34		
Eye Strain due to long term computer usage	3	5	38	2.56 Df=6	17.8*
Others	0	5	8		
Mental Challenges					
Feeling bored	5	14	20		
Gap in Communication	7	6	34	12.59 Df=6	13.7*
Others	0	5	9		
Child Safety Risk					
Yes	0	11	55	3.8 Df=6	19.72*
No	1	7	26		

* - Significant at 0.05 level

#- Non significant at 0.05 level

This table shows the association of level of impact of COVID -19 with demographic variables except the age.

IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Aspects on COVID -19 can be included in the theory and practical approach under the Nursing educational curriculum. Issues and criteria picture related to this pandemic can be revealed under nursing research attitudes. on this pandemic can be studied , elaborate criteria's can also be focused .Comparative studies can be done with different impact levels with various groups such as women, geriatrics, etc.

CONCLUSION

This is an unprecedented crisis and it presents unprecedented risks to the rights and safety and development of the world's children. Those risks can only be mitigated through unprecedented international solidarity for children and humanity. Have to work together to make progress on these three fronts—information, solidarity and action. We have a chance to not only defeat this pandemic, but to transform the way we nurture and invest in the young generation. But have to act now; we have to act decisively, and at very large scale. This is not a gradual issue; it is a clarion call for the world's children, the world's future.

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