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Research Article

Impact of social media on the knowledge about Covid-19: Online Questionnaire Study

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ABSTRACT:
Background: The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is rapidly and unpredictably evolving and most deaths, especially among older people. Social media has become a source of disseminating information to the public. The current study determined Impact of social media on the knowledge about Covid- 19
Methods: A descriptive design was used; 560 random participants were included in our study with different ages and sexes participated. Data were gathered used online questionnaire on different social media sites for 2 months. Procedure: The Link of research form distributed on social media sites for 2 months to collect data, the questionnaire was prepared in Arabic language
Results: Results denoted that 58.9% aged less than 25 years while elderly people (60 and more) was11.0% of them. The highest proportion reported that heard about coronavirus from Facebook, while the lowest percentage (2.1%) heard from Newspapers, nearly half (49.8%) follows a page of World Health Organization, then Egyptian ministry of health site was (21.4%),Revealed to knowledge 49% had good knowledge and 19% had fair level of knowledge about coronavirus disease. There was highly statistically significant difference between knowledge level and age and a statistically significant difference between knowledge level and (level of education, the type of education & occupation) respectively.
Conclusion: Nurse plays an important role to educate media consumers on what constitutes good and reliable information and how to critically think through this information.
Recommendation: the current study recommended important of quality of health information and regulation system to determine information on social media

Keywords: Social media, Coronavirus, knowledge, nurse

INTRODUCTION:

Social media is the majority extensively used sources of information in the World, the easy and cheap access to the internet and a large number of registered users in these platforms make them one of the easiest and most effective ways to publish information. During major events, the overall response is usually a greater search for information be it a disease, or a natural disaster (Daniel & Leonardo, 2020).

A good example can be seen with the peak of searches for information on the Internet and social media about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). COVID-19 outbreak began in Wuhan, China, in late December 2019 and quickly spread to other cities in China in a matter of days. It was announced as a public health emergency of international concern by the World Health Organization (WHO) on January 30, 2020. Predicting the development of the outbreak as early and as reliably as possible is critical for action to prevent its spread. Internet searches and social media data have been reported to correlate with traditional surveillance data and can even predict the outbreak of disease epidemics several days or weeks earlier (Li et al., 2020).

As of May 16 2020, there have been 4,425,485 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 302,059 related deaths worldwide and Egypt has been among the most affected countries in the Eastern Mediterranean region with 11,228 confirmed cases and 592 deaths (WHO, 2020). Common symptoms include fever, cough, fatigue, shortness of breath, and loss of smell and taste. While most cases result in mild symptoms, some progress to acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) possibly precipitated by cytokine storm. Multi-organ failure, septic shock, and blood clots (Hernández-García & Giménez-Júlvez , 2020).

In the first few months of 2020, information and news reports about the coronavirus disease

(COVID-19) were rapidly published and shared on social media and social networking sites. While the field of infodemiology has studied information patterns on the Web and in social media for at least 18 years, the COVID-19 pandemic has been referred to as the first social media infodemic. However, there is limited evidence about whether and how the social media infodemic has spread panic and affected the mental health of social media users (Ahmed and Murad, 2020).

Social media are often seen as fast and effective platforms for searching, sharing, and distributing health information among the general population (Pappot et al. ., 2020) Also, social media serves to provide an important informal source of data to identify health information that has not been reported to medical officers or health departments and to uncover or share perspectives on any life-threatening health-related issues (Woo et al., 2016).

However, this channel of disseminating knowledge sometimes mixed with scare tactics, discrimination, misleading reports and conspiracy theories related to the origin of the virus, its spread and mass buying of face masks, all closely connected to the modern 21st century "info media" social media networks despite the importance of rapid access to information in these critical situations, poor comprehension or inaccurate or false information in the format of rumors or unreliable news can lead to misunderstanding in the community, which makes the situation worse (Kemp, 2020).

Social media can support nurses in numerous ways on a personal level, such as more interactions with others, shared and custom health content, and access and availability of health information (Jackson et al., 2014). The COVID-19 epidemic has placed an extraordinary burden on health systems worldwide and it has reignited awareness of the need for care of patients with COVID-19. During public emergencies such as restricted access to intensive care or the appropriateness of resuscitation brought on by this pandemic. High infection rates and mortality risk among older people and those with underlying chronic conditions. This rapid spread of COVID-19 is placing a strain on existing resources and limiting universal healthcare access in some health systems (Curtis et al., 2020).

Nurses should be suitably qualified and intimately familiar with the social media to take on the role of initiators and facilitators of nursing care for patients and families. With targeted education, legislative support, and public awareness, it may be possible to implement a change to the healthcare culture that improves the understanding of quality of life care, accepts the role of palliative care, and normalizes the need to withhold or withdraw futile life-sustaining therapies for people without prospects of survival. Concurrent evaluation of the effectiveness of this model of care is encouraged **(Raftery et al., 2020)**.

Aim of the study:

The aim of the current study is to determine impact of social media on the knowledge about COVID-19.

Research questions

1.What is the impact of social media on people's knowledge regarding COVID- 19?

2.there is the association between the effect of social media and demographic data of respondents?

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Design:

This is a descriptive and cross-sectional study design was used.

Subjects:

Five hundred sixty social media users with different sexes and aged from 20 to 80 years.

Tool: **To collect the necessary data for study**: consisted of three parts

Part (1): included sociodemographic data, such as age, residence, level of education, marital status, occupation and type of education for participants.

Part (2): assess the participants' use of social media , which consisted of 20 questions such as (if they have heard about COVID-19 ,from Where hear about COVID-19,What websites do they prefer to get news about COVID-19 from, and)

Part (3): assessing participants' knowledge regarding Covid 19

Included 5 questions (modes of transmission of COVID-19, Vulnerable groups to infection, symptoms of COVID-19 infection, refraining from crowding based on their knowledge of the infection methods, methods of prevention if they had to go to the street).

Methods:

- Researchers uploaded the questionnaire on these different sites (Facebook, telegram, WhatsApp) and asked people who want to participate to read carefully the instructions and their rights at first.
- The data collection lasted for two months.
- The questionnaire was prepared in Arabic.
- A pilot study was done on 50 social media users to test the validity and reliability of the

questionnaire, they were excluded from the study participants because some questions were omitted, others were added on the basis of the pilot study.

- After validation of the tool by five (5) experts community and gerontological nursing, The necessary modifications were done according to the experts' valuable comments.
- It was introduced online through different social sites, such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
- Permission and consent from respondents were obtained at the beginning, aim of research was explained, and confidentiality of information was protected by not requesting people to mention their names or any information indicating their identity. It was made clear that their participation was optional, and they had the right to not share.

Protection of human rights

An ethical permission was obtained from the ethical committee of the faculty of applied medical sciences 6 October University. The confidentiality of information will be protected by not mentioning the names of the participants or any information indicating them, as the purpose of the questionnaire was clarified that it was for scientific research purposes, and the objectives of the research were clarified before starting through the front page announcement. It was made clear that their participation was optional.

RESULT

Table (1): Distribution of the study participants according to their socio-demographic characteristics (No=560)

	N	%
Sex:		
▪ Male	185	33.0
▪ Female	375	67.0
Age (years):		
▪ <25	330	58.9
▪ 25-39	105	18.8
▪ 40-59	63	11.3
▪ 60 and more	62	11.0
level of Educational:		
▪ Basic	3	0.5
▪ Secondary	27	4.8
▪ University	431	77.0
▪ Postgraduate	99	17.7
Type of Education:		
▪ Literary	102	18.2
▪ Scientific	212	37.9
▪ Medical	246	43.9
Marital status:		
▪ Married	227	40.6
▪ Single	327	58.4
▪ Divorced	3	0.5
▪ Widow	3	0.5
Occupation:		
▪ Working	323	57.7
▪ Not Working	237	42.3
Residence:		
▪ Rural	410	73.2
▪ Urban	150	26.8

Table (1): portrays that 67.0 % of the study participants were females and rest of them are males, about three fifths of them (58.9%) aged less than 25 years while elderly people (60 and more) present 11.0% of them. Regarding level of education, most of them have university education

and only 0.5 % of them had basic education and 43.9 % of them had medical education. For marital status 58.4 % were single. Concerning to current job, it was observed that 57.7% of them working and highest proportion of the study participants (73.2%) from rural areas.

Table (2): distribution of the study participants according to the social media used to get news about the coronavirus disease.

Social media	N	%
1. Have you heard about Corona virus?		
▪ Yes	560	100.0
▪ No	0	0.0
2. Where did you hear about Corona virus?		
▪ The television	134	23.9
▪ Face book	378	67.5
▪ Whatsapp groups	15	2.7
▪ Newspapers and magazines	12	2.1
▪ Other	21	3.8
3. Which websites do you prefer to get news about Covid-19 from		
▪ Egyptian Ministry of Health site Elvis	120	21.4
▪ World Health Organization	279	49.8
▪ Face book news sites	87	15.6
▪ Other non-medically specialized sites on WhatsApp	3	0.5
▪ TV channels	71	12.7
4. Did a friend invite you to follow a specific website about Covid-19?		
▪ Yes	330	58.9
▪ No	230	41.1
5. Do you follow the Ministry of Health website daily?		
▪ Yes	180	32.1
▪ No	200	35.8
▪ Sometimes	180	32.1
6. How many time do you spend to follow websites talking about (Covid-19) throughout the day?		
▪ Less than half an hour	245	43.8
▪ From half an hour to an hour	141	25.2
▪ More than an hour	57	10.2
▪ More than two hours	75	13.3
▪ Other	42	7.5
How many times do you visit the Ministry of Health website every time you open Face book?		
▪ Not once	185	33.0
▪ Once	222	39.6
▪ Twice	63	11.3
▪ More than twice	90	16.1
Do you interact with the content of a specific page?		
▪ Yes	129	23.0
▪ No	245	43.8
▪ Sometimes	186	33.2
How is your interaction with the page you are following?		
▪ like	273	48.7
▪ Comment	96	17.1
▪ Share on my page	138	24.6
▪ The site was published on WhatsApp groups	72	12.8
▪ Just read news only	251	44.8

Table (3): distribution the study participants according to opinion on information from the social media about the coronavirus disease.

variable	No	%
What are reasons for using the websites you are following?		
▪ Correct information	215	38.4
▪ Correct data when compared to more than one site	129	23.0
▪ Constantly changing information	75	13.4
▪ Display information with pictures	27	4.8
▪ Presentation of professional opinions with videos	114	20.4
Regarding the information you obtained from Face book or other sources about nearly half (49.8%) of the study participants prefer follow page of World Health Organization, then Egyptian Ministry of Health site Elvis by (21.4%)., Does it reflect that the pandemic is a serious infection?	522	93.2
▪ Yes	38	6.8
▪ No		
What do you like about the videos that are shown on Face book regarding to covid-19?		
▪ Documentary films	117	20.9
▪ Reports	338	60.4
▪ Investigations	69	12.3
▪ Other	36	6.4
Do you consider these social sites as an adequate source of information about Covid-19?		
▪ Yes	123	22.0
▪ No	263	47.0
▪ Probably	174	31.0
Do you recommend Face book as only source that give you information?		
▪ Yes	102	18.2
▪ No	350	62.5
▪ Sometimes	108	19.3
20What are self-skills concerning covid-19 have you obtained from social media?		
▪ Writing a report on Covid-19	93	16.6
▪ Make an awareness video about Covid19	111	19.8
▪ Making a song about Covid-19	21	3.8
▪ Awareness of those around	452	80.8
21Regarding its accurate scientific content on Covid-19, what is your most preferred site for seeking information		
▪ The Egyptian Ministry of Health	116	20.7
▪ World Health Organization	342	61.1
▪ The seventh day site	63	11.2
▪ Other	39	7.0
22Do you obtain your information about Covid-19 from medical pages		
▪ Yes	330	58.9
▪ No	38	6.8
▪ Sometimes	192	34.3
23Do you obtain information about Covid-19from any page, even if it is not specialized *		
▪ Yes	57	10.2
▪ No	362	64.6
▪ Sometimes	141	25.2
24Do you think that Face book was able to develop your participation and interaction in health awareness? *		

▪ Yes	378	67.5
▪ No	50	8.9
▪ Probably	132	23.6
25Are you satisfied with what is presented on social media networks in the field of health?		
▪ Very satisfied	63	11.2
▪ Not completely satisfied	56	10.0
▪ Satisfied with only well-known scholarly pages	333	59.5
▪ Probably	108	19.3

Table (2)
presents that all of the study participants heard about coronavirus disease, highest proportion of them reported that heard about coronavirus from Facebook while lowest percentage (2.1%) of them heard from Newspapers and magazines. 49.8% of the study participants prefer follow page of World Health Organization, then Egyptian Ministry of Health site Elvis by (21.4%). 58.9 % of them receive invitation from friend. For time spend on internet 43.8.2% of the study participants reported spend less than one half hour while 13.3% follow more than 2 hours. In addition to sources of interaction with page on websites were (48.8% & 44.8%) like & just read news only respectively.

Table(3)
Reveals that, main reasons for using the websites among the study participants (38.4%, 23.0%& 20.4%) was correct information, correct data when compared to more than one site& presentation of professional opinions with videos respectively. Less than two thirds (60.4%) of them mentioned video present on social is good for make reports. Less than half (47.0%) of the study participants reported that contacted site is inadequate source of information. 62.5% of them stated that face book not only source of information. Self-skills acquired from social media; awareness of those around, make an awareness video & writing a report about covid19 (80.8%, 19.8% & 16.6%) respectively. Less than two thirds (61.1%) of the study participants reported that accurate scientific content on covid-19 was world health organization page. More than half of them take information from medical page while 64.6% of them not take information from not specialized page. 67.5% of the study participants reported that face book develop participation and interaction in health awareness. For satisfaction level, nearly three fifths (59.5%) of them reported satisfied with only well-known scholarly pages

Table (4): distribution of the study participants according to knowledge about corona- virus from social media

knowledge about corona- virus	No	%
1. What are the modes of transmissions of Covid-19?		
▪ Air	87	15.5
▪ Sneezing and coughing	440	78.5
▪ Touching surfaces or people with each other	381	68.0
2. Vulnerable groups to infection with Covid-19? #		
▪ Young	9	1.6
▪ Children	6	1.1
▪ Pregnant women	9	1.6
▪ Elderly	536	95.7
3. What are the symptoms of Covid-19 infection? #		
▪ Fever		
▪ Shortness of breath	407	72.7
▪ Diarrhea	470	83.9
▪ Cough	129	23.0
▪ Pain all over the body	302	53.9
	287	51.3
4. Do you refrain from crowding due to your knowledge of the infection methods? #		
▪ Yes	480	85.7
▪ No	17	3.0
▪ Sometimes	63	11.3

5. What are the methods of prevention when you have to go to the street? #		
▪ Wear a mask	377	67.3
▪ Wear gloves	201	35. 9
▪ Carry an alcohol bottle	342	61.1
▪ Not to be in crowded places	459	82.0
▪ I do not know	6	1.1

more answers:

Table (4): Illustrates that (78.5% & 68.0%) of the study participants mentioned that sneezing and coughing & touching surfaces or people with each other respectively are mode transmissions of covid-19. The majority (95.7%) of them reported elderly people most vulnerable to infection. Study participants stated of the symptoms of infection with covid-19 (shortness of breath, fever, cough& pain all over the body) (83.9%, 72.7%, 53.9 % & 51.3%) respectively. 85.7% of them avoid crowding due to knowledge of the infection methods. Methods of prevention when you have to go to the street, (82.0 %, 67.3, and 61.1%) of them reported that (not to be in crowded places, wear a mask&carry an alcohol bottle) respectively, while only 1.1% reported that not know methods of prevention.

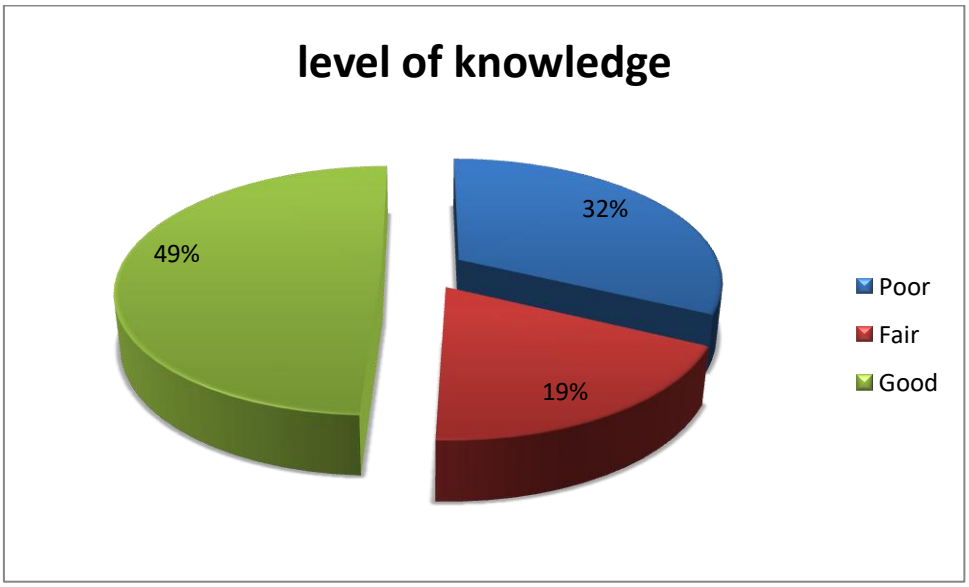

Fig.1: level of knowledge about corona virus diseases among the study participants

Figure (1) demonstrates that nearly one half (49.3%) of the study participants had good knowledge about coronaviruse disease while 19.0% of them had fair of knowledge.

Table (5): Relation between level of knowledge and sociodemographic characteristics of the study participants

Sociodemographic characteristics	Knowledge level								Chi-Square	
	Poor		Average		Good		Total			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	X^2	P-value
Sex:	66	36.7	38	36.5	81	29.4	185	33.0	3.346	0.188
• Male	114	63.33	66	63.5	195	70.6	375	67.0		
• Female										
Age:									52.517	0.001*
• <25 Years	87	48.3	69	66.4	174	63.1	330	58.9		
• 25-39 Years	57	31.7	9	8.6	39	14.1	105	18.7		
• 40-59 Years	30	16. 7	12	11.5	21	7.6	63	11.3		
• 60 Years and more	6	3. 3	14	13.5	42	15.2	62	11.1		
Level of Education:	3	1. 7	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.5	14.703	0.023*

• Basic	3	1. 7	9	8.6	15	5.4	27	4.8		
• Secondary	141	78. 3	74	71.2	216	78.3	431	77.0		
• University • Postgraduate	33	18. 3	21	20.2	45	16.3	99	17.7		
Type of Education :	42	23. 4	27	26.0	33	12.0	102	18.2		
Literary	69	38. 3	32	30.7	111	40.2	212	37.9	15.995	0.003*
Scientific Medical	69	38. 3	45	43.3	132	47.8	246	43.9		
Marital Status:	72	40.00	47	45.2	108	39.1	227	40.5		
• Married	108	60.00	57	54.8	162	58.7	327	58.4		
• Single	0	0.00	0	0.0	3	1.1	3	0.5	7.190	0.304
• Divorced • Widow	0	0.00	0	0.0	3	1.1	3	0.5		
Occupation:	105	58.3	47	45.2	171	62.0	323	57.7		
• Working • Not Working	75	41. 7	57	54.8	105	38.0	237	42.3	8.743	0.013*
Residence:										
• Rural	129	71. 7	68	65.4	213	77.2	410	73.2	5.677	0.059
• Urban	51	28.3	36	34.6	63	22.8	150	26.8		

*Statistically significant at $p \leq 0.05$

Table (5): clarifies that there was highly statistically significant difference between knowledge level and age at (p= 0.001) and statistically significant difference between knowledge level and (level of education, type of education & occupation) at p value (0.023, 0.003&0.013) respectively. While no relation between knowledge and sex, marital status and residence.

Table (6): Relation between satisfaction level about social media and sociodemographic characteristics of the study participants

Sociodemographic	Very satisfied		Not completely satisfied		Satisfied with only well-known		Probably		Total		Chi-Square	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	X^2	P-value
Sex:	24	38.1	20	35.7	99	29.7	42	38.9	185	33.0		
• Male • Female	39	61.9	36	64.3	234	70.3	66	61.1	375	67.0	4.23	0.238
Age: Years	39	61.9	24	42.7	201	60.4	66	61.1	330	58.9		
• <25	12	19.1	12	21.4	51	15.3	30	27. 8	105	18.8		
• 25-39	9	14.3	12	21.4	42	12.6	0	0.00	63	11.2	31.04	0.001*
• 40-59 • 60 and more	3	4.7	8	14.3	39	11.7	12	11.11	62	11.1		
Level of Education:	0	0.0	0	0.00	3	0.9	0	0.0	3	0.5		
• Basic	3	4.8	0	0.00	21	6.3	3	2.8	27	4.8		
• Secondary	51	80.9	47	83.9	243	73.0	90	83.3	431	77.0	11.18	0.264
• University • Postgraduate	9	14.3	9	16.1	66	19.8	15	13. 9	99	17.7		
Type of Education :	9	14.3	15	26.8	60	18.0	18	16. 7	102	18.2		
• Literary	21	33.3	26	46.4	135	40.5	30	27.7	212	37.8		
• Scientific • Medical	33	52.4	15	26.8	138	41.4	60	55. 6	246	43.9	16.46	0.011*
Marital Status:	33	52.4	20	35.7	135	40.5	39	36.1	227	40.5		
• Married	30	47.6	36	64.3	192	57.66	69	63. 9	327	58.4		
• Single	0	0.00	0	0.0	3	0.9	0	0.0	3	0.5	9.29	0.411
• Divorced • Widow	0	0.00	0	0.0	3	0.9	0	0.0	3	0.5		
Occupation:	45	71.4	50	89.3	180	54.0	48	44.4	323	57.7	37.34	0.001*

• Working • Not Working	18	28.6	6	10.7	153	46.0	60	55. 6	237	42.3		
Residence:	27	42.9	53	94.6	258	77.5	72	66. 7	410	73.2	48.16	0.001*
• Rural • Urban	36	57.1	3	5.4	75	22.5	36	33.3	150	26.8		

*Statistically significant at $p \leq 0.05$

Table (6): Describes that satisfaction level there was highly statistically significant difference between satisfaction level and age, type of education, occupation, and residence at (p= 0.001) while no relation between satisfaction level and (sex, level of education and marital status at (p= 0.238, 0.264 & 0.411) respectively.

DISCUSSION

Social media such as facebook, YouTube and Twitter provide direct access to an unprecedented amount of content and may increase questionable information. Taking into account users' preferences and attitudes, mediate and facilitate content promotion and thus information spreading. The effect of the social media environment on the perception of polarizing topics is being addressed also in the case of COVID-19 Cinelli et al., (2020).

The aim of the current study is to determine the impact of social media on the knowledge about Covid-19. This study shows that 67.0 % of participants were females, which is consistent with **Thackeray et al., (2013)** in their study" Correlates of Health-Related Social Media Use " More than half of their study sample were females (56.16%), Also another study supported ours accomplished by **Duggan, & Brenner, . (2013)** which spot a light on a fact that women are more likely than men to be on social media sites.

Regarding education level, the result show most of social media users have university education This finding agrees with **Plas, (2015)** who stated that high education is most common use of social media due to complete learning and increase their information Differences in the use of social media between youngsters with different levels of education in the Netherlands due to high education because of learning

Regarding age of respondents, more than half of them (58.9%) aged less than 25 years which came into consistence with different researches ,one of them done by Gottfried.,J.,et,al.(2016)which revealed that About 71% of the world's Internet users are youth aged 15–24 Another study by Third.,et al,(2017) showed that young people are, avid users and drivers of this contemporary, participatory and user-driven online culture. A late (2012) survey by the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project shows that young adults are more likely than others to use major social media. Another study supports our results, as the findings of a survey on Americans' use of the Internet. Brenner,.J.(2013)found out that Internet users under 50 are particularly likely to use a social networking site of any kind, and those 18-29 are the most likely of any demographic cohort to do so (83%). In regard to place of residence, the same study suggested that those living in urban settings are also significantly more likely than rural internet users to use social networking, which controversy to our research findings as most of our sample (73.2%) were from rural areas.

In a study consisted of a telephone survey of 1745 adults by GOTTFRIED.,J. et.al..(2016) who reported that sixty percent of Internet users report using the internet to look for health information. Social media sites are emerging as a potential source for online health information. Respondents consulted online rankings or reviews, used SNS (social network services) for health, posted reviews, and posted a comment, question, or information. Lower possibilities of consulting online reviews were associated with less formal education and being male which is supportive to our study where most of our sample were females with high education(43.9% medical education) our results in this study.

Respondents with higher incomes were 1.5 times as likely to consult online rankings or reviews), than respondents with a regular provider, or living in an urban/suburban location. Older respondents were less likely to use SNS for health-related activities which support our study findings where that only 11% of respondents were from the old age group.

According to study sample and their use of social media; our study revealed that 67.5% of respondents heard about Corona virus from the Facebook which is consistent with s study done by GOTTFRIED.,J. et.al..(2016) that revealed that Facebook is by far the largest social networking site, reaching 67% of United State adults. 2.7% of our study heard about covid-19 through whatsapp groups which is consistent with Sahni1.,H, et.al.(2020)which concluded that WhatsApp, Instagram, and Facebook Messenger

are recently a few of the other famous social networking sites used in India.

In our study, around 69% of respondents spent almost an hour following websites related to covid 19 throught the day which is consistent with Third et al., (2017) which stated that It has been reported in numerous international and socio-economic contexts that young people have the highest rates of social media use of any age group, and that they spend significant proportions of their time 'on' social media time spent. Our study reveals that 49.8% preferred to get news about covid-19 from the World health organization and 32.1% follow the Ministry of Health website daily which agrees with Thackeray.,R. et.al.(2013) that illustrated "The Internet is becoming an increasingly common source of health information.

Approximately 60% of Internet users report using the Internet to look for health information. Around 69% of our sample interacted with the website page through reading news and sharing on their page which comes with consistent with Thackeray.,R. et.al.(2013) in which Respondents reported consulting online rankings or reviews (41.15%) and using SNS for health (31.58%) more than they reported contributing content through posting reviews of doctors, hospitals, drugs, or medical treatments (9.91%), or posting a comment, question, or information about health or medical issues on a blog, SNS, Twitter, website, or online discussion or forum .

According to study sample opinion on information from the social media about Covid-19; Our study revealed that 38.4% of respondents followed their favorite websites on social media because of its correct information .Frith, E. (2017) revealed in his study that Young people, however, have very different views and experiences of social media when compared to adults. In existing research, young people have reported benefits in the areas of: learning, socialization, increased access to information, greater levels of social and emotional support, and creativity80.8% of our sample said that the self-skill concerning covid-19 they obtained from social media was awareness of those around which supports Haussmann et al., (2017); Third et al., (2017) who suggested that given the significance of social media in young people's lives, it is a powerful space in which to reach young people and—potentially—to impact on their health in both positive and negative ways in the case of adults, reported health-related benefits include: increased interaction; more available, shared and tailored information; increased accessibility to health information; peer/social/emotional support; and health surveillance Shaw et al., (2015).

There is limited evidence on how these benefits are realized in practice, and even less evidence in relation to young people but it was clear in this study that 60.4% of our sample benefited from reports that were displayed through videos on facebook ,while 93.2% agreed that the information they got through social media reflected that the pandemic was a serious infection Haussmann et al., (2017); Shaw et al., 2015). A survey carried out Johnson.,J.,(2020) by in the United Kingdom (UK) in August 2020 shows which social media respondents trusted for news and information on the coronavirus outbreak which is convenient with our study as 38.4% of our respondents reported that; they follow the websites for its correct information.

YouTube was trusted by 37 percent of respondents, while Facebook was the least trusted with 13 percent. Which is supportive to our results which reveals that although almost 68% of them was used the facebook 47% said that they do not consider the contacted sites as adequate source of information and 62% of respondents do not recommend the facebook as an only source that gives information regarding covid-19. In a study conducted by Yin.,H.,et.al..(2020) which stated that according to the 2014 Digital Health Literacy Survey among European Citizens, 59% of Europeans used the Internet to check for health information.

The second source of information (47%–48% people) was relevant and dedicated websites such as health blogs and forums, while between 33% and 38% were looking for information from official health websites, such as the Ministry of Health or the WHO which is supportive to our results in that 64.6% of our respondents do not obtain information regarding covid-19 from any page and 58.9% of them replied that they prefer to obtain information from medical pages. While 67.5% added that social media was able to develop their participation and interaction in health awareness in which this evidence is very much meeting the hypothesis of this study.

In addition it is worth mentioning that 59.5% of respondents were satisfied with only well-known scholarly pages knowing that also 43.9% of our respondents had a medical education and 57.7% were working probably in the medical field. Our study revealed that 49.3% of study participants had good knowledge regarding covid-19 as obvious they benefited and trusted medical social media platforms which came in consistence with a study conducted in Jordan by Al-Dmour.,H.,et al(2020). in which a total of 2555 social media users were sampled .Study revealed that the use

of social media platforms had a significant positive influence on public health protection against COVID-19 as a pandemic. Tasnim.,S.et al.(2020) this study supports our results in which it concludes that to raise public awareness, social media platforms are considered to be effective tools that contribute to the real-time dissemination of information about the current status of the disease and give appropriate advice to the public on how to avoid being infected.

CONCLUSION:

During periods of lockdown of the world due to coved-19, people are using social media platforms to gain information about COVID-19. This nature of social media effect on people knowledge varies depending on an individual's gender, age, and level of education. Social media has played important role in spreading news about the COVID-19 outbreak.

RECOMMENDATION:

As nursing educators, we have an important role to educate media consumers on what constitutes good and reliable information and how to critically think through this information.

- Public health authorities may use social media platforms as an effective tool to increase public health awareness through dissemination of brief messages to targeted populations.
- Social media platforms provide beneficial climate and socioeconomic data. Additionally, social media platforms have been shown to represent an essential source of communication that enables the creation and dissemination of information to people through the internet.
- Since younger people are also consuming information from social media and then spreading it to their family and friends, universities are ideal places to design courses and symposiums that can help students and faculty discern how to search for, find, and evaluate health information in the case of an epidemic or pandemic

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