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Comparative Study of Psychological Impact of COVID-19 on Healthcare and **Non-Healthcare Workers Using WHO-QOL BREF and PHQ-9 Scale- An Indian Nationwide Cross-sectional Study**

Akhil Arun ^{a++*}, Arathi M. ^{a++}, Bulla Karunya ^{a++}, Thendral R. ^{a++}, Beulah Milton ^{a#} and Vinod K. Matthew ^{b†}

^a Pharmacy Practice, Krupanidhi College of Pharmacy, Bangalore-560035, India. Krupanidhi College of Pharmacy, Bangalore-560035, India.

Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Original Research Article

ABSTRACT

Background: The world population has been greatly affected by the Sars-Cov-2 pandemic and the related financial, civil, psychological and mental health consequences. Considering the significance of QOL, it is imperative to consider the effects of the pandemic on the population. The study was designed to compare the psychological Impact of COVID-19 on healthcare and non-healthcare workers during COVID-19 pandemic.

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⁺⁺ Pharm D Intern;

[#] HOD;

[†] Assistant Professor;

^{*}Corresponding author: E-mail: akhilarun1997@gmail.com;

Materials and Methods: A cross-sectional survey was conducted among healthcare and nonhealthcare workers and a structured questionnaire was circulated in goggle forms via emails and social networking sites.

Results: The mean score for four QOL domains was 58.82 ± 15.56 , 56.45 ± 15.52 , 59.08 ± 19.03 and 51.42 ± 15.51 , respectively. Among participants, (31.3%) had Minimal Depression, (33.4%) Mild depression, (24.7%) Moderate depression and (8.8%) had moderate-severe depression .Healthcare workers were found to be more depressed (34%) at a moderate level of depression and (11%) at severe depression while (11%) of non-Healthcare workers show moderate depression and 12 (5%) show moderately severe depression.

Conclusions: The study depicted the detrimental impact of the pandemic on the population, with healthcare workers being more affected by the pandemic and this study calls for use of appropriate psychological intervention to address the mental health needs of the population.

Keywords: Quality of Life [QOL]; depression; COVID-19; healthcare workers.

1. INTRODUCTION

The severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), quickly spread throughout the world from its origin in Wuhan, China [1]. Coronavirus is an RNA virus in size from 60 to 140 nanometres in diameter and has spike-like projections that give it an appearance of a crown under the microscope. The common coronaviruses that infect people and produce mild to moderate upper respiratory tract illness are 229E, NL63, OC43 and HKU1, [2].

In the last 20 years, there was serious sickness in two cases due to the transmission of animal beta coronaviruses to humans .The first incident occurred in 2002–2003 in China, where civet cats were shown to serve as an intermediary host for the transmission of a novel coronavirus from bats to humans. In the year 2003 in China and Hong Kong, the severe acute respiratory syndrome COV2 had affected 8422 persons and caused 916 fatalities (mortality rate of 11%) [3]. In the year 2012 in Saudi Arabia, the middle east respiratory syndrome coronavirus had infected 2494 individuals resulting in 858 deaths (a 34 percent fatality rate) [4].

In 2020, the World Health Organization classified the COVID-19 outbreak caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome COV2 as a public health emergency of International concern on March 11, 2020 [5,6]. Because the virus is propagated by direct or intimate contact between persons, strict social distancing preventative measures have been implemented to prevent the infection from spreading further. Various nations have implemented extensive lockdowns to slow the spread of the virus and ease pressure on healthcare services .In March of last week, the government of India (GOI) enforced a total lockdown, with only vital services operating. Many multinational corporations have encouraged their staff to "work from home," but no similar arrangements have been made for healthcare professionals (HCWs) [7].

On January 30, 2020, the first laboratoryconfirmed case of the new coronavirus was reported in India [8]. Following time, there has been a significant growth of COVID-19 cases in India with 46% of mortality rates by the end of June 2020. This sudden rise in the number of instances of reported deaths has caused widespread worry, dread, and restlessness in higher patient HCPs. With loads and extraordinary interruptions to normal life, the coronavirus disease pandemic has put all the healthcare professionals (HCPs) in a difficult situation where COVID-19 has been detected in over 200 HCPs in India, including doctors and nurses. Both the epidemic and the seclusion measures have the potential to cause significant worry, dread and stress. Fear of infection, worry about sickness. workplace stress. social isolation, mortality, anxiety about their health in the future and economic instability are all expected to rise due to the current COVID-19 epidemic [9] and have contributed to high levels of anxiety, stress, negative feelings and depression in the general population in a study conducted in the Chinese population in March 2020, and HCPs are more affected due to a lack of health-care services, long and stressful job hours, poor remittance, isolation from loved ones and as frontline healthcare workers, they are afraid of becoming infected from patients who may be carriers of the virus, and they also infect other people in their surroundings.

World Health Organization defines mental health as a state of well-being in which the individual

realizes his or her abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, work productively, and can make a contribution to the community [10].

1.1 Healthcare Professionals

Healthcare providers must preserve human health by implementing core principles and plans of action based on evidence-based medicine and compassionate care. Human disease, injury, and other physical disabilities and psychological impairments are examined, identified, diagnosed, medicated, and prevented by healthcare professionals in line with the needs of the people they serve. They educate patients on preventative, health-giving, therapeutic methods and promote population health, with the ultimate objective of meeting health needs, increasing population confidence and certainty, and improving people's health outcomes .They also supervise and perform research, as well as improve or extend concepts, theories, and operational procedures to promote or promote evidence-based healthcare. Healthcare professionals may be responsible for supervising other health workers as well as providing information to the public on how to live a healthy lifestyle.

Healthcare professionals' occupations are divided into many smaller groups in this subclass. The literature will stress the following to encourage the WHO recommendations for remodelling and to elevate the teaching and training of health professionals, as described by the WHO.

Occupations are classified according to the International Standard Classification of Occupations.

Medical Doctors - comprise one Generalist and two Specialist Practitioners, as well as Public Health Physicians.

Public Health Nurses from the nursing profession.

Public Health Midwives from the midwifery profession.

Dentists

Pharmacists

As the COVID-19 epidemic reached India, the HCPs and Non-HCPs mental health status in

India were not formally assessed. There is also a paucity of research among HCPs and Non HCPs on their quality of life during an epidemic globally. As a result of the epidemic in India, we wanted to look into the prevalence of depression among HCPs and Non-HCPs as well as their quality of life. This study of ours is the first of its kind in India to assess the prevalence of depression and the quality of life in both healthcare and nonhealthcare professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Sample Size Calculation

The number of participants to be included was calculated using the formula below [11]

Sample Size (n)=
$$\frac{(Z1-\alpha/2)2(\sigma)^2}{d^2}$$

 $Z_{1-\alpha/2}$. Standard normal variate for 95% level of significance is **1.96**.

SD or σ : Standard deviation of the variable. Value standard deviations can be taken from previously done studies or a pilot study. [σ =2.82]

d: Absolute error or precision (0.05).

Sample Size (n) $=\frac{(Z1-\alpha/2)2(\sigma)^2}{d^2}=\frac{(1.96)^2 \times (2.82)^2}{0.05}=$ 611(approximated)

611 participants were included in the study.

Study Design: Cross-sectional Study.

Study Period: 6 months.

Study Setting: Participants from all over India were included; Data was obtained by questionnaires through online Google forms.

2.2 Inclusion Criteria

Population aged above 18 and below 65 years who provided informed consent and worked in the healthcare and non-healthcare sectors were enrolled in the study.

2.3 Exclusion Criteria

Individuals with a disability or who could not understand the study schedule due to sickness were excluded from the study. The population aged < 18 and >65 years was not included.

The population who did not agree to provide their informed consent.

2.4 Measures

Apart from demographic information, an array of characteristics was considered when collecting data on the participants for depression screening and other quality of -life assessments.

2.5 Who QOL- BREF

The WHOQOL-BREF, consists of twenty-six questions assessed on a 5-point scale for QOL evaluation in domains such as physical, psychological, social relationship, and environmental factors. All of the domains were measured in an order of one to ten, with higher scores indicating a greater QOL. The average score for each domain was calculated and compared to determine the participant's overall quality of life [12].

2.6 Patient Depression Questionnaire (PHQ-9)

The Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9) was utilized to test for depression, which is a test with 9 items, graded on a 4-point Likert scale (0-3), and the participants were asked to tick the response on how they felt. On the PHQ-9, 0-4 is "minimal depression," considered 5-9 is depression," 10-14 considered "mild is considered "moderate depression," 15-19 is considered "moderately severe depression," and 20-24 is considered "severe depression" [13].

3. RESULTS

3.1 Demographic Profile

750 participants were requested to attempt the standard questionnaire, out of which 611 attempted the questionnaire resulting in an 81.4% response rate. From the 611 participants, 306(50.1%) were female and 305(49.9%) were male. The population (611) was a relatively young age group, the mean age group of participants is 27.94 \pm 7.11 SD, of whom the majority 278 (45.50%) were in the age limit of <25 years, 260 (42.55%). The healthcare workers composed 61%, of which pharmacists (20%), nurses (16%), doctors (13%), paramedics

(12%) and non-healthcare workers composed 39% of the total population respectively. Among the healthcare workers, 76.2% were unmarried divorced 1.1% and (31.3%) were married whereas in non-Healthcare workers 71.25% were unmarried, divorced (1.25%) and (27.5%) were married. The study population was divided into three income groups based on NCAER-2010 classification i.e., low income [<1.5-3.4 lakhs], middle income [>3.4-17 lakhs] and high income [>17 lakhs]. 79.2% of the respondents belonged to middle income groups followed by high income group 10.8% and low-income groups at 9%.

3.2 Statistical Analysis

The study was evaluated using the WHOQOL-BREF version, according to which the questionnaire contains 26 questions categorized into four domains [Physical Domain, Psychological Domain, Social Domain, and Environmental Domain].

For statistical analysis, the IBM SPSS Statistics version 25.0 was utilized. The root means square deviation was used to determine the Individual's QOL. The independent student t-test was utilized to determine the association between population characteristics and quality of life, while the paired t-test was utilized to determine the inter-domain relationship. The predictors of depression were analyzed using multivariate regression analysis.

The mean score of the four domains were 58.82 ± 15.56 , 56.45 ± 15.52 , 59.08 ± 19.03 , and 51.42 ± 15.51 , respectively. Participants' marital status was an important factor contributing to failure in their social relations domain (*P* = 0) and Environment domains (*P* = 0.027).

3.3 Prevalence of Depression-Statistical Analysis

While analyzing depression among study subjects, 204 experience symptoms of (33.4%) depression, 151 (24.7%) mild moderate depression, and 54 (8.8%) who were suffering from moderately severe and 11 (1.8%) severe depression . Multivariate regression analysis was used to identify the pointers for participants' depression. Females were more depressed in comparison to males. Healthcare workers were more depressed 125 (34%) had a moderate level of depression and 42 (11%) at severe depression while 26 (11%) of non-Healthcare workers show moderate depression and 12 (5%) show moderately severe depression. The mean

depression grade was estimated to be 7.94 and it exhibited that healthcare workers had a greater prevalence of depression with a mean depression grade of 8.04 when contrasted to non-healthcare workers who had a mean depression grade of 7.96.

4. DISCUSSION

This study indicates the QOL and prevalence of depression among healthcare and non-healthcare professionals during a COVID-19 pandemic.

During the study, the data was collected over 2 months via online mode. Since it's a nationwide study, the responses were collected from all over the nation that includes South India (40.75%), North India (20.5%), West India (16.3%), East India (13.09%), North–East India (8.5%) and Union territory (0.8%). Out of 750 populations, 611 participants agreed to take part and gave their consent. The total response rate was 81.4%.

Out of 611, 49.9% were females and 50.1% were males and the study population consisted majority of young adults (18-35) years. Given the lack of certainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, social isolation, loss of wages, and limited access to basic services, decrease in psychological support, especially in the population at risk. The collapse in the economy caused by COVID-19 led to job deprivation, financial superabundance, and poverty which restricted access to healthcare causing negative outcomes on the QOL of individuals' income, and many people required hypnotics because they couldn't sleep.

QOL was detected with the WHO QUALITY OF LIFE BREF version scale, [14] according to which the questionnaire contains 26 questions categorized into physical health (SD=15.56), mental health (SD=15.52), social health (SD=19.03), environmental interaction (SD=15.51), was determined using paired t-test and domains had a significant correlation at p <0.05. All domains were strongly associated with age, occupation, worry about COVID-19, chronic disease condition, (p<0.05) and gender was in association with the domains. Physical domains show a significant association domain with participants' family income (p<0.05). Mean scores depending on different significant features of participants were determined by using a oneway ANOVA test. Pharmacists and paramedics

having a middle level of income compared to others were more worried about COVID-19. COVID-19 placed HCPs, who were the soldiers of this battle, in stressful circumstances with increased patient load, lack of bed availability unprecedented disruption to normal life, and high risk of exposure. Shortage of vaccines, decrease oxygen cylinders, absence of coordination, stigmatization, lack of sufficient healthcare workers, COVID related coverage in social media making HCPs emotionally troubled, worry about the death rate, and wearing PPE kit for a long time was a great challenge to all the HCPs who dealt with the COVID patients. Promotion pressure, medical disputes and even violence based on previous studies, and inadequate personal protective equipment kit (PPE).HCPs worked more than eight hours a day, some were discontent with their pay and they required hypnotics as they couldn't sleep [15].

Pharmacists (58%) and Nurses (57%) where the soldiers of this battle were more worried about COVID-19 compared to non-healthcare professionals.

Depression is a disorder; the essential feature is characterized by one or more major depressive states without a history of maniac or hypomanic episodes. According to DSM 5th edition, a person is diagnosed with depression if he is having five or more following symptoms which must be present every day during the same2-week period i.e. psycho motor agitation, depressive mood, insomnia or hypersonic, loss of energy, feeling worthlessness, suicide attempt, etc [16].

Multivariate regression model and IBM SPSS Statistics version 25.0 were used for depression investigating among study participants, among 611 total participants, 191 (31.3%) experience symptoms of Minimal Depression, 204 (33.4%) Mild depression, 151 (24.7%) moderate depression, 54 (8.8%) moderate-severe depression and 11 (1.8%) severe depression.

Females were more depressed in comparison to males, which was consistent with a previous study by Yu-Fen MA, (2020). Females had more chances of suffering from stress-related mental conditions such as depression, concerns about family, children and grandchildren, housekeeping, hospital work, child care, and lastly inadequate money [17]. Occupation status showed a strong correlation with depression levels our study correlates with the study of Sanja Budimir al (2019). Relationship quality vs. Relationship status also affects the individual mental status: Individuals with good relationship quality showed better mental health than individuals with poor relationship quality or no relationship and provided evidence based on few studies that there is a link between marital discontent and depressive symptoms, according to Pieh C, et al's [18] research (2020). Married couples with poor mental health and relationships had higher depressive symptoms than unmarried couples with good mental and relationship status. COVID-19 can be spread through respiratory droplets and direct touch, through urine, stool, and saliva because it is an infectious disease, the nurses were at a higher risk and worried about the chance of infection. Due to the significant risk of infection generated by the HCPs themselves, respondents were concerned

for their families. The information from social media about the COVID-19 outbreak was tied up to a lower risk of depression in non-healthcare professionals [19].

According to the protection/distress QOL model (Vorgantietal, 1998), QOL was closely associated between distressing factors (e.g. physical and mental distress) and protective factors (e.g. good economic status) Singleton 2021. As evidenced by our study, depression is likely to be associated with a lower quality of life [20].

Healthcare professionals have an urgent need to reduce work-related pressures, including mental health intervention. This can be accomplished by changing schedules, expectations, and so on [21].

Demographic parameter	Frequency[N=611]	Percentage[100%]
	Gender	
MALE	305	49.9
FEMALE	306	50.1
	Age	
18-25	278	45.5
26-35	260	42.55
36-45	52	9
46-55	15	2
56-65	6	1
	Occupation	
Healthcare	371	61
Doctor	80	13
Nurses	98	16
Pharmacist	120	20
Other paramedics	73	12
Non-Healthcare	240	39
	Marital status	
Healthcare		
Married	107	31.3
Unmarried	260	76.2
Divorced	4	1.1
Non-Healthcare		
Married	66	27.5
Unmarried	171	71.25
Divorced	3	1.25
	Income	
Low income	61	9.98
Middle income	484	79.2
High income	66	10.8
	Chronic disease	
No chronic disease	491	80.36
One chronic disease	107	17.51
Two or more chronic disease	13	2.12

Table 1. Demographics of the study population

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Demographic parameter	Frequency[N=611]	Percentage[100%]					
Indian regionwise respondents							
North india	125	20.46					
South india	249	40.75					
East india	80	13.09					
West india	100	16.37					
Northeast india	52	8.51					
Union-territories	5	0.8					
	Worry about covid?						
Very low	25	4.2					
Low	128	21					
High	323	53					
Very high	135	22					

Table 2. Descriptive statistics of domain scores

Domain	Ν	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Domain 1 (Physical Health)	611	3.57	100.00	58.82	15.56
Domain 2 (Psychological)	611	3.00	100.00	56.45	15.52
Domain 3 (Social Relations)	611	8.33	100.00	59.08	19.03
Domain 4 (Environment)	611	9.38	100.00	51.42	15.51

Table 3. Paired T-test statistics for inter domain association

Domair	١	Mean	Ν	Std. Deviation	Std. Mean	Error	Sig.
Pair 1	DOMAIN 1	58.82	611	15.56	.63		
	DOMAIN 2	56.45	611	15.52	.63		<0.001
Pair 2	DOMAIN 1	58.82	611	15.56	.63		
	DOMAIN 3	59.08	611	19.03	.77		<0.001
Pair 3	DOMAIN 1	58.82	611	15.56	.63		
	DOMAIN 4	51.42	611	15.51	.63		<0.001
Pair 4	DOMAIN 2	56.45	611	15.52	.63		
	DOMAIN 3	59.08	611	19.03	.77		<0.001
Pair 5	DOMAIN 2	56.45	611	15.52	.63		
	DOMAIN 4	51.42	611	15.51	.63		<0.001
Pair 6	DOMAIN 3	59.08	611	19.03	.77		
	DOMAIN 4	51.42	611	15.51	.63		<0.001

Table 4. One way ANOVA test -to find association of demographic variables with QOL

Demographic Statistics		Меа	Mean ± SD			
	Physical	Psychological	Social	Environmental		
	Domain	Domain Gender	Domain	Domain		
Female	58.88±0.85	55.65±0.87	59.42±1.04	50.99±0.87		
Male	58.76±0.93	57.25±0.91	58.74±1.13	51.84±0.91		
р	0.922	0.202	0.659	0.497		
		Age				
<45	58.63	56.45	59.06	51.32		
>45	63.05	56.41	59.62	53.49		
р	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001		

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Demographic Statistics		Меа	an ± SD	
	Physical Domain	Psychological Domain	Social Domain	Environmental Domain
		Marital status		
Unmarried	59.6±14.82	56.62±15.56	57.52±18.9	52.2±14.74
Married	57.1±17.38	56.45±15.11	63.63±18.66	49.96±17.12
Divorced	53.57±7.72	45.83±20.97	42.86±12.2	38.84±13.6
р	0.137	0.189	0*	0.027*
		Occupation		
Healthcare	57.01±16.11	54.07±15.54	56.83±20.37	49.15±16.41
Non-Healthcare	61.62±14.27	60.14±14.77	62.57±16.17	54.92±13.29
p	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
	Chro	nic disease condition	on	
No chronic disease	61.45±14.63	58.42±14.71	60.49±18.75	53.79±14.46
With one chronic	48.1±14.02	48.71±16.01	53.66±18.99	41.36±15.29
disease				
With two or more	47.8±19.97	45.83±18.16	50.64±21.1	44.47±20.89
chronic diseases				
р	0	0	0.001	0
		Family income		
Low	57.08±15.6	52.87±17.22	58.2±22.8	50.31±15.78
Medium	59.56±15.57	56.94±15.37	58.75±18.7	51.68±15.27
High	55.03±15.03	56.19±14.71	62.37±17.49	50.52±17.05
p	0.056	0.154	0.324	0.716
	V	Vorry about covid		
Low	63.31±14.82	62.47±15.16	60.84±19.22	56.76±14.23
High	57.32±15.54	54.44±15.12	58.5±18.95	49.63±15.52
p	0	0	0.188	0

Table 5. Frequency and percentage of participant's depression

Demographic	Severity of Depression					
Characteristics	Minimal Depression	Mild Depression	Moderate Depression	Moderately severe Depression	Severe Depression	Grand Total
		G	ender	-		
Female	74 (24%)	111 (36%)	89 (29%)	24 (8%)	8 (3%)	306
Male	117 (38%)	93 (30%)	62 (20%)	30 (10%)	3 (1%)	305
		Age	(Years)			
<45	182 (31%)	195 (33%)	146 (25%)	52 (9%)	10 (2%)	585
>45	9 (35%)	9 (35%)	5 (19%)	2 (8%)	1 (4%)	26
		Mari	tal status			
Divorced	1 (14%)	3 (43%)		3 (43%)		7
Married	60 (35%)	53 (31%)	47 (27%)	11 (6%)	2 (1%)	173
Unmarried	130 (30%)	148 (34%)	104 (24%)	40 (9%)	9 (2%)	431
		Oco	upation			
Non-healthcare	147 (61%)	53 (22%)	26 (11%)	12 (5%)	2 (1%)	240
Healthcare workers	44 (12%)	151 (41%)	125 (34%)	42 (11%)	9 (2%)	371
		Diseas	e condition			
No chronic disease	147 (30%)	178 (36%)	120 (24%)	37 (8%)	9 (2%)	491
With one chronic disease	41 (38%)	22 (21%)	28 (26%)	14 (13%)	2 (2%)	107
With two or more chronic disease	3 (23%)	4 (31%)	3 (23%)	3 (23%)		13

Demographic			Severity of De	pression		
Characteristics	Minimal Depression	Mild Depression	Moderate Depression	Moderately severe Depression	Severe Depression	Grand Total
Family income						
High	28 (42%)	21 (32%)	9 (14%)	6 (9%)	2 (3%)	66
Low	11 (18%)	20 (33%)	18 (30%)	8 (13%)	4 (7%)	61
Middle	152 (31%)	163 (34%)	124 (26%)	40 (8%)	5 (1%)	484
Worry about cov	id-19					
Low	78 (51%)	35 (23%)	30 (20%)	9 (6%)	1 (1%)	153
High	113 (25%)	169 (37%)	121 (26%)	45 (10%)	10 (2%)	458

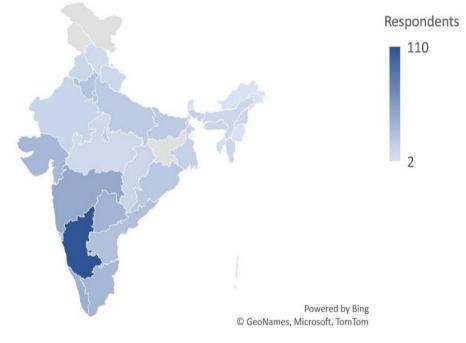


Fig. 1. Indian statewise distribution of the participant

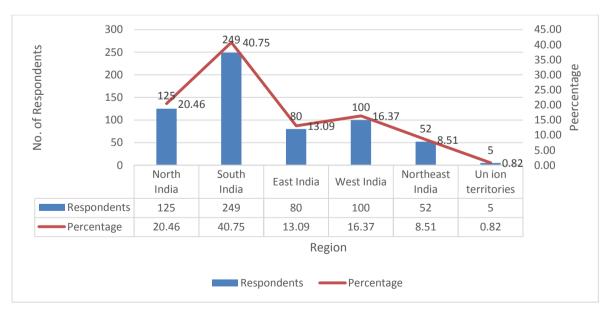


Fig. 2. Country wide region wise distribution of participants

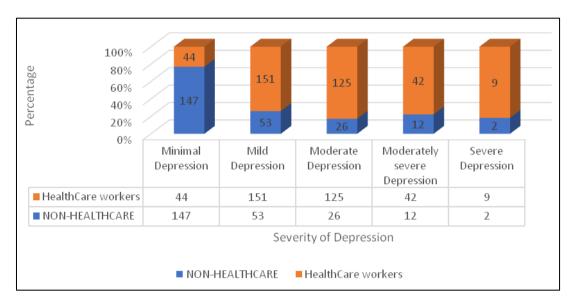


Fig. 3. Severity of depression among healthcare and non-healthcare workers

5. CONCLUSION

The study depicts the negative effects of COVID-19 on the mental health status of the Indian population, with statistical analysis showing that worry about COVID-19 was higher among healthcare workers than non-healthcare workers, which also affected Quality of Life, with healthcare workers having lower mean scores across all domains than non-healthcare workers. Participants' occupation status has a significant impact on their perception of quality of life. Healthcare workers were found to be depressed at a higher rate than non-healthcare workers. Indeed, other demographic characteristics such as income level, marital status, and chronic disease condition had an impact on the overall quality of life of participants across all four domains, with occupation being the most significant factor influencing the quality of life. The study depicted the detrimental impact of the pandemic on the population, with healthcare workers being more affected by the pandemic and this study calls for use of appropriate psychological intervention to address the mental health needs of the population.

6. LIMITATIONS

The following factors affected the study and thus limit the ability to generalize its findings, the sample size was low and the study was conducted for short span of time. Due to existing COVID-19 conditions in-persons interviews were not possible and also there was scarcity of preCOVID-19 data to perform a comparative analysis for pre and post Covid-19 data.

CONSENT

As per international standard or university standard, Participants' written consent has been collected and preserved by the author(s).

ETHICAL APPROVAL

Human ethical clearance was obtained from Institutional Ethics Committee of Krupanidhi College of Pharmacy, Bangalore, India. [REF:IEC/KCP/2020-21/04].

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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