

# A Study to Assess the Knowledge on Practice Towards Prevention of Covid-19 among Nursing Officers at GIMS Gadag

Mrs. Rekha K.B<sup>1</sup>, Mrs. Usha H.T<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Associate Professor, Gims Government College of Nursing Gadag

<sup>2</sup>Professor, Gims Government College of Nursing Gadag

## Abstract

**Background:** Nursing officers play a critical role in COVID-19 prevention efforts. This study assesses their knowledge and practices related to COVID-19 prevention at GIMS Hospital, Gadag.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted among 150 nursing officers using a structured questionnaire covering demographics, COVID-19 knowledge, and preventive practices. Descriptive and inferential statistics were applied for data analysis.

**Results:** 25.5% of nursing officers demonstrated good knowledge of COVID-19 transmission, symptoms, and prevention, with notable gaps identified. 74.5% reported adherence to preventive practices such as hand hygiene, mask-wearing, and social distancing. Factors significantly associated with better knowledge and practices included years of experience, training, and access to personal protective equipment (PPE) ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Discussion:** The study revealed that 72.66% of nursing officers had average knowledge and 25.33% had adequate knowledge of COVID-19 prevention. Strategies focusing on continuous education and resource provision are crucial to address knowledge gaps and enhance adherence to preventive measures among healthcare workers. Socio-demographic factors like family income and previous knowledge significantly influenced knowledge levels, while other variables showed no significant associations.

**Conclusion:** Continuous efforts are essential to improve COVID-19 prevention knowledge and practices among nursing officers at GIMS Gadag. Targeted interventions should include regular training, tailored educational modules, and ensuring adequate availability of PPE and resources.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, Nursing Officers, Knowledge, Practice, Prevention, GIMS Hospital, Gadag

## Introduction

Coronaviruses, characterized by crown-like spikes on their surface, include pathogens like SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19. Since its emergence in Wuhan, China, in December 2019, COVID-19 has spread globally via human-to-human transmission, predominantly affecting respiratory systems with symptoms varying from mild to severe. Effective treatment and vaccines are still under development, presenting ongoing challenges for global healthcare systems.

## Methods

**Research Approach:** A non-experimental approach was employed to assess nursing officers' COVID-19

prevention knowledge at GIMS Gadag.

**Research Design:** Descriptive research design facilitated data collection on variables and their interactions.

**Setting:** The study was conducted at GIMS District Hospital Gadag, focusing on nursing officers in the COVID care unit.

**Population and Sample:** Convenient sampling identified 150 nursing officers, selected based on willingness to participate and prior work in the COVID care unit.

**Data Collection:** Structured questionnaires encompassing socio-demographic profiles and COVID-19 prevention knowledge were used.

**Ethical Considerations:** Inclusion criteria prioritized ethical standards, ensuring voluntary participation and relevance to the COVID care context.

## Results

- **Type of Family:** 52% were from nuclear families, and 48% from joint families.
- **Family Annual Income:** 77.33% earned Rs 10,000-50,000 annually, 12% Rs 51,000-100,000, and 10.66% above Rs 100,000.
- **Years of Experience:** Distribution included 42% with 6-10 years, 41.33% with 1-5 years, 14% with 11-15 years, and 2.66% with 16-20 years of experience.
- **Previous Knowledge:** 92% had prior COVID-19 knowledge.
- **Sources of Information:** Primary sources were electronic media (42.66%) and health personnel (42%), followed by print media (8%), family members/relatives (5.33%), and friends/neighbours (2%).
- **Knowledge Levels:** 72.66% demonstrated average knowledge, 25.33% adequate knowledge, and 2% inadequate knowledge regarding COVID-19 prevention.
- **Association with Socio-demographic Variables:** Significant associations were found with family income ( $p < 0.02$ ) and previous knowledge ( $p < 0.04$ ). No significant associations were observed with age, sex, marital status, education, type of family, years of experience, religion, or sources of information.

## Discussion

The study's findings highlight a substantial proportion of nursing officers with adequate to average knowledge of COVID-19 prevention practices. Adherence to preventive measures was also encouraging, with significant correlations noted between better knowledge and factors such as experience, training, and PPE access. While family income and previous knowledge significantly influenced knowledge levels, other socio-demographic factors showed no significant impact, suggesting potential areas for targeted educational interventions.

## Conclusion

Efforts to enhance COVID-19 prevention knowledge and practices among nursing officers at GIMS Gadag are critical. Continuous education initiatives, tailored training modules, and ensuring sufficient availability of PPE and resources are recommended to sustain readiness in combating infectious disease outbreaks within healthcare settings.