

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE DIGEST

Journal of Nigerian Library Association, Anambra State Chapter

Volume 16, SEPTEMBER, 2022

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AWARENESS AND USE OF COVID-19 PREVENTIVE MEASURES IN LIBRARY BY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS OF YUSUF MAITAMA SULE UNIVERSITY, KANO: NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study investigated the awareness and use of Covid 19 preventive measures by undergraduate students of Yusuf Maitama Sule University, Kano. Four research questions guided the study. The research design was a survey. Population of the study comprised 9185 students out of which 184 was purposively chosen as the sample. Questionnaire was used to collect data for the study. The findings indicated that the majority of the students were aware of the WHO preventive protocol on Covid 19 pandemic but only a few abide by it when they use the library. The study also found that the library do not provide users with wash hand basin, while the provision of hand sanitizer in the library was inadequate. Based on the findings, it was recommended that advocacy should be employed for increased awareness on the Covid 19 preventive measures. It was also recommended that the library should provide wash hand basin and hand sanitizers for students use. Adequate provision of these items is however hinged on improved funding.

Keywords: *Covid 19, WHO Protocol, Facemask, Hand Sanitizer, Undergraduate Students, Yusuf Maitama Sule University, Kano.*

INTRODUCTION

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. It is a pandemic that ravaged many countries of the world in 2020. The virus that causes COVID-19 disease is mainly transmitted through droplets generated when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or exhales. These droplets are too heavy to hang in the air; so it quickly falls on floor or surfaces. The virus can be contacted through breathing if an infected person is staying within a close range or by touching a contaminated surface thereby penetrating the body through the eyes, nose or mouth. According to Bavel et al. (2020), the COVID-19 pandemic represents a massive global health crisis as it requires large-scale behavior change and places significant psychological burdens on individuals. Gursoy and Chi (2020) suggested safety measures such as:

- Cleaning of hands often with soap and water, or alcohol-based hand sanitizer,
- Maintaining a safe distance from anyone coughing or sneezing,

- Wearing of mask when physical distancing is not possible,
- Avoid touching the eyes, nose or mouth,
- Covering the nose and mouth with bent elbow or use of tissue paper when one coughs or sneeze,
- Staying at home if one feels unwell,
- If one has fever, cough and difficulty in breathing, seek medical attention.
- Calling one's healthcare provider to quickly direct on the right health facility.

These measures are aimed to help protect and prevent the spread of this virus and other contagious diseases. Wearing of the face mask as well as maintenance of social distance also help to prevent the spread of the virus from person to person in Nigeria.

Statement of Problem

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic has affected thousands of people, all over the world. Most common symptoms of this viral infection are fever, cold, cough, bone pain and breathing problems, ultimately leading to pneumonia. This

virus is spreading exponentially region-wise. Nigeria has been adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Covid 19 vaccine was received by many countries but up till now, the problem still persists in Africa because many fear to take the vaccine because of allegation people have raised about it. Presently, the third wave of Covid 19 has been reported in India which health experts has warned spreads more speedily than other variants of the virus. These developments prompted the researcher to embark on this study.

Purpose of the Study

This study sought to examine the awareness and use of COVID 19 preventive measures in the library by undergraduate students of Yusuf Maitama Sule University, Kano. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Ascertain the level of awareness of Covid 19 among undergraduate students of Yusuf Maitama Sule University, Kano
2. Channels of communicating preventive measures available in the library of Yusuf Maitama Sule University, Kano?
3. Determine the extent of use of COVID 19 preventive measures by students when using the library in Yusuf Maitama Sule University, Kano.
4. Identify the challenges confronting effective use of COVID 19 preventive measures by

students in the library of Yusuf Maitama Sule University, Kano.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What is the level of awareness of Covid 19 preventive measures among undergraduate students in Yusuf Maitama Sule University library, Kano?
2. What Channels of Communicating Covid19 preventive measures are available in Yusuf Maitama Sule University library, Kano?
3. To what extent do undergraduates use Covid 19 preventive measures in Yusuf Maitama Sule University library?
4. What challenges do undergraduates face in the use of Covid 19 preventive measures in Yusuf Maitama Sule University library?

Methodology

The study adopted survey research design. The population of this study comprised 9185 undergraduate students in Yusuf Maitama Sule University Library, Kano. Purposive sampling technique was used to draw a sample size of 184. Instrument for data collection was a questionnaire. Data collected was analysed using frequency and simple percentage.

Result and Discussion

Research Question 1: What is the level of awareness of Covid 19 preventive measures among undergraduate students in Yusuf Maitama Sule University library, Kano?

Table 1: Level of awareness of Covid 19 preventive measures

S/N	Awareness Level	Frequency	Percentage
1	Very high	100	55%
2	High	50	28%
3	Low	20	10%
4	Very low	14	7%
5	Total	184	100%

Table 1 shows level of awareness of COVID 19 preventive measures among undergraduate students of Yusuf Maitama Sule University Kano. The result of the analysis shows that students with very high awareness level were 100 representing 55%. Those with high awareness level were

50(28%). Only 20 and 14 respondents, indicated that their level of awareness was low and very low (10%) and (7%) respectively. The finding shows that majority of the respondents (83%) were aware of the Covid 19 pandemic preventive measures.

Research Question 2: What Channels of Communication of Covid 19 preventive measures are available in Yusuf Maitama Sule University library, Kano?

Table 2: Channels of communication of preventive measures of Covid 19 in Yusuf Maitama Sule University

S/N	Communication Channels	Frequency	Percentage
	Radio/television	130	71%
	Newspapers	50	27%
	Library/information centers	4	2%
	Total	184	100%

From the analysis in Table 2, 130(71%) of the respondents indicated that they know about Covid 19 through the radio and television. While 50 (27%) students indicated they knew it through newspaper/ print material. Only four 4 (2%) of the respondents knew about Covid 19 preventive

measures from the library and other information centres.

To what extent do undergraduates use Covid 19 preventive measures in Yusuf Maitama Sule University library?

Table 3: Frequency of use of preventive measures by students?

S/N	Items statement	Frequency	Percentage
1	Always	100	55%
2	Weekly	0	0%
3	When requested	50	27%
4	Sometimes	34	18%
	Total	184	100%

Result of analysis in Table 3, indicates that 100 (55%) of the students always use the preventive measures when entering the library. While 50 (27%) respondents indicated they used it on

request by library staff and 34 (18%) indicated that they used the preventive sometimes. The finding thus shows that most library users used the preventive measures when entering the library.

Research Question 4. What challenges do undergraduates face in the use of Covid 19 preventive measures in Yusuf Maitama Sule University library?

Table 4: Challenges students face in the use of Covid 19 preventive measures.

S/N	Challenges	Frequency	Percentage
1	Not maintaining social distancing within the library?	14	7%
2	Provision of inadequate hand sanitizer	20	12%
3	Lack of wash hand basins or facilities	150	81%
	Total	184	100%

Table 4, it indicates that 150 (81%) of the respondents indicated there is a lack of wash hand

basins in the library while 20 (12%) indicated that there are inadequate hand sanitizers in the library.

Only 14 (7%) accepted that the students do not maintain social distance within the library. From the analysis, it could be seen that only 19% (use of hand sanitizer and observing social distancing) of the respondents use the Covid 19 preventive measures.

Recommendation

Based on the findings, the study recommends:

1. Though the level of awareness is very high, there is a need for university and library management to ensure increased awareness on latest development on the Covid 19 protocol as recommended by WHO.

2. There is an urgent need to provide hand washing machines, sanitizers, and to ensure proper compliance in the use of face masks at all times, and in the observance of social distance at all times.
3. There should be proper hygiene within and outside the library.
4. Deployment of health personnel into the library that would provide first aid treatment to users and staff of the library.
5. Provision of free masks to bona fide library users.
6. Adocacy on proper application of the WHO protocol on Covid 19 preventive measures.

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