

Knowledge and Awareness of COVID-19 among Third and Fourth Year Medical Students in General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University

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At the end of 2019, the world faced a new strain of coronavirus (SARS-CoV2), and it was first identified in the Wuhan region of China. Due to its high transmissibility and adaptation, the number of global cases increased rapidly. It is an ongoing major global health concern. The healthcare workers were left out to work with limited resources and were treating patients with limited knowledge on the subject. Though the role of medical students during an ongoing pandemic is still being debated, it is assumed that their contribution is pivotal in such circumstances. This is a cross-sectional descriptive study involving 200 third-year and fourth-year medical students of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University to assess their knowledge on COVID-19, preventive measures and attitudes. A questionnaire was administered online through Google forms, and links were distributed among the sample population. 200 responses were collected, and the results were analysed using SPSS. Among the sample population, 27 % had good knowledge, 33 % had fair knowledge and 40 % had poor knowledge. Regarding attitudes, 32.8 % had a good attitude, 32.2% had a neutral attitude and 34.3% had poor attitude. Social media was seen to be a major source of knowledge (177, 88.5%). Only 18 % of the 3rd year students had good knowledge while a similar knowledge level was seen in 36 % of 4th year undergraduates. A more recent survey may show increased awareness among the students.

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