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1 **Socio-demographic correlate of knowledge and practice toward novel**
2 **coronavirus among people living in Mosul-Iraq: A cross-sectional study**
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26 **ABSTRACT**

27 **Background:** Since the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that the 2019 novel
28 coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a worldwide pandemic, as the Iraqi authorities have started
29 responding and taking action to control the spread of the pandemic. The knowledge and practices
30 of the public play an important role in curbing the spreading of the virus by following the health
31 guidelines. This study aimed to assess the socio-demographic correlate of knowledge and
32 practices of Iraqi living in Mosul-Iraq towards novel coronavirus during its rapid rise.

33 **Methods:** A cross-sectional online survey of 909 participants was conducted among Mosul-Iraq
34 between 20th June to 1st July 2020. The survey included three parts: 1) socio-demographic
35 characteristics, 2) participants' knowledge, 3) participants' practices. T-test, ANOVA, chi-square,
36 and binary logistic regression were used. A p-value less than 0.05 ($p < 0.05$) was considered
37 statistically significant.

38 **Results:** The results showed knowledge and practice mean score of (12.91 ± 1.67) and $(21.56 \pm$
39 $2.92)$ with cumulative knowledge and practice of 86% and 76% respectively towards 2019-
40 nCoV. Socio-demographic characteristics such as age, marital status, gender, level of education
41 and employment were statistically related with a higher mean score of knowledge and practice
42 towards the virus as $P < 0.05$.

43 **Conclusions:** We concluded that the majority of the respondents demonstrate a high level of
44 knowledge and practices towards 2019-nCoV except respondents with socio-demographic
45 characteristics such as those who were younger, male respondents, those with lower education
46 and those unemployed as such campaigns that will increase the knowledge and encourage
47 adequate preventive practice towards 2019-nCoV should be targeted towards this group.

48 **KEYWORDS:** Knowledge, Practice, Novel coronavirus, Mosul, Iraq

49

50 **1. INTRODUCTION**

51 On 31st December 2019, the novel coronavirus detected in Wuhan, China, on 11-March 2020,
52 has been considered as a global pandemic by the (WHO), at the end of April, the virus has spread
53 worldwide with fear-evoking death reports (1, 2).

54 The 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is highly contagious; it causes a respiratory illness that
55 ranges from the common cold-like symptoms to more severe diseases (2). Most of the infected
56 patients complaining from fever, shortness in breath, cough, loss of smell, and/or taste sensation
57 and might be infected asymptotically. In severe cases, patients might suffer from pneumonia,
58 multiple organ dysfunction, and death. (3, 4).

59 The 2019-nCoV is a novel strain that is not specified in humans earlier, and it is a zoonotic
60 illness that is transmitted between animals and people and may infect humans and animals. (5).

61 In Iraq, the first case of novel coronavirus was confirmed on 24th -February-2020 in Al-Najaf
62 city by people who have visited Iran. Therefore, at the end of March 13-2020, the Ministry of
63 Health and Environment of Iraq declared that the total of confirmed cases of coronavirus is
64 101(6). The ministry of health (MOH) in Iraq started to respond and take action to control the
65 infection, as well as the technical observation of (WHO), three governmental biological
66 laboratories in Baghdad, Basrah, and Erbil, were opened for COVID-19 outbreak testing. (7).
67 Initially, the measures that were taken by the Iraqi authorities nationwide have succeeded in
68 managing to slow the spread of the virus, but the cases have risen sharply in the past two months.
69 In the first week of August, Mosul city recorded thirty times increased in novel coronavirus cases

70 reported compared to the previous months, while the reported national cases rose from 10,000 to
71 120,000 across the country (8).

72 Due to the escalating number of cases in Mosul city, many challenges were observed while
73 trying to stop the virus from spreading, the limited number of tests that can be carried out per
74 day, lack of quarantine facilities, medical instrument, hygienic preparation insufficiency, low
75 hospital capacities, and no approved medicine or vaccine to prevent the 2019 n-CoV. Therefore,
76 the preventive measures taken by the people are important to protect themselves and others from
77 the virus infection and control the spread of the disease (9). Thus, managing this crisis hangs
78 primarily on people's knowledge and practices toward this virus and following all the
79 precautions to prevent cross-infection and follow guidelines of the World Health Organization
80 (WHO) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (10, 11).

81 World Health Organization (WHO) declared precautional strategies to curb the spreading of
82 infections. The none medical precautions are maintaining social distancing, avoid public
83 gathering, avoid direct contact with infected people and use of personal protective equipment
84 (PPE) like face masks. Also, personal hygiene recommendations such as hand-washing often
85 with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after touching surfaces, don't touch the
86 nose, eyes, and mouth with unwashed hands, and self-isolate when 2019-nCoV symptoms started
87 (10).

88 The knowledge and practices of the public toward 2019 novel coronavirus play an important role
89 in determining the willingness of Iraqi citizens to change their behavior and identify the kind of
90 intervention that is needed to correct the misconceptions regarding the virus, highlight the poor
91 knowledge toward the virus and disease, development of new preventive measures, develop
92 COVID-19 awareness campaign, and take precautionary. Therefore, the current study aimed to

93 assess the socio-demographic correlate of knowledge and practices of Iraqi in Mosul towards
94 2019 novel coronavirus during its rapid rise.

95 The results of this study are expected to provide baseline information about the level of
96 knowledge and practices of Iraqi living in Mosul and highlight misperceptions related to
97 preventive measures. The outcomes of the study will further hence better planning for effective
98 awareness campaigns, required interventions and taking the appropriate action from local
99 authorities.

100 **1. MATERIAL AND METHODS**

101 **Study design**

102 A cross-sectional survey was adopted for the study using an online google form platform. The
103 invitation of the respondents (Mosul-Iraqi) to participate in the survey was made on social media
104 using the most popular media in Iraq, the social media messenger applications such as;
105 WhatsApp and Facebook messengers were used in distributing the online google based
106 questionnaire and participation was limited to Mosul-Iraqi 18 years and above.

107 **Study Settings**

108 Mosul is located in Nineveh Governorate - Iraq, has a population of 3.5 million. Residents of
109 Mosul city suffer from a fragile health system that barely meets their basic needs, as many health
110 facilities were destroyed in 2017 (8).

111 **Survey and data collection**

112 A total of 909 Mosul-Iraqi participated in our study between 20th June to 1st July 2020. The
113 specified Sample size was by determining the lowest acceptable size of a demographic subgroup
114 with a $\pm 5\%$ margin of error and a confidence level of 95% (12, 13). Giving to this, out of the

115 total respondents of 1121 who filled the online google based questionnaire, only 909 were
116 included. An incomplete survey of participants of 212 was excluded from the study, leaving us
117 with a completion rate of 81%.

118 The survey was an adapted version of questionnaires published previously (14, 15,16). The
119 survey was reviewed, and pilot tested by 21 Iraqi people and 3 faculty experts at the University
120 of Mosul using WhatsApp and telephone interviews to correct any question then sent it to the
121 target population. The survey consisted of an interface page and three main themes, with a total
122 of 37 questions. The interface page included the title, objective of the study, information on
123 participants' privacy, and instructions to fill the survey. The three main themes included: 1)
124 demographic information of participants such as gender, age, education level, marital status,
125 employment status, coronavirus test, coronavirus result and Chronic diseases; 2) Knowledge
126 related the 2019 novel coronavirus consisted of 15 questions divided to clinical presentations of
127 virus (K1-K5), the spread of the virus (K6-K9) prevention (K10-K12) and the risk factors (K13-
128 K15); 3) practices of participants toward novel coronavirus outbreak, which included 13
129 questions. The google based questionnaire was designed in Arabic to encourage adequate
130 participation of the respondents since Arabic is the common language in Mosul city.

131 **Ethical approval**

132 The Research Ethics Committee (RIC) at the University of Sharjah, UAE approved this study by
133 the reference number is REC- 20-05-31-01, as of 14/06/2020.

134 **Data and statistical analysis**

135 Data analysis conducted using Statistical Package for Social Software (SPSS) version 22. Scale
136 reliability was performed to ensure data consistency (Cronbach's alpha coefficient = 0.729),
137 indicating good consistency. The frequencies of demographic characteristics, knowledge, and

138 practice answers along with descriptive statistics, were presented in mean \pm SD, while qualitative
139 data were presented in frequency (number\percent). Participants' knowledge and practice scores
140 were compared with demographics factors using independent- samples t-test, one-way analysis
141 of variance (ANOVA).

142 To measure the knowledge, participants were given "yes," "no," and "not sure" answer options
143 to each survey question. A true answer to each question was marked with 1 score, while false
144 answers and not sure were marked with 0 scores. Scores of total knowledge ranged from 0-15; a
145 higher score signals a better level of knowledge. To practice measures, participants were given
146 "always", "sometimes", and " never" answer options to each item; the always option was marked
147 for 2 scores, while sometimes was for 1 score, and rarely was for 0 scores. The total practice
148 scores ranged from 0-26. The lowest and highest score of participants' knowledge was 7 and 15,
149 respectively, while the lowest and highest score of practice was 14 and 26, respectively.

150 Pearson's chi-square was used to determine the association between the explanatory and
151 outcome variables. We examined the factors associated with good knowledge & practice and
152 poor knowledge & practices by using binary logistic regression analyses. A p-value of less than
153 0.05 ($p < 0.05$) was considered statistically significant.

154 To identify the factors that were significantly associated with good or poor knowledge and
155 practices, a mean knowledge score of more than 12 indicated as good knowledge, while less than
156 12 assigned as poor. Similarly, a mean practice score above 21 indicated as good practice and a
157 mean practice score below 21 as poor practice. Factors were selected with a backward stepwise
158 method, and the reference category was selected based on the higher total mean. Unstandardized
159 regression coefficients (β) and odds ratios (ORs) and their 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were
160 used to quantify the associations between cofactors with knowledge and practice.

161 **2. RESULTS**

162 **Socio-demographic characteristics**

163 The results showed that the majority of 61.4% were females, and 38.6% were males. More
164 than half of the participants, 54.5%, aged 30-49 years. Around 60.5% of respondents were
165 married, while 31.7% and 7.9% were single, and others (divorced and widows), respectively.
166 About 62.4% were holding a bachelor's degree, while 25.7, 11.9% were holding postgraduates
167 and diploma or below, respectively. Moreover, almost 64.5% were employed, while a smaller
168 number of participants, 21.8%, 13.9%, were unemployed and students, respectively. Some of the
169 participants, 7.9%, have been tested for COVID-19, while 92.1% didn't do the COVID-19 est.
170 However, 1.5% of tested respondents were positive, and 98.5% of the participants have been
171 negative tests. Figure 1 summarized the frequency of respondents according to demographic
172 characteristics.

173 174 **Prevalence of chronic diseases reported by Iraqi participants**

175
176 In our study, 82.4% of the participants were healthy, while 17.6% had chronic diseases. The
177 most common chronic diseases were diabetes 6%, followed by asthma at 3.30%. Moreover,
178 2.75%, 2.40%, 1.54%, 1.54%, 1.20% had chronic kidney disease, severe obesity, heart
179 conditions, chronic liver disease, and chronic lung diseases, respectively, as shown in Figure 2.

180 **Knowledge towards novel coronavirus**

181 The mean knowledge score (\pm SD) of 15 questions was (12.91 \pm 1.67). The correct percentage rate
182 was 86.08%. Most of the participants, 92.1%, answered correctly that novel coronavirus caused
183 by a virus; the majority, 94.1%, knew that the incubation period range of this virus is between 2-
184 14 days. Almost all participants had a high knowledge of 96% about the symptoms of a
185 novel coronavirus; about 72.3% of respondents knew that no vaccine toward this virus.

186 Moreover, 63.4% knew that no treatment was approved toward novel coronavirus until now.
187 When we asked if this virus is spread via respiratory droplets of infected people, 93.1%
188 answered correctly.

189 Similarly, A high proportion of 93.1% of the participants agreed that the virus could be
190 transmitted via touching contaminated surfaces. Also, 82.2% indicated that this virus was
191 transmitted through the eyes, nose, and mouth. Just over half, 59.4%, reported that the infected
192 person having no fever could infect healthy people and the majority of participants, 94.1%
193 recorded that children and young adults have to take measures toward novel coronavirus.

194 About 76.2% of respondents reported the individuals should stay at home and go out only when
195 necessary, while all of the participants 100% agreed that they should avoid going to crowded
196 places, and the infected person with this virus should be immediately isolated in a proper place.
197 Most of the respondents, 96%, answered that the virus is more dangerous for those with chronic
198 disease patients and the elderly, while 79.2% believed that smokers are more vulnerable to this
199 virus. The knowledge of participants toward novel coronavirus is displayed in **Table 1**.

200 **Practice towards novel coronavirus**

201 The mean practice score (\pm SD) of 13 questions was (21.56 \pm 2.92). The correct percentage rate
202 was 75.8%. We found that 92.1% of the participants started washing their hands frequently
203 during a novel coronavirus period. Similarly, 92.1% indicated they were used sanitizer if the
204 soap is not available, while usual handwashing with soap for 20 seconds was recorded by 77.2%
205 of respondents. Almost 83.2% of participants wearied a mask when they go outside the home.
206 Three-quarters, 72.3% of respondents maintain space between them and others when going
207 outside, and only 36.6% maintain the 2-meter distance between them and others to prevent
208 transmission of the virus.

209 About 88% of the Iraqi respondents stopped going to crowded places recently. However, two-
210 thirds of the respondents, 69.3% and 65.3%, reported that they stopped visiting and kissing their
211 relatives or friends when meeting them, while 77.2% stopped the handshake during the greeting
212 with others. Besides, 81.2% were aware of the essential of sanitizing their hands after using cash,
213 and 75.2% of participants were aware of the importance of avoiding sharing their food with
214 others. The participant's practices toward novel coronavirus prevention presented in Table 2.

215 **Sources of information on COVID-19**

216 Participants indicated that the Ministry of Health and Environment in Iraq (MOH) and social
217 media such as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp, Instagram, and Snapchat were the main
218 sources of information about novel coronavirus pandemic with 60.3% and 57.5% respectively,
219 followed by World Health Organization (WHO) press release 41.6%, while 28.7%, 15.8%, and
220 1.4% reported that they received their information from the news outlet, family and friends, and
221 other sources, respectively as presented in Figure 3.

222 **Level of knowledge (K) and practice (P) as per socio-demographic characteristics of** 223 **participants**

224 The knowledge level score (out of 15) showed a significant association across socio-
225 demographic characteristics such as gender, age, education levels, marital status, and
226 employment status ($p < 0.005$). The practice level score (out of 26) also showed a significant
227 association between gender and age-groups ($p < 0.005$) while there was no significant
228 association between marital status ($p = 0.061$), educational ($p = 0.385$) and employment ($p = 0.084$)
229 with the practice of the participants.

230 The results indicated that females had a higher mean score of knowledge (13.19 ± 1.70) and
231 practice (21.85 ± 2.61) than males, aged group of participants above 50-years-old having the

232 highest score of knowledge (14.11 ± 0.87) and practice (22.50 ± 2.32) compared with other age
233 groups. Moreover, widows and divorced women's knowledge (13.37 ± 1.32) were higher than
234 singles and married participants; however, there were no significant differences in practice. The
235 mean score of knowledge (13.26 ± 1.51) and practice (21.75 ± 2.77) of participants with high
236 education degrees were better than participants with lower educational degrees. Employed
237 respondents showed a higher-level score of knowledge (13.12 ± 1.61) than non-employed and
238 students' participants. While there were no significant differences in employment status in
239 practice, neither education levels nor employment status had any significant differences in
240 practice, as depicted in table 3.

241 **Binary logistic regression analysis**

242 Table 4 shows the binary logistic regression analysis on variables significantly correlated with
243 knowledge and practice (good and poor) about 2019 novel coronavirus.

244 The Odds ratios (ORs) and their 95% confidence intervals (CIs) in a bid to quantify the
245 relationship between socio-demographic characteristics and the knowledge score (>12 and <12),
246 and between socio-demographic characteristics and the practices score (>21 and <21). Overall,
247 the analysis presents a significant relationship between knowledge with age, marital status, and
248 employment status. The same table shows that the age of ≥ 50 vs other ages reported better
249 knowledge, divorced & widows vs. married and single participants were significantly related
250 with a higher mean score, employed people were significantly related with the better knowledge
251 vs unemployed and retired respondents (β : -1.790, OR: 0.167, CI: 0.103-.270). Moreover, gender,
252 age, education and employment status were significantly associated with good practices. Female
253 gender vs male (β : -0.458 OR: 0.633, CI 0.464-0.863), age group of ≥ 50 had higher practice
254 score than the youngest group of 18-29 and 30-49 (β : -0.790, OR: 0.454, CI: 0.261-0.788), (β : -

255 0.890 OR: 0.411, CI: 0.266-0.635), respectively. However, participants with a college-level
256 degree and below showed a better practice (β 1.450 OR: 4.263, 95% CI: 2.206-8.236) than
257 participants with a postgraduate degree, while, employment statuses of employed reported a better
258 score than unemployed participants to (β : -1.215, OR: 0.297, CI: (0.158-0.558), as indicated in
259 Table 4.

260 **3. DISCUSSION**

261
262 The knowledge and practices of the public play an important role in prevention by following the
263 health guidelines to control the spread of 2019-nCoV. The knowledge and practices of the
264 general population about novel coronavirus have changed during the pandemic as a defense line
265 against the disease.

266 The provided baseline data regarding the level of individuals' knowledge on clinical
267 presentations, transmission, prevention, and risk factors of novel coronavirus virus will help
268 highlight malpractices related to preventive measures hence making it critical for local
269 authorities to plan suitable strategies to prepare and manage the spread of the virus.

270 The current study resulted that the participants' knowledge was high (86%) and had good
271 measures of practice toward 2019 novel coronavirus (76%). Similar to our findings, several
272 studies done in many countries have reported high levels of knowledge about novel coronavirus,
273 among the general population in Malaysia 80.5%, Chinese residents 90%, Saudi Arabia
274 population 81.5%, and among healthcare workers in Pakistan 93.2%. (14, 4, 15, 16).

275 The high level of knowledge among the public may be due to most of the participants having a
276 college degree or higher, or due to the high level of media coverage, including all media outlets
277 and the impact of the pandemic on social life mandating that people follow.

278 The current results showed that most of the participants depend more on the ministry of health
279 and social media to get their information about the 2019 novel coronavirus, In contrast to other
280 studies among Jordanian, Egyptian and Pakistani populations that were using mostly social
281 media as the main source of information (17, 18, 19).

282 The study found that the majority of respondents had a good level in prevention and control
283 measures toward novel coronavirus, indicating that the practices of some respondents were very
284 good toward novel coronavirus. That the results reported on practice toward 2019-nCoV among
285 the respondents were similar to those reported in the Malaysian population (14) while being less
286 than the level of practices among Chinese residents (4).

287 This level of practice among the respondents attributed that the Iraqi government didn't take
288 drastic measures in reducing the spread of the disease, in addition to the low number of cases in
289 Mosul at the beginning of the pandemic (20).

290 Our results using t-tests, ANOVA and logistic regression analysis showed that there was better
291 knowledge and accurate practices associated significantly with female gender, respondents above
292 50 years old, employed respondents, higher education, and married respondents.

293 Females and mothers are expected to show better knowledge and practices towards the 2019
294 novel coronavirus precautions and preventions. Similar studies in Malaysian and Saudi Arabia
295 indicated that females had more knowledge regarding novel coronavirus than males (14, 15).

296 The high level of knowledge and practice among the participants that are above the age of 50 in
297 our study is possibly due to understanding the higher risk of contraction and complications of the
298 disease on the elderly and people with chronic diseases (21). In our study, the respondents that
299 hold a higher degree level had a greater level of knowledge than the others. Similar findings

300 were reported within Malaysian and Pakistani university populations (14,19). A great majority of
301 respondents confirmed that the novel coronavirus disease is more dangerous in patients with
302 chronic diseases and the elderly. This has been confirmed from many studies published regarding
303 the 2019 novel coronavirus disease in China (22, 23).

304 Our results reported that 17.5 % of the respondents had chronic diseases such as diabetes,
305 asthma, and severe obesity were the common diseases among our participants. A similar study
306 among Iraqi adults indicated that the common non-communicable diseases were hypertension
307 (13.3%) and overweight or obese (54.6%). Another study showed that diabetes and hypertension
308 were the most prevalent diseases among Iraqi people (24, 25).

309 Our results were compatible with many studies that showed similar significance in terms of
310 better knowledge and practice among the educated and employed people. (4, 14, 15,26, 27).

311 Finally, the results indicated that more informative novel coronavirus efforts and more intense
312 health education should be directed toward respondents with the following socio0demographic
313 characteristics; male respondents, respondents with lower educational levels, younger
314 respondents, and unmarried respondents.

315 **Limitations**

316 Since the study is a cross-sectional study, it was conducted within a short time during the
317 pandemic. Moreover, this study was an online survey that expected that the people with a higher
318 level of education would respond to the survey; as such, it doesn't give privilege to the
319 uneducated population and those with limited access to the internet.

320 **4. CONCLUSIONS**

321 In general, the current study provided a comprehensive screening of the knowledge and
322 practices of the population in Mosul city toward the 2019 novel coronavirus. The participants
323 had a high level of knowledge about the virus, and good practice towards using protective
324 measures, which is significant towards controlling the spread of the virus. The study
325 recommends developing informative novel coronavirus related campaigns targeted specifically
326 towards younger males, lower educated, and unemployed people were living in Mosul city.
327 Furthermore, interventions that encourage the provision and use of free personal protective
328 equipment (PPE) such as face mask should be developed as this will help curb the spreading of
329 the virus. In the same vein, the Iraqi government should take more effort to control the spread of
330 the disease.

331

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336

337 **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

338 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

339

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342 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

343 B.Q.S. Conceptualization, design of the study, data collection, resources, and wrote the paper,
344 R.A contributed to the statistical analysis, and O.A.B Revise and edit the text, All authors have
345 read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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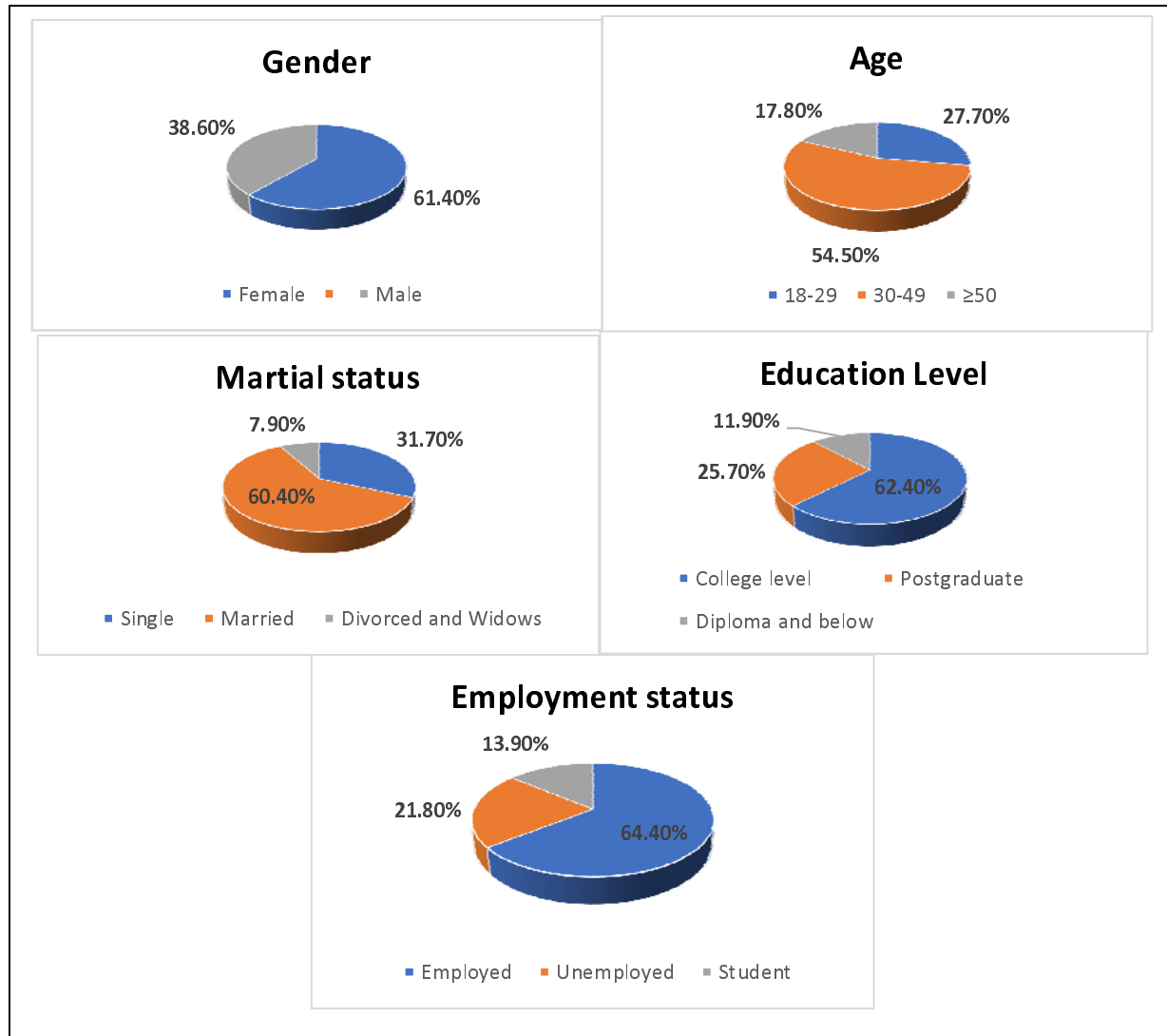
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TABLES AND FIGURES:



454 **Fig. 1.** Socio-demographic characteristics of the participants Mosul, Iraq (n = 909).

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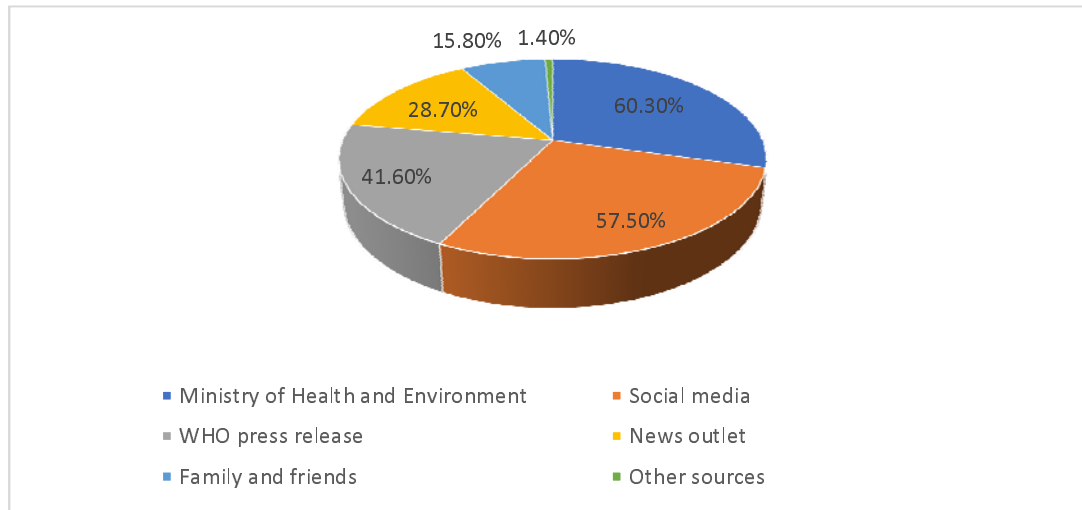
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464 **Figure. 2.:** Prevalence of chronic diseases reported by people in the Mosul, Iraq (n = 909)



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468 **Table 1.** General knowledge of participants about novel coronavirus in Mosul, Iraq (n= 909)

Knowledge questions		Frequency (%)	MEAN±SD
K:1 Novel coronavirus is caused by virus	Yes	837 (92.1)	1.13 ±0.460
	No	27 (3.0)	
	Not sure	45 (5.0)	
K:2 Incubation period range of novel coronavirus is 2-14 day	Yes	855 (94.1)	1.07 ±0.291
	No	45 (5.0)	
	Not sure	9 (1.0)	
K3: The main clinical symptoms of Novel coronavirus are fever, dry cough, tiredness, and breathing difficulties	Yes	873 (96.0)	1.08 ± 0.390
	No	0(0)	
	Not sure	36 (4.0)	
K4: No vaccine against novel coronavirus	Yes	657 (72.3)	2.10 ±0.517
	No	81 (8.9)	
	Not sure	171 (18.8)	
K5: No active treatment for novel coronavirus	Yes	576 (63.4)	2.23 ±0.561
	No	63 (6.9)	
	Not sure	270 (29.7)	
K6: Novel coronavirus spreads via respiratory droplets of infected people	Yes	846 (93.1)	1.13 ±0.481
	No	9 (1)	
	Not sure	54 (5.9)	

K7: Novel coronavirus is spread through touching contaminated surfaces	Yes	846 (93.1)	1.13 ±0.481
	No	9 (1)	
	Not sure	54 (5.9)	
K8: Novel coronavirus can be transmitted through eyes, in addition to nose and mouth	Yes	747 (82.2)	1.24 ±0.548
	No	108 (11.9)	
	Not sure	54 (5.9)	
K9: A person with novel coronavirus having no fever cannot infect others	Yes	162 (17.8)	2.05 ±0.636
	No	540 (59.4)	
	Not sure	207 (22.8)	
K10: Children and young adults don't need to take measures to prevent the infection by the novel coronavirus	Yes	18 (2)	2.02 ±0.243
	No	855 (94.1)	
	Not sure	36 (4)	
K11: We should stay at home and go out only when it is necessary	Yes	693 (76.2)	1.48 ±0.852
	No	216 (23.8)	
	Not sure	0 (0)	
K12: To prevent the spread of novel coronavirus, individuals should avoid going to crowded places if it's not necessary	Yes	909 (100)	1.00 ±0.00
	No	0(0)	
	Not sure	0(0)	
K13: The novel coronavirus may be more dangerous in patients with chronic diseases and elderly	Yes	873 (96)	1.07 ±0.352
	No	9 (1)	
	Not sure	27 (3)	
K14: People who have contact with someone infected with the novel coronavirus should be immediately isolated in a proper place	Yes	909 (100)	1.00 ±0.00
	No	0(0)	
	Not sure	0(0)	
K15: Smokers are likely to be more vulnerable to novel coronavirus	Yes	720 (79.2)	1.31 ±0.641
	No	99 (10.9)	
	Not sure	90 (9.9)	
Total knowledge level		86.08%	

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470 **Table 2.** Practices of participants toward novel coronavirus in Mosul, Iraq (n= 909)

Practice questions	Frequency (%)	MEAN±SD
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P1: Have you started to wash or sanitize your hands regularly?	Always	837 (92.1)	1.16 ±0.540
	Sometime	72 (7.9)	
	Never	0 (0)	
P2: Have you washing your hands for 20 Sec or more?	Always	702 (77.2)	1.38 ±0.807
	Sometime	0 (0.0)	
	Never	207 (22.8)	
P3: Do you use sanitizer if the soap is not available	Always	837 (92.1)	1.13 ±0.501
	Sometime	0 (0.0)	
	Never	72 (8)	
P4: Do you wear a mask when you go outside?	Always	756 (83.2)	1.32 ±0.717
	Sometime	135 (14.9)	
	Never	18 (2.0)	
P:5 Do you keep distance between you and others when you go outside?	Always	657 (72.3)	1.55 ±0.896
	Sometime	0 (0)	
	Never	252 (27.7)	
P6: Do you keep 2 meters distance between you and others?	Always	333 (36.6)	1.82 ±0.814
	Sometime	45 (5.0)	
	Never	531(58.4)	
P7: Did you stop going to crowded places recently?	Always	801 (88.1)	1.22 ±0.607
	Sometime	90 (9.9)	
	Never	18 (2.0)	
P8: Did you stop visiting your relatives and friends during the outbreak?	Always	630 (69.3)	1.51 ±0.816
	Sometime	189 (20.8)	
	Never	90 (9.9)	
P9: Did you stop kissing your relatives and friends when you meet them?	Always	594 (65.3)	1.62 ±0.889
	Sometime	252 (27.7)	
	Never	63 (6.9)	
P10: Did you stop handshaking with others?	Always	702 (77.2)	1.45 ±0.827
	Sometime	198 (21.8)	
	Never	9 (1.0)	
P11: Do you wash or sterilize your hands after dealing with cash?	Always	738 (81.2)	1.31 ±0.671
	Sometime	108 (11.9)	
	Never	63 (6.9)	
P12: Did you stop sharing your eating utensils and food with others?	Always	684 (75.2)	1.41 ±0.747
	Sometime	144 (15.8)	
	Never	81 (8.9)	
P13: Do you follow regular updates on Novel coronavirus?	Always	693 (76.2)	1.45 ±0.815
	Sometime	189 (20.8)	
	Never	27 (3.0)	

Total practices level

75.84%

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483 **Table 3.** Association between socio-demographic characteristics with knowledge (K) and
484 practices (P) of participants.

Knowledge of participants					
Variables		Frequency (%)	MEAN±SD	t/F	P-value
Gender	Female	558 (61.4%)	13.19±1.70	6.57	0.000
	Male	351 (38.6%)	12.46±1.51		
Age	18-29	252 (27.7%)	12.35±1.63	64.54	0.000
	30-49	495 (54.5%)	12.80±1.70		
	≥ 50	162 (17.8%)	14.11±0.87		
Marital status	Single	288 (31.7%)	12.40±1.47	20.83	0.000
	Married	549 (60.4%)	13.11±1.74		
	Others	72 (7.9%)	13.37±1.32		
Education level	College degree	567 (62.4%)	12.84±1.62	9.28	0.000
	Postgraduate degree	234 (25.7%)	13.26±1.51		
	Others	108(11.9%)	12.50±2.07		
Employment status	Employed	585 (64.4%)	13.12±1.61	17.44	0.000
	Unemployed	198 (21.8%)	12.72±1.93		
	Student	126 (13.9%)	12.21±1.21		
Practices of participants					
Variables		Frequency (%)	MEAN±SD	t/F	P-value
Gender	Female	558 (61.4%)	21.85±2.61	3.8	0.000
	Male	351 (38.6%)	21.1±3.31		
Age	18-29	252 (27.7%)	21.64 ±2.89	12.14	0.000
	30-49	495 (54.5%)	21.21±3.04		
	≥ 50	162 (17.8%)	22.50±2.32		
Marital status	Single	288 (31.7%)	21.87 ±2.87	2.80	0.061
	Married	549 (60.4%)	21.45 ±2.99		
	Others	72 (7.9%)	21.12 ±2.48		

Education level	College degree	567 (62.4%)	21.4 ± 3.07	0.955	0.385
	Postgraduate degree	234 (25.7%)	21.75 ±2.77		
	Others	108(11.9%)	21.73 ±2.36		
Employment status	Employed	585 (64.4%)	21.63±2.96	2.48	0.084
	Unemployed	198 (21.8%)	21.18±2.92		
	Student	126 (13.9%)	21.85±2.67		

485 **Table 4:** Binary logistic regression analysis on factors significantly associated with mean knowledge and
486 practices about novel coronavirus of the participants, Mosul-Iraq

Knowledge (> 12 and < 12)			
Variable	β	OR (CI 95%)	P-value
Age (≥ 50 vs. 18-29)	-	-	0.001*
Age (≥ 50 vs. 30-49)	-	-	0.036*
Marital status (others vs. married and single)	-	-	0.000*
Employment status (employed vs. unemployed and students)	-	-	0.000*
Employment status (unemployed vs. employed)	-1.79	0.167(0.103-0.270)	0.000*
Practice (> 21 and < 21)			
Variable	β	OR (CI 95%)	P-value
Gender (male vs. female)	-0.458	0.633 (0.464-0.863)	0.004*
Age (18-29 vs. ≥50)	-0.790	0.454 (0.261-0.788)	0.005*
Age (30-49 vs. ≥50)	-0.890	0.411 (0.266-0.635)	0.000*
Education level (others level vs. postgraduate)	1.450	4.263 (2.206-8.236)	0.000*
Employment status (unemployed vs. employed)	-1.215	0.297 (0.158-0.558)	0.006*

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