



Front Line Health Workers' (FLWs) Perceptions and Opinions on their Personal Safety while Attending Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Patients in Bangladesh

Timeline: 31st March- ongoing

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Brief Overview: This research brings up how imperative it is to safeguard the FLWs with necessary amenities so that they can attend the suspected/confirmed COVID-19 patients without any hesitation and stress. This quick telephone survey was done to elicit the perceptions of the FLWs regarding personal safety against contracting the infection when attending suspected/confirmed COVID-19 patients. Besides their opinions on the problem of shortage and recommendations on how to resolve it so that the misunderstanding before the media/policy makers/people is mitigated and their morale is boosted

to serve the humanity. 75% doctors and nurses and around 40% of the support staff got PPE after COVID-19 outbreak; however, quality of the PPEs supplied was questioned by respondents. The FLWs wanted proper protection (PPE and others) for all for handling patients in community transmission stage in preference to monetary incentives. Not all FLWs got necessary training on COVID-19 disease, its management and prevention, and use of PPE. Concerns for spreading the infection to family members was precipitating mental health problems (stress, anxiety, insomnia) of the FLWs, affecting their performance along with becoming physically exhausted from continued duty without proper rest and food. The respondents were not content about the role played by different professional associations during Covid-19 crisis.

Methodology: This time-bond survey adopted a cross-sectional design of mixed method approach. Data were collected during the six days from 9 to 14 Apr. 2020 the under lock-down condition with telephone interview. Descriptive analysis was done for the quantitative data and qualitative data were thematically analyzed.

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