Research Supervisors:
•Dr. Ibrahim Eltayeb
•Dr.Amal Hussein

The Impact of COVID-19 on Medical Research Perceived by Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH

Hoor Aldarraji, Albaraa Marwan, Othman Mohammad, Gana Tahmaz, Raghad Alsaleh

1) INTRODUCTION

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a disease that spreads from person to person. Therefore, several limitations were imposed, including a stay-at-home policy, lockdown, and travel limits. The research system was put under strain during COVID, Researchers were unable to conduct experiments, or participant recruitment (Weiner et al., 2020), causing a pause in data gathering. While remote research is possible, many studies cannot run for long periods of time without direct contact with participants (Colbert et al., 2020)

2) AIM

The study's main objective is to assess the unintended consequences of COVID-19 on different areas of medical research among medical researches, and to recognize the need for solutions, and to assess the change of productivity of medical research during COVID-19.

3) METHODOLOGY

This is a cross-sectional study, with 100 participants, that took part in a self- administered questionnaire that covered 3 main sections:

1.Demographics
2.Research activities
3.Affection of research conduction.

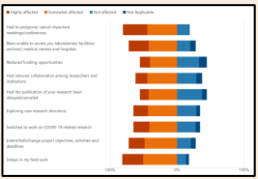
The data was collected by sending the questionnaire via an email to the targeted population, The data was then imported to SPSS to be coded, and analysed. Chi-square test was used for the bivariate analysis. The level of significance was set to 5%.

4) RESULTS

Sociodemographic:

•Among 101 participants, 61.39% were men.
•Around 45% were aged between 42-50 years old.
•40% of the participants were established researchers, and most of them (40%) were from the college of medicine.

Research activities:



- Researchers who didn't conduct cross-sectional studies were 2.75 times more likely to feel threatened that their area of research will be lost.
- Senior researchers were 5.68 times more likely to be affected in their accessibility to facilities, archives, or medical centres than established researchers.
- Gender, college, level of researcher, and type of study design had no significant impact on the number of research projects done during COVID-19.
- Level of researcher and the research type showed no significant impact on the time spent on research conductance.

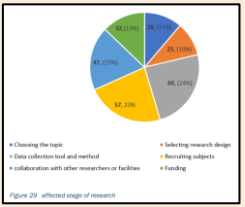


Figure 29 affected stage of research

6) CONCLUSION

Covid-19 showed a little impact on research conductance. However, it appeared that it only caused few obstacles on medical research with regards to accessibility to certain facilities. This may raise a need for new methods that can make researches be conducted more smoothly.
Limitations:

5) DISCUSSION

- Recruiting subjects was the most challenging stage in research conductance during COVID-19.
- Cross-sectional & case-control studies had a less impact on the level of threat among researchers which can be explained by the effect of distancing guidelines.
- Senior researchers were shown to be highly affected by their accessibility to facilities and medical centres which is expected as they were more involved into lab work.
- Other variables showed no significant effect, which may explain that COVID-19 had no significant impact on the conductance process of research.
- Our study was the first to discuss these relations, so, there is no comparable results in literature.

7) LIMITATIONS

- Low number of participants (101).
- Participants were mostly from the college of medicine.

RECOMMENDATIONS

it's important for the researcher to identify the current obstacles that can be faced. We therefore recommend the researcher to be more flexible in conducting the research by other ways available to avoid any risks and complications related to COVID-19.

9) REFERENCES