ADHERENCE TO COVID APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOURS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN THE MARKET PLACES IN MANIPUR: A MIXED- METHOD STUDY

(PRIYA LAIKHURAM, YANAL UMAR, POOJA AKOIJAM, BROGEN SINGH AKOIJAM)
MANIPUR UNIVERSITY, REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, IMPHAL, MANIPUR

INTRODUCTION

In the aftermath of the second wave of COVID-19 and reopening of lockdowns and restrictions in Manipur, adherence to the precautionary measures stated by the Government of India is important to prevent further surges.

OBJECTIVES

- To determine the extent of adherence to COVID appropriate behaviours in the market places
- To explore the barrier and facilitators regarding the CAB adherence among general public

METHODS

A mixed-method study was conducted from August 25th-September 23rd 2021 in five districts of Manipur among the market vendors, policemen, consumers, who came to the selected location during the time of our study. Estimated sample size was 1275 and convenience sampling was done

STUDY INSTRUMENTS

- Predesigned and pretested checklist
- Interview guide
- Smartphone

DATA COLLECTION

- Quantitative data was collected by fully observational non-participatory method using the checklist.
- Qualitative data was collected using the interview guide.

ETHICAL ISSUES

- Approval sought from the Research Ethics Board, RIMS

DATA ANALYSIS

- Descriptive were expressed in frequencies and proportions.
- Chi-square test, Fishers exact test to check for association between categorical variables (p-value <0.05).
- Qualitative data were transcribed per verbatim and translated into English and back translation was done
- Inductive analysis of the transcripts were done

RESULTS
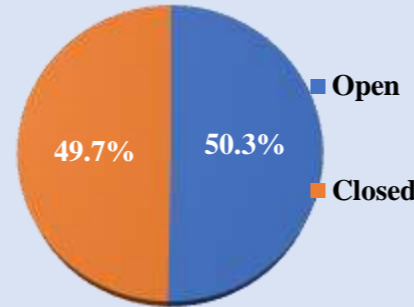
Total observations=1468
Total in-depth interviews=21

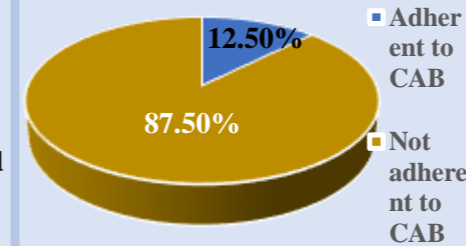Fig1: Distribution of the observations based on the type of market (N=1468)

Fig2: Distribution of the observations based on adherence to CAB (N=1468)
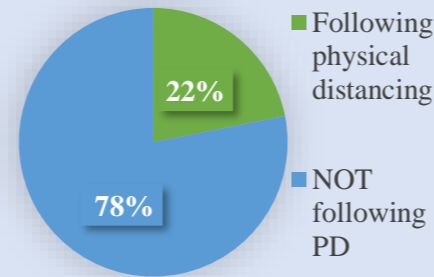

Fig3: Distribution of the observations based on whether people were following physical distancing (N=1468)
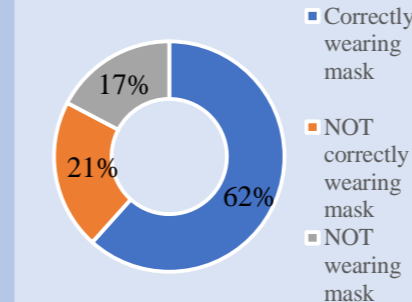

Fig4: Distribution of the observations based on whether people were wearing mask correctly or not (N=1468)

Table1: Association of adherence to CAB with districts (N=1468)

District	Adherence to CAB		p-value
	Yes, n (%)	No, n (%)	
Imphal East	60 (32.8)	299 (23.3)	0.000
Imphal West	70 (38.3)	379 (29.5)	
Thoubal	14 (7.7)	231 (18.0)	
Bishnupur	31 (16.9)	211 (16.4)	
Churachandpur	8 (4.3)	165 (12.8)	

BARRIERS

"We don't like to wear mask it's suffocating"
Customer from Imphal West

"Many people are living as if forgetting the movie when the show is over"
Shopkeeper from Thoubal

FACILITATORS

" At first we used to have a hard time controlling the public, but now I should say people have better understanding and they are taking proper precautions"
Policeman from Imphal East

CONCLUSION

- 9 in 10 interactions were not adherent to CAB
- Majority of the people were wearing mask correctly
- 8 in 10 person were not maintaining physical distancing during the interaction
- Understanding the situations of COVID-19, relaxed attitude of the public, difficulty to carry out duty with prolonged usage of mask were some of the barriers and facilitators to adhere CAB.

STRENGTHS

- First study of its kind in Manipur
- Mixed-method study
- Could cover large population within a short period of our study time

LIMITATION

- No proper sampling was done
- Our observations were short and subjective
- All districts of Manipur could not be covered

REFERENCES

- Rahimi, Z., Shirali, G.A., Araban, M. et al. Mask use among pedestrians during the Covid-19 pandemic in Southwest Iran: an observational study on 10,440 people. BMC Public Health 21, 133 (2021).
- Miller ZD, Freimund W, Dalenberg D, Vega M. Observing COVID-19 related behaviors in a high visitor use area of Arches National Park. Plos one. 2021 Feb 22;16(2):e0247315.

Presenting Author: Priya Laikhuram,8731916434, priyalaikhuram@gmail.com