

TEST CONSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT OF COVID-LED FEAR, ANXIETY AND CHANGE IN PRACTICE PATTERNS AMONG INDIAN DOCTORS

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The study aims to determine the feelings of fear, anxiety brewing in the minds of doctors of general medical field and dentistry, which is associated with the change in their practice patterns due to Covid-19 pandemic. 96 doctors from medical field and 87 dentists (n=183) were administered a set of items, which were later developed in a test. Most Covid-19 studies in recent times, with similar objectives, tend to assess the change in practice patterns of the doctors using tests which are not psychometrically standardized. However, this study was able to determine the reliability, validity and other psychometric properties of the constructed test. The results of the test showed that the doctors' fear, anxiety and change in practice patterns were significantly associated with the field of practice (medical and dental) ($p < 0.000$). However, no association of the same was found with gender and working sector (public and private sector) of the doctors. Their fear and anxiety pertained to the risk of getting contacted with the virus and ultimately spreading it among their family members. The change in the practice patterns, since the covid-19 pandemic began, is reflected by the higher rates of sanitization of self and the patients. Most doctors agreed having higher usage of N-95 masks and alcohol based sanitizers in present times. The other findings have been discussed.
