

Serious Attention of Health Information Seeking Behavior in Covid-19 Pandemic

Dear Editor

Covid 19 viral disease (Coronavirus 2019) was created in December 2019 in Wuhan of China and it quickly spread around the world (1) and it is a serious issue for public sanitation, people's health and all societies on the planet. Like other pandemic diseases, people want to know what can be done to prevent and treat the disease. Considering that no specific controls and methods have yet been developed to prevent and treat this disease, the need for taking care of themselves and to prevent the prevalence of this disease is significant as well. People in affected communities should learn to protect themselves from the potential dangers and harms of the spread of this mysterious and novel virus. Having health information is the first step to achieve health, and health information is a relationship between health education and health promotion. So access to health information helps to learn more about health and choosing a healthy lifestyle. Health information covers a wide range of information that includes information about diseases, how to prevent and treat them which is one of the main concerns of most people (2). Health information-seeking behavior is widely considered as a way for people to gain information about health, illness, health promotion and health risks. Currently, lots of information about the spread of Covid-19 is being spread through new web media such as websites and social networks. Due to the current situation and the need for more people to stay at home and reduce

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Received: 31 July 2020

Accepted: 16 August 2020

Doi: 10.22038/jhl.2020.50864.1122

external traffic, the use of these media, especially social networks and media have also increased, and people usually use media to keep their information up to date and to be aware of the current situation. All these behaviors and communications allowed people to access the world of information about Covid-19. This information is not always valid and right. For instance, some people in social networks name the Coronavirus as a killer virus for no apparent reason, and in some cases, they call it as a common virus without any risk (3). Naturally, this information is directly related to people's self-care and prevention behaviors. Spreading and being easy to access a variety of information resources of websites causes that people and different users including citizens, collegians, students and people confront with this disease and they usually use these invalid resources to search relevant information and make health decisions.

Considering the difference in the level of different electronic literacy in individuals, the impact of these information, and people's experience and beliefs in determining their needs and health decisions (4), it is necessary to pay attention to the information-seeking behavior of the individuals in different societies.

Therefore, the institutions related to this issue and the health education and promotion specialists should do the necessary study on this field to improve information skills of the communities. Likewise, media professionals and medical librarians, due to having enough knowledge on information production and publishing infrastructure and familiarity with database identification type, can play an important role in finding the best behavioral model to deal with crises based on health information needs. Regarding the prevention, teaching information literacy, health literacy and explaining appropriate behaviors during a crisis is so important actions to save people's life (5). Then, learning what we need or need assessment and where, when and how to find the information to reply and answer a question or fulfill it is a serious

skill and need to pay much attention to it anyway.

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