

A Commentary on Individuals' Views about Hygienic Rules against Coronavirus Outbreak: Engaged, Disengaged, and Negligent Individuals

Introduction

With the outbreak of the coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19), the world has faced great challenges.^[1] To date, no effective and instant cure has been discovered for the disease. Hygienic observation by the public seems indispensable to prevent the spread of the disease.^[2] Because of that, as to COVID-19, three groups of individuals can be defined concerning hygiene information like this:

Group I: Hygienic Engaged: This group receives valid health information that has already been disseminated through dependable sources and they take an obligatory view of hygienic rules and regulations. Moreover, respect for the rules is highly recommended by these individuals. This group attempts to help promote both their health and their community health as well as prevent the coronavirus outbreak.

Group II: Hygienic Disengaged: Individuals in this group cannot access to the flow of accurate hygienic information or receive the information, but, in practice, they do not adhere to the embedded hygienic rules. Nonetheless, the number of these individuals, like the first group, is not great in the society.

Group III: Hygiene Negligent: It can be claimed that a large number of individuals in the society belong to this group, especially in the early days of the crisis. These individuals sometimes observe hygienic rules and sometimes not; therefore, hygienic-rule observation by these individuals does not follow a consistent and predictable manner. Because of that, these individuals can be defined as a chief agent for the further coronavirus outbreak.

Mention should be made that although the individuals try to preserve their distance with hygienic disengaged, the hygiene negligent hygienic behavior is not predictable, which in turn is an important issue in reining the coronavirus outbreak.

The hygienic rules are not gone by because of various reasons. Indeed, falling foul of hygienic rules against coronavirus outbreak leads to undesirable consequences; this way, healthcare authorities need to adopt more

speculative position. Therefore, efforts in the healthcare system need to be devoted to increase public awareness.

Conclusions

Attention to hygienic rules is the prerequisite to cope with this disease. On the one hand, the media and crisis management agencies need to provide accurate information for individuals, seeing as circulating of false information can be an important factor for discounting the hygienic rules in the societies. In tandem, hygienic rules should provide feasible conditions. Fundamental movements for active engagement involve teaching multiliteracy (viz., information literacy, health literacy, health information literacy) by medical librarians to institutionalize hygienic rules. Besides, incentive and punitive policies, along with education, are inevitable. This paper is based on the authors' viewpoints; thus, to tackle this crisis other researchers are invited to conduct more far-reaching studies.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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