

Level of Active Mental Health-Related Mass Media Female Students the during COVID-19 Pandemic

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Letter to Editor

The pandemic spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus that causes COVID-19 made a pathetic travel of Feb 2020 at Wuhan City, China [1]. Alarming demographic data's issued by WHO reveals that nearly 83,652 cases have been reported with corona infection globally until 28 February 2020 [2,3]. The closure of educational institutions, and the introduction of measures of limited population movement caused by the pandemic COVID-19 [4], represents a possibility of disrupting the healthy living habits of the student population [3], as a consequence of limited movement. Mass media a pivotal role during this unprecedented pandemic [4] in the way that people predominantly use the Internet to contact each other [5,6] and acquire information and strict lockdown restrictions imposed by authorities around the world. Health-related mental issues could lead to spikes in online information search [7], therefore, this letter aims to investigate level of active mental health-related mass media. The sample of respondents were female (n=357; 22.84 ± 5.69 years of age), Students from University of Belgrade. The survey question was completed using Google Forms forms, which are posted on the websites of all organizational units of the University of Belgrade in the period from 5 May 2020 to 24 May 2020. The obtained survey results were automatically exported to the Google spreadsheet. Response analysis was evaluated using Office programs such as Excel and SPSS 21 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA) in relation to the relevant percentage values of the frequency of responses obtained. When asked when they listen to mass media reports about the increase in the number of people infected with COVID-19, 58.2% of female students feel concerned. When asked if they breathe fast and feel their heart beating, which has not happened to them before, 66.7% of female students answered that this is happening to them, and when asked if they are worried about their health, which could be affected by COVID-19virus infection 85.5% answered that they were worried about their health. From the above, we can

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conclude how much the mass media have a negative impact on the mental health of female students. With the incidence and prevention of Covid-19 disease [8], health, social and economic aspects need to be re-examined and redefined [9]. Therefore, new mental health requirements should undoubtedly be set in many professions, industries and the mass media. Finally, positive coping and negative coping partially mediates the relationship between mental health and mass media.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests.

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