

Impact of Covid-19 on Health Perspectives and Job Performance of Elementary and Secondary School Teachers

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Background

The Covid-19 pandemic increased the need for infection control measures in schools. It was added to school teachers' s roles. It is certain their burden increased; however, the impact is not yet fully understood. These findings can be used to inform future crisis management regarding infection prevention in schools.

Aim of the study

The purpose of this study is to determine how the Covid-19 pandemic affected school teachers' health awareness. Furthermore, it clarifies how infection prevention measures and actions taken when children were infected with Covid-19 affected teachers' educational activities in their schools.

Methods

A questionnaire was administered to 2,262 elementary and secondary school teachers between January and February 2021. Prior to that, permission was obtained from the Ethics Review Committee and the school principals. Participants were questioned about changes in their own health awareness as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as about changes in workload and stress related to educational activities during the outbreak. Data were statistically analyzed.

Results

Valid responses were received from 1,018 respondents (54.3%). 668 (65.6%) reported their health awareness had changed as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak. Women were significantly more likely to report a change (men 58.7%, women 70.0%, $p < .000$). An increase in workload was reported by 445 (71.1%). The most stressful factor was "educational activities while preventing infection" (63.8%), followed by "fear of infection during educational activities" (62.6%).

Conclusions and implications

Teachers are anxious and stressed about infection. Effective support is needed to decrease teachers' workload and anxiety.