**Table S3: Questionnaire on Social Media Use**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | | | | | | | | |  | | | | | **N** | | | | **%** | | | |
| On an average, how much time you spent in a day on social media platforms? | | | | | | | | | | Upto 1 hour | | | | | 395 | | | | 51.50 | | | |
| Upto 2 hour | | | | | 194 | | | | 25.29 | | | |
| 3 hours and more | | | | | 178 | | | | 23.21 | | | |
| Which information you mostly search on these platforms during the pandemic? | | | | | | | | | | COVID-19 related News | | | | | 483 | | | | 62.97 | | | |
| Other news | | | | | 284 | | | | 37.03 | | | |
| How often did you search information related to COVID-19 pandemic on social media? | | | | | | | | | | Not at all | | | | | 78 | | | | 10.17 | | | |
| Rarely | | | | | 100 | | | | 13.04 | | | |
| Sometimes | | | | | 300 | | | | 39.11 | | | |
| Often | | | | | 249 | | | | 32.46 | | | |
| A lot of the times | | | | | 40 | | | | 5.22 | | | |
| Do you think that COVID-19 news on social media cause panic | | | | | | | | | | Yes | | | | | 332 | | | | 43.29 | | | |
| No | | | | | 435 | | | | 56.71 | | | |
| **EXTENT OF INFORMATION SUPPORT RECEIVED ONLINE** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | **Didn’t receive at all** | | | **Received rarely** | | | | | **Received occasionally** | | | **Received regularly** | | | | | **Received a great deal** | | | |
|  | | | **N** | | **%** | **N** | | **%** | | | **N** | **%** | | **N** | | | **%** | | **N** | | **%** | |
| Information regarding the scientific facts (e.g., symptoms, causes of the disease) related to the pandemic | | | 17 | | 2.22 | 57 | | 7.43 | | | 244 | 31.81 | | 424 | | | 55.28 | | 25 | | 3.26 | |
| Information regarding how to prevent contracting the virus | | | 23 | | 3.00 | 117 | | 15.25 | | | 246 | 32.07 | | 353 | | | 46.02 | | 28 | | 3.65 | |
| Information regarding the spreading of the virus | | | 51 | | 6.65 | 151 | | 19.69 | | | 187 | 24.38 | | 347 | | | 45.24 | | 31 | | 4.04 | |
| Information regarding the sources and resources to give and receive social support during the pandemic | | | 62 | | 8.08 | 175 | | 22.82 | | | 210 | 27.38 | | 299 | | | 38.98 | | 21 | | 2.74 | |
| **CYBERCHONDRIA** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **Completely Disagree** | | | **Somewhat Disagree** | | | **Somewhat Agree** | | | | **Mostly Agree** | | **Completely Agree** | | | | |  | |  | |  |
|  | **N** | **%** | | **N** | **%** | | **N** | | **%** | | **N** | **%** | **N** | | | **%** | | **Mean** | | **SD1** | | **95% CL2** |
| I feel frightened after reading information about COVID-19 online | 193 | 25.16 | | 246 | 32.07 | | 227 | | 29.60 | | 51 | 6.65 | 50 | | | 6.52 | | 2.373 | | 1.124 | | 0.080 |
| I feel frustrated after reading information about COVID-19 online | 215 | 28.03 | | 229 | 29.86 | | 227 | | 29.60 | | 41 | 5.35 | 55 | | | 7.17 | | 2.338 | | 1.150 | | 0.082 |
| After reading information about COVID-19 online, I feel confused | 269 | 35.07 | | 236 | 30.77 | | 189 | | 24.64 | | 20 | 2.61 | 53 | | | 6.91 | | 2.155 | | 1.141 | | 0.081 |
| Once I start reading information about COVID-19 online, it is hard for me to stop | 255 | 33.25 | | 238 | 31.03 | | 177 | | 23.08 | | 38 | 4.95 | 59 | | | 7.69 | | 2.228 | | 1.185 | | 0.084 |
| **TOTAL SCORE** |  |  | |  |  | |  | |  | |  |  |  | | |  | | **9.094** | | **4.051** | | **0.287** |
| **INFORMATION OVERLOAD** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I am often distracted by the excessive amount of information on multiple channels/sources about COVID-19 | 231 | 30.12 | | 166 | 21.64 | | 257 | | 33.51 | | 63 | 8.21 | 50 | | | 6.52 | | 2.394 | | 1.182 | | 0.084 |
| I find that I am overwhelmed (strong emotional effect) by the amount of information that I process on a daily basis from multiple channels/sources about COVID-19 | 85 | 11.08 | | 126 | 16.43 | | 357 | | 46.54 | | 154 | 20.08 | 45 | | | 5.87 | | 2.932 | | 1.020 | | 0.072 |
| I receive too much information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic to form a coherent picture of what is happening | 40 | 5.22 | | 94 | 12.26 | | 296 | | 38.59 | | 222 | 28.94 | 115 | | | 14.99 | | 3.362 | | 1.044 | | 0.074 |
| **TOTAL SCORE** |  |  | |  |  | |  | |  | |  |  |  | | |  | | **8.688** | | **2.565** | | 0.182 |
| **PERCEIVED VULNERABILITY** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I am vulnerable to contracting COVID-19 in given circumstances | 227 | 29.60 | | 323 | 42.11 | | 135 | | 17.60 | | 41 | 5.35 | 41 | | | 5.35 | | 2.147 | | 1.071 | | 0.076 |
| I don't think I am likely to get the COVID-19+ | 236 | 30.77 | | 126 | 16.43 | | 166 | | 21.64 | | 164 | 21.38 | 75 | | | 9.78 | | 2.630 | | 1.366 | | 0.097 |
| I am at risk of catching the COVID-19 | 351 | 45.76 | | 282 | 36.77 | | 67 | | 8.74 | | 15 | 1.96 | 52 | | | 6.78 | | 1.872 | | 1.104 | | 0.078 |
| **TOTAL SCORE** |  |  | |  |  | |  | |  | |  |  |  | | |  | | **6.649** | | **2.402** | | **0.170** |

1. Standard deviation

2. 95% Confidence Limit

+ - The responses are reversed