

Lessons from COVID-19 Pandemic: Insights from a Regional Perspective in Country Georgia

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Abstract:

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the profound social, economic, and health disparities faced by vulnerable populations, particularly women and girls in regions with entrenched gender norms. This study explores the impact of COVID-19 on women in Samtskhe-Javakheti, Georgia, a region marked by limited resources and a significant rural population. Conducted in June 2021, the survey assessed the knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding COVID-19 prevention, treatment, and vaccination among healthcare professionals and citizens. Findings revealed high awareness of COVID-19 symptoms, transmission methods, and preventive measures, yet vaccine uptake was notably low. Resource limitations, including insufficient personal protective equipment, and a reliance on television and social media for information were also identified. The study highlights the crucial role of primary healthcare services, the need for equitable access to health supplies, and the importance of targeted educational campaigns to combat vaccine hesitancy. The research provides valuable insights into the gendered impact of the pandemic, the resilience of women, and the need for inclusive public health policies to address future pandemics, emphasizing the importance of tailoring responses to regional contexts in Georgia.

Keywords:

Pandemic, Public Health Response, Population Experience, Regional Context.