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**IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN PRIVATE DENTAL PRACTICE IN WEST BENGAL: A CROSS-SECTIONAL SURVEY**

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**ABSTRACT**

Background: Coronavirus diseases (COVID-19) is a public health emergency of international concern. The dental professionals are considered to be at high risk, as most of the treatments may lead to the spread of infection due to direct proximity with saliva, blood, and aerosols generation. This sutvey aimed to analyze the impact of post-COVID-19 concerning private dental practice by registered dental practitioners in West Bengal.

Methodology: A self-designed questionnaire written in the English language, and sent via online mode by a link was created using Google documents among five hundred private dental practitioners using the Email address and WhatsApp groups. After 1 month two hundred and seven (207) responses were collected from Google form and Google Excel sheets were downloaded and sent for statistical analysis.

Results: Among the participants 98.6% felt that COVID-19 pandemic affected their income though practice continued by 95.2% with reduced frequency. Educating the patient regarding Covid-19 was done by leaflet 10.1%, banners 38.2%, audio-visual 33.3%, and verbally 18.4%. N-95 mask, surgical mask, eyewear, face-shield are used by 83.6% surgeons and hand protection was done by nitrile gloves 56.5%, latex gloves 10.1%, plastic gloves 1.4%, and double surgical gloves 10.1%. Aerosol-generating procedures is continuing in 90.8% clinic whereas 76.8% installed extraoral gadgets like extraoral suction, fumigator, HEPA filter, and UV light.

Conclusion: COVID-19 pandemic has affected the dental practice and economy of dental surgeon. Good number of surgeons installed extra-oral gadgets. Widespread education and modified practice may solve the problem partially.

Keywords: Coronavirus, Questionnaire, Survey.