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Dear Editor,

We highly appreciate your efforts and consideration on our manuscripts' as a possible publication, and please convey our hearty thanks to referee for his constructive and positive comments and suggestions. We have revised this Manuscript carefully according to their suggestions. The details of comments and their answer are given below.

Comment The authors have conducted an online survey of 1,006 general public to evaluate the awareness about corona virus pandemic. Based on the survey a small percentage is still lacking awareness about current COVID-19 pandemic. The study also finds respondents in rural areas and those who have lower education tend to have lower knowledge about the disease. and these factors also seem to influence the knowledge about adverse consequence of COVID-19 and precautions to be taken. The authors have conducted statistical analysis to support their conclusions. The study does provide an insight into source of health information to general public and this can provide guidance to healthcare policy makers to prepare and inform public for future healthcare crisis.

Comment 1:

The manuscript still has several grammatical errors. e.g., Core tip: Capitalize the first letter Introduction: 'as well as the global ' This might sound better 'eventually to the rest of the world' Syndemic as a group of interlinked --should it it be? ' Syndemic is a group of interlinked ' Several statements start with a number Results: . 62.9% of participants were female. Starting a sentence with a number is usually not recommended. May change to 'Approximately 63%' There are several more of these

Response: These suggestions have been incorporated in the revised submission.

Comment 2: Discussion: The following statements need to be revised: please see comments below "These observations highlight the lack of engagement of doctors, practitioners, healthcare officials in elevating general public knowledge and awareness



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about different aspects of COVID-19.

Response: this statement has been revised accordingly.

“As 37% of participants belong to the rural area and rural area people do not regularly engage with doctors, practitioners, and healthcare officials. This might be the possible cause of the low level of knowledge and awareness about different aspects of COVID-19”.

Comment 3: Not sure if this is an accurate statement. Reachability of social media significantly large, this is because it is a mode of communication as well as a source of entertainment to the general population. A lot of times healthcare providers spread the awareness using social media. Social media being the source of health information doesn't not mean lack of engagement by healthcare workers. Authors need to revise this before publication. "Interestingly, WhatsApp and Facebook were not the main source of information for respondents in mainland China therefore information and recommendations regarding COVID-19 and other diseases from international stakeholders like WHO should be communicated through Chinese local social media platforms such as WeChat and QQ. " Again, this statement needs to be revised to suggest healthcare agencies should use all resources to bring awareness among the public rather than to say because majority use one source that should be the only source. This will defeat the purpose. Also, the authors do not provide any solution as to what would help to improve the awareness among general public. Also, authors need to discuss what the consequences of lack of awareness are and discuss of possible approaches to improve awareness based on historical studies. Authors could previous papers e.g.PMID: 25932483. Authors do not have to confine themselves to this particular study, but rather use it as a guide.

Response: This comment has been edited according to referee suggestion.

“Interestingly, WhatsApp and Facebook were not the main source of information for



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respondents in mainland China therefore information and recommendations regarding COVID-19 and other diseases from international stakeholders like WHO **should use all resources to elevate knowledge and awareness among the public**". Referee suggested pervious paper is about patients but our study is about general people knowledge and awareness. Therefore, we think, it cannot use here.

We revised our manuscript according to referee recommendation. Thank you again for your attention on these revisions. We look forward your last decision.

Sincerely,

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Guest editorial in frontiers in Microbiology

Member of Editorial of BMC Infectious diseases