

# Fear of COVID 19 Pandemic: A case study in Iran

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## Abstract

© 2020 Lahore Medical And Dental College. All rights reserved. Background: In December of last year, Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) was first identified in Wuhan, China. The disease is likely to have serious consequences, especially for the physical and mental health of individuals. Aim: To investigate the fear of coronavirus spreading and the feeling created after seeing a foreign tourist in Yazd is located in the center of Iran. Methods: This cross-sectional study was conducted in February 2020 in the city of Yazd (before and after start the epidemic of COVID-19 in IR). Subjects were entered this research by convenience sampling method. Data gathering tool was a checklist and collected data were entered into IBM SPSS Statistics 18 software and analyzed with descriptive statistics (frequency and percentage) and Chi-square test. Results: A total of 399 subjects were examined. The results of this study showed that the fear of the disease in before period was 40.1% and was significantly increased up to 84.5% during after period (P value <0.001). Also, the fear and stigma caused by seeing a foreign tourist was significantly higher in after period compared to the before period (P value <0.001). Conclusion: The results of this study showed that fear of COVID-19 among people had been doubled after the official report of the first case of Iran. Meanwhile, the fear due to seeing foreign tourists had been higher in after start epidemic in IR than before start epidemic. Therefore, it is recommended that educational and prevention programs should be developed to control fear in individuals.