

Desalegn Feyissa^{1*}, Fikadu Ejeta¹, Yitagesu Mamo¹, Gizachew Ayele², Dessalegn Mulata², Andualem Henok³, Abyot Asres³

1.School of Pharmacy, College of Medicine and Health science, Mizan-Tepi University, Mizan-Aman, Ethiopia

2.Department of Medical laboratory science, College of Medicine and Health science, Mizan-Tepi University, Mizan-Aman, Ethiopia

3.School of Public Health, College of Medicine and Health science, Mizan-Tepi University, Mizan-Aman, Ethiopia

Corresponding Author:

Desalegn Feyissa * Email: sinaawayya@gmail.com Phone [+251917127556](tel:+251917127556)

Main findings: Low income status (AOR=2.71, CI; 1.18-6.19), single marital status (AOR=15.47, CI; 1.96-12.19), Lack of formal education (AOR=11.67, CI; 4.97-9.10), farmer (AOR=2.31, CI; 2.12-3.45) were significantly associated with non-utilization of alcohol-based hand sanitizer for the prevention COVID-19.

BACKGROUND

Coronaviruses infections are emerging respiratory viruses and known to cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to severe acute respiratory syndrome. The transmission of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases are frequent handwashing with soap, water and also applying alcohol-based hand sanitizers. Thus, this study aimed to assess the utilization pattern and counseling practices of alcohol-based hand sanitizers during the COVID-19 pandemic in Bench-Sheko zone, Southwest Ethiopia.

METHODS

Community-based cross-sectional study was conducted from April 28 to June 05, 2020. Data related to utilization of alcohol-based hand sanitizer were collected from the selected household using the multistage sampling technique, whereas data related to counseling practices were collected from pharmacy personnel found in the study setting. Data were entered into Epi data version 4.0.2 and then exported to statistical software package version 24.0 for data analysis. Crude odds ratio and adjusted odds ratio with 95% confidence interval were calculated to determine the predictors.

RESULTS

From a total of 806 sampled populations, 784 (97.02%) of the study population responded to the questionnaire. Out of 784 study participants, 226(28.8%) of them utilized alcohol-based hand sanitizer, whereas three fourth of them were non-alcohol-based hand sanitizer utilizer. Out of 29 pharmacy personnel, only 18(62.1%) of them counseled their client. Low income status (AOR=2.71, CI; 1.18-6.19), single marital status (AOR=15.47, CI; 1.96-12.19), Lack of formal education (AOR=11.67, CI; 4.97-9.10), farmer (AOR=2.31, CI; 2.12-3.45) were significantly associated with non-utilization of alcohol-based hand sanitizer for the prevention COVID-19. From a total of 784 study participants, 226(28.8%) utilized alcohol-based hand sanitizers (Figure 1).

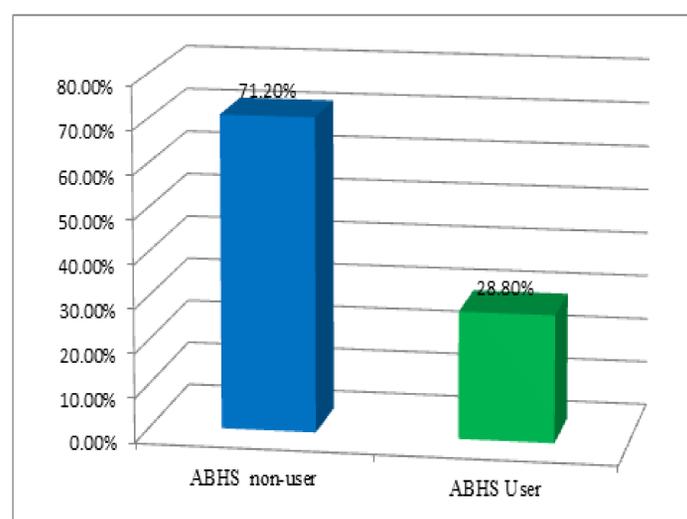


Figure 1: Prevalence of alcohol-based sanitizer(ABHS) utilization among study participant in Bench-Sheko zone, 2020

CONCLUSIONS

The utilization of alcohol based hand sanitizer in the study area was low. The major reasons for non-utilization of alcohol based hand sanitizers were non-accessibility and unaffordability of Alcohol based hand sanitizer. Being single marital status, low income status, lack of formal education and being farmer were significantly associated with non-utilization of alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Therefore, Mizan-Tepi University and other stake holders have to provide training on rational use and dispensing of ABHS for the community and pharmacy personnel respectively.

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MORE INFORMATION / REFERENCES

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