

Research Article

Short-term Studentship Project: KAP study on the Function of WHO

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Introduction

- WHO's first constitutional function is to act as the directing and coordinating authority on all international health work.
- The function permits WHO's Member States to identify collectively priority health problems throughout the world, to define collectively

health policies and targets to cope with them, to devise collectively strategies, principles and programmes to give effect to these policies and to attain targets

- The WHO also has specific responsibilities for establishing and promoting international health standards in the field of health

Broad classification of functions of WHO

1. Prevention and control of diseases
2. Development of Comprehensive Health Services
3. Family Health
4. Environmental Health
5. Health Statistics
6. Biomedical Research
7. Health Literature and information
8. Cooperation with other organization

AIM AND OBJECTIVE

- o assess the Functions of WHO
- To Analyse -How much do people know about WHO

METHODOLOGY

- Study type - Cross sectional study
- Area of Study - Rama Medical College, Hospital and Research Centre, Kanpur
- Period of Study - 1 Month (25th June 2025 to 25th July 2025)
- Study Group - All the Medical students, Interns, Doctors and Non Medical students of Rama Medical College and other Institutions
- Sample size - Total of 151 Responses collected

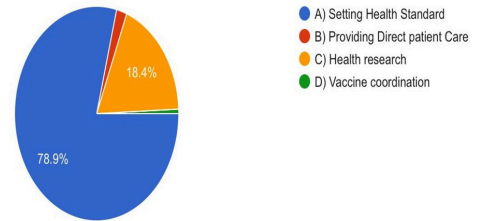
- Sampling Technique- Purposive sampling
- Tools-A basic pre-designed and pre - tested questionnaire bases Proforma
- Inclusion criteria -All the Doctors and Those students who take interest in learning about the work of WHO
- Exclusion criteria-Those who are not interested
- The consent was taken.They are assured about the confidentiality of the study and it would not be disclosed anywhere

Awareness of WHO functions analysis

Response Option	Number of Responses	Percentage (%)
Yes	142	94%
No	9	6%
Total	151	100%

2. Which of the following do you think is function of WHO?

147 responses

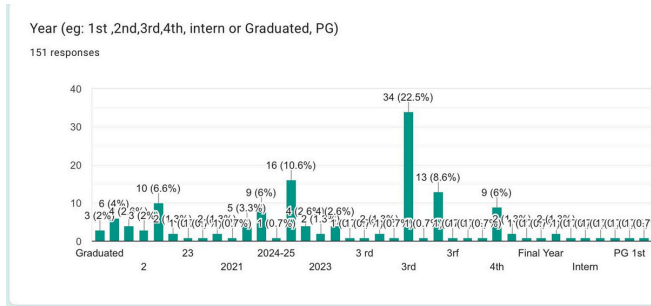


Which of the following do you think is the function of WHO?

Analytical Reports

The data is in the form of -

1. Bar graphs
2. Pie Charts



Analysis

Academic Year/Status	Number of Responses	Percentage (%)
Graduated	6	4.0%
2	10	6.6%
23	2	1.3%
2021	5	3.3%
2024-25	16	10.6%
2023	9	6.0%
3 rd	2	1.3%
3rd	34	22.5%
3rf	13	8.6%
4th	9	6.0%
Final Year	7	4.6%
Intern	7	4.6%
PG 1st	1	0.7%
Others/Unclear Labels	30	19.9%

Total Responses: 147

Option	Response Count (Approx.)	Percentage (%)
A) Setting Health Standard	116	78.9%
B) Providing Direct Patient Care	27	18.4%
C) Health Research	3	2.0%
D) Vaccine Coordination	1	0.7%
Total	147	100%

3. WHO is part of which international organization?

149 responses

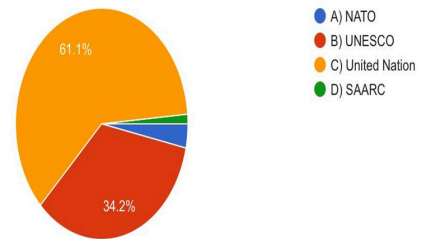
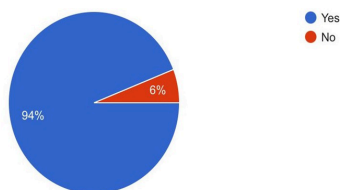


Table Analysis:

Answer Choice	Number of Responses	Percentage
NATO	≈ 5	3.3%
UNESCO	51	34.2%
United Nations	91	61.1%
SAARC	≈ 2	1.3%

1. Are you aware of the functions of WHO?

151 responses



Option	Color	Percentage
A) NATO	Blue	3.3% (approx.)
B) UNESCO	Red	34.2%
C) United Nations	Orange	61.1%
D) SAARC	Green	1.3% (approx.)

Option	Color	Percentage
A) NATO	Blue	3.3% (approx.)
B) UNESCO	Red	34.2%
C) United Nations	Orange	61.1%
D) SAARC	Green	1.3% (approx.)

Key Findings:

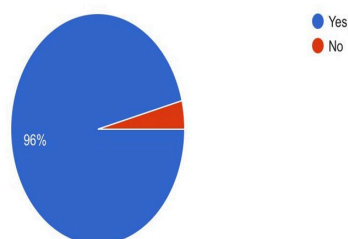
1. The majority of respondents (61.1%) correctly identified that WHO is part of the United Nations.
2. A significant proportion (34.2%) believed WHO is part of UNESCO.
3. A small percentage of respondents chose NATO (3.3%) or SAARC (1.3%).

Conclusion:

The survey results indicate that most respondents are aware of WHO's affiliation with the United Nations. However, a notable percentage confused WHO with UNESCO, suggesting a need for clarification on the roles and relationships between these international organizations.

4. Do you think WHO plays a role in global pandemic response?

151 responses



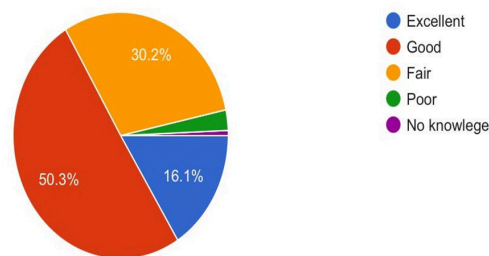
Response	Number of Responses	Percentage
Yes	145	96%
No	6	4%
Total	151	100%

Analysis:

The table analysis shows that out of 151 responses, 145 (96%) believe that the World Health Organization (WHO) plays a role in global pandemic response, while 6 (4%) do not. This indicates a strong consensus among the respondents regarding the WHO's role in responding to global pandemics. The data suggests that the vast majority of respondents acknowledge the WHO's involvement and importance in managing and responding to pandemics globally.

6. How would you rate your knowledge of WHO'S roles and responsibilities?

149 responses



Category	Percentage	Number of Responses
Excellent	16.1%	24
Good	50.3%	75
Fair	30.2%	45
Poor	3.4%	5
No knowledge	negligible	negligible

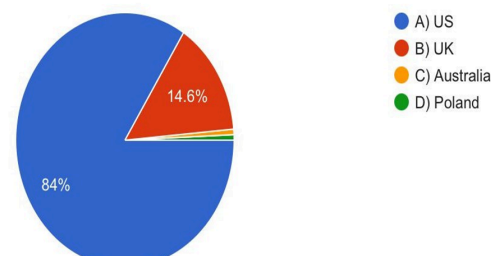
Analysis:

The tabular analysis provides a clear summary of the respondents' self-assessment of their knowledge regarding the World Health Organization's (WHO) roles and responsibilities. The majority of respondents (50.3%) rated their knowledge as "Good," followed by "Fair" (30.2%), and "Excellent" (16.1%). A small percentage rated their knowledge as "Poor" (3.4%), while the percentage for "No knowledge" is negligible.

This analysis suggests that most respondents have a positive perception of their understanding of WHO's roles and responsibilities, with a significant proportion considering their knowledge to be good or fair.

7. Who funds WHO?

144 responses



Option	Country	Percentage
A	US	84%
B	UK	14.6%
C	Australia	≈0.7%
D	Poland	≈0.7%

Total Responses: 144

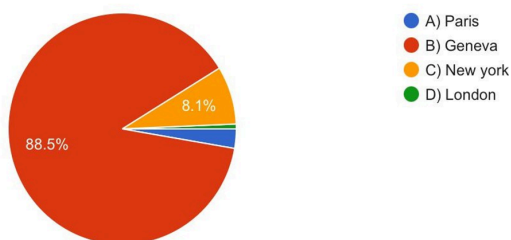
Interpretation:

The tabular analysis shows that the majority of the respondents (84%) believe that the US funds the World Health Organization (WHO). The UK is the second most chosen option at 14.6%. Australia and Poland together account for a very small percentage of the responses, approximately 1.4% combined.

This analysis suggests that among the respondents, there is a strong perception that the US is the primary funder of the WHO.

8. Where is the head quarter if WHO?

148 responses



City	Color Code	Percentage
Paris	Blue	4.1%
Geneva	Red	88.5%
New York	Orange	6.8%
London	Green	0.7%

Key Findings:

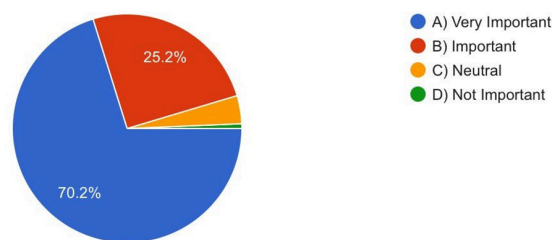
- The majority of respondents (88.5%) correctly identified Geneva as the WHO headquarters.
- New York received 6.8% of the responses, while Paris garnered 4.1%.
- London received the lowest percentage of responses at 0.7%.

Conclusion:

The pie chart and table analysis demonstrate that the majority of respondents are aware that the WHO headquarters is located in Geneva. The data suggests a high level of knowledge about the organization's location among the surveyed population.

9. In your opinion how important is WHO role in monitoring global pandemic

151 responses



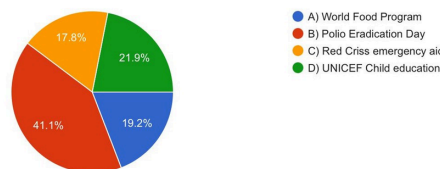
Category	Percentage	Number of Responses
Very Important	70.2%	106
Important	25.2%	38
Neutral	4.6%	7
Not Important	•	•

Analysis:

The majority of respondents (70.2%) consider the WHO's role in monitoring global pandemics as "Very Important", indicating a strong confidence in the organization's capabilities and importance. A significant portion (25.2%) also finds it "Important", further emphasizing the WHO's critical role. A small percentage (4.6%) remains "Neutral", suggesting some level of indifference or lack of strong opinion on the matter. The absence or minimal presence of "Not Important" responses underscores the general consensus on the WHO's significance in global health monitoring.

10. Which program is managed by WHO?

146 responses



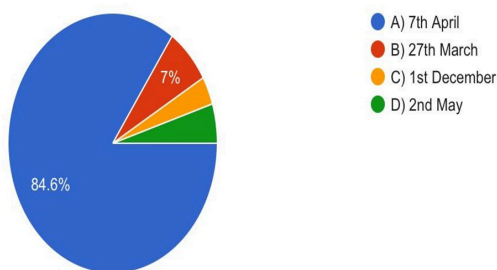
Program	Percentage of Responses
A) World Food Program	19.2%
B) Polio Eradication Day	41.1%
C) Red Cross emergency aid	17.8%
D) UNICEF Child education	21.9%

Therefore, the correct answer is B) Polio Eradication Day, which is supported by the fact that 41.1% of the respondents chose this option.

In conclusion, the tabular analysis confirms that the majority of respondents correctly identified Polio Eradication Day as the program managed by WHO.

11. World Health Day is celebrated on?

143 responses



Date	Number of Responses	Percentage
7th April	121	84.6%
27th March	10	7%
1st December	7	Approximately 4.9%
2nd May	5	Approximately 3.5%

The table clearly shows that the majority of respondents (84.6%) correctly identified World Health Day as being celebrated on 7th April.

DISCUSSION

- The survey provides valuable insights into the awareness and understanding of the World Health Organization (WHO) among respondents. A significant proportion (94%) of the participants reported being aware of WHO's functions. This is encouraging, given the crucial role WHO plays in global health governance [1]. However, only 78.9% correctly identified "Setting Health Standards" as a primary function, while others mistakenly believed direct patient care or vaccine coordination were core responsibilities. This highlights a knowledge gap that needs to be addressed through targeted educational interventions [2].
- In response to WHO's role during global pandemics, 96% acknowledged its critical involvement, showing a robust consensus. Such awareness is essential, especially in the wake of global crises like COVID-19, where WHO's coordination role has been central [3]. However, when asked which organization WHO is affiliated with, only 61.1% correctly identified the United Nations.

A substantial 34.2% confused WHO with UNESCO, reflecting a misunderstanding about international organizational structures. This underscores the importance of clarifying WHO's affiliations in public education initiatives [4].

- Self-assessment of knowledge revealed that over 80% of participants rated their understanding as "Good" or "Fair", while only 16.1% rated it as "Excellent." This suggests a moderate to high level of awareness but also room for improvement. A large majority (84%) believed that the US is the major funder of WHO, which aligns with funding data, although this perception may influence views on WHO's neutrality and independence [5].
- The majority of respondents (70.2%) viewed WHO's role in pandemic monitoring as "Very Important", further reinforcing the organization's perceived value in global health security. Yet, only 41.1% could correctly identify Polio Eradication Day as a WHO-managed program. Similar confusion was seen in identifying World Health Day and WHO's headquarters, although most respondents (84.6% and 88.5%, respectively) answered these correctly.
- These findings suggest that while general awareness of WHO exists, specific knowledge of its functions, affiliations, and managed programs needs strengthening through structured awareness campaigns and integration into health education curricula [6].

CONCLUSION

- The survey findings suggest that respondents possess a high level of awareness about the general roles and importance of the World Health Organization, particularly in global health governance and pandemic response. However, confusion persists regarding its specific functions, affiliations, and initiatives. While most participants rated their knowledge as "Good" or "Fair," misconceptions about WHO's funding sources, program

responsibilities, and organizational connections were evident.

- To bridge these knowledge gaps, public health communication strategies must emphasize clarity about WHO's role, structure, and global impact. Training sessions, awareness drives, and inclusion of international health topics in medical and public health education can foster a more accurate understanding of WHO among health professionals and the general public.

Questionnaire

1. Are you aware of the functions of WHO? Yes/No
2. Which of the following do you think is function of WHO?
 - a) Setting health standard
 - b) providing direct patient care
 - c) health research
 - d) vaccine coordination
3. WHO is part of which international organization?
 - a) Setting health standard
 - b) providing direct patient care
 - c) health research
 - d) vaccine coordination
4. Do you think WHO plays a role in global pandemic response? Yes/ No / Not sure
5. Have you heard of any global health campaign led by WHO. If yes, then name any one campaign
6. How would you rate your knowledge of WHO'S roles and responsibilities
Excellent
Good
Average
Poor
No knowledge
7. Who funds WHO?
 - a) US
 - b) UK
 - c) Australia
 - d) Poland
8. Where is the head quarter if WHO?
 - a) Paris
 - b) Geneva
 - c) New York
 - d) London

9. In your opinion how important is WHO role in monitoring global pandemic

- a) Very important
 - b) Important
 - c) Neutral
 - d) Not important
10. Which program is managed by WHO?
- a) World Food program
 - b) Polio eradication day
 - c) Red cross emergency aid
 - d) UNICEF child education
11. World health day is celebrated on?
- a) 7th April
 - b) 27th March
 - c) 1st December
 - d) 2nd May

12. How does WHO help during global pandemic like COVID-19. Explain in few words..?

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Additional Information:

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