COVID-19 PANDEMIC: EFFECTS OF MOVEMENT CONTROL ORDER

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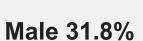*Institut Penyelidikan Tingkahlaku Kesihatan*

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INTRODUCTION

Currently, Malaysian are facing new challenges with the impact of COVID-19 especially with the enforcement of the Movement Control Order (MCO). This pandemic is creating a significant impact on every individual and overall population; lifestyles changes, food access issues, panic buying, family relationships, financial disruptions and beyond. This study aims to identify the difference of the effects of MCO with selected demographics.

METHODOLOGY

1 An online survey was conducted on the 4th week of MCO.

2 Independent T-Test were used to identify the difference between effects of MCO with gender while One-Way ANOVA were used for age group, household income and marital status.

3 A total of 9,987 respondents aged 18 years and above participated in this study

4 Questions on MCO enforcement, family relationship, panic buying, work or study from home and financial issues were included in the online survey

RESULTS & FINDINGS

Gender

Male 31.8%   Female 68.2%

Age

13.2%	Age 18 – 25
30.1%	Age 26 – 35
34.1%	Age 36 – 45
17.5%	Age 46- 55
5.1%	Age 56 and above

Marital Status

Single : 28.4%
Married : 67.8%
Divorce : 3.8%

Household income

< RM4,000 : 30.5%
RM4,001 - RM8,000 : 42.3%
>RM8,001 : 27.2%

Race

Malay : 81.8%
Others : 18.2%

Table 1: Independent T-Test for Gender Differences with Effects of MCO

Variable	Mean (S.D)		t value (df)	p value
	Male	**Female**		
Effects of MCO	35.46 (6.549)	103.17 (6.526)	1.721 (9895)	0.085

Table 2: One Way ANOVA summary for Effects of MCO

Variable	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig. (p)
Age				
Between Groups	4	90.685	2.125	0.075
Within Groups	9892	42.673		
Household income				
Between Groups	2	62.751	1.470	0.230
Within Groups	9894	42.689		
Marital Status				
Between Groups	2	170.422	3.994	0.018
Within Groups	9894	42.667		
Race				
Between Groups	5	102.834	2.410	0.034
Within Groups	9891	42.662		

DISCUSSION / CONCLUSION

This study found a significant difference between the effects of MCO with marital status and race (p<0.05), but there were no differences between the effects of MCO with gender, household income and age group (p>0.05).

Continuous efforts in developing and conveying tailored messages to the specific target group such as urge the public to keep calm, do not panic for unreasonable or unnecessary matters and seek social and spiritual support are crucial in facing all challenges of the pandemic.

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