

1 **Supplementary Material:**

2 Additional file 1: COREQ 32-ITEM CHECKLIST

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No. Item	Guide questions/description	Reported on Page #
Domain 1: Research team and reflexivity		
1. Inter viewer/facilitator	Which author/s conducted the interview?	Page # 8 (Data Collection Procedure)
2. Credentials	What were the researcher's credentials?	Page # 8 (Data Collection Procedure)
3. Occupation	What was their occupation at the time of the study?	Page # 8 (Data Collection Procedure)
4. Gender	Was the researcher male or female?	Page # 8 (Data Collection Procedure)
5. Experience and training	What experience or training did the researcher have?	Page # 8 (Data Collection Procedure)
6. Relationship with participants established	Was a relationship established prior to study commencement?	Page # 8 (Data Collection Procedure)
7. Participant knowledge of the interviewer	What did the participants know about the researcher?	Page # 8 (Data Collection Procedure)
8. Interviewer characteristics	What characteristics were reported about the inter viewer/facilitator?	Page # 8 (Data Collection Procedure)
Domain 2: study design		
9. Methodological orientation and Theory	What methodological orientation was stated to underpin the study?	NA
10. Sampling	How were participants selected?	Page # 8 (Data Collection Methods and study participants)
11. Method of approach	How were participants approached?	Page # 8 (Data Collection Procedure)
12. Sample size	How many participants were in the study?	Page # 9 (Result)
13. Non-participation	How many people refused to participate or dropped out? Reasons?	Page # 9 (Result)
14. Setting of data collection	Where was the data collected?	Page # 8 (Data Collection Procedure)
15. Presence of non-participants	Was anyone else present besides the participants and researchers?	Page # 8 (Data Collection Procedure)
16. Description of sample	What are the important characteristics of the sample?	Page # 8; Table 1 (Data Collection Methods and study participants)
17. Interview guide	Were questions, prompts, guides provided by the authors?	Additional file -2 In-Depth Interview Guide for interviewing community members
18. Repeat interviews	Were repeat interviews carried out?	No
19. Audio/visual recording	Did the research use audio or visual recording to collect the data?	Page # 8 (Data Collection Procedure)
20. Field notes	Were field notes made during and/or	Page # 8 (Data Collection Procedure)

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	after the interview?	
21. Duration	What was the duration of the interviews	Page # 8 (Data Collection Procedure)
22. Data saturation	Was data saturation discussed?	Page # 9 (Result)
23. Transcripts returned	Were transcripts returned to participants for comment and/or correction?	No
Domain 3: analysis and findings		
24. Number of data coders	How many data coders coded the data?	Page # 9 (Data Analysis)
25. Description of the coding tree	Did authors provide a description of the coding tree?	NA
26. Derivation of themes	Were themes identified in advance or derived from the data?	Page # 9&10 (Result)
27. Software	What software, if applicable, was used to manage the data?	No (manually done) Page # 9 (Data Analysis)
28. Participant checking	Did participants provide feedback on the findings?	No
29. Quotations presented	Were participant quotations presented to illustrate the themes/findings? Was each quotation identified?	Page # 9-18 (Results)
30. Data and findings consistent	Was there consistency between the data presented and the findings?	Page # 9-18 (Results)
31. Clarity of major themes	Were major themes clearly presented in the findings?	Page # 9-18 (Results)
32. Clarity of minor themes	Is there a description of diverse cases or discussion of minor themes?	Page # 9-18 (Results)

Additional file -2

In-Depth Interview Guide for interviewing community members

Basic Information

S.no	Name (Confidential)	Age	Sex	Occupation	Educational level	Locality/site

Perceptions on safety measures for preventing COVID-19

1. What safety measures have you taken for yourself and for your family safety in COVID-19?

Probes: hand washing, sanitizer, social distancing, covering your cough, avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands, wearing a face mask, avoiding close contact with someone who is sick

2. Do you think novel coronavirus will inflict serious damage in your community, if adequate safety measures are not taken?
3. Do you think you can protect yourself against the novel coronavirus?

Perception about fears, anxiety stress and coping about COVID-19

1. How you perceive life during the COVID- pandemic?
 - a. Probes: affected daily routine
2. What are your fears and anxieties related to COVID-19?

3. What are the mental health consequences of the COVID-19 lockdown and social isolation you and your family?
4. How the current pandemic has caused stress in life's of people and it has also dramatically affected you and your family? (financial glitches, disputes, jobs)
5. How COVID-19 has influenced your temperament, feelings and emotions?
6. What is the effect of repeated media consumption about COVID-19 in traditional and social media on mental health?
7. How do you cope with anxiety and fear related to COVID-19 pandemic?
8. Do you feel the need of having mental health programs or other measures to overcome anxiety, fear and stress in this pandemic situation?
9. Do you have any suggestions on how government could provide support services for coping with stress related to this crisis situation? (Coping strategies)
10. Currently, what sort of help or support is accessible to you and your family to cope with the pandemic situation?
11. What are the best methods for promoting successful adherence to behavioral advice about COVID-19 while enabling mental wellbeing and minimizing distress?

Future Preparedness

1. In your opinion, what are the needs for future preparedness for any outbreak that prepare community (trainings, awareness, equipment, protective gears)