

Perception Toward Quarantine for COVID-19 Among Adult Residents of Selected Towns in Southwest Ethiopia

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Background: COVID-19 is a global pandemic caused by a transmissible respiratory virus, SARS-Cov-2. Because it is a novel pathogen, limited information is available to characterize the spectrum of clinical illness, transmission efficiency, and the duration of viral shedding for patients with COVID-19. Quarantine is an important component of a multilayered strategy to prevent sustained spread of COVID-19 everywhere. The aim of this study was to assess public perceptions toward quarantine for COVID-19 and associated factors among adult residents of selected towns in Southwest Ethiopia, 2020.

Methods: The community-based cross-sectional study was conducted from 1 to 15 June 2020 among adult residents of selected towns in south west Ethiopia. Systematic random sampling was used to select 844 participants. A structured and interviewer-administered questionnaire was used to collect data. Descriptive statistics were used to describe different variables. Multiple linear regression was carried out to determine the predictors of outcome variables. In multiple linear regression, variables with p -value <0.05 were taken as statistically significant association with community perception toward quarantine.

Results: The total of 816 study participants were interviewed from which 450 (55.1%) were male. The median age of respondents was 30 years. Four hundred and twenty-seven (52.3%) of the respondents have a positive perception toward quarantine. Factors associated with perception toward quarantine were having training on COVID-19 ($\beta=2.76$, $p=0.005$), educational status of secondary ($\beta=2.73$, $p=0.001$), educational status to above secondary ($\beta=2.24$, $p=0.011$), occupational status of merchant ($\beta=1.73$, $p=0.020$), and knowledge of COVID-19 ($\beta=0.23$, $p=0.001$).

Conclusion: Only 52.3% of the respondents have a positive perception toward quarantine. Having training on COVID-19, educational status of secondary and above, being a merchant, knowledge of COVID-19 and knowledge of quarantine were significantly associated with a positive perception toward quarantine. Concerned bodies should work on enhancing the awareness of the community through information education and communication/behavior changing communication materials.

Keywords: community perception, quarantine, COVID-19, SARS-Cov-2, Southwest Ethiopia

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Background

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an illness caused by a novel coronavirus called severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), which was first identified as an outbreak of respiratory illness cases in Wuhan City, Hubei

Province, China^{1,2} Currently more than 16.5 million individuals were infected and more than 650,000 died from COVID-19 as of July 30, 2020.³ In Africa more than 750,000 people were infected and 12,795 died while in Ethiopia about 16,000 people were infected and 253 died of COVID-19 as of July 30, 2020.³

A broad range of public health strategy would be employed against a pandemic disease like COVID-19, from relatively innocuous techniques, such as disease surveillance and hygienic measures, to considerably more restrictive interventions, such as social distancing, travel restrictions, quarantine, and case isolation. There is hope that public health interventions will be able to slow the pandemic. By reducing the rate of spread of the disease, public health countermeasures can buy time for the development of medical countermeasures while also helping to ensure that the health-care system does not become overwhelmed by a surge of patients. Unfortunately, each type of public health intervention raises serious ethical and human rights concerns.⁴

Quarantine is among those public health strategies that keeps people who have been exposed to a highly contagious illness separate from people who have not been exposed.^{5,6} It is also a public health measure designed to reduce the potential for the spread of diseases that are considered to be of major public health concern, and for which vaccines and treatments are not readily available.^{7,8}

Quarantine has been used for many centuries as a strategy to control epidemic diseases that threaten to spread nationally or internationally, with the first formal system being documented in Italy during the fourteenth century plague epidemic.⁹ Quarantine may be used under the following conditions such as if a person or a well-defined group of people have been exposed to a highly dangerous and highly contagious disease, resources are available to care for quarantined people, and resources are available to implement and maintain the quarantine and deliver essential services.^{6,9} Quarantine applies for people who have been exposed to a contagious disease but who may or may not become ill.¹⁰ Relative to other health policy areas, literature on quarantine tends to lack quantitative expressions of effectiveness, or agreement on how best to report differences in outcomes attributable to control measures.¹¹

Study revealed that interventions, such as intensive contact tracing, quarantine and isolation, can effectively reduce and control reproduction number and transmission risk of COVID-19. However, the effect of travel restriction

is almost equivalent to increasing quarantine by a 100 thousand baseline value.¹²

Developing countries, however, face distinct pressures and constraints which make it significantly harder for them to enact effective stimulus without facing binding foreign exchange constraints.¹³ If it is not controlled early a devastating outcome may happen related to COVID-19. Food Aid Organization is seeking USD 110 million to maintain the provision of critical assistance where there are already high levels of need, while meeting new needs emerging from the effects of COVID-19.¹⁴

Ethiopia is a major African airline gateway. Since the COVID-19 pandemic Ethiopia started screening passengers at Bole international airport and used a laboratory in South Africa for confirmation of suspected cases. Laboratory tests for COVID-19 started on February 7, 2020 in the country.¹⁵ At the beginning the country dedicated one hospital (COVID-19), Eka Kotebe Hospital for isolation and treatment of COVID-19 cases. Now, the treatment and testing facilities are being expanded to cities outside the capital. The first COVID-19 case was identified on March 2020 in the country. Quarantining of passengers for 14 days, isolation, testing, and contact tracing was actively conducted by repurposing different hotels and universities. The government called on the residents to implement physical distancing, hand washing, and cough hygiene.¹⁶

If appropriate preventive measures are not implemented the burden COVID-19 is more severe in developing nations because of limited resources. Quarantine and travel bans are often the first response against new infectious diseases. Despite the breadth and allure of travel bans and mandatory quarantine, an effective response to COVID-19 requires newer, more creative legal tools. With COVID-19 in our communities, the time has come to imagine and implement public health laws that emphasize support rather than restriction.¹⁷ Study also revealed that COVID-19 severity, self-efficacy, and preventive behaviors uniquely predicted mental health over and above gender, age, and chronic diseases.¹⁸ In addition to this, community risk perception correlates with adoption of preventative health behaviors.¹⁹

Different activities are being undertaken to combat COVID-19. The World Health Organization (WHO) is working closely with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and have jointly developed a guidance document to provide advice to cabin crew and airport workers, based on country queries.²⁰ In the

early days of China's response to the COVID-19 outbreak, leaders recognized the behavioral health impact of the outbreak and response efforts on citizens.²¹

Mandatory public health measures like quarantine are essential to combat infectious diseases, especially for new emerging infectious diseases like COVID-19 where no vaccine or cure exists. Therefore, high adherence rate to this public measure has a critical role in a successful control of pandemic disease; however, some individuals are reluctant to comply with a quarantine, perhaps owing to uncertainty, scarce information, economic pressure, and a widespread perception of loss of control.²² In contrast loneliness, social boycott and pressure to quarantine are among factors mentioned as suicide causalities.^{23,24} During the 2003 pandemic of severe acute respiratory syndrome, the use of quarantine, border controls, contact tracing, and surveillance proved effective in containing the global threat in just over three months.²⁵

In Ethiopia, only little is known about lay perceptions of and attitudes toward its modern-day use of quarantine. In view of the evidence of potential adverse effects on individual well-being and psychosocial health, and owing to the critical necessity of high compliance in the event of a major infectious disease outbreak, it is increasingly important to understand how quarantine is perceived by the public. Determining prevailing public attitudes toward the use of quarantine as a means of infectious disease control is a critical issue to increase its use among suspected individuals. Therefore, the aim of this study was to assess community perception toward quarantine for COVID-19 and associated factors among adult residents of selected towns in Southwest Ethiopia, 2020.

Methods

Study Setting and Period

The study was conducted in Mizan-Aman, Bonga and Tepi towns among adult residents from 1 to 15 June 2020. Mizan-Aman town is located 561 km southwest of Addis Ababa which is the capital city of Ethiopia. Bonga town is located to the southwest direction 460 km from Addis Ababa while Tepi town is located 611 km southwest of Addis Ababa. There is one health center and one general hospital in each town. In the three selected towns there are places prepared for public quarantine sites.

Study Design and Population

Community-based cross-sectional study triangulated with qualitative data collection was conducted. All adult

population found in selected towns in Bonga, Mizan-Aman, and Tepi towns were the source population while randomly selected adult population found in the towns were study population. Adult individuals who were residents of study area for at least six months were included while adults who were unable to hear and severely ill during the data collection time were excluded from the study.

Sample Size and Sampling Technique

Sample size for quantitative study: the sample was determined using single population proportion formula²⁶ based on the following assumptions $n = \frac{Z^2 \cdot p \cdot (1-p)}{d^2}$ Where, n =sample size, $Z_{\alpha/2}$ =standard score for 95% confidence level (1.96), p =50% proportion of positive perception. $n = \frac{(1.96)^2 \cdot 0.5(1-0.5)}{(0.05)^2} = 385$. By adding 10% nonresponse the sample size became 422. Using design effect of two the final sample size was 844.

Sample size for qualitative study: in-depth interview was conducted among selected community members in selected towns. Five in-depth interviews from each town, a total of 15 in-depth interviews were conducted.

Sampling technique for quantitative study: the three towns Mizan-Aman, Bonga, and Tepi were purposely selected because of the large population size and high mobility of people across them. Systematic random sampling was used to select the study participants. Thirty percent of kebeles were selected from each town ie, two from Mizan-Aman (Kometa and Idget), one from Bonga (Kebele-02) and one from Tepi town (Andinet). Sample size was proportionally allocated from selected kebeles based on their total households. Accordingly, 206 allocated for Kometa, 217 for Ideget, 168 for Kebele 02, and 253 for Andinet. K was calculated by dividing total households in the kebele to total sample size, and it became nine. Since there is a possibility of more than one adult from each household, a lottery method was used to select one adult from those households.

Sampling technique for qualitative study: purposive/judgmental sampling technique was employed in order to obtain individuals with detail information about perception of community toward quarantine. Elders and development army leaders were selected.

Data Collection Procedures and Instruments

The questionnaire was adapted from related literature.²⁷ It has four parts including sociodemographic, knowledge of

COVID-19, knowledge about quarantine, and perception toward quarantine. The questionnaire was pretested on 5% of the sample size in Kite town which is 8 km away from Mizan-Aman town.

Data Collection Process and Management

Data were collected by trained data collectors. Diploma nurses were recruited for data collection. Three supervisors were recruited and facilitate the data collection procedures. A two-day training was given for data collectors and supervisors on objective of the study, interview techniques and informed consent. Internal consistency was checked using Cronbach's alpha giving the value of 0.73 for items used to assess perception toward quarantine.

Operational Definitions and Measurements

Knowledge of COVID-19

Knowledge of COVID-19 was measured by 26 yes or no items. Correct answers were coded as 1 and incorrect as 0. The maximum score will be 26 while the minimum is 0. Then those residents who answered more than half of the knowledge questions were considered as having good knowledge of COVID-19 otherwise it was poor.^{28,29}

Knowledge of Quarantine

Knowledge of quarantine was measured by eight yes or no items. Correct answers were coded as 1 and incorrect as 0. The maximum score will be eight while the minimum is 0. Then those residents who answer more than half of the knowledge question were considered as having good knowledge of quarantine otherwise it was poor.^{28,29}

Perception Toward Quarantine

Perception was measured by 15 Likert scale items: strongly disagree (1), disagree (2), neutral (3), agree (4) and strongly agree (5) and was adapted from related literatures. The reverse coding was done for negatively written questions. Sum score and mean score were computed. The sum score ranged between 15 and 75. Then the higher the score indicates the more perception toward quarantine while the lower the score indicates negative perception toward quarantine. Based on mean score the respondents who scored above the mean score were considered as having positive perception otherwise negative perception toward quarantine.²⁸

Data Processing and Analysis

Data Processing and Analysis for Quantitative Study

The collected data were checked for completeness manually, and entered, cleaned and checked by EpiData manager version 4.0.2 and then exported to SPSS version 23 statistical packages for analysis. Descriptive analysis of different variables was presented in terms of frequencies, percentages and text. Simple (bivariate) linear regression was performed to select variables for multiple linear regression analysis. Then, variables with p -value <0.25 in the simple linear regression analysis were taken as candidates for multiple linear regression analysis.

At the end multiple linear regression analysis were performed to control for possible confounding effect of the selected variables and variables with p -value <0.05 will be taken as statistically significant association with community perception toward quarantine and OR with its 95%CI was used to show the degree of association between the independent and outcome variables. Assumption of linear regression and multicollinearity were checked.

Data Analysis for Qualitative Study

The audiotape data recorded during interview was transcribed verbatim by the principal investigator. The transcribed data were then translated from local language to English language by an expert. Then, thematic analysis approaches were used and the principal investigator coded, categorized, and thematized the data by using Atlas.ti software version 7.0.71. The principal investigator started coding of the data after reading and rereading to become familiar with it.

Data Quality Assurance

A pretest was conducted on 5% of the sample size before the main study in Kite town. The data collected during the pretest was not included in final analysis part of the main study. A two-day training was given for data collectors and supervisors on how to collect data.

The data collection methods, tools and how to handle ethical issues was discussed with the data collectors. The questionnaire was translated into respondent's language during data collection. Regular supervision by the supervisor and the principal investigator was made to ensure that all necessary data was properly collected. Each day during data collection, filled questionnaires were checked for completeness and consistency.

Result

General Characteristics of the Study

Participants

The total of 816 study participants were interviewed making a response rate of 96.6%. The median age of respondents were 30 years. From interviewed participants 450 (55.1%) were male, 576 (70.6%) were married, 269 (33%) attended above secondary school, 447 (54.8%) were orthodox Christian and 312 (38.2%) of them were Kaffa in ethnicity. [Table 1](#)

Sources of Information About COVID-19

Six hundred and ninety-six (85.3%) of the respondents heard about quarantine from TV while 354 (43.4%) heard from the radio ([Figure 1](#)).

Table 1 Sociodemographic Characteristics of Adult Residents of Selected Towns of Southwest Ethiopia, June 2020

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percent
Sex	Male	450	55.1
	Female	366	44.9
Religion	Orthodox	447	54.8
	Protestant	197	24.1
	Muslim	168	20.6
	Catholic	4	0.5
Marital status	Single	189	23.2
	Married	576	70.6
	Divorced and widowed	51	6.3
Educational status	No education	88	10.8
	Primary education	204	25.0
	Secondary education	255	31.3
	Above secondary	269	33.0
Ethnic background	Bench	129	15.8
	Amhara	253	31.0
	Kaffa	312	38.2
	Shekacho	71	8.7
	Others ^a	51	6.3
Occupation	Housewife	119	14.6
	Merchant	219	26.8
	Government employee	237	29.0
	Farmer	51	6.3
	Students	106	13.0
	Daily Labor	84	10.3
	Living arrangement	Live alone	139
Live with one or more person		677	83.0
Presence radio/ TV	Yes	727	89.1
	No	89	10.9

Notes: ^aWolayita, Oromo, Silt'e, Sheko, Anuak.

Knowledge of community about COVID-19

The mean score of knowledge about COVID-19 was 13.41 (SD: 3.09). Four hundred and fifty-five (55.8%) of the respondents have poor knowledge about COVID-19. Regarding the symptoms of the disease, 592 (2.5%) of them mentioned dry cough followed by headache and sore throat, 428 (52.5) and 403 (49.4%), respectively. Six hundred and eighty (83.3%) of them mentioned direct contact with infected people as the main mode of transmission followed by droplet contacted from infected persons, 525 (64.3%). Hand washing with soap and water was the main preventive mechanism mentioned by the majority of the respondents, 653 (80%) ([Table 2](#)).

Knowledge of Community About Quarantine

The mean score of knowledge of quarantine was 5.98 (SD: 1.71). About two thirds, 522 (64.0%) of the study participants have adequate knowledge about quarantine based on mean score ([Table 3](#)). The majority of in-depth interview participants also explained very well what quarantine is. For instance, a 44 years female participant explained quarantine as

Quarantine is the place where people suspected with COVID-19 stay for 2 weeks in order not to infect other community members. The person who is suspected for COVID-19 will be released from quarantine after 15 days when he/she is told by health professionals as he/she is free of COVID-19.

The participants have also explained the use of quarantine correctly. A 39 years old male participants explained the importance of quarantine like this "Having quarantine is helpful because it reduces the chance of infection among the community members by putting the suspected people away from the community".

Mean scores difference for perception of quarantine was assessed by one-way ANOVA and independent sample *t*-test. A one-way ANOVA revealed that the mean quarantine perception score was significantly different by educational status ($F_3, 812=17.31, p<0.001$), occupational status ($F_5, 812=9.46, p<0.001$). The post hoc test indicated that the mean perception score for educational status of secondary education was 56.72 (SD: 5.43) and above secondary education 54.18 (SD: 5.34) were significantly greater than the mean attitude score for educational status of no education and primary education. An independent

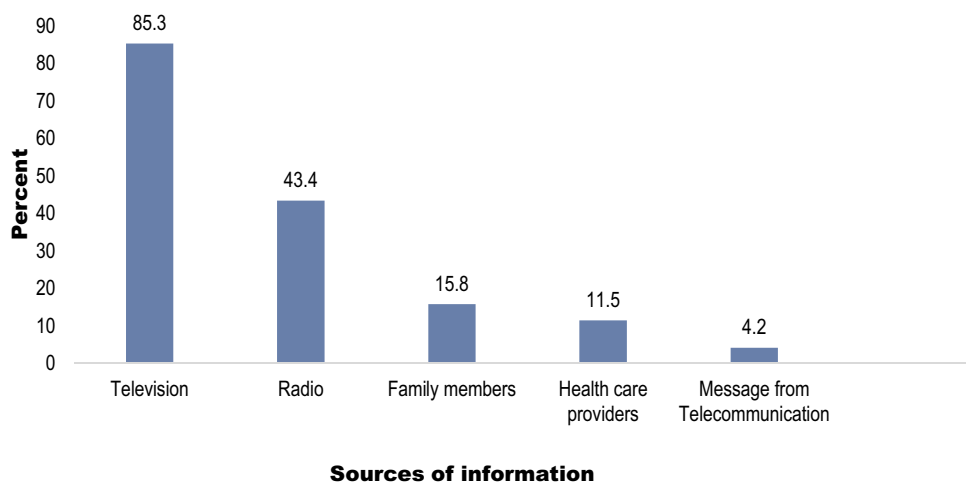


Figure 1 Sources of information about COVID-19 among adult residents of selected towns of Southwest Ethiopia, June 2020.

t-test indicated that the perception mean score of getting training and not trained were different ($t=-2.64$, $df=814$, $p\leq 0.008$) Table 4.

Factors Associated with Perception of Quarantine

In simple linear regression age of respondents, sex, presence of radio/TV, marital status, educational status, occupation, having training on COVID-19, knowledge of COVID-19 and quarantine were found to have a *p*-value of <0.25.

After controlling possible confounding variables in multiple linear regression, having training on COVID-19, educational status, occupation, knowledge of COVID-19, and knowledge of quarantine were significantly associated with perception toward quarantine. Having training on COVID-19 was among a factor positively associated with perception toward quarantine ie, when we change the status of training from nontrained to trained the perception toward quarantine score will be increased by 2.76 units keeping other variables constant ($\beta=2.76$, $p=0.005$). When we change the educational status to secondary the perception score will be increased by 2.73 keeping other variables constant ($\beta=2.73$, $p=0.001$). Similarly, when we change educational status to above secondary the perception mean score will be increased by 2.24 keeping other variables constant ($\beta=2.24$, $p=0.011$). Being a merchant in occupational status was also associated with perception toward quarantine. As we change occupation to merchant the perception score will be increased by 1.73 keeping other variables constant ($\beta=1.73$, $p=0.020$). Knowledge of

COVID-19 was also positively associated with perception score. When knowledge increase by one unit the perception score will increase by 0.23 keeping other variables constant ($\beta=0.23$, $p=0.001$). Lastly, knowledge of quarantine positively affects the perception toward the quarantine. As knowledge of quarantine increase by one unit the perception of quarantine score increases by 0.59 keeping other variables unchanged ($\beta=0.59$, $p<0.001$) Table 5.

Discussion

The current study was aimed to assess community perception toward quarantine. Six hundred and ninety-six (85.3%) of the respondents heard about quarantine from the TV while 354 (43.4%) heard from the radio. In contrast to this, a study done in Turkey showed two-thirds of the participants had never heard about COVID-19 and more than half have not known what COVID-19 is. This discrepancy might be the result of an information gap related to time. In this study the main preventive mechanism mentioned by the majority of the respondents was hand washing with soap and water. Similarly, a study done on Turkish adults revealed that the mostly practiced preventive method were avoidance of public transportation and frequent handwashing with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub.³⁰ In addition, a study showed that the relationship between hope and resilience was mediated by preventive behaviors.³¹

The result of this study showed that only 427 (52.3%) of the respondents have a positive perception toward quarantine. This indicates that efforts have to be made in increasing their perception through health information dissemination regarding the disease and quarantine. In this

Table 2 Knowledge of COVID-19 Among Adult Residents of Selected Towns of Southwest Ethiopia, June 2020

S.NO	Questions	Correct Answer F (%)	Incorrect Answer F (%)
Can you tell me what you know about the symptoms of or how you might know you have coronavirus?			
	No known symptoms	5 (0.6)	811 (99.4)
	Headache	428 (52.5)	388 (47.5)
	Dry cough	592 (72.5)	224 (27.5)
	Difficult of breathing	307 (37.6)	509 (62.4)
	Sore throat	403 (49.4)	413 (50.6)
How does the coronavirus spread/transmitted?			
	Through blood transfusion	806 (98.8)	10 (1.2)
	Droplets from infected people	525 (64.3)	291 (35.7)
	Direct contact with infected people	680 (83.3)	136 (16.7)
	Touching contaminated objects/surfaces	438 (53.7)	378 (46.3)
	Contact with contaminated animals	192 (23.5)	624 (76.5)
	Mosquito bites	–	816 (100.0)
	Eating contaminated food	22 (2.7)	794 (97.3)
How could coronavirus be prevented?			
	Has no known preventive method	765 (93.8)	51 (6.3)
	Proper washing hand with soap and water/sanitizer	653 (80.0)	163 (20.0)
	Not touching the eye, nose by unwashed hands	284 (34.8)	532 (65.2)
	Avoid going to crowded places	401 (49.1)	415 (50.9)
	Wearing masks	528 (64.7)	288 (35.3)
	Do not shake hands	393 (48.2)	423 (51.8)
	Stay home unless urgent	227 (27.8)	589 (72.2)
	Quarantine, if contact with infected person	77 (9.4)	739 (90.6)
	Isolation, if infected	36 (4.4)	780 (95.6)

study, 734 (90%) of the respondents believed that quarantine is the best way to stop the spread of COVID-19. In contrast to this, a study conducted in South Korea revealed that most of the participants believed quarantine was ineffective to control Middle East respiratory syndrome

(MERS) or even increases risk of spreading MERS.³² This might be related to study time gap, as study conducted in South Korea was in 2015 so there is high information difference related to quarantine compared to the current study.

According to this study, having training on COVID-19 was positively associated with perception toward quarantine. This shows creating awareness through training has an effect on the perception of quarantine and the disease. This might be when confronting new and frightening diseases like COVID-19, training people to understand the reason for quarantine might increase belief in its effectiveness and thus, their compliance with quarantine. A qualitative study conducted on risk perception and compliance with quarantine during the SARS outbreak showed that all participants reportedly agreed with the need for quarantine and people adhered to the quarantine protocols with differing levels of awareness.³³ Moreover, an untrained person may lack of clear information about the different levels of risk which might led to fearing the worst.

Participants who attended secondary education and above have more positive perception of quarantine. This shows attention has to give to those participants with a low level of educational status. Similarly, a study done in Toronto showed that education is needed about the meaning of quarantine, who needs to be quarantined and why, how diseases spread, and whose health is being protected by quarantine.²² In contrast to this, a study conducted in South Korea on Middle East respiratory syndrome risk perception among students at a university demonstrated that respondents with higher educational attainment held negative perception toward quarantine.³² This might be due to access to different written information related

Table 3 Knowledge of Quarantine and Perception of Quarantine Among Adult Residents of Selected Towns of Southwest Ethiopia, June 2020

Statements	Correct Answers F (%)	In Correct Answers F (%)
Quarantine is where COVID-19 infected people live	371 (45.5)	445 (54.5)
Quarantine is where people with contact history live	474 (58.1)	342 (41.9)
Quarantine is where COVID-19 infected patients treated	742 (90.9)	74 (9.1)
Quarantine is for those from countries of coronavirus case	422 (51.7)	394 (48.3)
Quarantine is important to protect oneself from coronavirus	208 (25.5)	608 (74.5)
Quarantine is important to protect households from coronavirus	513 (62.9)	303 (37.1)
Quarantine is important to protect community from coronavirus	429 (52.6)	387 (47.4)
How long people stay in quarantine	626 (76.7)	190 (23.3)

Table 4 Comparison of Mean Score of Perception of Quarantine Among Different Explanatory Variables Among Adult Residents of Selected Towns of South West Ethiopia, June 2020

Variable	Category	Mean (SD)	F test/ t-test	p-value
Sex	Male	55.69 (5.54)	$t=0.18$, $df=741.5$	0.073
	Female	55.62 (6.17)		
Training of COVID-19	No	55.54 (5.80)	$t=-2.64$, $df=814$	0.008
	Yes	58.03 (6.10)		
Marital status	Single	55.99 (6.81)	$F_{3,812}=6.41$	<0.001
	Married	55.66 (5.48)		
	Divorced	56.32 (4.54)		
	Widowed	48.85 (5.06)		
Age group	<20	54.70 (6.85)	$F_{4,811}=1.17$	0.33
	20–29	55.75 (6.14)		
	30–39	56.11 (5.41)		
	40–49	54.98 (5.68)		
	≥50	55.76 (5.25)		
Religion	Orthodox	55.82 (5.75)	$F_{3,812}=5.31$	0.001
	Protestant	55.08 (6.03)		
	Muslim	56.17 (5.65)		
	Catholic	45.50 (0.58)		
Educational status	No education	52.82 (4.86)	$F_{3,812}=17.31$	<0.001
	Primary	54.25 (6.28)		
	Secondary	56.64 (5.64)		
	Above secondary	56.72 (5.43)		
Occupational status	Housewife	54.18 (5.34)	$F_{5,812}=9.46$,	<0.001
	Merchant	56.52 (5.63)		
	Government employee	56.96 (5.28)		
	Farmer	52.98 (6.99)		
	Students	55.51 (6.49)		
	Daily labor	53.67 (5.44)		

to COVID-19 by educated persons. From the occupation of the respondent's, merchants have a more positive perception of quarantine. This might be related to a merchant's contacts with different individuals that helps to get information from different people.

The finding from this study also revealed that knowledge of COVID-19 was associated with more positive perception of quarantine. This might be respondents who have knowledge of COVID-19 may have information regarding the prevention of the disease since quarantine is also one option of COVID-19 control. Finally, the knowledge of quarantine was associated with perception of quarantine. Respondents who have knowledge of quarantine have a more positive perception of

Table 5 Factors Associated with Perception of Quarantine Among Adult Residents of Selected Towns in Southwest Ethiopia, June, 2020

Variables	β Coefficients	p-value	95%CI for β	
			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Constant	45.72	<0.001	42.48	48.96
Age	0.02	0.49	-0.03	0.06
Sex	0.11	0.82	-0.83	1.04
Presence of radio/TV	0.13	0.85	-1.22	1.48
Having training on COVID-19	2.76	0.005	0.84	4.69
No education	RG			
Primary education	0.97	0.220	-0.58	2.52
Secondary education	2.73	0.001	1.17	4.29
Above secondary education	2.24	0.011	0.51	3.98
Single	RG			
Married	-0.05	0.936	-1.28	1.18
Divorced	-1.36	0.185	-3.38	0.65
Housewife	RG			
Merchant	1.73	0.020	0.27	3.20
Government employee	1.43	0.097	-0.26	3.11
Farmer	-0.67	0.516	-2.69	1.36
Students	0.74	0.453	-1.19	2.68
Daily labor	-0.59	0.517	-2.36	1.19
Knowledge of COVID-19	0.23	0.001	0.09	0.36
Knowledge of quarantine	0.59	< 0.001	0.35	0.83

quarantine. The systematic review conducted on how to improve adherence with quarantine also showed that the knowledge people had about the disease and quarantine procedures were the main factors that affect adherence to quarantine.³⁴

Limitation of the Study

- On some questions, community may hide the actual response ie, social desirability bias may affect the study. In addition to this it may susceptible to interviewer bias.
- Reverse causality: it is difficult to determine whether the exposure (factors associated) or outcome (perception toward quarantine) came first.

Conclusion

Only 52.3% of the respondents have positive perception toward quarantine. Factors associated with perception toward quarantine were having training on COVID-19,

Table 6 A Frequency Table Showing Perception Toward Quarantine Among Adult Residents of Selected Towns of Southwest Ethiopia, June 2020

Statements	Disagree and Strongly Disagree F (%)	Neutral F (%)	Agree and Strongly Agree F (%)
Quarantines is the best way to stop spread of coronavirus COVID-19	55 (6.7)	27 (3.3)	734 (90.0)
If I go into quarantine, my family/friends/community will be protected from becoming sick	49 (6.0)	40 (4.9)	727 (89.1)
Staying in quarantine makes me afraid/panic	626 (76.7)	49 (6.0)	141 (17.3)
People may stigmatize quarantined individual upon discharge from quarantine	155 (19.0)	65 (8.0)	596 (73.0)
I think there is not enough food and water in quarantine	544 (66.7)	87 (10.7)	185 (22.7)
Quarantine place is not convenient for living	592 (72.5)	77 (9.4)	147 (18.0)
Quarantines expose individuals to infection	557 (68.3)	87 (10.7)	172 (21.1)
Government should have the power to order people into quarantine during outbreaks	66 (8.1)	56 (6.9)	694 (85.0)
If someone is given a quarantine order by Public Health, they should follow it no matter what else is going on in their life at work or home	58 (7.1)	56 (6.9)	702 (86.0)
People who break quarantine orders on purpose should face legal penalties like a fine or jail	50 (6.1)	195 (23.9)	571 (70.0)
Public Health should ensure that there is no discrimination in the use of quarantine	77 (9.4)	165 (20.2)	574 (70.3)
It is reasonable for some rights to be taken away during an infectious disease outbreak	46 (5.6)	173 (21.2)	597 (73.2)
For me staying quarantine for 15 days is useful	69 (8.5)	62 (7.6)	685 (83.9)
For me staying quarantine for 15 days is difficult	461 (56.5)	74 (9.1)	281 (34.4)
I will stay in quarantine if I am advised to do so	122 (15.0)	55 (6.7)	639 (78.3)
Overall mean score	3.48 (SD: 0.36)		

Abbreviation: F (%), frequency (percent).

educational status of secondary, educational status of above secondary, being a merchant, knowledge of COVID-19 and knowledge of quarantine. Concerned bodies should work on enhancing the awareness of community and communication campaigns by producing different information education and communication/behavior changing communication materials needed on issues related to quarantine and COVID-19 prevention.

Data Sharing Statement

The data set is available with authors and can be obtained from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

Ethics Approval and Consent to Participate

This study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. Ethical clearance was obtained from the Institutional Review Board of Mizan-Tepi University. Permission was obtained from each selected town health office to collect data from the community. Written consent was obtained from all study participants

before interview. Participation in the study was completely voluntary, and the right to withdraw from the interview also secured. The participant was also informed that anonymized responses would be published.. Confidentiality of the information was ensured throughout the study.

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Author Contributions

All authors contributed to data analysis, drafting or revising the article, have agreed on the journal to which the article will be submitted, gave final approval of the version to be published, and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

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Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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