

# Generalized Anxiety Disorder and Its Associated Factors Among Health Care Workers Fighting COVID-19 in Southern Ethiopia

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**Background:** Healthcare workers (HCWs) are among the many groups of people who are in the frontline caring for people and facing heavy workloads, life-or-death decisions, risk of infection, and have been facing various psychosocial problems. So, monitoring mental health issues to understand the mediating factors and inform evidence-based interventions in a timely fashion is vital.

**Purpose:** This study aimed to assess generalized anxiety disorder and its associated factors among HCWs fighting COVID-19 in Southern Ethiopia.

**Patients and Methods:** An institution-based cross-sectional study was conducted among 798 HCWs from 20 May to 20 June 2020. A pre-tested and structured interviewer-administered KOBO collect survey tool was used to collect data. The study participants were selected using a simple random sampling technique by allocating a proportion to each health institute. The association between the level of generalized anxiety disorder and its independent variables was examined by ordinal logistic regression. Assumptions for the proportional odds model were checked using parallel line tests. An adjusted proportional odds ratio with a 95% CI was used to calculate the strength of the statistical association between the independent and dependent variables.

**Results:** The prevalence of mild and moderate anxiety disorder among HCWs was 29.3% and 6.3%, respectively. Contact with confirmed or suspected cases (aPOR =1.97; 95% CI: 1.239, 3.132), no COVID-19 updates (aPOR=4.816, 95% CI=2.957, 7.842), no confidence on coping with stresses (aPOR=2.74, 95% CI=1.633, 4.606), and COVID-19-related worry (aPOR=1.85, 95% CI=1.120, 3.056) were positively associated with higher-order anxiety disorder. However, not feeling overwhelmed by the demands of everyday life (aPOR=0.52, 95% CI=0.370, 0.733) and feeling cannot make it (aPOR=0.44, 95% CI=0.308, 0.626) were negatively associated with a higher order of anxiety.

**Conclusion:** The study revealed that the prevalence of anxiety disorder among HCWs was high in the study area. The findings of the current study suggest immediate psychological intervention for health care workers in the study area is vital. Therefore, proactive measures should be taken by the stakeholders at different hierarchies to promote the psychological wellbeing of HCWs in order to control the impact of the pandemic on the HCWs, and containing the pandemic.

**Keywords:** anxiety, health care workers, associated factor, Ethiopia

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## Introduction

Health care workers (HCWs) who are in the frontline caring for people with COVID-19 infection have been facing various psychosocial problems, including a high risk of infection and inadequate protection from contamination, overwork,

frustration, a lack of contact with their families, and loved ones. The severe situation is causing mental health problems such as anxiety.<sup>1-3</sup> Generalized anxiety disorder is the most frequently occurring mental health disorder, which is characterized by excessive worry or fearfulness about events and is associated with heightened tension, nervousness, and irritability; it may cause physical symptoms such as restlessness, fatigue, muscle stiffness, and trouble concentrating or sleeping.<sup>4,5</sup> The HCWs are facing the pressure of working in resource-deprived settings and ever-growing patient load all over the world.<sup>6</sup>

According to the studies conducted in the era of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Ebola epidemics, the onset of a sudden and immediately life-threatening illness could lead to extraordinary amounts of pressure on HCWs and might cause adverse psychological disorders, such as anxiety, fear, and stigmatization.<sup>7-10</sup> The other study conducted in Italy reported a significant proportion of HCWs experienced anxiety, depression and sleep disturbances during COVID-19.<sup>11</sup> This psychological pressure exerts an adverse effect on the quality of care given for patients. HCWs are expected to wear heavy protective garments and other personal protective equipment during pandemic like COVID-19, making it much more difficult to carry out medical operations or procedures than under normal conditions. These factors, together with the fear of being contagious and infecting others, physical exhaustion, inadequate personal equipment, and the need to make ethically difficult decisions on the rationing of care could increase the possibility of psychological issues among HCWs.<sup>9,12-14</sup> A study conducted in China reported that 13% of HCWs experienced anxiety during the fight against COVID-19.<sup>15</sup> Another study conducted on the psychological impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health care workers in Singapore reported a 10.8% anxiety prevalence.<sup>16</sup> Besides, a Hong Kong study found that health workers suffered high anxiety scores after directly treating confirmed SARS patients.<sup>17</sup>

Studies revealed that having comorbidities, living in the rural areas, being a female health worker, marital status, profession, having children, and contact with COVID-19 patients were the most common risk factors for developing anxiety among health workers.<sup>15,16</sup>

Ethiopia faces the most critical phase of the pandemic, with community transmission. HCWs across the country are facing a fight like never before. Frontline health-care workers, faced with heavy workloads, life-or-death

decisions, and risk of infection, are particularly affected.<sup>18</sup> Even though there are some studies conducted on the psychosocial impact of COVID-19 and its associated factors globally, it is a new disease and the medical system and culture of different countries vary which necessitates the need for further research on the psychological experience of frontline health workers fighting against COVID-19. Currently, as far as our literature search is concerned, there are no published studies on anxiety related to COVID-19 in Ethiopia in general and Southern region in particular. Therefore, this study aimed to assess generalized anxiety disorder and its associated factors among healthcare workers fighting COVID-19 in Southern Ethiopia. The findings of this study are timely and would help the local program planners and policy-makers to plan appropriate interventions at the early stage to prevent a detrimental psychological outcome of HCWs.

## Methods and Materials

### Study Settings, Design, and Population

Institution-based cross-sectional study was conducted among health workers working in Gamo, Gofa, Konso, and South Omo Zones of Southern Ethiopia from 20, May to 20, June 2020.

There are a total of two general and 10 primary hospitals, and 134 health centers in the four zones. There are 4820 health professionals providing health services in the Zones. All health care workers working in four Zones during the data collection period were included in the study.

### Sample Size Estimation

A single population proportion formula  $((Z\alpha/2) pq/d^2)$  was used to estimate the sample size required for the study. The sample size calculation assumed the proportion (p), the estimated level of anxiety among HCWs was estimated to be 50% because there is no prior study finding in Ethiopia, 95% confidence level, margin of error of 5%, and a design effect of 2 which gave the sample size of 768. In consideration of a 10% non-response rate, the final sample size was 845 HCWs. Mathematically, it is calculated as follows:

$$n = ((Z\alpha/2)pq/d^2) = ((1.96)^2 * 0.5 * (1 - 0.5)) = 384 (0.05)^2$$

Where: n= the required sample size

Z= the standard score corresponding 95% confidence interval (1.96)

P= level of anxiety among HCWs, it was estimated to be 50%

d= margin of error, 5%

By considering a design effect of 2 because we used a multi-stage sampling technique ( $384 * 2 = 768$ ). Then, we considered a 10% non-response rate, the final sample size used for this study was  $768 + 77 = 845$ .

## Sampling Procedure

The study participants were selected using a multistage sampling technique. First, 20% of health institutions were selected using a simple random sampling technique (computer-generated random numbers) after allocating a proportion to each Zone based on the size of health institutions. Then, the sample size was proportionally allocated to the health institutes based on the size of health care workers. Lists of active health care workers were taken from each selected health institute. Finally, a simple random sampling technique (computer-generated random number) was implemented to recruit the health professionals in each selected health institute.

## Data Collection Procedure and Measurement

A pretested and structured interviewer-administered questionnaire was used to collect data. The tools were developed by reviewing different works of literature and the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines. The survey questionnaire included Socio-Demographic characteristics, medical history, alcohol use, physical exercise, and miscellaneous psychosocial questions. Generalized Anxiety Disorder Scale (GAD-7) was used to assess the level of anxiety among health professionals.<sup>19</sup> It is a 7-item questionnaire developed to screen patients for anxiety and rate the severity of anxiety. Each item is rated on a 4-point likert-scale ranging from 0 (not at all) to 3 (nearly every day) on the symptoms in the previous 2 weeks. The total score of GAD-7 ranged from 0 to 21, with increasing scores indicated more severe functional impairments as a result of anxiety. For the purpose of this study, the score of anxiety assessing questions was calculated for each respondent then the overall score was computed and the levels of anxiety were classified into none to minimal, mild, moderate, and severe. Scores represent 0–5 None to Minimal, 6–10 mild, 11–15 moderate, and 15–21 severe

anxiety. During data collection, a reliability analysis was done and the result showed a good score of internal consistency between the items (Cronbach's alpha = 0.807). Language experts translated the questionnaire from English to Amharic and back to English to ensure consistency in meaning. A pretest was conducted on an unselected health institute by taking 5% of the total sample size. After we made appropriate corrections, the revised version of the questionnaire was used for final data collection. Twelve trained public health professionals participated in the data collection. We used KOBO collect survey tool to collect data. KOBO collect survey tool is mobile applications that allow for the collection of data using mobile devices, analysis of data, and storage of data – either online or offline. Data were collected using face-to-face data collection technique. All WHO recommended COVID-19 protective measures were applied during the data collection period.

## Data Quality Management

Data collectors and supervisors were provided with intensive training on the techniques of data collection and components of the instrument. Before the commencement of the data collection, a pretest was conducted. A standard tool, which was developed by experts, was used to collect the information. The KOBO collect survey tool that was very important to control the quality of data was used to collect data by using tablets. The Authors and supervisors critically checked the data for completeness before being uploaded to the KOBO collect cloud server.

## Statistical Analysis

The collected data were downloaded from the KOBO collect. It was then edited and cleaned for inconsistencies, missing values using excel, and then exported to SPSS version 25 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA) for further analysis. Descriptive statistics were computed and summarized in tables, figures, and text with frequencies, mean, or standard deviations where appropriate. The association between the level of generalized anxiety disorder and its independent variables was examined by ordinal logistic regression. The ordinal logistic regression model was used because the level of anxiety was determined by using ordinal data (None to Minimal, mild, moderate, and severe). The proportional odds model (POM) was fitted to identify factors associated with the level of generalized anxiety disorder. The necessary assumptions for POM were checked using parallel line tests. The

chi-squared test ( $\chi^2$ ) for the proportional odds assumption was calculated to see whether the model assumptions were violated or not. The Pearson  $\chi^2$  goodness-of-fit test showed that the observed data were consistent with the fitted model; the deviance test ( $\chi^2=920.875, p=0.622$ ) was non-significant. Additionally, the appropriateness of the POM was calculated by the parallel line test, and it showed that the general model did not significantly differ from the fitted POM ( $p=0.092$ ), this indicated that the model fit the data well. Furthermore, the  $\chi^2$  test of parallelism showed that the odds ratios were constant across all cutoff points of anxiety level for the final model at a 5% level of significance. Bivariable analyses were performed between the dependent and independent variables. All variables with a  $p$ -value  $<0.25$  in the bivariable analysis were fitted into the multivariable POM to control for confounding effects. An adjusted proportional odds ratio with a 95% CI was used to calculate the strength of the statistical association between the independent and dependent variables.

## Ethical Consideration

Ethical approval and clearance were obtained from Arba Minch University Institutional research Ethics Review Board, College of Medicine and Health Sciences with reference number (IRB/406/12). A letter of cooperation was obtained from the Zonal health department and health institutes of the respective Zones. The purpose of the study was explained and informed written consent was taken from each health care worker. To ensure confidentiality, their names, and other personal identifiers were not registered in the survey tool. Besides, this study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki, and all ethical and professional considerations were followed throughout the study to keep participants' data strictly confidential.

## Results

### Socio-Demographic Characteristics and Medical History of Participants

The data were collected from 798 study participants with a 94.2% response rate. Out of the total respondents, 482 (60.4%) were male. The mean age ( $\pm$  SD) of the participants was 29.29 years ( $\pm$  5.69) years. The majority of the participants were town residents (88.3%) and more than half of the participants were protestant religion followers (52.3). Among the participants' health workers, 356

(44.6%) were clinical nurses and 363 (45.5%) were diploma holders (Table 1).

### Individual Psychosocial Factors and Substance Use of Health Care Workers

Among the respondents, 85% of them reported no adequate personal protective equipment in their health institute. The majority of the participants (96%) had access to media. Of respondents, 96 (12%) had no confidence in coping with stress-related with COVID-19, 682 (85.5%) had a feeling of susceptibility, and 633 (79.3%) had COVID-19 related worries. Among the participants, 630 (78.9%) believed that the suggested prevention and control practices can contain the pandemic (Table 2).

### Family, Community, and Government Support

Among health care workers who participated in this study, 31.0%, 51.2%, 16.2% and 1.6% of them believed the community members were responding to the prevention practice of COVID-19, not at all, somewhat, moderately, and to the great extent, respectively. More than two-thirds (72.2%) of HCWs felt valued by their families. The data revealed that from the participant health care workers, 27.9%, 51.4%, 17.7% and 3.0% of them agreed the government is supporting the prevention and control of COVID-19, not at all, somewhat, moderately, and to the great extent, respectively.

### Prevalence of Anxiety Disorder

The prevalence of mild and moderate anxiety disorder among HCWs was 29.3% and 6.3%, respectively. There was no severe stage of anxiety observed during the data collection period (Figure 1).

### Factors Associated with Anxiety Disorder Among Healthcare Workers

In ordinal logistic regression analysis, variables such as contact with confirmed or suspected cases, COVID-19 updates, confidence in coping with stresses, COVID-19-related worries, feel overwhelmed by the demands of everyday life, and feeling cannot make it were statistically significantly associated with an anxiety disorder. The risk of being in the higher order of anxiety was almost two times (aPOR =1.97; 95% CI: 1.239, 3.132) higher among health professionals who had contact with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases compared to who had no

**Table 1** Socio-Demographic and Medical History of HCWs Working in Response to COVID-19 in Southern Ethiopia from 20, May to 20, June 2020

Variables	Frequency (N=798)	Percentage
Sex		
Female	316	39.6
Male	482	60.4
Marital status		
Single	306	38.2
Married	492	61.7
Having children		
No	353	44.2
yes	445	55.8
Resident		
Rural	93	11.7
Town	705	88.3
Living arrangement		
Alone	239	29.9
With friends	20	2.5
With parents	161	20.2
With spouse	378	47.4
Profession		
Clinical Nurse	356	44.6
Medical Doctor	65	8.1
Medical laboratory	84	10.5
Midwifery	120	15.0
Pharmacist	77	9.6
Public health officer	96	12.0
Religion		
Muslim	38	4.8
Orthodox	338	42.4
Protestant	417	52.3
Other*	5	0.6
Education status		
Diploma	363	45.5
First degree	359	45.0
Level 3 or 4	60	7.5
Second degree	16	2.0
Ward/case team		
Dispensary	61	7.6
Emergency ward	98	12.3
Laboratory	67	8.4
Maternity (Gyn/Obs) ward	160	20.1
Medical ward	98	12.3
OPD (including paramedical)	187	23.4
Pediatrics (including NICU) ward	66	8.3
Surgical (including OR) ward	61	7.6
Medical Conditions/Comorbidity		
yes	44	5.5
No	754	94.5

**Notes:** \*Atheist, Adventist, and Catholic

**Abbreviations:** Gyn/obs, gynecology/obstetric; NICU, neonatal intensive care unit; OPD, outpatient department; OR, operation room.

contact. Likewise, health care professionals who had no COVID-19 update were almost 5 times (aPOR=4.81, 95% CI=2.957, 7.842) more likely to develop a higher order of anxiety than those HCWs who had an update. Similarly, HCWs who were somewhat confident in coping with stress were 2.7 times (aPOR=2.74, 95% CI=1.633, 4.606) more likely to develop a higher order of anxiety disorder than their counterparts. Regarding COVID-19 related worries, the odds of health care workers who had COVID-19 related worries were 1.85 times (aPOR=1.85, 95% CI=1.120,3.056) more likely to experience higher order of anxiety than who did not worry. The odds of health care workers who had not felt overwhelmed by the demands of everyday life were 48% (aPOR=0.52, 95% CI=0.370,0.733) less likely to develop a higher order of anxiety than who was feeling overwhelmed. Similarly, the odds of health care professionals who did not feel that they cannot make it were also 56% (aPOR=0.44, 95% CI=0.308, 0.626) less likely to experience higher order of anxiety than who felt they can make it (Table 3).

## Discussion

The study examined the prevalence of anxiety among health care workers and identified risk factors for increased anxiety. The finding of this study revealed that 29.3% and 6.3% of HCWs suffered from mild and moderate anxiety disorder, respectively. A study from China reported that 44.6% of the HCWs had symptoms of anxiety.<sup>20</sup> A related study conducted in Turkey indicated that 51.6% of respondents had anxiety-related symptoms. Of this, 16.3, 13.1%, 10.6%, and 11.5%, of HCWs had mild, moderate, severe, and extremely severe anxiety symptoms, respectively.<sup>21</sup> Another recent meta-analysis of studies reported the prevalence rate of the anxiety of HCWs during COVID-19 was ranging between 22.6%-36.3%.<sup>22</sup> Pockets of studies from different corners of the world had been reported the prevalence of anxiety among HCWs with a range of 11.350%<sup>20,23-25</sup> and finding of the present study was within this reported range. The finding of the current study showed that the majority of the HCWs experienced mild symptoms of anxiety, while moderate and severe symptoms were less common among the participants. In our view the reported figure is huge since the study was conducted at the early stage of the pandemic in Ethiopia; this alarms the need for early detection and the importance of picking up and effectively treating the milder clinical symptoms of anxiety

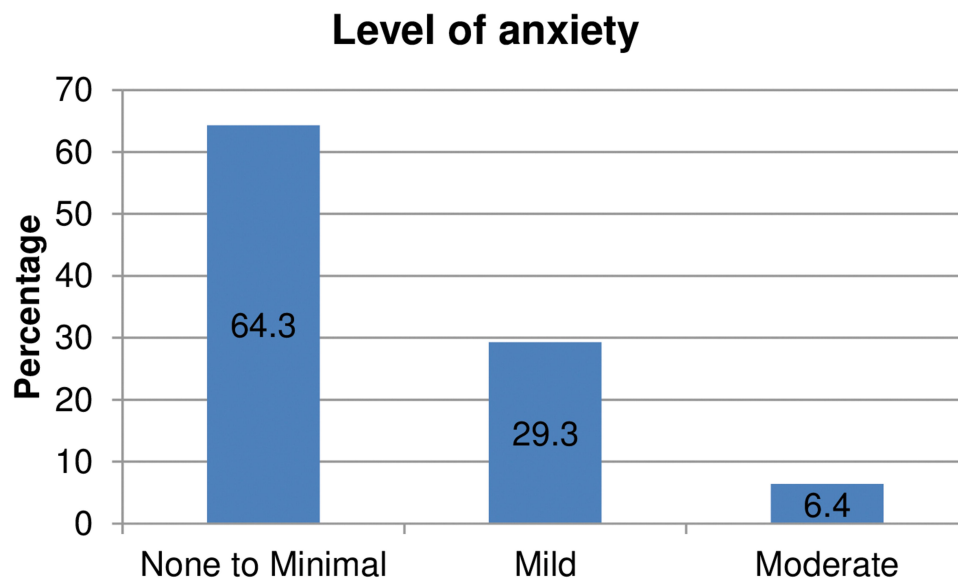
**Table 2** Individual Psycho-Social Factors and Substance Use of Health Care Workers, Working in Response to COVID-19 in Southern Ethiopia from 20, May to 20, June 2020

Variables	Frequency (N=798)	Percentage
Contact with confirmed or suspected cases		
No	688	86.2
Yes	110	13.8
Type of media		
Social media only	76	9.5
Mainstream media only	121	15.2
Both	569	71.3
No	32	4.0
COVID-19 updates		
No	105	13.2
Yes	693	86.8
Confident in coping with stresses		
Not at all	96	12.0
Somewhat	261	32.7
Moderately	307	38.5
To a great extent	134	16.8
Drink alcohol		
No	632	79.2
Yes	166	20.8
Smoke cigarette		
No	790	99.0
Yes	8	1.0
Physical exercise		
No	335	42.0
Yes	463	58.0
Have anyone can trust and confide in		
No	124	15.5
Yes	674	84.5
Get along well with people		
No	54	6.8
Yes	744	93.2
Feel overwhelmed by the demands of everyday life		
No	439	55.0
Yes	359	45.0
Feel you cannot make it		
No	572	71.7
Yes	226	28.3
Influenced by people with strong opinions		
No	552	69.2
Yes	246	30.8
Worry about what other people think of you		
No	649	81.3
Yes	149	18.7

before they evolve to more complex psychological disorders. Furthermore, a lower moderate and severe level of anxiety might be associated with the lower report of confirmed cases due to limited testing capacity during the study period in comparison with other countries. There was also a lower report of confirmed cases in the study area. A study from China which was the epicenter of COVID-19 showed that working outside the epicenter was associated with a lower risk of psychological symptoms than working in the epicenter even in the same country.<sup>20</sup> However, mild anxiety symptoms were higher among HCWs in the study area. This high level of anxiety among the HCWs in our study area could be attributed to fear of transmission of the disease to their family, no updates on COVID-19-related issues especially HCWs working in a rural area with no mobile network and internet connection, lack of specific drugs treating COVID-19 patients, an increasing number of suspected and confirmed cases and inadequate personal protective gears. Eighty-five percent of the participants perceived that personal protective equipment was inadequate in their health institutions. The difference in the prevalence of anxiety in different parts of the world could be attributed to variations in the health system characteristics, the culture of patient care, technologies, availability of PPE, and the tool used to assess anxiety and heterogeneity in cut off points. In the present study, we used the standard and validated tool developed for measuring generalized anxiety disorder after we checked its validity and reliability in our context.<sup>19</sup>

Authorities at different hierarchies should assess the hazards to which their health care workers are exposed; evaluate the risk of exposure; and select, implement, and ensure workers use controls to prevent exposure to the virus. Occupational health surveillance has paramount importance to enhance the wellbeing of HCWs. Such type of study is helpful for different stakeholders to monitor mental health issues to understand the mediating factors and inform evidence-based interventions in a timely fashion.<sup>26,27</sup>

Our study further indicated that health professionals who had contact with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases were two times more likely to develop a higher order of anxiety than those who had no contact. The finding of this study was consistent with the studies conducted in China,<sup>24,25</sup> the score of anxiety increases among health



**Figure 1** Level of generalized anxiety disorder of HCWs working in response to COVID-19 in Southern Ethiopia from 20, May to 20, June 2020.

care workers having direct contact with suspected and confirmed cases. This can be reasoned out that contact with suspected or confirmed cases increases the risk of transmission and exposure. The health workers working in low resource settings (weak health system, low economic status, and poor technology) like Ethiopia may limit their ability to follow the recommended measures; these and other factors exacerbate the fear of HCWs. Although the Ethiopian government and people presented recognition for HCWs for their dedication in fighting COVID-19 – which could make health workers feel honored and proud to participate in this difficult assignment – the local and national authorities should also focus on implementing measures targeting the psychological well-being of HCWs.

Likewise, health care professionals who had no COVID-19 update were almost 5 times more likely to develop a higher order of anxiety than those health care professionals who had an update. This can be explained by HCWs getting information on the route of transmission, the availability and effectiveness of medicines/vaccines, experience in handling COVID-19 patient, the number of infected cases and locations, and advice on prevention of the COVID-19 increase the confidence of HCWs otherwise working in an uncertain environment without up to date information might worsen anxiety. This finding was also in agreement with the study conducted in China.<sup>29</sup> The odds of health care professionals who had COVID-19 related worry were more likely to experience higher order of anxiety than those health care workers who did not worry. This might be justified as health care workers are working in a highly risky environment so that increases the probability of being infected

so that they might worry about transmitting the infection to their families and loved ones, separating with their children, and being stigmatized. The finding was also supported by other studies;<sup>28,29</sup> respondents were very worried or somewhat worried about other family members getting COVID-19. Furthermore, personal protective equipment, such as surgical masks face mask, eye goggles, protective clothing, gloves, and sanitizers, were severely deficient during the early stages of the outbreak in Ethiopia which might exacerbate worries of health care workers. Overwhelmed by daily activities and cannot make it were also significantly associated with developing higher order of anxiety among HCWs. This might be due to work overload, inner conflict about competing needs and demands of HCWs, stigma, and fear of being removed from their duties during a crisis heighten anxiety.

### Limitation of the Study

This study has some limitations which have to be taken into consideration while interpreting the findings. As being cross-sectional in the design, it does not confirm the definitive cause and effect relationship. We were unable to differentiate the pre-existing anxiety from the new cases of anxiety. The other limitation of the study might be social desirability bias but we tried to minimize it by reminding participants about confidentiality and anonymity during data collection. However, the current study had strength; To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study assessed the prevalence of anxiety among HCWs during COVID-19 in Ethiopia, we used a strong method of analysis (Ordinal logistic regression), a validated and standardized tool with an appropriate cut off points to

**Table 3** Ordinal Logistic Regression Analysis to Identify Factors Associated with Anxiety Disorder Among Health Care Workers Working in Response to COVID-19 in Southern Ethiopia from 20, May to 20, June 2020

Variables	Level of Anxiety Disorder			Standardised (B)	S.E	aPOR (95% CI)
	None to Minimal	Mild	Moderate			
Sex						
Female	191 (60.4%)	99 (31.3%)	26 (8.2%)	0.143	0.184	1.15 (0.804, 1.655)
Male (Ref.)	323 (67.0%)	135 (28.0%)	24 (5.0%)			
Residence						
Town	446 (63.3%)	216 (30.6%)	43 (6.1%)	0.411	0.284	1.51 (0.864, 2.631)
Rural (Ref.)	68 (73.1%)	18 (19.4%)	7 (7.5%)			
Living arrangement						
Alone	155 (64.9%)	73 (30.5%)	11 (4.6%)	0.046	0.206	1.05 (0.699, 1.568)
With friends	13 (65.0%)	4 (20.0%)	3 (15.0%)	-0.133	0.572	0.88 (0.286, 2.683)
With parents	116 (72.0%)	42 (26.1%)	3 (1.9%)	-0.234	0.230	0.79 (0.504, 1.242)
With spouse(Ref.)	230 (60.8%)	115 (30.4%)	33 (8.7%)			
Profession						
Clinical Nurse	238 (66.9%)	102 (28.7%)	16 (4.5%)	-0.403	0.264	0.67 (0.399, 1.120)
Medical Doctor	47 (72.3%)	16 (24.6%)	2 (3.1%)	-0.525	0.390	0.59 (0.276, 1.270)
Medical laboratory	48 (57.1%)	31 (36.9%)	5 (6.0%)	-0.064	0.336	0.94 (0.486, 1.811)
Midwifery	68 (56.7%)	38 (31.7%)	14 (11.7%)	0.118	0.317	1.13 (0.604, 2.094)
Pharmacist	54 (70.1%)	19 (24.7%)	4 (5.2%)	-0.140	0.367	0.87 (0.423, 1.785)
PH officer (Ref.)	59 (61.5%)	28 (29.2%)	9 (9.4%)			
Valued by family						
No	100 (74.1%)	27 (20.0%)	8 (5.9%)	-0.217	0.268	0.81 (0.476, 1.362)
Yes (Ref.)	414 (62.4%)	207 (31.2%)	42 (6.3%)			
Valued by the community						
No	155 (69.8%)	56 (25.2%)	11 (5.0%)	-0.260	0.217	0.77 (0.504, 1.179)
Yes (Ref.)	359 (62.3%)	178 (30.9%)	39 (6.8%)			
Contact with Confirmed or suspected cases						
Yes	64 (58.2%)	34 (30.9%)	12 (10.9%)	0.678	0.237	1.97 (1.239, 3.132)
No (Ref.)	450 (65.4%)	200 (29.1%)	38 (5.5%)			
Availability of PPE						
No	416 (61.4%)	215 (31.7%)	47 (6.9%)	0.415	0.301	1.52 (0.840, 2.731)
Yes (Ref.)	98 (81.7%)	19 (15.8%)	3 (2.5%)			





classify clinical severity of anxiety and large sample size covering a larger area.

## Conclusion

The study revealed that the prevalence of anxiety disorder among health care workers was high in the study area. COVID-19 updates, contact with confirmed or suspected cases, confidence in coping with stresses, COVID-19 related worry, feel overwhelmed by the demands of everyday life, and feeling cannot make it were significant factors associated with the higher order of anxiety. The findings of the current study suggest immediate psychological intervention for health care workers in the study area is vital. Therefore, proactive measures should be taken by the stakeholders at different hierarchies to promote the psychological wellbeing of HCWs in order to control the impact of the Pandemic on the HCWs, and containing the pandemic.

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## Author Contributions

All authors made substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; took part in drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; agreed to submit to the current journal; gave final approval of the version to be published; and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

## Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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