



# Capturing Community Perceptions on Covid-19 Response: Synopsis of Three Online Surveys



Dr. Novil Wijesekara

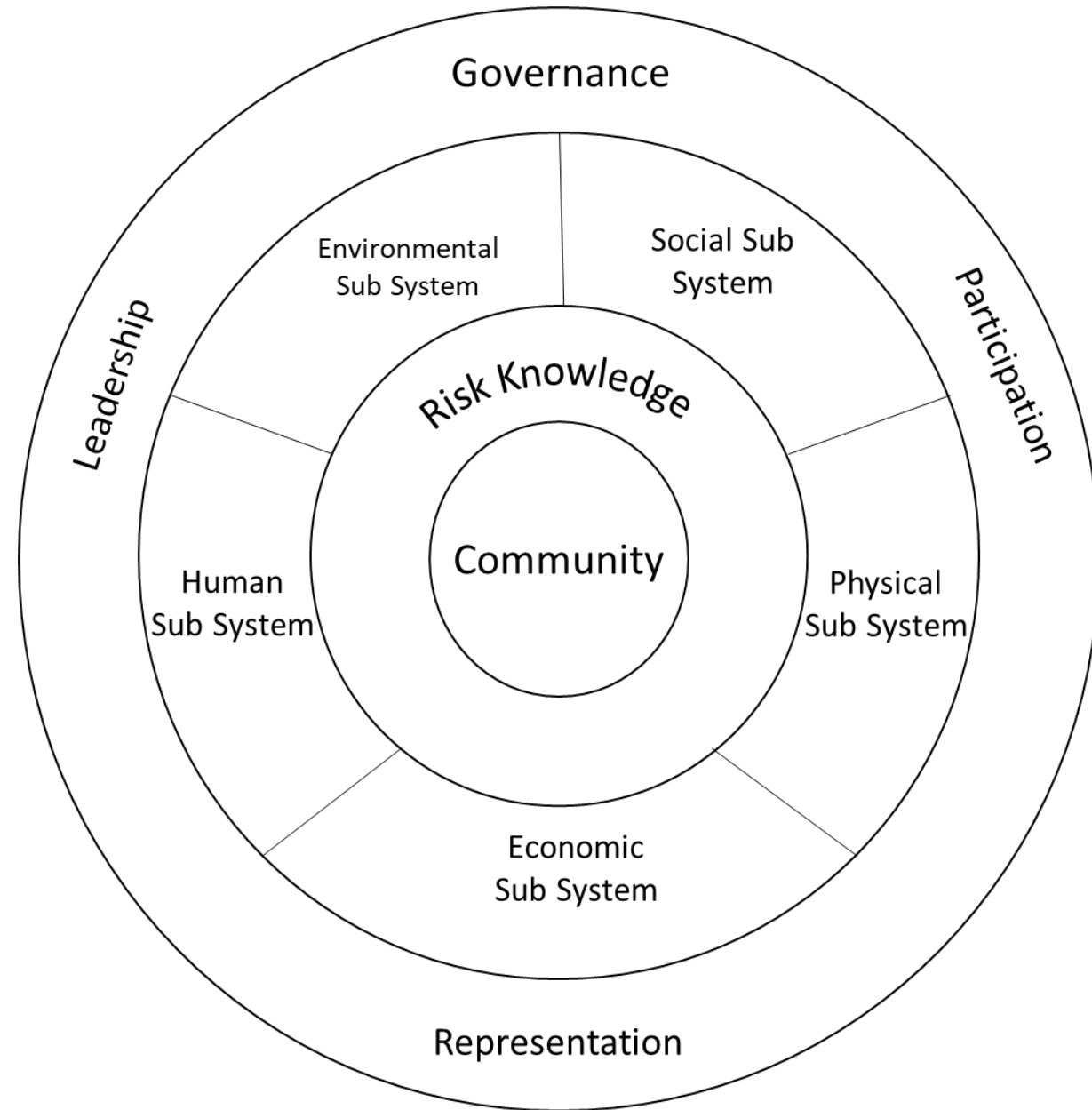
Founder / Chief Resilience Officer

Resilience Research, Training and Consulting

Covid-19 Community Engagement Initiative - [resilience.lk](https://resilience.lk)

# Why Covid-19 Community Engagement Initiative?

1. The way community members perceive risk may be quite different from how professionals would do.
2. Policy makers to be informed on how community members perceive public health measures.



Source: Disaster Management Center. Community Resilience Framework of Sri Lanka (2015)

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COVID-19 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

HOW SRI LANKANS PERCEIVE

## COVID-19 CONTROL MEASURES

Results of the Global Online Community Perception Survey on Corona Virus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) Control Measures



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## What do the Public Think about Covid-19 Dead Body Management in Sri Lanka ?

Report of an Online Public Opinion Survey

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## What do the Public Think about Return of Sri Lankans during Covid-19 Crisis?

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COVID-19 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

## HOW SRI LANKANS PERCEIVE COVID-19 CONTROL MEASURES

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The study sample consisted of respondents 4076 persons from 71 countries.



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# ORIGIN OF RESPONDENTS



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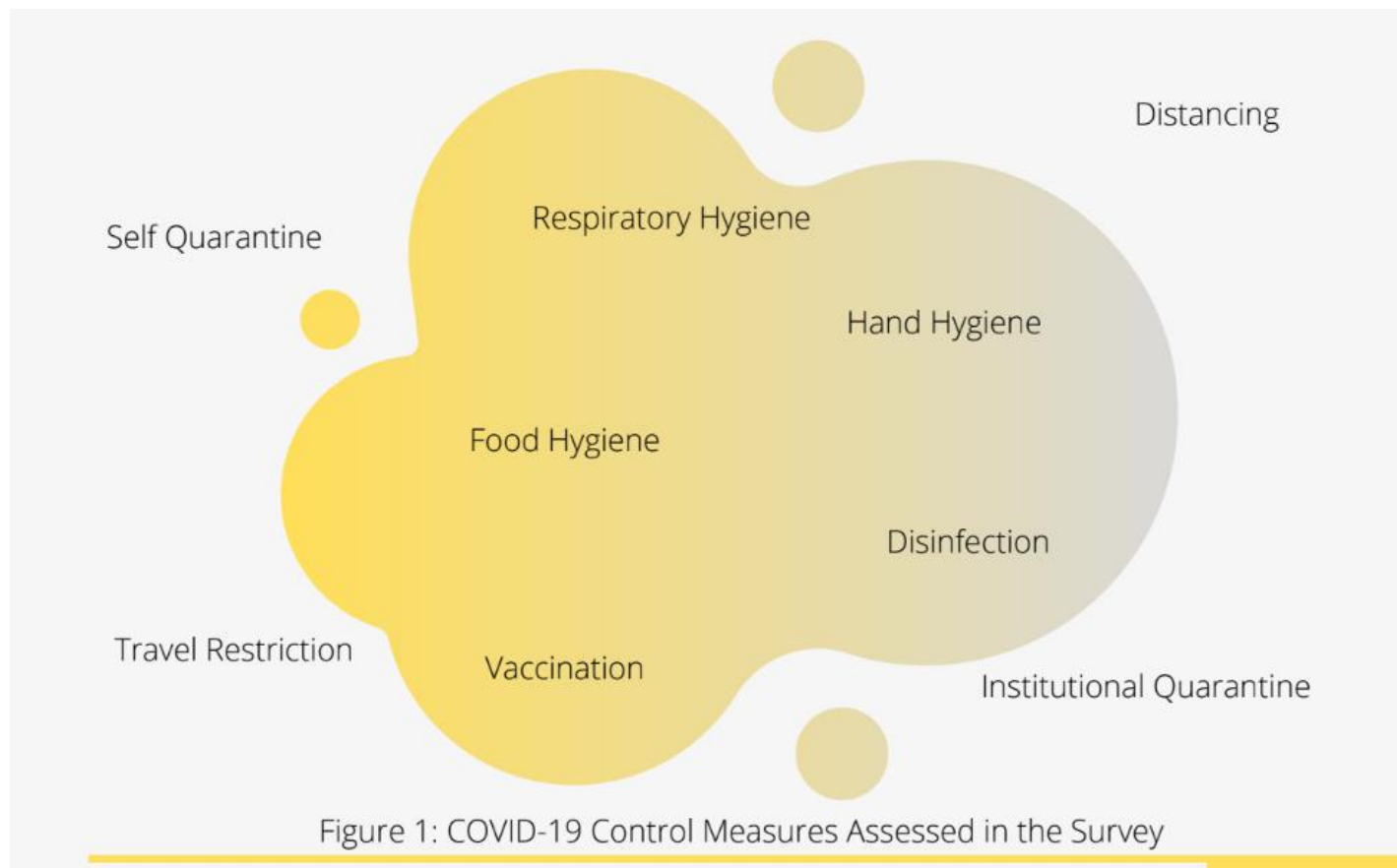


Figure 1: COVID-19 Control Measures Assessed in the Survey

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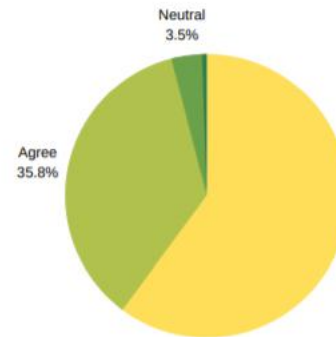


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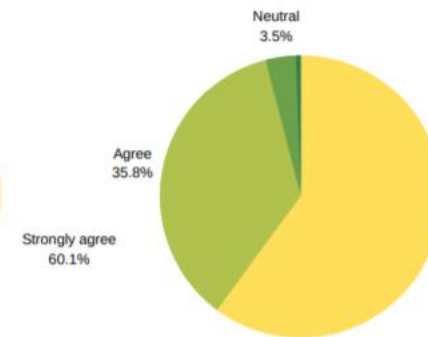
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## HAND HYGIENE

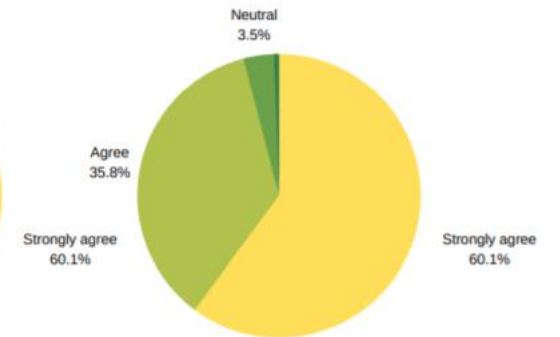
"I believe handwashing with soap and water or disinfect solution to be an effective control measure against COVID-19."



All countries



Sri Lanka



Other countries



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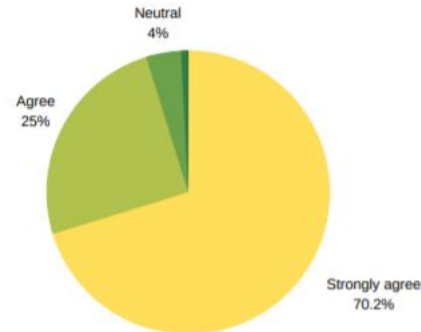


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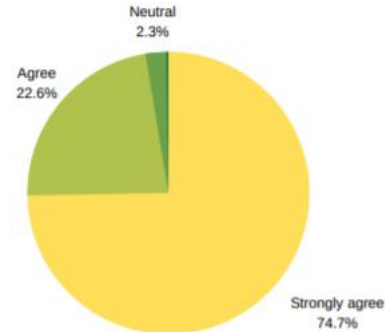
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## CROWD AVOIDANCE

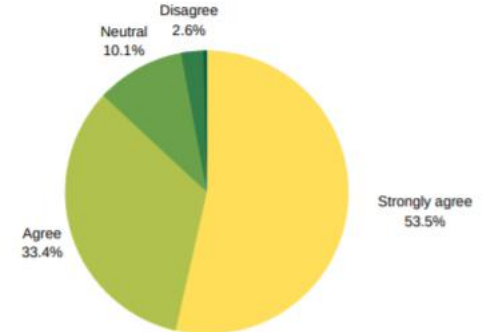
"I believe avoidance of crowded places to an effective control measure against Coronavirus Disease 2019."



All countries



Sri Lanka



Other countries

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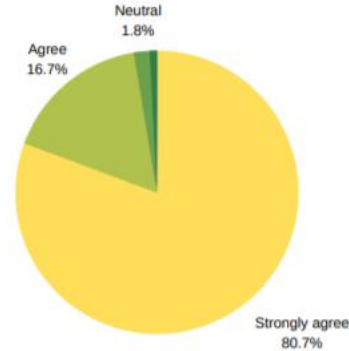


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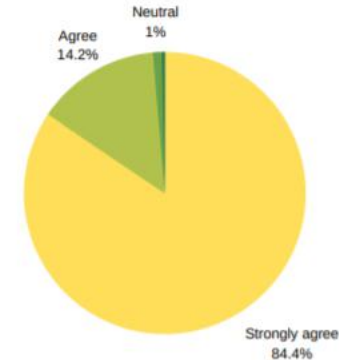
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# INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AVOIDANCE

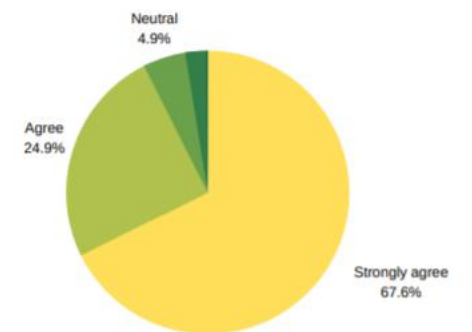
"I believe avoidance of unnecessary international travel to be an effective control measure against COVID-19."



All countries

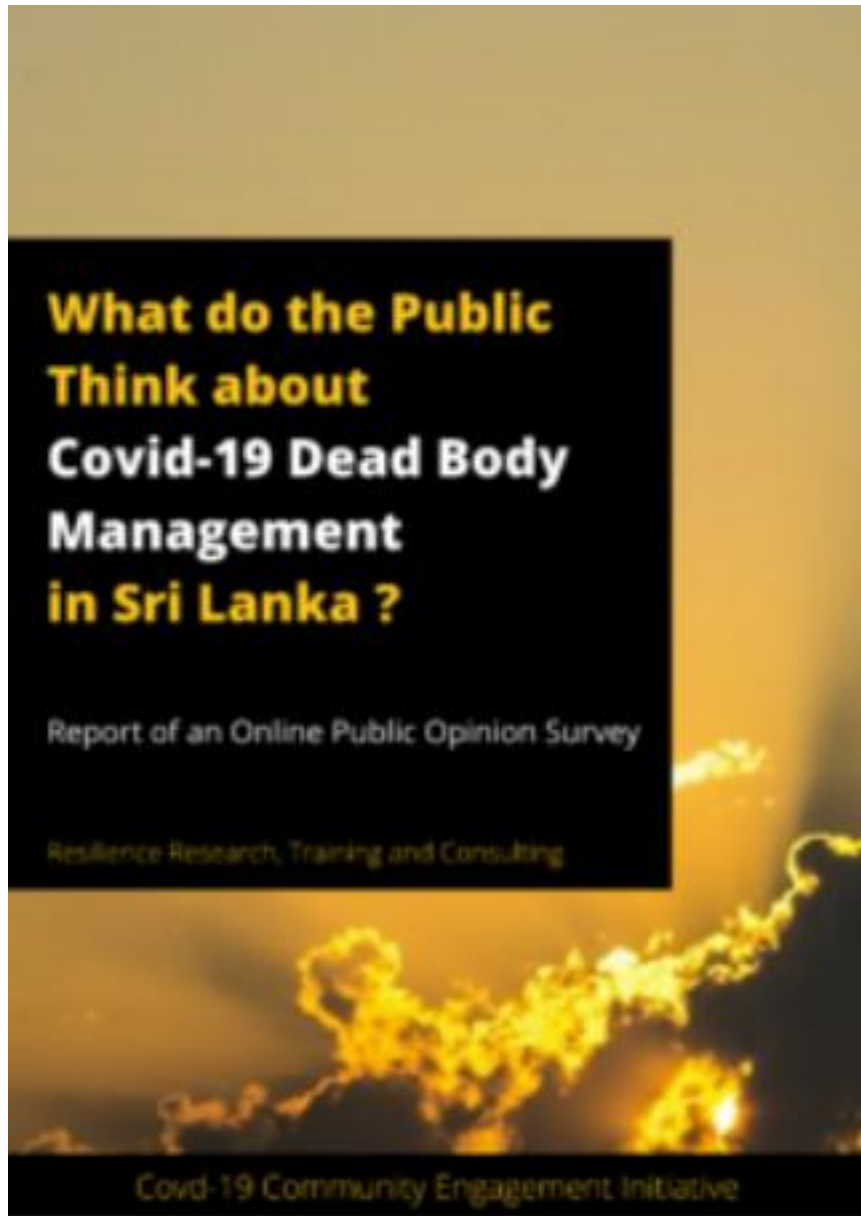


Sri Lanka

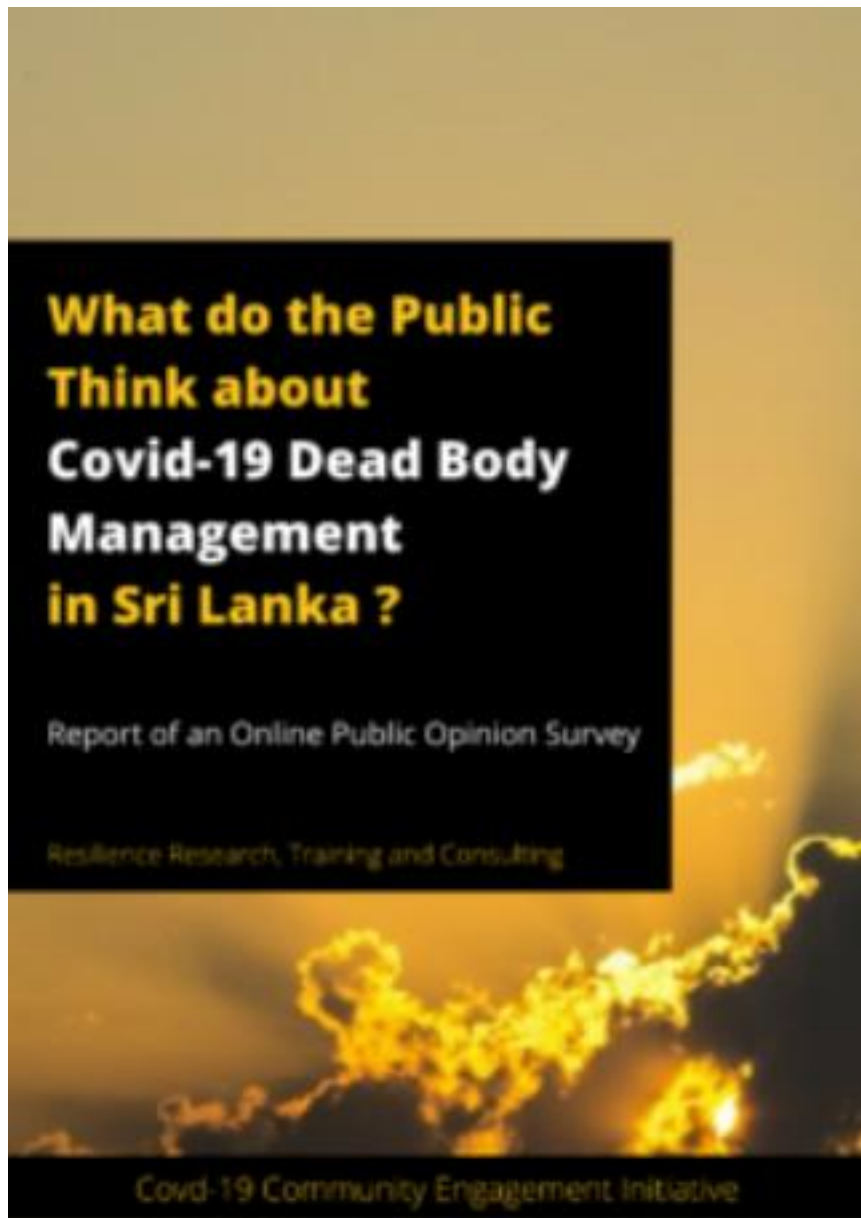


Other countries





The study sample consisted of respondents 772 persons from Sri Lanka.

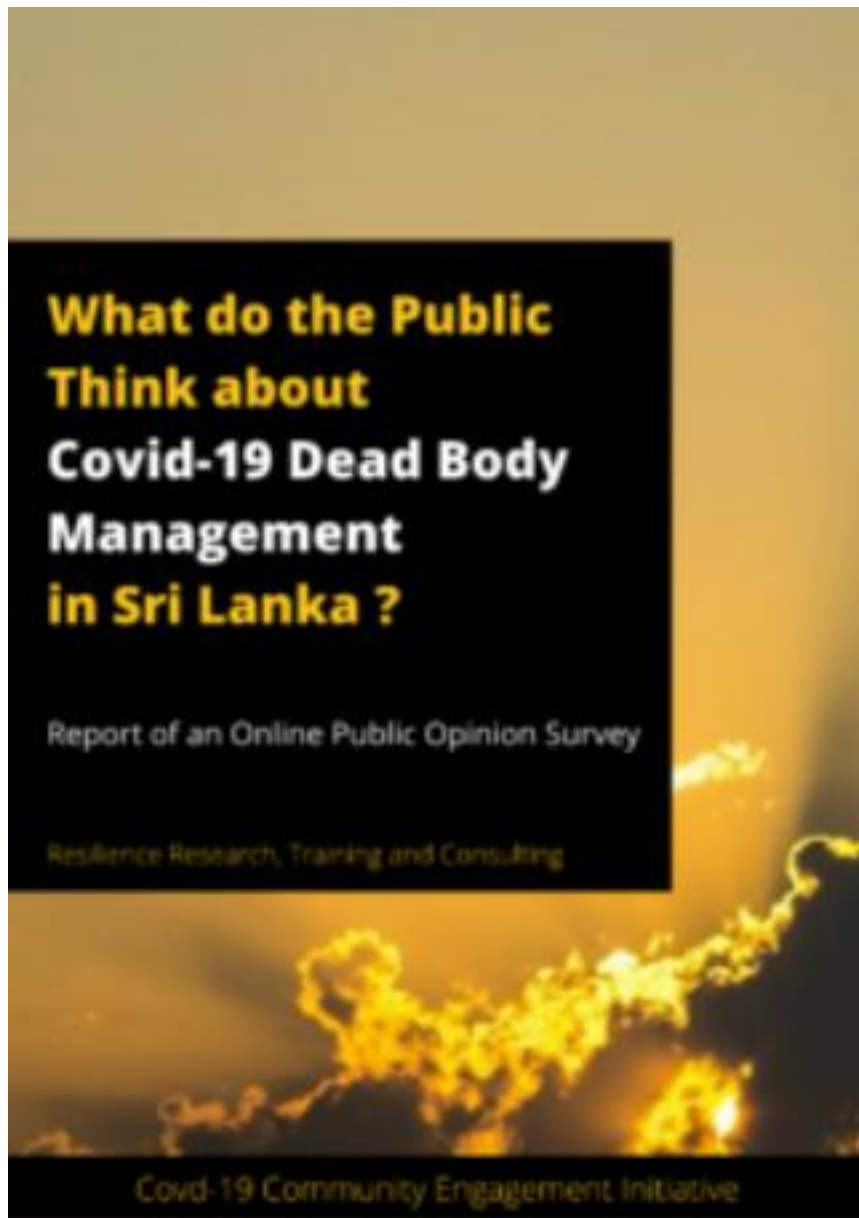


**Table 9 : Distribution of Satisfaction of Respondents with Measures taken by the Government of Sri Lanka for COVID-19 Dead Body Management**

N = 770

Description	All Respondents		Muslim/Malay		Sinhala/Tamil/Burger	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Very satisfied	92	11.9	10	2.7	78	21.3
Satisfied	106	13.7	17	4.7	87	23.8
Neutral	52	6.7	27	7.4	16	4.4
Unsatisfied	99	12.8	68	18.6	26	7.1
Very unsatisfied	421	54.5	240	65.8	159	43.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>99.6</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>99.2</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>100.0</b>

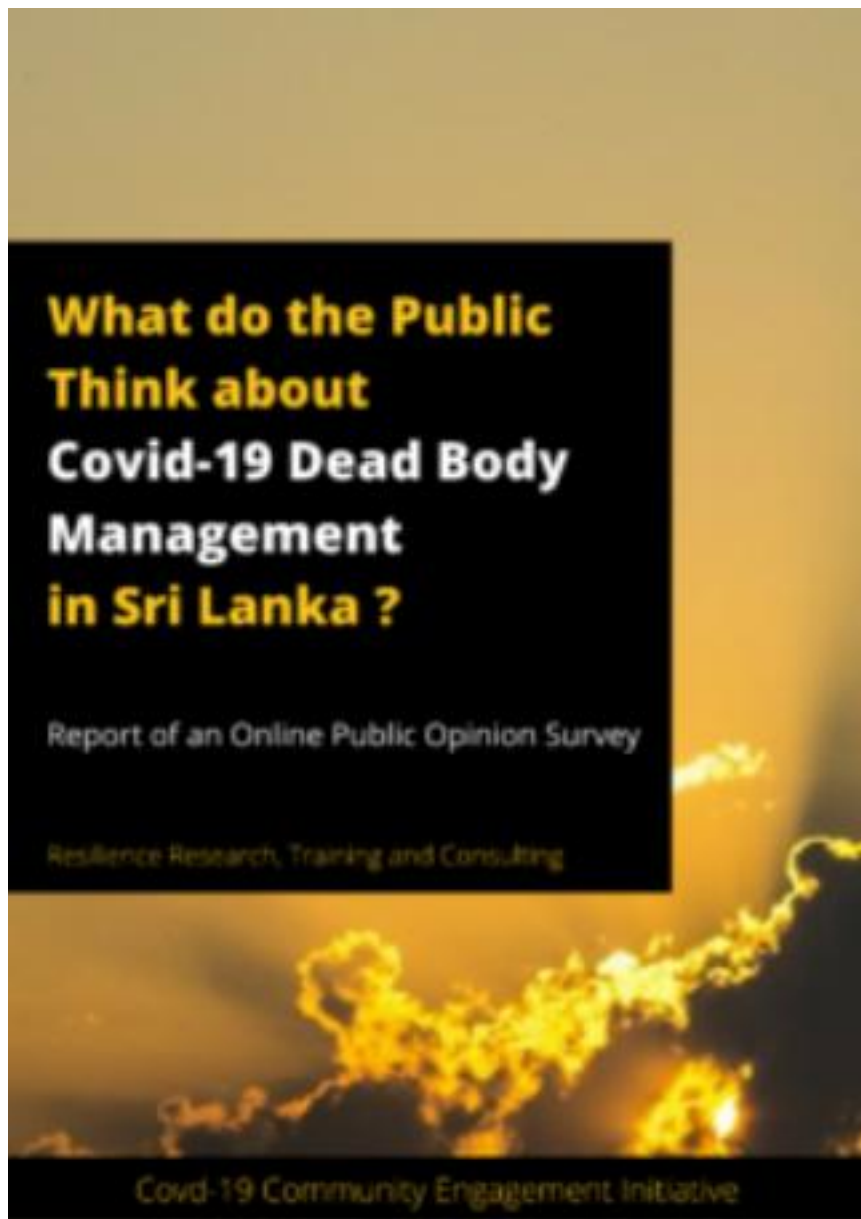




**Table 10 : Distribution of Agreement of Respondents of the decision of the Government of Sri Lanka to Cremate all COVID-19 Dead Bodies**

N = 772

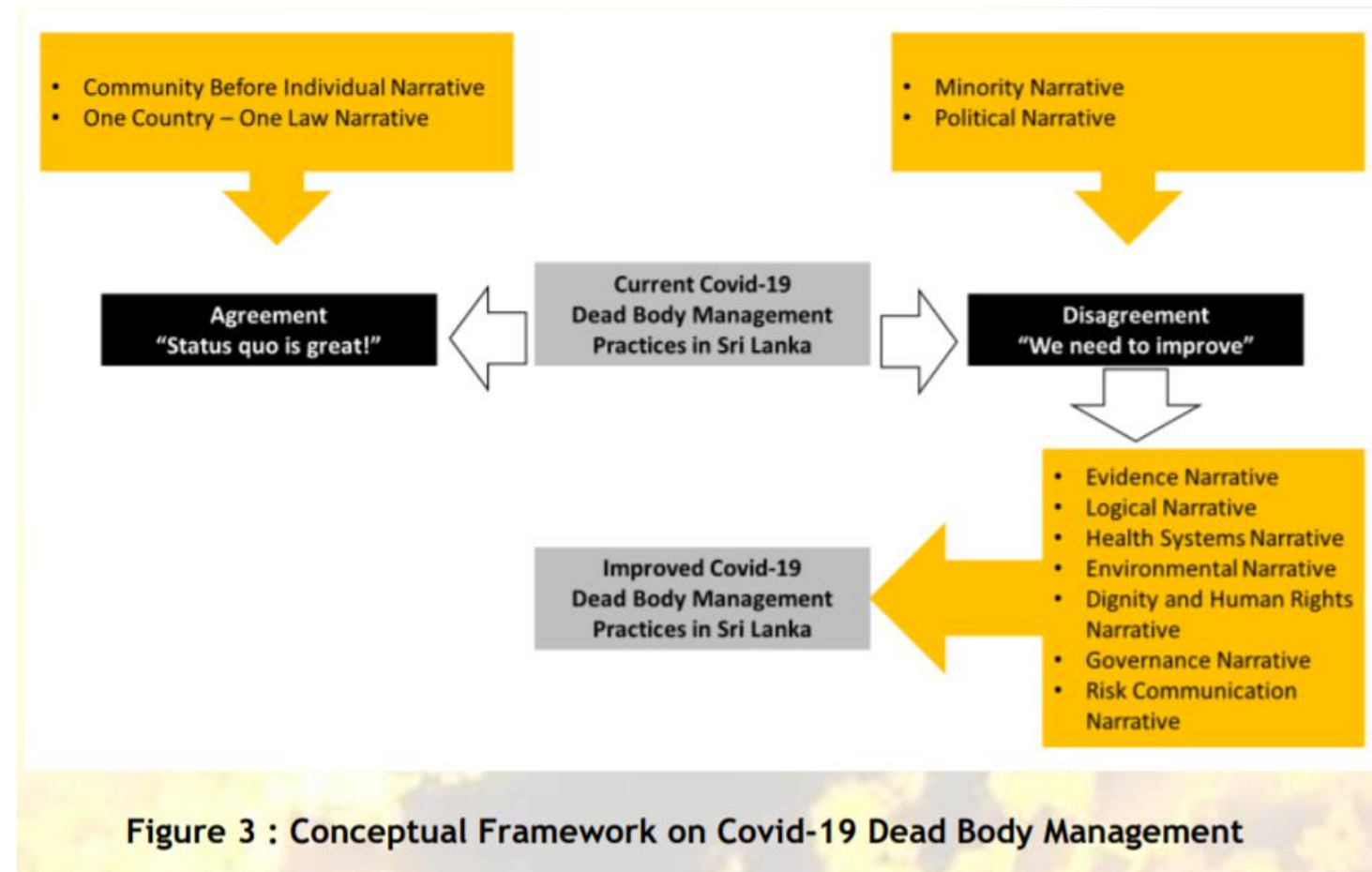
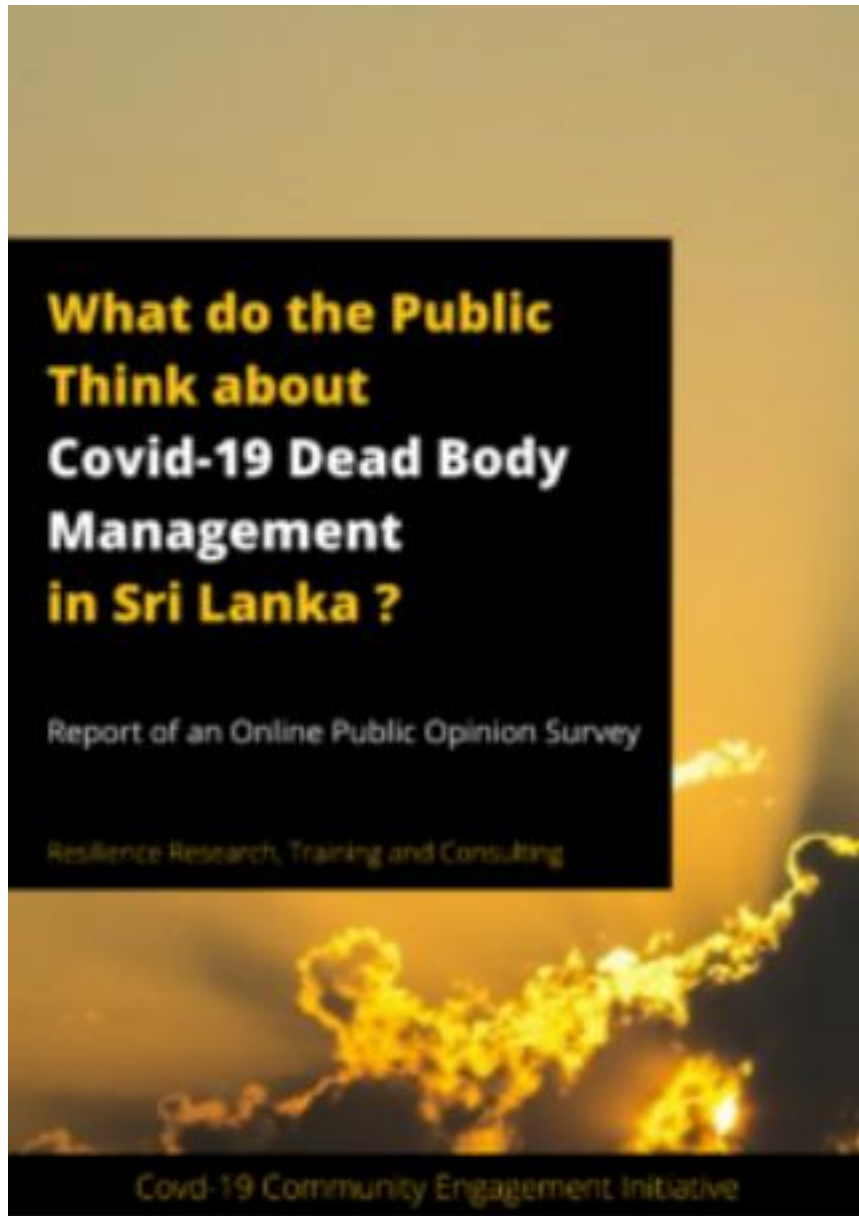
Description	All Respondents		Muslim/Malay		Sinhala/Tamil/Burger	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Strongly agree	330	42.7	56	15.4	267	73.0
Agree	39	5.1	5	1.4	34	9.3
Neutral	24	3.1	13	3.6	10	2.7
Disagree	79	10.2	58	15.9	14	3.8
Strongly disagree	300	38.9	232	63.7	41	11.2
Total	772	100.0	364	100.0	366	100.0



**Table 11 : Distribution of Agreement of Respondents to the Decision of the Government of Sri Lanka to Cremate all COVID-19 Dead Bodies**

729

Description	Buddhist		Christian/Catholic		Hindu		Islam		Other	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Strongly agree	203	79.9	28	52.8	22	68.8	60	16.2	9	45
Agree	16	6.3	10	18.9	5	15.6	5	1.4	3	15
Neutral	6	2.4	2	3.8	2	6.3	13	3.5	0	0
Disagree	9	3.5	4	7.5	1	3.1	59	15.9	1	5
Strongly disagree	20	7.9	9	17.0	2	6.3	233	63.0	7	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>



# What do the Public Think about Return of Sri Lankans during Covid-19 Crisis?

Results of a Online Public Opinion Survey

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**Agreement on the Statement: “Students who are studying in foreign countries must be allowed to come into Sri Lanka within next four weeks.”**

Description	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	30	25.9
Agree	53	45.7
Neutral	24	20.7
Disagree	8	6.9
Strongly disagree	1	0.9
Total	116	100.0



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**Agreement on the Statement: “All Sri Lankans who are working in the Middle East who want to come back must be brought to Sri Lanka within the next four weeks.”**

Description	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	27	23.3
Agree	37	31.9
Neutral	26	22.4
Disagree	19	16.4
Strongly disagree	7	6.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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**Agreement on the Statement: “When bringing in Sri Lankans from foreign countries, those who are in high-risk countries for Corona Virus must be brought in first.”**

Description	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	69	59.5
Agree	31	26.7
Neutral	14	12.1
Disagree	1	.9
Strongly disagree	1	.9
Total	116	100.0

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**Agreement on the Statement: Covid-19 infected Sri Lankans have been sent from the middle east as "Human Bombs".**

Description	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	7	6.0
Agree	12	10.3
Neutral	18	15.5
Disagree	40	34.5
Strongly disagree	39	33.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>100.0</b>



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**Agreement on the Statement: "Bringing in returnees from abroad can overwhelm the health system of the country."**

Description	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	10	8.6
Agree	19	16.4
Neutral	20	17.2
Disagree	26	22.4
Strongly disagree	41	35.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>100.0</b>

# Advantages and disadvantages using online surveys

- **Advantages**

- In person consultations were not feasible due to quarantine regulations.
- People were much present online.
- It was quick, easy and less expensive to carry out.
- Use of quantitative and qualitative methods to some extent.

- **Disadvantages**

- Not a representative of the whole community. Hence, there are questions about the statistical inferences based on a non-representative sample.
- Community seems to be getting bored with online surveys as the quarantine period was over.



# Conclusions

- Online community perception surveys could be an effective tool in obtaining community participation and engagement during Covid-19 Crisis.
- Its use especially during restricted movement could be much useful.
- Policy makers and professionals must pay attention to the community perceptions and preferences in addition to the technical correctness of interventions.

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