

## THE HESISTENCYOF PUBLIC TOWARD COVID-19 VACCINE BOOSTER IN INDONESIA

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### ABSTRACT

Until now, the transmission of the Corona virus disease (COVID-19) is still there. According to the magazine Folkative daily in June 2022 that Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants were identified enter Indonesia. More than two years into the coronnavirus pandemic, doctors are seeing other viruses, like the flu, act in unusual ways. COVID is making flu and other common viruses act in unfamiliar ways (The Washington Post, June, 2022). The Ministry of Communication and Information of the Republic of Indonesia (KOMINFO, 2022) continuously calls for all people in Indonesia to get a complete dose of 1,2 and booster vaccines. This is to increase immunity so that COVID-19 does not have a severe impact. The booster vaccine can be obtained at Public Health Centers or vaccine centers. This study uses qualitative methods with the phenomenology approach. There are 12 informants on this research which are adults who are willing to become research informants. The data are gathered using a survey with purposive sampling and in-depth interviews. Coallizi's method are used to analyze the interview results. From this research can be found that the informants have knowledge of COVID-19 from pandemic to endemic, know about the type of COVID-19 vaccine, have strong reasons for refusing to give a COVID-19 vaccine booster, believe that a COVID-19 vaccine booster is unnecessary If done, the body already has immunity without having to receive a COVID-19 vaccine booster. This research can be an input to find out more about the public's views on the administration of the COVID-19

**Keyword:** *Hesistency, COVID-19 Vaccine Booster*

### INTRODUCTION & LITERATURE REVIEW

The COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing. The pandemic is not only happening in Indonesia but throughout the world. Efforts made by many countries, one of which is Indonesia is to provide vaccines for all Indonesian people. But in fact, these efforts are not fully accepted by the community. This is influenced by the amount of news that is not necessarily true or

hoaxes about the COVID-19 vaccine. News about the impact of vaccines and rejecting the COVID-19 vaccine. This of course can cause obstacles for the government to provide vaccines to the public at large (Rahayu & Sensusiyati, 2020) (Sulistyawati & Widarini, 2022).

The pandemic is changing the world of health. The corona virus has changed people's lives in

the past few months. The infectious disease it causes has forced shops, schools and offices to close for an indefinite period of time. Various measures have been taken to prevent the spread of the virus by countries around the world; ranging from total area quarantine and social restriction campaigns, to large-scale social restriction policies taken by the Indonesian government. These actions have changed the way we live because they require us to limit mobility and physical contact with others (Rizki et al., 2021).

According to World Health Organization, COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by the Corona virus. Transmitted through the transmission of droplets from an infected person when coughing, sneezing, talking and exhaling. Most people infected with the Corona virus will have different symptoms of the Corona virus. Most people will experience mild to moderate symptoms that eventually resolve without needing to be hospitalized. But in people who have comorbid diseases, such as Diabetes, heart and other lung diseases, the person can experience more severe symptoms (Zendrato, 2020).

Corona virus is a large family of viruses that can be transmitted from animals to humans or known as zoonoses. Transmission of the virus can cause mild to severe symptoms. There are two types of Corona viruses that can eventually cause disease in humans, namely: Middle East Respiratory (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV) (Putri, 2020).

The current COVID-19 disease has become a very big problem for countries as a world health problem. Globally, COVID-19 cases have reached more than 1.9 million cases which have spread to 205 countries in the world as well

as in 2 modes of international transportation. Even though there is a fairly high death rate of more than 127,000 as of April 15, 2020, the reality is that there are still many people in various parts of the world who lack information about COVID-19. This resulted in excessive panic and refusal to follow government recommendations (Moudy & Syakurah, 2020).

Until now, the transmission of the Corona virus disease (COVID-19) is still there. According to the (Rulinawaty et al., 2022) daily in June 2022 that Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants were identified enter Indonesia. Minister of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, just announced that a new Covid variants BA.4 and BA.5, which made a spike of Covid cases in Singapore has reached Indonesia and currently 8 people have been detected with the virus. Currently, Minister of Health is still investigating the case, and masks usage is still optional outdoors (WHO, 2022).

According to the World Health Organization report, as of July 17, 2021, there were 188,655,968 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 with 4,067,517 deaths (Hiola et al., 2022). In Indonesia, positive confirmed cases of COVID-19 as of July 19, 2021, amounted to 2,877,476 with a death toll of 73,582 people (Kominfo, 2022). In July 2021, Indonesia was ranked first or highest in the world as a country with active cases for positive confirmation of COVID-19. The New York Time stated that Indonesia is currently the number 1 country in the world as the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic ("Newyork.Pdf," n.d.). Since the case of COVID-19 in Indonesia, the government has sought various ways to prevent transmission of the virus to its citizens. These efforts are

contained in the rules for carrying out health protocols, namely, using masks, washing hands and maintaining distance or avoiding crowds. In addition to implementing the health protocol, the government also provides free vaccinations to all levels of society. The implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination activity began on January 13, 2021 for the first dose of the Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine (CNN, 2022). According to the report of the National Officers Unit (<https://covid19.go.id/>) as of July 30, 2022, the COVID-19 situation in Indonesia from 91,265 specimens examined, there were 49,105 active cases. So that the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases is 6,202,893, with 5,996,805 recovered cases and 156,983 deaths.

Corona virus or known as SAR-Cov-2 can spread very easily through droplets. When viewed from the development of the number of spreads at the beginning of the pandemic until now, the virus is growing very quickly. This causes the number of sufferers who are infected and who died due to the virus to increase and develop very quickly (Disemadi & Pardede, 2021). Symptoms reported by sufferers generally have in common, namely: fever, shortness of breath and feeling weak and tired. There are also more severe symptoms that accompany sufferers, for example, headaches and not feeling the sensation of smell (Eridani, 2011).

Problems regarding the acceptance of the COVID-19 vaccine in Indonesia still persist. Research conducted by Disemadi, et.al shows that the Indonesian government has appealed and sought so that all people in Indonesia who have the right to age get the COVID-19 vaccine. But in fact there are still many people who are reluctant and

even refuse to give the vaccine. Therefore, it is necessary to impose imprisonment and fines. This has actually been confirmed by the issuance of regulations on vaccine rejection. But until now it is still an issue in society related to human rights that are violated or not because people have the right to refuse to receive medical treatment (Disemadi & Pardede, 2021).

In general, each country has a policy for the management of vaccines in their country. Starting from providing basic immunizations for infants and children. Various challenges are faced by various countries to improve the perfect number of immunization coverage specifically in Southeast Asia. This is because there are still many people who refuse to get the vaccine (Mursinah et al., 2020). The World Health Organization defines refusal of immunization or vaccine as a delay in accepting or refusing to give a vaccine even though it is provided in a health care facility (Valerio et al., 2022).

According to (Valerio et al., 2022) that since 2019 efforts have been made to develop a Fair Allocation Framework with the aim of ensuring that vaccines and treatment for COVID-19 are distributed fairly and equitably to all countries. This is a global collaboration to accelerate, produce and access Covid-19 vaccines and treatments. Furthermore, after a vaccine is proven safe and effective its use has been authorized, then all countries receive doses in amounts commensurate with the population. In Indonesia, there are all authorized bodies, namely the Food & Drug Inspection Agency (BPOM) which authorizes a vaccine to be used. The government carefully regulates the implementation of the Covid-19 vaccine, starting from the

most prioritized groups, namely health workers on the front lines and care workers, people who are at very high risk of infection, elderly people and people who are at high risk of experiencing infection. death from comorbidities (Fauzan & Hikmah, 2022).

Indonesia has a long history in efforts to control infectious diseases by vaccination or immunization. Indonesia also has contributed to the prevention of diseases that are rampant in the world by vaccinating. In 1956, after the smallpox vaccine was launched, the Indonesian government intensively implemented the vaccine, so that smallpox could be eliminated worldwide in 1974. Likewise with the polio vaccine which was launched in 1972, the Indonesian government was also involved in administering the vaccine so that in the end Indonesia achieved polio-free in 2014 (Cabinet, 2020). Since 2021, the Indonesian government has also made efforts to control an infectious disease which is a worldwide pandemic, namely Covid-19. A survey of the acceptance of the Covid-19 vaccine in Indonesia conducted in 2020 by the Indonesian Ministry of Health in collaboration with NITAG, UNICEF and WHO. The number of respondents involved as many as 112,888 people. The survey results show that there are 64.8% who accept the Covid-19 vaccine, 27.6% are hesitant and 7.6% refuse to receive the Covid-19 vaccine (Irwan et al., 2022). It is a very big challenge for the Indonesian government to be able to achieve herd immunity against the Covid-19 disease. Spokesperson for the Covid-19 Vaccination of the Indonesian Ministry of Health, Siti Nadia Tarmizi, stated that the percentage of Indonesian people

who believe that Covid-19 can be prevented through vaccines is 67 percent. Another 33 percent are still not convinced and even refuse vaccines as an effort to prevent Covid-19 (Gunawan & Toni, 2022).

According to the Ministry of Health "vaccination is a process in the body, where a person becomes immune or protected from a disease so that if one day he is exposed to the disease he will not get sick or only experience mild illness, usually by giving the vaccine." While "vaccine is a biological product that contains antigens in the form of microorganisms or their parts or substances they produce which have been processed in such a way as to be safe, which when given the condition of a person, will cause active specific immunity against certain diseases." (Junaedi et al., 2021). From this definition, it can be concluded that the vaccine will stimulate the formation of immunity against certain diseases in a person's body because the body will remember the virus or bacteria that carries the disease, recognize and even fight it. So if someone has been vaccinated against Covid-19, it is hoped that they can form immunity so that if that person is exposed to the Corona virus, the body will be able to fight it.

The efforts made by the government have been very maximal. The implementation of vaccination for the community actually aims to provide immunity to the immune system in the body. In the end, with the immunity possessed by a person, it is expected to form special antibodies so as to protect the person's body against various diseases, especially COVID-19 (Juni Ahyar dan Muzir, 2019). But the reality is, there are still many people who are reluctant to even refuse the COVID-19 vaccine. The issue of the refusal to

receive the COVID-19 vaccine even led to a refusal by the anti-vaccine group (Makarim, 2017). This certainly has an impact on the government's work program to reduce and even stop the spread of the Corona virus. In the world today in general there are about 19.5 million babies who do not get basic immunization. Of this amount, about 60% are in the territory of developing countries, including Indonesia (Di et al., 2021).

More than two years into the coronavirus pandemic, doctors are seeing other viruses, like the flu, act in unusual ways. COVID is making flu and other common viruses act in unfamiliar ways (Shah et al., 2021). The Ministry of Communication and Information of the Republic of Indonesia (Rulinawaty et al., 2022) continuously calls for all people in Indonesia to get a complete dose of 1,2 and booster vaccines. This is to increase immunity so that COVID-19 does not have a severe impact. The booster vaccine can be obtained at Public Health Centers or vaccine centers. In addition, during the development of the vaccination program, the 1st vaccine recipients increased by 22,072 with a total exceeding 202 million or 202,443,211 to be exact. While the recipients of the second vaccination increased by 13,809 with a total exceeding 170 million or to be precise 170,035,694 people. And the 3rd vaccination increased by 54,649 with a total exceeding 55 million or 55,835,790 people. Meanwhile, the target for vaccination is 208,265,720 people.

Research conducted by Telaumbanua on the urgency of establishing regulations related to the prevention of COVID-19 in Indonesia, concluded that there is an urgent need for the establishment of regulations to

prevent COVID-19. This is based on the fact that COVID-19 is an infectious disease that has the potential to cause a health emergency at all levels of society. So it is deemed necessary to immediately take preventive measures against this highly contagious disease. The urgency of the formation of regulations related to the prevention of COVID-19 is mandatory in government regulations and regulations of the minister of health. It is hoped that these two regulations can anticipate health emergencies, especially in Indonesia (Telaumbanua, 2020).

#### **METHODOLOGY**

This study uses qualitative methods with the phenomenology approach. There are 12 informants on this research which are adults who are willing to become research informants.

In essence, qualitative research is a systematic activity to explore theories from facts in the real world, not to test theories or hypotheses (Rukajat, 2018). There are 5 informants on this research which is female with a minimum education level of highschool. The other 7 informants are male with a bachelor's level of education. The data gathered using a survey with purposive sampling and in-depth interview.

Researchers used an in-depth interview guide that contained questions about COVID-19 and the COVID-19 vaccine. Furthermore, to get answer in accordance with the research objectives, the researchers conducted probing so that finally the researchers got data saturation from the answers to the 12 informants. Coallizi's method are used to analyze the interview results.

## FINDINGS/RESULTS

The result of this research analysis adalah Most of the respondents have shown similar Answers regarding their doubts about the contents inside the COVID-19 vaccine. Totally from 12 informans, 1 of them have received COVID-19 vaccine doses 1 & 2 while the other 11 have never receive vacinne. From until beginning 11 informants refused to receive a dose of vaccine 1 & 2 until finally the government provided facilities for booster vaccines/3<sup>rd</sup> dose vaccines. Informants are reluctant to be vaccinated with the majority of the same reasons, namely because of the vaccine is something foreign put into the body.

There are even 5 of them said that Corona virus and vaccine products were engineered a policy made by the state/politic in order to reduce the population. The informants are very confident that the body will form its own antibodies without having to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

This also related because according to the informants the vaccine has not been thoroughly tested, only used foremergencies dueto the pandemic. In terms of data saturation, that all informants are doubtful about vaccines inIndonesia.

## DISCUSSION

Everyone has the freedom to choose. This includes acceptance COVID-19 vaccine. On the other hand, the government has a responsibility to protect its citizens are protected from contagion and transmitting the virus. This of course becomes dilemma if ther is no agreement. It becomes a very big challenge for the Indonesia

government to be able to achieve herd immunity against the COVID-19 disease even in other countries. A high level of awareness is needed for the community as well as prudent approach by the government so that the vaccine program can be carried out.

## Limitations and Implications

Ministry of Health data shows that 70% of the 8,230 patients who died from COVID-19 had not received full vaccination. Currently the stock of COVID-19 vaccines for boosters is more than sufficient. The results of this study are expected to provide input and add scientific insight related to the acceptance of the COVID-19 vaccine by the public. It is a challenge and motivation for health workers to continue to help, educate the public that complete and booster vaccinations can reduce the risk of being admitted and death. Booster vaccination can increase immunity up to 2x compared to the second dose of vaccination. Booster can protect the elderly and vulnerable groups/have comorbidities from the spread of COVID-19

## CONCLUSION

The conclusion that researchers got on this research are:

1. The informants are found to have knowledge of COVID-19.
2. The informants are found to have knowledge of COVID-19 vaccine.
3. The informants are found to have knowledge a coronavirus testing site is set up in community health centers.
4. Informants strongly believe that without receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, the body

will be able to form its own antibodies. The data analysis shows that the informants have uniform answers.

5. The target for vaccination is 208,265,720 so that if all people receive complete and booster vaccinations, they can reduce the risk of being treated and dying.
6. Informants are very familiar with information about COVID-19, and often receive calls to vaccinate from health workers. However, informants are still reluctant to accept vaccines, even assuming that the Corona virus and vaccine products are the result of engineering related to politics carried out by the state in order to reduce the population.

The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, as the leading sector implementing the COVID-19 vaccination program, has made integrated efforts with agencies and health service centers throughout Indonesia. This effort has been well socialized to all levels of society through the public relations bureau of communication

and public service. This public communication strategy seeks to provide public communication in an effort to disseminate accurate information about the COVID-19 vaccine. But in its implementation there are still many obstacles faced by the government, one of which is the refusal of the public to participate in the COVID-19 vaccination.

Recommendations and redirections for future researchers: from the results of this study, it is hoped that further researchers can examine the factors that influence people's reluctance to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Stronger efforts are needed from health workers to empower people to accept the COVID-19 vaccine. Likewise, support from many parties is needed, including: the government, health workers, families as well as the community. In addition, further research is needed to determine the public's understanding of knowledge about COVID-19, how to access vaccines, understanding of the risks that can be faced if you do not get a COVID-19 vaccine.

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