

Public Anxiety and the Implementation of the Covid 19 Vaccine

Rizky Rahayu Amas^{1*}, Ery Wardanengsih¹, Barangkau¹

¹Nursing Department, Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Puangrimaggalatung Sengkang, Indonesia.

Abstract

*Corresponding author:
Rizky Rahayu Amas,
Nursing Department,
Faculty of Nursing and
Midwifery, University of
Puangrimaggalatung
Sengkang, Indonesia
Email:
rizkyrahayumas97@g
mail.com

Article info:
Received: 2024-05-10
Revised: 2024-05-15
Accepted: 2024-05-26

e-ISSN: 3047-6054
Volume 1(2): 56-60,
May 2024

Background: Anxiety is a feeling experienced by a person making him uneasy which is haunted by his own thoughts. The implementation of the COVID-19 vaccine is a way to increase immunity in the body so as to limit the spread of certain diseases in the human body.

Objective: The purpose of the study was to determine the relationship between public anxiety and the implementation of the covid 19 vaccine.

Methods: This study was quantitative research with an accidental sampling approach. The sampling technique in this study was the elderly who have never received Covid-19 vaccine and were willing to as many as 35 samples, using the Chi-Square Test.

Results: Majority of respondents experienced moderate anxiety, totaling 21 (60%) respondents and most of them were disagree receiving the Covid-19 vaccine, accounting for 21 (60%) respondents. According to the Chi-square test, the p-value was 0.000 (<0.05). This indicated that there was a correlation between public anxiety and the implementation of the Covid-19 vaccine.

Conclusion: There is a relationship between public anxiety and the implementation of the Covid-19 vaccine in one of public health centers in Wajo Regency.

Keywords: COVID 19; public anxiety; vaccine

Introduction

The COVID 19 pandemic in early 2020 shocked the world (Karim, 2021). The World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID 19 as a public health concern on January 30, 2020 and a pandemic on March 11, 2020. Scientists around the world tried to produce vaccines to overcome this pandemic and limit the spread of this virus (Plag & Petzold, 2021). The implementation of COVID 19 vaccination is a new program initiated by the government to create herd immunity to COVID 19 with a target target of 70% of the population. The implementation of vaccination which is started first by the state apparatus, health workers, the elderly and finally the general public (Kholidiyah et al., 2021).

The implementation of the COVID 19 vaccine launched by the government has experienced obstacles due to the large amount of hoax information circulating about the COVID 19 vaccine and doubts by the public. This caused anxiety and chose to refuse the COVID 19 vaccine (Kholidiyah et al., 2021). The World Health Organization (WHO) considers vaccine hesitancy as a "delay in acceptance or refusal" of vaccination even though vaccination services are available. Through the regulation of the Indonesian minister of health regarding the implementation of vaccination, the Indonesian government took the initiative to contain the development of COVID 19. One of the strategies was that the government issued reference regulations on COVID 19 vaccination and there have been various vaccine brands for handling COVID 19 (Nachrawi et al., 2021).

According to Makassar City Health Office, in 2021, the achievement of COVID-19 vaccination in South Sulawesi, especially in Makassar has reached 50.06% for dose one or targeting 551,879 residents. Meanwhile, in Wajo Regency, there were 231,566 people who have taken the first dose of vaccine and for the second dose was 122,033 people.

Based on preliminary data obtained at one of public health centers in Wajo regency on December 25, 2021, the total number who have participated in the first dose was 6,106 people, while those who had second dose was 3,317 people.

The anxiety experienced by the community is natural because the implementation of the COVID 19 Vaccine for the first time carried out by the community will hinder the achievement of the COVID 19 vaccination program targeted by the Indonesian government, which is as many as 181,554,465 residents (70%) cannot be achieved as expected. Providing information to the public about the COVID 19 vaccine can be informed by regional heads, village officials of each region of Indonesia by providing education such as that the COVID 19 vaccine is important to form immunity (Kholidiyah et al., 2021).

Therefore, according to the background above, the authors were interested in conducting research about the relationship between public anxiety and the implementation of the Covid-19 vaccine in one of public health centers in Wajo regency.

Methods

Study Design

This study was quantitative research with a cross-sectional approach.

Samples/Participants

The population in this study was the elderly who have not yet received the COVID-19 vaccine in the working area of a public health center in Sengkang regency, which were 334 people. The sampling technique used in this study was accidental sampling technique, which included 35 respondents.

Instruments

The instrument used in the study was a questionnaire with a number of written questions read, answered by research respondents (Suyanto, 2017). Data collection technique using the Hamillion Rating Scale for Anxiety (HARS) questionnaire. This measuring instrument consists of 14 groups of symptoms with each group broken down again into more specifics.

Data Collection

In conducting data collection, researchers took primary data from direct interviews. Data obtained from respondents through questionnaire sheets. The questionnaire which included respondents' characteristics such as age, gender, religion, education level and secondary data obtained from the research setting which was 1,147 elderly people who have taken the COVID 19 vaccine. This study was conducted in 2021 at one of public health centers in Wajo regency.

Data Analysis

All data were analyzed using the SPSS statistical program. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the participants' characteristics. The Chi-square tests were used to determine the relationship between public anxiety and the implementation of the Covid-19 vaccine.

Ethical Considerations

This research obtained a research permission from the ethics committee of Puangrimaggalatung Sengkang University and the investment office and one-stop integrated services permit with number: 1562/IP/DPMPTSP/2022.

Results

Table 1 shows that majority of respondents were female, amounting 28 (80%) respondents, age 50-55 years and 56-60 years which were 8 (22.9%) respondents respectively. All respondents were Islam and most of them were academically uneducated, totaling 17 (48.6%) respondents. Furthermore, majority of respondents experienced moderate anxiety, totaling 21 (60%) respondents and most of them were disagree receiving the Covid-19 vaccine, accounting for 21 (60%) respondents.

Table 1. Characteristics of respondents

Characteristics	n	%
Gender		
Female	28	80.0
Male	7	20.0
Age		
50-55	8	22.9
56-60	8	22.9
61-65	7	20.0
66-70	7	20.0
71-75	3	8.6
76-80	1	2.9
86-90	1	2.9
Religion	35	100.0
Islam		
Education Level		
Academically uneducated	17	48.6
Elementary school	11	31.4
Junior high school	4	11.4
Senior high school	3	8.6
Anxiety Level		
Severe Anxiety	0	0
Moderate Anxiety	21	60.0
Mild Anxiety	14	40.0
Implementation of Covid-19		
Disagree	21	60.0
Agree	14	40.0
Total	35	100.0

Table 2 depicts that according to the Chi-square test, the p-value was 0.000. This indicated that there was a correlation between public anxiety and the implementation of the Covid-19 vaccine.

Table 2. The relationship between public anxiety and the implementation of the COVID 19 vaccine

Anxiety	Implementation COVID 19 Vaccine						p-value
	Disagree		Agree		Total		
	n	%	n	%	N	%	
Severe Anxiety	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000
Moderate Anxiety	21	60	0	0	21	60	
Mild Anxiety	0	0	14	40	14	40	
Total	21	60	14	40	14	100	

Discussion

This study found that most respondents were female because females experience more anxiety as they are more in the house than men due to more frequent exit from the house, therefore women feel more anxious than men. This is evidenced by the results of previous research by Remes, et al. (2016) that women are twice as likely to experience anxiety as men. This finding also reveals that most respondents were aged 50-55 years and 56-60 years. Kaplan and Sadock's (2010) theory in Ria Safaria Sadif, Satnawati (2022) suggests that young individuals are more prone to anxiety disorders than older individuals.

According to the education level, most respondents were academically uneducated. Many respondents who did not go to school would certainly make them feel anxious, therefore the

higher the level of knowledge, the less anxious. The anxiety experienced by respondents was found in respondents who did not go to school. The relationship of education with the occurrence of anxiety is affirmed by Puspitasari's (2013) research in (Ria Safaria Sadif; Satnawati, 2022) where it is stated that there is a significant negative correlation between anxiety level and education level.

From these findings, it can be seen that some people are so worried about the implementation of vaccines carried out by the government, from direct interviews conducted by researchers with respondents, some people are afraid of needles and some are afraid of the effects and some are afraid of whether the COVID 19 vaccine has no impact on the disease they experience, Caused by hearing that someone who has been vaccinated after being injected, his body becomes red spots and itchy and there is also swelling in the knee. After hearing some of the responses of people who have been vaccinated, what he has heard makes him even more anxious to vaccinate against COVID 19.

Several studies explain that vaccination-related anxiety is caused by side effects that may appear after the vaccine (Bendau, et al. 2021). According to Santrock (2002), "old age brings greater physical decline compared to previous age periods". Then it was emphasized by Listiana, et al. (2013) "the aging process is a natural process accompanied by a decline in physical, psychological and social conditions that interact with each other. This situation tends to have the potential to cause health problems in general and mental health in particular in the elderly. According to Santrock (2002), older people have a higher likelihood of experiencing anxiety disorders than depression. According to the researchers' assumption, anxiety is caused by information obtained about side effects that may appear after the vaccine such as pain at the injection site, muscle pain, headaches and even death due to the COVID 19 vaccine.

This finding showed that most respondents did not agree receiving Covid-19 vaccination. vaccination is one of the government's programs to reduce the COVID 19 transmission rate. However, there are still those who disagree with the vaccination and lack confidence in the effects of the COVID-19 vaccine, because they think the vaccine is not very important and dangerous. The results of the research conducted by (Octafia, 2021) show that the reason people refuse to be vaccinated is because they believe in issues about vaccines. They think that vaccines are not a solution to overcome COVID 19 transmission and they are unsure of the efficacy of the COVID 19 vaccine.

Some people are so anxious due to the implementation of the COVID 19 vaccine, according to some elderly people feel. There is a nature of coercion, that if you do not vaccinate, it will have an impact when traveling such as to the market, village head office and etc., due to the emergence of worries if at any time there is a COVID 19 vaccine raid in the middle of the trip, this makes the elderly very anxious and does not know how to deal with the vaccine raid. Where we can see now it is as if vaccination is forced on the community. This can be seen from the various rules that follow the vaccination. If a person is not vaccinated, then the person concerned cannot visit public places, cannot travel via airplane, cannot take care of population administration, etc. (Lula Asri Octafia, 2021).

The results of the research showed that there was a relationship between the Relationship between public anxiety and the implementation of the COVID 19 vaccine. Most elderly did not agree receiving vaccine due to fear of the effects of the vaccine which will have an impact on the disease they are experiencing, some even get the COVID 19 vaccine but still get COVID 19 disease, therefore they think that the COVID 19 vaccine is not effective. The elderly people who agree with the implementation of the COVID 19 vaccine are 14 people (40%) because they agree that the COVID 19 vaccine is safe for their families, and they even agree to do the COVID 19 vaccine, but when they want to do the COVID 19 vaccine, their blood pressure increases so they do not do the COVID 19 vaccine.

Based on the results of a study that has been conducted by researchers, the implementation of the COVID 19 vaccine has so affected the elderly where some elderly people look anxious even if one of their family members tells them to do the vaccine, the elderly will look lethargic and the face will become weak and instantly their blood pressure will increase, even when they see people who are neatly dressed, they think that vaccination will be held in addition to the surrounding environment.

Conclusion

Majority of respondents experienced moderate anxiety and did not agree receiving the Covid-19 vaccine. There is a relationship between public anxiety and the implementation of the Covid-19 vaccine in one of public health centers in Wajo Regency.

Acknowledgment

The authors would like to thank all parties, including respondents who were involved in this study.

References

- Karim, A. T. (2021). *Gambar kecemasan masyarakat pada usia lanjut dalam kunjungan pelayanan kesehatan di puskesmas sawangan II KabupatenMagelang di masa covid-19*.
- Plag, A. B & Petzold, M.B.. (2021). *Keragu-raguanvaksin COVID-19 serta ketakutan dan kecemasan terkait*. 97(April), 1–5.
- Ernawati, E., Naziyah, N., & Rifiana, A. J. (2022). Hubungan Pengetahuan dan Sikap Terhadap Kecemasan Lansia Comorbid dengan Pemberian Vaksinasi Covid-19. *Malahayati Nursing Journal*, 4(3), 634–642. <https://doi.org/10.33024/mnj.v4i3.6033>
- Nachrawi R., et al. (2021). Covid-19 Vaccination Rights and Obligations in Indonesia from a Legal Perspective. *Research and Critics*, 10, 6843–6854. <http://bircu-journal.com/index.php/birci/article/view/2504>
- Awijen, H & Zaied, Y. B. (2022). *Vaksinasi, ketakutan, dan kecemasan Covid-19: Bukti dari tren pencarian Google*. 297.
- Isdairi, H. A. N. T. P. (2021). *Kepatuhan Masyarakat Dalam Penerapan Sosial Distancing di Masa Pandemi Covid-19*.
- Kholidiyah, D., Sutomo, & N, K. (2021). *Hubungan persepsi masyarakat tentang vaksin covid-19 dengan menjalani dengan kecemasan saat akan menjalani vaksin-19*. 8–20.
- Widayanti, L. P. (2021). *Hubungan Persepsi Tentang EfetifitasVaksin Dengan Sikap Kesediaan Mengikuti Vaksinasi COVID-19 Linda Prasetyaning Widayanti 1 , Estri Kusumawati 2*. 9(2), 78–84.
- Ilahi, M. (2021). Correlation Between Knowledge Level on Anxiety Level Post-Coronavac Vaccine at The Clinic of dr. Irma. *Jurnal Ilmu Kesehatan Dan Kedokteran Keluarga*, 17(2), 144–151.
- Astuti, P., Nugroho, E. G., Lattu, J. C., & Potempu, I. R. (2021). Persepsi Masyarakat terhadap Penerimaan Vaksinasi Covid-19: Literature Review. *Jurnal Keperawatan*, 13(3), 569–580. <https://doi.org/10.32583/keperawatan.v13i3.1363>
- Priyatman, P. A. (2020). *Hubungan Pengetahuan Dan Tingkat Kecemasan Pasien Dengan Tindakan Hemodilisa di Ruang Hemodilisis Tahun 2020*.
- Sadif, R. S & Satnawati. (2022). *Kecemasan Lansia Terhadap Vaksinasi COVID-19*. 6(1, 2022), 23–30.
- Ayu, S. N. (2020). *Tingkat Kecemasan Pada Penderita Diabetes Mellitus*. 2507(February), 1–9.
- Suryaatmaja, D. J. C., & Wulandari, I. S. M. (2020). Hubungan Tingkat Kecemasan Terhadap Sikap Remaja Akibat Pandemi Covid-19. *Malahayati Nursing Journal*, 2(4), 820–829. <https://doi.org/10.33024/manuju.v2i4.3131>
- Argista, Z. L. (2021). *Persepsi Masyarakat Terhadap Vaksin Persepsi Masyarakat Terhadap Vaksin Covid-19 di Sumatera Selatan*.