



Original Article

The Level of Public Anxiety Regarding the COVID-19 Vaccine

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Article Information	ABSTRACT
Received: 02 November 2023 Revised: 20 Oktober 2023 Accepted: 01 December 2023 Available online: 31 January 2024	<p>The COVID-19 virus is a new Corona virus that can cause disease in animals and humans. COVID-19 began to spread in Wuhan and developed into a pandemic. This disease causes various symptoms and can even cause death. One of the efforts being made by the government currently to control the spread of COVID-19 is by vaccinating its citizens. The aim of this research was to determine the level of public anxiety about the COVID-19 vaccine. The research method was carried out quantitatively with a descriptive analysis design. The survey was carried out by distributing the Depression Anxiety Stress Scale (DASS 42) questionnaire to people who were vaccinated against COVID-19 at the Muhammadiyah University of Tasikmalaya. The results of the research showed that the level of public anxiety was mostly mild, namely 95 respondents (90.48%) while the level of anxiety was moderate, namely 10 respondents (9.52%). The conclusion in this study is that people's anxiety levels are in the mild to moderate range.</p>
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INTRODUCTION

COVID-19 or corona virus disease 2019, is a new virus that attacks the immune system and can cause death. Everyone is feeling anxious and tensed as the disease is spreading rapidly. Anxiety can cause a person to fall into a psychosomatic

condition with complaints such as dizziness and difficulty breathing. Those infected with this virus usually show fever with a temperature above 38 degrees Celsius, coughing, shortness of breath and difficulty breathing. This virus originates from the city of Wuhan which is located in China. At first,

it was thought that the virus came from a seafood market, where many species of live animals were sold. This condition quickly spread to other cities in China (Dong et al, 2020).

The World Health Organization (World Health Organization) declared COVID-19 a pandemic since March 12 2020. In global case reports from 215 infected countries on June 9 2020, there were 7,039,918 confirmed cases and 404,396 deaths (CFR 5.8%).

Vaccines are considered the most time-consuming intervention, and hundreds of institutions around the world are collaborating to speed up the vaccine manufacturing process (Habersaat, 2020). Hesitancy about vaccines is on the rise, varies across countries, and is linked to the conspiratorial worldview that it can negatively impact individuals, make them more susceptible to disease, and potentially increase community transmission. As time goes by, a lot of information is circulating about COVID-19. It consists of false and bogus information as well as official and accurate information. Many people are anxious because of this condition, and even become reactive and negative and do detrimental things, such as hoarding medical equipment. This situation creates health problems. The public became more anxious after the news that COVID-19 was the highest cause of death. Excessive fear of death can lead to emotional conditions such as depression and neuroticism (Zulva, 2020).

METHOD

The research was conducted quantitatively with a descriptive analysis design. The survey was carried out by distributing the Depression Anxiety Stress Scale (DASS 42) questionnaire to people who were vaccinated against COVID-19 at the Muhammadiyah University of Tasikmalaya, Tasikmalaya City. The sampling method in this research was the total sampling

technique. The research sample was 105 respondents.

RESULTS

Table 1. Respondent Characteristic

Respondent Characteristic	F	%
Gender		
Female	67	63,81
Male	38	36,19
Age (year)		
26 – 35	30	28,57
36 – 45	27	25,71
46 – 55	35	33,33
56 – 65	13	12,38
Education		
Elementary School	25	23,81
Junior High School	40	38,10
Senior High School	40	38,10
Occupation		
Farmer	23	21,90
Entrepreneur	60	57,14
Pensioner	5	4,76
Businessman	17	16,19

Based on table 1, it is known that the characteristics of respondents who received the 1st Covid vaccine were mostly women, numbering 67 people (63.81%), while men were 38 people (36.19%). The distribution of respondents based on average age was 46-55 years (33.33%). Based on the distribution of education, the majority have junior high school and high school/vocational school education, namely 40 people (38.10%). Meanwhile, based on job distribution, the majority of respondents had private jobs, 60 people (57.14%).

Table 2. Anxiety Level

Anxiety Level	F	%
Low	95	90,48
Medium	10	9,52
High	0	0,00
Total	105	100,00

Based on table 2, it is known that the level of anxiety of respondents regarding the Covid 19 vaccine is mostly Low, namely 95 respondents (90.48%) while the level of

anxiety is moderate, namely 10 respondents (9.52%).

DISCUSSION

Based on research results, the level of public anxiety regarding the COVID-19 vaccine is in the mild category as many as 95 people (90.48%) while in the moderate category there are 10 people (9.58%). The level of anxiety in a person is influenced by gender, women have less mental strength than men in dealing with situations that threaten the health of themselves and their families, besides that, women's burden has increased due to COVID-19 in managing their children's living needs and parenting patterns, thus affecting psychological condition. A person's ability to obtain information is influenced by their age. The more productive someone is, the more often they search for and obtain information about COVID-19 and are anxious if they cannot select and sort the information they obtain. Education also influences a person's anxiety because it influences the way they think about sorting information about COVID-19, so that the higher a person's education, the better able they are to sort and find the correct information about COVID-19. However, the COVID-19 pandemic is sure to cause anxiety for everyone with sufficient or higher education. A person's anxiety about COVID-19 is influenced by employment factors, including their economic status and their workplace. The lower a person's income, the more anxious they are (Pratiwi, 2021). The public's wrong perception about COVID-19 vaccination activities is caused by a lack of understanding from the public. It was found that this wrong perception arose due to a lack of good communication from authorities such as health workers to convince the public about the effectiveness of the Covid_19 vaccine. The impact that will arise if people continue to harbor doubts and do not allow themselves to be vaccinated is that there will be economic, social and tourism paralysis throughout the

world. Apart from that, unemployment will increase even higher and cause other health problems (Nining Puji Astuti et al., 2021). The results of the research show that the level of respondents' knowledge about COVID-19 is significantly related to providing specific and appropriate knowledge to improve community prevention of COVID-19 infection (Purba and Ricky, 2019).

To prevent an increase in cases, it is important to understand the COVID-19 disease. Knowing and understanding COVID-19 disease, prevention, treatment and complications can determine the level of knowledge of COVID-19 patients. When people understand and understand how to prevent it, they will automatically understand and recognize the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination. High knowledge is expected to increase compliance. As age increases, a person's knowledge and comprehension ability will increase (Hutapea and Soputri, 2021). One of the important things that the public must pay attention to is knowledge, especially to prevent transmission of the Covid_19 virus through vaccination. This is because people's knowledge and good judgment about things influence how a person makes decisions and handles situations (Purnamasari and Raharyani, 2020). The role of the community is needed in efforts to overcome the pandemic to implement all existing policies so that there is synergy for the purpose of breaking the chain of spread of the Covid_19 virus as well as the role of the RT/RW head to help the government in synergy in the community (Wahidah et al., 2020).

Anxiety is something that cannot be avoided when under stressful conditions such as during the Covid_19 pandemic. One of the important keys to managing anxiety is that the information must come from a trusted source and have credibility in the field. (Vibriyanti, 2020). People experience anxiety about visiting health service centers during the Covid_19 pandemic. So this will also influence people to take part in the

vaccination program. Anxiety due to the Covid_19 virus and the Covid_19 vaccination program can be overcome if efforts are made optimally and effectively. Activities to overcome anxiety are carried out by increasing public knowledge about Covid_19, deep breathing exercises and progressive muscle relaxation.

CONCLUSIONS

The conclusion in this study is that people's anxiety levels are in the mild to moderate range.

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