

Community Perception of Covid-19 Booster Dose Vaccines in Klampis Sub-District Bangkalan District

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Abstract

This study aims to determine the perception of vaccine recipients in the klampis sub-district, Bangkalan district. This qualitative research uses a case study design. Respondents in this study used 7 respondents. The results of the study concerning community perception of the COVID-19 booster dose vaccination in Klampis, Bangkalan District showed both positive and negative perceptions. But, overall this study is that the public acceptance of the booster dose vaccine is quite good.

Keywords

vaccine; Bangkalan district;
Covid-19 booster



I. Introduction

At the end of 2019, the world was shocked by the report of a new pneumonia case with unknown etiology in the People's Republic of China. Then, WHO declared this disease a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on 30 January 2020. On 11 February 2020, WHO named the disease Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) (WHO, 2021). COVID-19 spreads rapidly in the world, including in Indonesia. Indonesia first reported the Covid-19 case on 2 March 2020 when there were two cases in Depok, West Java (WHO, 2020). Since the first case was found, the number of Covid-19 cases increased and caused high mortality. Di Indonesia sendiri Covid-19 masuk pada bulan Maret 2020 (Pitaloka, Al Umar, Hartati, & Fitria, 2020).

Due to its exponential speed of spread, the government initiated many efforts intensively to save public health. These efforts cover policies issued by the government in dealing with the spread of Covid-19, such as the lockdown, physical distancing by closing schools and offices, and restrictions on various activities that gather large numbers of people (Ministry of Finance, 2021). The Indonesian government has also issued a PSBB policy (Large-Scale Social Restrictions) to minimize the spread of the Covid-19 (Wibawa and Ni Kadek, 2021) and initiated Covid-19 vaccination activities.

Vaccination is expected to be a useful way of preventing the spread of COVID-19. On 30 January 2020, led by WHO, a major global immunization partner developed a global COVID-19 vaccine through the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) Vaccines Pillar (COVAX). This has two interrelated goals to achieve, namely protecting individual and community health and minimizing the economic impact by focusing on vaccination efforts to reduce mortality, hospitalization, and serious illness (WHO, 2021). It needs 70% immunization coverage to create herd immunity within 1 year in order to stop the spread of the virus. Everyone is expected to get vaccinated to reduce the risk of contracting infectious diseases by building the immune system.

Klampis is one of the villages in Bangkalan District whose phase 3 vaccination coverage only reached 126 people out of 41,368 targets (0.30%) as of 28 February 2022. This figure increased on 31 March 2022 by 412 people (1.00%). The vaccination coverage in Klampis Sub-district, Bangkalan District is very low compared to other sub-districts,

even though the government targets to reach 70% in July. It is interesting to examine why the community in this sub-district does not want to get the booster vaccine and their perception about the booster vaccine. This study focuses on the perception of vaccine recipients. A preliminary study at Puskesmas Klampis in March 2022 revealed that the community felt that they did not need a booster vaccine, and considered enough to have one and two doses of the vaccine only. Therefore, the study tries to identify the Klampis community's perception of the booster vaccine.

II. Review of Literature

Perception is a process when a person becomes aware of something in his environment through his senses or an interpretation of data by the senses to translate his environment. Even though the stimulus is the same, if the experience is different, then the ability and the frame of reference are different so there is a possibility of interpretation results causing different perceptions between individuals (Kartono & Gulo, 2001).

The outbreak of this virus has an impact of a nation and Globally (Ningrum *et al*, 2020). The presence of Covid-19 as a pandemic certainly has an economic, social and psychological impact on society (Saleh and Mujahiddin, 2020). Covid 19 pandemic caused all efforts not to be as maximal as expected (Sihombing and Nasib, 2020).

Vaccines are biological products containing microorganisms that have been processed in such a way that it is safe to be administered to a person to produce active specific immunity against certain diseases. Vaccination aims to break the chain of disease transmission or stop the outbreak (Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, 2021). A COVID-19 booster dose is administered after a person has received a full dose of primary vaccination and it aims to maintain the level of immunity and extend the period of protection. The target of this booster vaccination program is people aged 18 years and over with priority groups of the elderly and immunocompromised patients. Based on the circular letter of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia (2022), the booster dose program for the elderly target can be implemented simultaneously in all districts/cities, while for non-elderly targets, it can be carried out in districts/cities that have reached a total dose 1 coverage of at least 70% (Ministry of Health, 2022). In conclusion, the community's perception of the booster dose is one's interpretation of the knowledge, experience, and belief in the booster vaccine.

III. Research Method

This qualitative study used a case study design. Respondents in this study were residents of the Klampis Sub-district, Bangkalan District with the following criteria:

- a. Klampis residents or community aged 18 years or older
- b. Already received the first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccine
- c. Have not received a booster dose
- d. Willing to be a respondent

This study involved 7 respondents considering the data were saturated. It involved 7 people from the community and 4 people for data triangulation consisting of the Head of the Puskesmas and three village midwives. This study was conducted in Puskesmas Klampis, Bangkalan District from March to May 2022. The researcher has obtained an ethics permit from the Faculty of Dentistry, UNAIR No.146/HREcc.FODM/III/2022. Data were collected through in-depth interviews with informants in the form of structured

interviews. Data collection instruments were in the form of question sheets, and phone and recorder using Iphone 11 Pro. Data were analyzed by recording transcripts from the recorder, coding, data reduction, data presentation and conclusion drawing. The data triangulation used content triangulation by considering the content conveyed by the informants.

IV. Results and Discussion

4.1 Results

Characteristics of Informants

The informants are the community of the Klampis sub-district who live in areas close to puskesmas. The informants consisted of two men and five women. Their age ranged from 27 - 50 years. And the average education level is senior high school.

a. Theme 1: Community perception of booster dose vaccines

The booster dose vaccine or third dose vaccine was launched by the government in February 2022. The administration of this booster dose vaccine in Puskesmas Klampis has been started in February 2022. The following sub-themes were found:

1. Knowledge of Booster Dose Vaccines

Many people do not understand what a booster dose vaccine is as stated by some of the following respondents:

I don't know much about booster dose vaccines so I can't answer.

I also don't know the benefits of the booster dose vaccine, or why we are asked to get this third dose... (NH P4).

I don't know, I don't understand booster dose vaccines (Slightly avoiding) (NA P1).

No, no, I don't know, what vaccine is that (L P2).

Maybe this is it, I don't understand it either. So the booster vaccine is for closing so that we can stay strong (healthy). Our bodies are strong. It means the disease is unable to attack us (TP P3).

I don't know (laughing)... that's just how it is, I don't know the benefits either. Already vaccinated, just like that (S P5).

The puskesmas officers also made this statement as supporting data:

The target here is because we all know that the community's knowledge, especially in Madura, is low.

Yes, there are many people are not familiar with this booster dose (BD 3).

2. Sources of information of booster dose vaccines

Sources of information are important for the community. Invalid sources of information will be easy for the hoax to spread. On average, the community gets information from social media, television, and health workers. The sources of information obtained by the Klampis community are as follows.

Yes, the source of the information is from friends and the closest colleagues.... (NH P4).

I directly ask the Puskesmas staff here, so if there is anything I want to know, I just ask.

There's Astra, Sinovac... I know some from the television and the health workers... (TP P3).

From the phone, not from neighbors. If getting a cold, I ask for medicine (S P5).

From phone, Tiktok, Facebook, WA (K P6.)

I know from the neighbors and also from the TV...(C P7).

This is reinforced by a statement from the village midwife:

For sources of information, puskesmas itself has provided Facebook and IG which aims to educate the public about this vaccine. However, the community also receives a lot of information from TV and news from their closest relatives or friends (BD1).

3. Perceived benefits of booster dose vaccines

Based on the Health Belief Model theory of the science of behavior change, when someone knows about the benefits, then it will be easy to change someone to behave as desired. If someone knows the benefits of the booster dose vaccine, then that person will behave to get it. The results of the study showed that almost all of the respondents did not know the benefits of the booster dose vaccine as stated by the respondents below:

I want to be healthy, so the vaccine can kill the disease which is currently happening. ... it is to make us have a better immune compared to two doses only (TP P3).

Yes, there are benefits for sure because the government ordered it but I am still afraid (C P7).

Good...good, it's good for the body... (S P5).

The real benefit is that we are immune so we don't get corona again (L S2).

This is reinforced by the village midwife's statement:

Not everyone knows, some people know the benefits they feel or what they get if they get booster dose vaccines as we have socialized it directly to the community (BD 3)

4. Perceived safety of booster dose vaccines

The perceived safety is the community's perception of the safety of vaccines that do not cause side effects or do not cause a person sick severely or do not a person die. On average, the community in Klampis believes in the safety of booster dose vaccines as they have already had doses one and two. But there is still a sense of worry, and fear if the pain is severe. The results of the interview can be seen below:

I am a little scared because a lot of people say this and that, it scares me...a lot of pros and cons too (NH P4).

I saw those people who had a booster dose, it's safe, I think, I haven't had a booster vaccine yet (TP P3).

I'm afraid because there is a person who fainted after getting the vaccine, is it safe or not? (S P5)

I'm not familiar yet so I'm still scared... the effect is scary (NA P1).

I'm afraid it's not safe because after the first and second doses, I had a fever, and my arm was so sore after the injection, I couldn't get up, I'm afraid (L P2).

This is reinforced by a statement by the Head of the Puskesmas:

Initially, many hoaxes circulate that the vaccine could kill people and it was not safe. But after we provide socialization before giving vaccines to the community, finally, little by little they understood that vaccines are not dangerous, safe, and do not make people die (KP).

5. Reasons for not getting the booster dose vaccines

The respondents expressed various reasons for not getting the booster dose vaccines such as not being brave enough, not having time, and not being forced, as well as no administrative sanctions. The results of interviews with respondents are presented below:

I haven't had time for getting the booster dose vaccine (while smiling) ... (TP P3).

No, still scared (laughing). Going everywhere now does not vaccine certificate. I also don't use it in malls ... later if we are asked for it ... (S P5).

*Yes, I'm also scared... they said someone fainted after the injection, who is that... (K P6).
It's not that you don't want to, it's just that there's no bluff yet, that's just rules... (smiling)
(C P7).*

Hehe, the corona is gone... (NA P1).

I'm still waiting (L P2)

This is reinforced by a statement of the village midwife:

So that's how the community here, if booster vaccine has become a certain public administration requirement, then people want it. The people here said that they will not go anywhere, so they don't need vaccines. Some people are also anti-vaccine. There is one Tahfid Boarding School that doesn't want vaccines without giving any reasons. Yes, they just don't want it (BD 3).

Many people are afraid. They hear from other people about the side effects of the booster dose vaccine (BD 1).

b. Theme 2: COVID-19 vaccine acceptance

1. Sub-theme: Community's acceptance to dose 1 and 2 of COVID-19 vaccine

The acceptance of the first and second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine should have been the turning point of the booster dose vaccine. They had received and were ready to take the first and second doses of the covid-19 vaccine, and they felt safe. They should feel the same way about this booster dose vaccine. The results of interviews with respondents regarding the acceptance of the first and second doses of the Covid-19 vaccine can be seen below.

Acceptance

I agree with the vaccine because we are just a commoner, we just follow the government (NH P4).

I'm willing to, it's good, for people who don't understand, that vaccines are negative due to the circulating issue about it. But sometimes people do it only to get the certificate. But what is important is that they want to be vaccinated. But for those who don't go abroad, we really need the vaccine (TP P3).

I've had the first and second doses, it's okay. I did not want to get vaccinated actually but I was encouraged by the health care worker at Puskesmas and everywhere we go, we need a vaccine certificate, so I get vaccinated (S P5).

I've had it too, it doesn't hurt (K P6)

I get vaccinated with these women (C P7)

Got the first and second doses, and the third dose, I do not want to (laughing)... (NA P1)

This is reinforced by a statement from the village midwife:

Sometimes people are afraid, afraid of dying after being injected, yes village people are like that, they are afraid to die if they are injected, especially in the beginning, they didn't want to because they were afraid. Scared to death they said. But for the first and second doses, thank God, many people want it. However, for this booster dose vaccine, the willingness is still very low (BD 2).

2. Sub-theme: Community acceptance of booster dose vaccines

The community has accepted the booster dose vaccine based on their experience with the first and second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. The community feels safe with this COVID-19 vaccine. The results of the interviews are presented below.

I agree with the booster dose vaccine because we are just a commoner, we only follow the government. Maybe this is good for us (NH P4).

I want to get the vaccine, but I haven't had the time, tomorrow if I have time (TP P3).

As long as it's safe, it's okay, I just haven't got it yet (NA P1).

I want it later, still waiting for (while laughing) (S P5).

I'm also waiting for the neighbors to get vaccinated, then I will get it later (K P6).

This is reinforced by a statement from the head of the puskesmas and village midwife:

There is no rejection for this booster dose vaccine the rejection occurred at the beginning of the first vaccine. But there are still few who want this booster, most of the people who want it are those who have an interest in it for example, here, there are many people who work on sailing abroad who need to go abroad. So they need it as the requirements for sailing (KP)

Those who don't go anywhere, refuse the booster dose for many reasons. Then, the fourth vaccine, while the booster is successful for migrant workers only. Without being persuaded, they want to get it because that's a requirement to travel (BD1).

4.2 Discussion

The results of the study concerning community perception of the COVID-19 booster dose vaccination in Klampis, Bangkalan District showed both positive and negative perceptions.

Based on in-depth interviews with informants, in terms of positive perception of the Covid-19 booster dose vaccination, some informants said that the booster is good, but they said it not because they understand its benefits. It is because the government ordered people to get the booster dose. Thus, they think that the covid-19 booster dose vaccine is good for the community. The government started the booster dose vaccines on 12 January 2022 in accordance with the direction of the President of the Republic of Indonesia as the government commits to protect the people from the threat of the COVID-19 along with its newest variants (Head of the Communications and Public Relation Bureau, 2022). Results of studies on the community perception in Samarinda are in line with the community's positive perception in the Klampis sub-district believes that vaccines are good and as one of the government's efforts to prevent and reduce the spread of the COVID-19 and increase immunity (Elis & Nida, 2021).

The public's perception of the Covid-19 booster dose vaccine is quite good. They know the benefits and objectives of this booster dose. However, many respondents cannot explain the benefits of this booster dose due to a lack of information. This was also expressed by the East Java Covid-19 task force as reported by CNN Indonesia (2022) that the low level of Covid-19 vaccination in Madura is due to the low literacy or knowledge about the vaccines of the Madurese community. According to the Communication Team of the Committee for Corona Virus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) and National Economic Recovery (2022), the government is calling for a booster vaccine because of the effectiveness of the vaccine in the last 6 months has decreased by 8% in all age groups. Meanwhile, at the age of 50 years and over, the effectiveness of the vaccine decreases by 10% - 30%. Thus, to keep a person's antibodies remain strong, a booster dose vaccine is needed. This is in line with the results of a study by Harianja & Eryando (2021) that someone who knows the benefits of vaccines or has high knowledge about vaccines has a good perception and attitude about the benefits of vaccines.

The negative perception is the perception of safety and the fear of side effects after getting the vaccine. Based on the results of interviews, the community in this sub-district is more afraid of the side effects as they consider that this dose is more powerful than the first and second doses. The fear of side effects is stronger than the fear of safety as they have

received the first and second doses so they feel safer. In a study by Tinungki, et al (2022) in Kepulauan Seribu Sangehe regarding the community about the Covid-19 vaccination, negative perceptions were due to feeling that vaccines are unsafe, anti-vaccine, and afraid of the side effects. This is in line with the results of the present study in the Klampis community. Other studies also show the same thing that the side effects of the vaccine are the most influential factor on vaccine acceptance (Puspasari, et al. 2021). The survey conducted by the Indonesian Ministry of Religious Affairs (2020) supports the results of the present study that vaccine safety and fear of side effects are the main reasons for vaccine refusal.

A person's level of knowledge affects their attitudes and actions, the higher a person's knowledge about vaccines, the more a person accepts and is willing to get vaccinated (Harianja & Eryando, 2021). This study shows that the respondents said they were willing to get booster dose vaccines. However, they don't know the benefits and objectives of the booster dose. Even, though there have been no coercion and administrative sanctions from the government so that they don't immediately take the booster dose. One of the factors affecting perception is knowledge. Stephen Robins (2008) said that perception is influenced by the frame of reference and frame of experience factors, where the frame of reference factor is the knowledge frame. A positive perception will have an impact on positive behavior. The community's knowledge about booster dose vaccines is still low and it affects someone not to immediately take the booster.

The public gets information about the COVID-19 booster dose vaccine from social media, TV, and neighbors, and friends. The survey conducted by the Indonesian Ministry of Religious Affairs (2020) revealed that the sources of public information about vaccines are electronic media (80.96%) and social media (72.76%). Friends and neighbors are also one of the factors affecting people accepting the booster. Some respondents said that they are still waiting for their friends and neighbors to get the vaccine first. If their friends and neighbors get the booster, others will also get it. This is in line with a qualitative survey by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (2020) regarding vaccines and vaccinations involving 2,610 respondents selected by accidental sampling from 34 provinces that are spread and congruent with a population composition of 54.37% receiving the vaccine and 36.25% have not decided. They want to wait and see the people who have been vaccinated first.

V. Conclusion

The community's knowledge about the COVID-19 booster dose vaccine is very low. Perceived benefits and safety of the COVID-19 booster dose vaccine are quite positive as the community already has experience with the first and second doses of the vaccine. The reasons why the community does not take the booster dose are no time, still waiting for being forced to take the dose, and waiting for their neighbors or friends to get the dose, as well as no administrative sanction for those who don't take the booster. The community's acceptance of booster dose vaccines is good.

Suggestion

Increasing community's knowledge about booster dose vaccines with health promotion strategies. The central government and local sub-district governments need to create strict rules and administrative sanctions so that all residents immediately take the booster dose.

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