



Perceptions and Hesitancy of Covid-19 Vaccination among the Elderly: A Qualitative Study

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ABSTRACT

Background: Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) is a new type of virus that attacks the body's immunity and can cause death. Vaccination for COVID-19 is the government's effort to break the chain of transmission of COVID-19. Perception can be formed from differences in one's perspective on a particular object by using the senses that are owned either directly or indirectly. **Objective:** The purpose of this study was to find out the perceptions and doubts of the elderly about the covid-19 vaccine in the Oeteta Village environment. **Research methods:** This study uses a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach. Data collection is done by using techniquespurposive Sampling is a technique for determining participants based on certain criteria or considerations. The data analysis used in the descriptive phenomenological study uses a strategy by Colaizzi. **Results:** The results of the study of 6 participants showed that in analyzing the perceptions and doubts of COVID-19 vaccination in the elderly in Oeteta Village, namely participant knowledge of vaccination, participant experience regarding vaccination, participants' feelings about vaccination, information obtained about vaccination, and participants' expectations regarding vaccinations, Therefore, the village government and health workers are making important efforts to increase the perception of the elderly community about receiving the COVID-19 vaccination by conducting socialization regarding the safety, effectiveness of the vaccine, benefits, side effects, how to overcome them, and when to give the COVID-19 vaccination.

Keywords: COVID-19, Elderly , Vaccination, Perception

Introduction

Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) is a new type of virus that attacks the body's immunity and can cause death. The World Health Organization (World Health Organization) has declared COVID-19 a pandemic since 2020. Currently, one of the efforts to prevent COVID-

19 infection is through COVID-19 vaccination (Kumari and Ranjan, 2021). COVID-19 vaccination has been recommended for the elderly by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Vaccination data for the elderly in NTT Province is 64,509 (15.91%) people for the first vaccination and 36,846 (9.09%) people for the second vaccination. Meanwhile, in Kupang City itself, 39,896 or 4.54% of the provincial target have received vaccination stages 1 and 2 (Kementerian Kesehatan RI, 2022). Elderly vaccination data for Kupang City is 11,995 (51.83%) people for the first vaccination and 9,138 (39.48%) people for the second vaccination (Kemenkes RI, 2020). Based on a survey conducted by the Indonesian Ministry of Health (Kemenkes), the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, it has been proven that 7.6% of Indonesian people refuse to receive the vaccine, 64.8% stated they were willing to receive the vaccine and the remaining 27.6% expressed doubts. -doubtful about the government's plans to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine.

The most common reason for refusing the COVID-19 vaccine is that people feel anxious about the safety of the vaccine, the effectiveness of the vaccine and the presence of side effects such as fever and pain. Looking at this data, Indonesia is still quite far from the target of establishing herd immunity (Ade Heryana, 2021). Even though the elderly are at higher risk of being infected with COVID-19 and if they get sick, they have a higher risk of death (Petretto and Pili, 2020). Based on a preliminary study through observations and interviews conducted in Oeteta village, 3 people showed that on average they had low knowledge regarding the benefits and halalness of COVID-19 vaccination and doubted the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine due to hoax news circulating.

Researchers conducted an initial survey in November 2022 in the Oeteta Village area, three elderly people expressed their experiences before receiving the Covid 19 vaccine because they were afraid and hesitant about the side effects of the vaccine, and the elderly people expressed that they were still hesitant about receiving the vaccine. the reason for not having received education from the government.

The aim of this research is to determine the perceptions and doubts of the elderly community regarding the Covid-19 vaccine in the Oeteta Village Environment. Based on the description above, researchers feel it is necessary to conduct research on "Perceptions and Doubts of the Elderly towards COVID-19 Vaccination using a qualitative phenomenological study approach".

Objective

This research aims to analyze perceptions and doubts about Covid-19 Vaccination and reveal the meaning or essence of the elderly in the research area.

Research methods

This research uses a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach. The type of phenomenology used in this research is Descriptive Husserlian. (Cudjoe, 2023) The number of participants in the qualitative research was 6 elderly people, consisting of 2 women and 4 men. Data collection was carried out using purposive sampling techniques. This research was conducted in Oeteta Village, Sulamu District, Kupang Regency, from 17 May to 17 June 2023.

This research used an interview guide using a voice recording device. Processing qualitative research data begins with organizing data such as text and transcripts of interview data. Data analysis used in descriptive phenomenological studies uses the Colaizzi strategy.

Research result

Based on research conducted on participants, the researcher explained the characteristics of the participants in terms of age, occupation and religion as follows:

Category	Participant 1	Participant 2	Participant 3	Participant 4	Participant 5	Participant 6
Participant initials	Ny. L	Tn. D	Tn. B	Tn. V	Ny. D	Tn. Y
Age	67 years old	74 years old	66 years old	68 years old	57 years old	61 years old
Work	Farmer	Farmer	Farmer	Farmer	Farmer	Farmer
Religion	Christian Protestant					

The table explains that the participants in the research were 6 elderly people, all participants were interviewed at each participant's home. During the ongoing interview, the participants looked calm, able to work together in conveying the elderly's perceptions and doubts about the Covid-19 vaccination.

Theme 1: Participants' Knowledge of Covid-19 Vaccination

Based on the results of interviews with 6 elderly participants regarding perceptions and doubts about Covid-19 vaccination in the elderly: a qualitative study in the Oeteta village environment, we found similarities and differences in participants' answers regarding their knowledge of Covid-19 vaccination. The six participants know what vaccination is, these are the participant statements as follows:

P1: "Vaccination is done to prevent getting infected by diseases, so one should go for a check-up."

P2: "Vaccines are for preventing diseases."

P3: "Vaccination is for avoiding diseases."

P5: "I haven't received clear information about what vaccines are, but as a rural person, I believe vaccines are for preventing viruses."

P6: "I got vaccinated to protect myself from the coronavirus."

P4: "From the information I've received, I get vaccinated to stay healthy and avoid getting sick again."

Theme 2: Participants' Initial Experience When Carrying Out Covid-19 Vaccination

Based on interviews conducted by researchers with participants, the results showed that participants told about the initial time they received the vaccine, this is in accordance with the participant's statement as follows:

P1: "After the first vaccine, around one or a week, my left hand suddenly cramped, and I felt weak. At first, I was also scared of the vaccine."

P2: "Before getting vaccinated, I used to think silently that I must get vaccinated to be disease-resistant. I didn't want to miss vaccination, fearing that diseases might suddenly strike, and I was also scared at first. Even though I'm a man, I didn't want to get vaccinated, but I decided to follow through with it."

P3: "When it comes to vaccination, before I got vaccinated, it meant I had to, even if I had doubts and fears. But when the government said not to get vaccinated, it meant that children couldn't continue going to school because vaccination cards were required everywhere. I thought I should get vaccinated because without vaccination, children couldn't do anything. After completing the vaccination, there's often pain in the arm."

P4: "I used to be disturbed before the vaccine, but now that I've been vaccinated, based on my experience, if someone is vaccinated and gets another disease, it's related to age. At first, I was scared because of rumors in the village, but they said that wherever you go, you must show a vaccination card. If you can't walk, because if you want to travel by sea, you have to show a vaccination card. So, I was forced to get vaccinated. Honestly, I was hesitant and scared at first because there were comments that people might die after vaccination due to strong medicine."

P5: "It's the same for me too. Before the vaccine, it's the same, meaning, people say it won't hurt, but once in a while it does, because it depends on our body. In the beginning, I had doubts, but after the first and second doses, I thought it's normal."

P6: "As for the body ache, after this vaccine, it's actually a real disease. When I visited, I was still healthy, so don't provoke it from the back. Don't let it reach the intestines or anything. Before the vaccine, this disease was already there. I got vaccinated despite having a long-standing cough that sometimes led to coughing up blood."

Theme 3. Feelings Experienced by Participants Regarding Vaccination

Based on the results of interviews conducted by researchers with participants, it was found that participants had feelings that were sometimes excessive when administering the vaccine, this is in accordance with the participant's statement as follows:

P1: "After the vaccine, in one or two weeks, I suddenly felt weak, and my left side became weak."

P2: "I feel scared, but I have to follow through. I feel pain."

P3: *"Before I got vaccinated, I didn't know about the vaccine, and I also had doubts and fears."*

P4: *"Before the vaccine, I used to be troubled, but now that I've been vaccinated, it's because of age. At first, I was scared and hesitant because there were comments and rumors in the village."*

P5: *"At first, many were hesitant. I had doubts, but after the first and second vaccines, I thought it's just a common thing. I also felt scared because of what people say, like someone dying after vaccination."*

P6: *"I only had a sensation of discomfort while working because I couldn't bend over. It shouldn't reach the intestines or anything."*

"Theme 4. Information that Participants Get About Vaccination

Based on the results of interviews conducted by researchers with participants, it was found that participants received information about vaccination, this is in accordance with the participants' statements as follows:

P1: "I was told to get the vaccine at the health center."

P2: "I heard people talking about it, so I decided to get vaccinated because I'm already old. Then suddenly, I fell ill and went to seek medical help. Later, they asked me where my mother's vaccination card was. They said if my mother didn't get vaccinated, they wouldn't attend to her."

P3: "I got information from the government and the village."

P4: "From the family members who got vaccinated earlier."

P5: "When I arrived at the health post, they came to get the new vaccine, and then they provided me with information."

P6: "The health officials said that everyone must get vaccinated."

Theme 5. Participants' Expectations After Vaccination

Based on the results of interviews conducted by researchers with participants, it was found that participants had hope after vaccination, this is in accordance with the participant's statement as follows:

P1: "My hope is to recover from my cough and stomach issues."

P2: "We must follow government regulations to get better."

P3: "I need to get vaccinated so that children can go to school and receive help from the government."

P4: "I got vaccinated to stay healthy. I haven't been sick so far. It all depends on each individual. After getting vaccinated, we follow government guidance."

P5: "My hope is that there are no more obstacles on the road, and we can go wherever we want, as long as it's in a good way. Those who have redeemed us, if we want to travel, there should be no obstacles."

P6: "Vaccination is to prevent disease and receive healthcare services from the government."

Discussion

1. Participant Knowledge of Vaccination

Based on the results of interviews with 6 participants in the Oeteta Village Environment, it was found that all six participants had the same knowledge regarding Covid-19 vaccination, namely that the Covid-19 vaccine can prevent Covid transmission in order to avoid Covid-19 disease.

The knowledge of the elderly in the Oeteta Village environment will influence the participation of the elderly in carrying out the Covid-19 vaccination. Based on information obtained in the Oeteta Village Environment, several elderly people have been vaccinated, but there are those who have not received education about Covid-19 vaccination at the community health center or village office.

This is in accordance with research (Petretto and Pili, 2020) where the knowledge of elderly people in Pasie Nan Tigo Village regarding Covid-19 vaccination is still low, this is influenced by several factors, namely the elderly's lack of knowledge about Covid-19 vaccination, educational factors which are still relatively low, environmental factors circulating distorted news about vaccines. covid-19.

2. Participants' Initial Experience When Carrying Out Covid-19 Vaccination

Based on the results of interviews with 6 participants in the Oeteta Village Environment, it was found that the elderly had experiences before the vaccine and after the vaccine, they told about things they heard and experienced so that they were afraid and doubtful.

This is also in accordance with research (Dayu, Putri and Damayanti, 2022) who stated that the experience of receiving a vaccine was greatly influenced by other people's vaccine stories or experiences. There were many issues regarding Covid-19 vaccination in the elderly, which resulted in negative perceptions and panic among the elderly at the beginning of the time when the Covid-19 vaccination was available.

3. Feelings Experienced by Participants Regarding Vaccines

Based on the results of interviews with 6 participants in the Oeteta Village Environment, participants' answers were obtained which said that before and after the vaccine, the participants experienced many things, which made the participants feel anxious, afraid, doubtful and their bodies felt weak and weak after carrying out the Covid-19 vaccination.

This is in accordance with research conducted by (Siahaya *et al.*, 2022) Regarding the elderly's perception of vaccination at the Tresna Wardha Ina-Kaka Home, everyone has their own perception of what they think, see and feel. The results of this research are also in line with the results of research conducted by (Sadif, 2022) who stated that this anxiety was due to information obtained regarding side effects that might appear after the vaccine. The feelings of anxiety experienced can make elderly people afraid and hesitant about being willing to be vaccinated.

4. Information that Participants Get About Vaccination

Based on the results of interviews with 6 participants in the Oeteta Village Environment, it was found that there were various participant answers which stated that

the elderly received information about vaccination from several parties, namely family, community, village government and health.

This is also in accordance with research conducted by (Sianturi and Aruan, 2023) Regarding the information obtained by elderly participants about Covid-19 vaccination in the Mangga Simalingkar sub-district, from the results of the interview it was concluded that the elderly received socialization on Covid-19 vaccination from the sub-district and health workers, through print media and online media. Based on research (Sigalingging and Sherlly, 2021) stated that the possibility of information or public communication between the government as the organizer of the vaccination itself would create a stigma in society which thinks that those who are old do not need to be vaccinated.

Based on research conducted, the government and health workers must provide information about vaccines and provide education about the Covid-19 vaccination. So that it can straighten out the perception of the elderly regarding the Covid-19 vaccination, so that there are no hoax issues and confusing information regarding the Covid-19 vaccine.

5. Participants' Expectations After Carrying Out Covid-19 Vaccination

Based on the results of interviews with 6 participants in the Oeteta Village Environment, it was found that there were various answers that expressed the participants' hopes after the vaccine, namely that they recover quickly from the virus, do not experience illness, and can facilitate access to all personal and general needs.

This is in accordance with research conducted by (Ardiyantika, 2023) stated that before the pandemic, half of the elderly aged 50 years and over were still working. After the pandemic, among the elderly who worked, more than 60 percent of their income experienced a decline. More than half of seniors aged 50 years and over struggle to meet their daily needs and physical health. In particular, seniors with lower levels of education and living alone continue to experience economic hardship (*Studi Nasional Tentang Dampak Pandemi COVID-19 Terhadap Kelompok Lansia (Termasuk Penyandang Disabilitas) di Indonesia | Batukarinfo, 2022*).

According to (Whitehead and Torossian, 2021) also stated that the mental health of the elderly who were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, experienced greater depression and loneliness than before the pandemic and worsened social networks. So that after vaccination, the elderly have hope of getting healing and all their personal and general needs.

Conclusion

Based on the results of interviews with 6 participants in the Oeteta Village environment, the following key points can be summarized:

1. Participant Knowledge of Vaccination : All six participants shared a common understanding of Covid-19 vaccination, which is that the vaccine can prevent the transmission of Covid-19 and protect against the disease. This knowledge has a significant impact on the participation of the elderly in receiving the Covid-19 vaccine.

2. Participants Initial Experiences with Covid-19 Vaccination : The elderly participants had experiences both before and after receiving the vaccine. They recounted stories and experiences that made them feel afraid and uncertain. These experiences were often influenced by the stories and experiences of others.
3. Emotions Experienced by Participants Regarding Vaccination : Before and after vaccination, participants reported experiencing various emotions, including anxiety, fear, doubt, and physical weakness. These emotional responses were often triggered by concerns about potential side effects of the vaccine.
4. Sources of Information About Vaccination : Participants received information about vaccination from multiple sources, including family members, the community, the village government, and healthcare providers. This indicates ongoing efforts to disseminate information about Covid-19 vaccination to the elderly population.
5. Participants' Expectations After Covid-19 Vaccination : Participants expressed hopes for a swift recovery from the virus, avoidance of illness, and easier access to their personal and general needs post-vaccination.

In conclusion, accurate knowledge about Covid-19 vaccination and improved understanding of the vaccination process are crucial for increasing the participation of the elderly in vaccination programs. Furthermore, it is essential to provide clear and accurate information to the public to counteract the spread of misinformation and alleviate concerns about vaccination. The elderly's hope is to return to a healthier and more normal life after receiving the Covid-19 vaccine.

Conflict of Interest

There are no conflicts of interest in the writing of this article.

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