

Title: A cross sectional study regarding the knowledge and perception among the hesitant population towards the covid-19 vaccines residing in urban area of Ballari, Karnataka.

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Introduction:

Coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) is caused by a coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2). On 11th march 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared it as a pandemic.

The rate of infection had not seemed to slow down in the majority of the affected countries.

Vaccination is considered a crucial advance in the field of public health.

Vaccine hesitancy became an important challenge in the immunization against COVID-19 and it is reported as one of the major threats to global health by WHO.

Objectives: To know the knowledge and perception towards the covid-19 vaccine among the hesitant population.

Methodology:

Study-area: Devinagar PHC, Ballari.

Study-design: Cross-sectional study design.

Study-period: 60 days, from 01.10.2021 to 30.11.2021.

Study-subjects: Covid-19 vaccine hesitant population in Devinagar PHC.

Study-tool: Pre structured, pre designed, pre tested questionnaire.

Statistical tests: Proportions, mean, standard deviation.

Results:

In the present study, most common age group involved was 28-37years (29%). Females (56%) were most commonly involved. Most of them were slum dwellers (66%). Most of them were illiterates (48.9%) and belonged to lower middle class (39.7%).

A. Knowledge regarding Covid-19 infection

Covid-19 infection	Frequency	Percent
Poor knowledge	37	28.2
Good knowledge	94	71.8
Total	131	100.0

B. Knowledge regarding Covid-19 vaccine

1. General information	Frequency	Percent
Poor knowledge	32	24.4
Good knowledge	99	75.6
Total	131	100.0

2. Eligible population	Frequency	Percent
Poor knowledge	62	47.3
Good knowledge	69	52.7
Total	131	100.0

3. Protective effect	Frequency	Percent
Poor knowledge	56	42.7
Good knowledge	75	57.3
Total	131	100.0

4. Adverse events	Frequency	Percent
Poor knowledge	14	10.7
Good knowledge	117	89.3
Total	131	100.0

C. Perception regarding

1. Covid-19 infection	Frequency	Percent
Poor perception	46	35.1
Good perception	85	64.9
Total	131	100.0

2. Covid-19 vaccine	Frequency	Percent
Poor perception	88	67.2
Good perception	43	32.8
Total	131	100.0

D. Reasons for hesitancy

Reasons	Frequency	Percent
Fear of adverse events	84	64.61
Fear of death	31	23.84
Health issues	18	13.84
Not sure about safety	11	8.46
Religious reasons	10	7.69

In the study population, among them most common had fear of adverse events followed by fear of death.

Conclusion: present study shows majority of hesitant population had good knowledge regarding covid-19 infection and vaccine. Whereas they had a poor perception towards covid-19 vaccine. Most common reason for not taking vaccine was fear of adverse events. So here by we recommend that activities like Information education communication (IEC), Behavioural change communication (BCC) has to be carried out to remove the hesitancy.