

A cross-sectional study: COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy among an Urban Population in Pathanamthitta District

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INTRODUCTION:

Of the many challenges that all vaccine campaigns face today, vaccine hesitancy is one of the most significant ones. Vaccine hesitancy is a behavioral phenomenon that refers to the delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccination despite availability of vaccine services. The vaccine against COVID19 is an important tool to fight the ongoing pandemic. It is imperative that we identify the fields that raise apprehension in the general public so that the medical community can address their fears and misconceptions.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To determine the presence of **vaccine hesitancy** towards COVID19 vaccines in an urban population in Pathanamthitta district
2. To identify the **factors responsible** for vaccine hesitancy in the study population

METHODS:

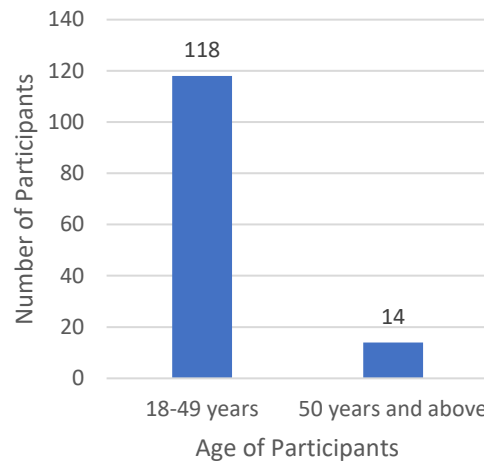
A **community based cross-sectional study** was carried out among patients who visited the urban health centre of a tertiary care centre, from **March to May of 2021**. A **self-administered questionnaire** was given and they were asked to circulate a digital copy in the form of **google form** to acquaintances through Whatsapp and Facebook. The minimum sample size required was **108**.

CONCLUSION:

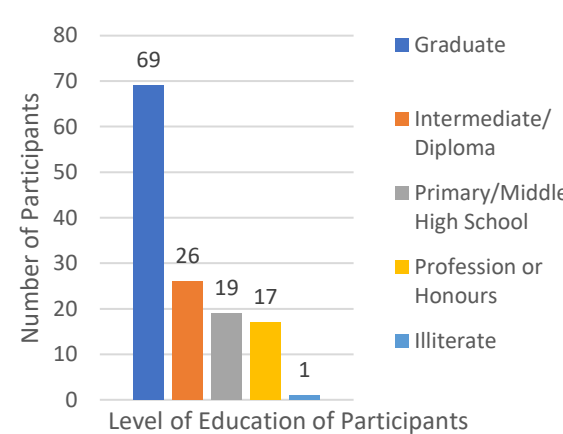
The study showed that vaccine hesitancy existed in the study population and the most common specific reason given was inadequate data about the safety of the vaccine. As newspapers are the most commonly used source of information, as per the study, medical professionals can use it as a tool to spread awareness about vaccine safety and address other fears and misinformation about the vaccine.

RESULTS:

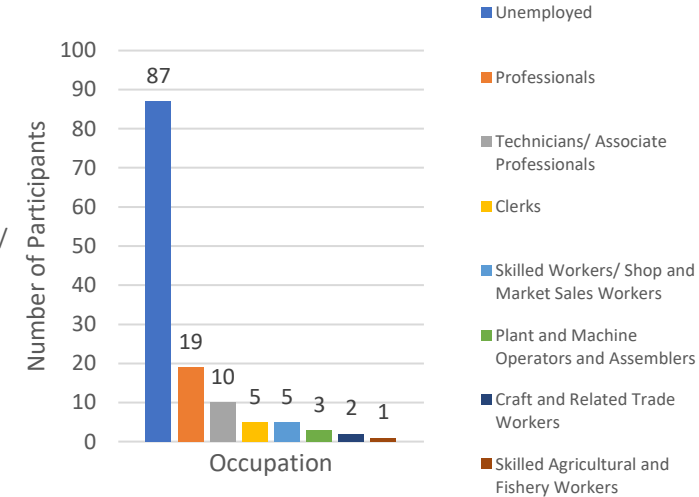
Age of Participants



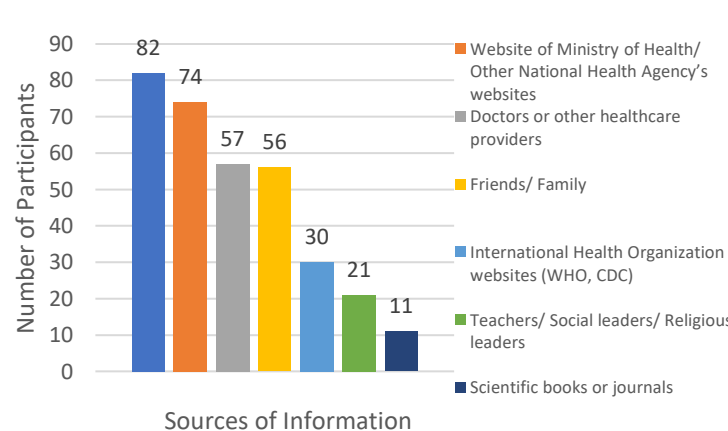
Education of Participants



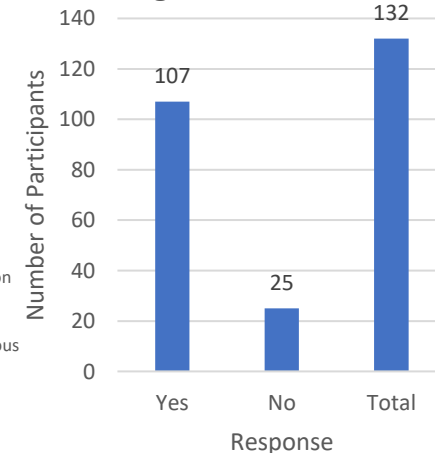
Occupation of Participants



Sources of Information Regarding COVID-19 Vaccination



Willingness to take vaccine against COVID-19



Reason for Refusal of Vaccination Against COVID-19

