



## **SETTLING SOCIETY'S STIGMA OF COVID – 19 VACCINATION PROGRAM IN INDONESIA**

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Received: June 27, 2021

Accepted: Augt 07, 2021

Published: Dec 01, 2021

### **Abstract:**

*The purpose of this paper is to determine how stigma or views as well as the public response to the vaccination program COVID - 19 conducted by the government as a form of efforts to accelerate countermeasures pandemic COVID - 19 in Indonesia. The problems that arise as a result of the pandemic in Indonesia and throughout the world are not small and easy problems to solve. The problems that arise have an impact on various areas of life. Starting from the health sector which is certainly the main problem, humanity, community welfare, and of course a very serious problem has a very big impact on the country, namely economic problems. So that the whole world is competing to immediately deal with various problems that occur as a result of this pandemic, including the Indonesian government. One of the world's efforts, including Indonesia, is seeking to accelerate the prevention of this pandemic by vaccinating all the citizens, with the aim that although the COVID-19 virus may not currently have a cure, at least by being vaccinated, a person can have a more supportive immune system to prevent exposure the corona virus. Based on the facts obtained directly from the field as well as several reading sources, this research was able to find a common ground that could then offer a solution so that there was no difference of understanding between the intent of the legislation made by the Indonesian government regarding the COVID-19 vaccination program and the expectations of the people who have negative assumptions about the COVID-19 vaccination.*

### **Keywords:**

COVID-19, Indonesian Government , Pandemic, Prevention, Vaccination

### **1. Background**

Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an outbreak that has never imagined that the impact will be as wide and big as now. (Handayani, 2020) From the first appearance of this virus in China, other countries never thought that the spread would be so fast and uncontrollable, including Indonesia, which was also not ready for an outbreak of the virus. The World Health Organization (WHO) has also determined that COVID-19 can be confirmed as a national disaster in Indonesia. (Burhan E, Isbaniah F, 2020) Since the outbreak of the virus COVID - 19 into Indonesia in the first round in 2020, the Indonesian government has a lot of government efforts as a form of the outbreak response. Starting from the quarantine area, zoning restrictions, until the restrictions on large scale carried out in several cities - cities and towns around there. Until a year later, the government continued to make various efforts to accelerate the prevention of this outbreak, until finally the government succeeded in making a mass vaccination program for the citizens of Indonesia, where the main goal was to reduce the speed of the spread of the epidemic. The vaccine is expected to at least protect the citizens by strengthening the immune system. Although they still have to comply with all health protocols that have been proclaimed by the ministry of health, at least the vaccine can protect even more from the possibility of being exposed to the virus.

Mass vaccine does not simply given to the public, will be but a variety of factors who can receive vaksinasi also anyone who is a vaccine priority given. Considering of course the number of vaccines in Indonesia also cannot directly meet the needs according to the total number of Indonesian citizens. The most important factor is the priority of vaccinations. In Indonesia, the first targets for COVID-19 vaccinations are medical personnel, such as doctors, nurses, lab workers, and other medical personnel who are of course very vulnerable to being exposed to the COVID-19 virus, considering their work in the field. Furthermore, public service officers and state officials, whose activities cannot be negotiated to be carried out at home for work from home, therefore they are also important

targets who must receive vaccinations. Then the general public will prioritize the elderly first. Where the goal is to reduce the death rate because the elderly are vulnerable to complications when exposed to the virus, so that the elderly are the next target after medical personnel, public service officers and state apparatus.

Vaccination is also accompanied by a first examination, of course, because it is feared that there are congenital or comorbid diseases or so-called comorbidities. Because they may be included in the delayed list of vaccine recipients because of the disease, even though in fact those who have comorbidities are much more susceptible to being exposed to the COVID-19 virus with poor conditions that can result in death. As with comorbid hypertension, about 15% of cases of hypertension were found in COVID-19 patients and about 12.6% of the 406 patients who had comorbid hypertension who later died from infection with the COVID-19 virus. (Gunawan, Prahasanti and Utama, 2020)

Misleading and unverifiable news about COVID-19 can cause excessive panic, worry, and anxiety. (Prianto and Harani, 2020) This is not only happening in other countries, but also in Indonesia. The mass vaccination program held by the Indonesian government as an effort to accelerate the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, turned out to be not so well accepted and followed by the public, especially people who were in the productive age category. Not a few of them refuse to be vaccinated for various reasons. Especially exposed to untrue news about vaccinations which turned out to have a big impact on society. (Kriswibowo et al., 2021) Many doubt the safety of vaccinations provided by the Indonesian government. There are even some of them who think that the vaccine can actually bring new diseases to their bodies. Therefore, it's service with dedication which is using counseling, the researchers did aim to helping wider public to know more about how COVID – 19 vaccinations given by the Indonesian government. The goal is that the citizens in the area where the counseling is being carried out can also filter out correct and incorrect information about vaccinations that can be troubling to the wider citizens if it is not stopped immediately.

### **1.1. Implementation Method**

Community service is carried out using a face-to-face counseling pattern, both in groups and door to door. Questionnaires were also distributed containing community responses, especially residents of RT.10 RW.007 Manukan Kulon Village, Surabaya regarding the COVID-19 vaccination program carried out by the government in Indonesia.

This activity is held on:

Dates : June 13, 2021 and June 18, 2021

Place : Area RT.10 RW.007 Manukan Kulon Village - Manukan Rukun Street

The counseling participants consisted of 20 residents of the RT.10 area including women from PKK RT.10

## **2. Research Results and Discussion**

### **2.1. COVID-19 Vaccination According to the Viewpoint of the Citizens**

After more than a year, the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has not ended. The number of additional COVID-19 patients is also uncertain. For some time ago, the number of positive cases had decreased, then after the holidays the number of positive confirmations increased dramatically. This of course makes the government continue to work hard to tackle the pandemic that never ends. Countermeasures are carried out from general matters such as micro-regional restrictions in villages, then large-scale area restrictions, reducing the number of national holidays that are at risk of an increase in the number of positive confirmed cases of COVID-19 with the mobilization of people from one area to another, to special ones such as having to reduce the working hours of the number of workers who work offline or in other words some of the workers have to work online from home or what is called work from home. This does not only happen to workers, but also to students as well as students who also have to take part in online learning activities. This is done because the risk of transmission will be very high if these activities are still carried out offline. After the various restrictions as an effort to contain the spread of COVID-19, it also had a negative impact on the country, especially in the economic sector. With various restrictions on economic activities, the pace of the country's economy cannot run properly and is hampered. Many sectors of the economy have become sluggish due to restrictions on the space for various activities. This is what finally made the Indonesian government decide to create a "new normal" era, where all activities will be carried out offline again in stages. By relying on maintaining health protocols and maintaining the condition of each individual's body, it is hoped that there will be herd immunity.

Even though they still use certain restrictions and always apply strict health protocols, with the new normal, the economic sector, which was initially very sluggish, is slowly starting to improve. Regional restrictions began to be reduced to micro, so that the movement of people who had activities to work and carry out other activities began to run better when compared to when large-scale restrictions were imposed. This is still accompanied by the implementation of the protocol that continues to be tightened. Did social distancing in various places such as offices, where to eat, and - other public places. The new normal that is being implemented seems to be slowly having a significant impact on the economy. The community is also starting to get used to always doing activities while maintaining health protocols in accordance with those that have been set. All efforts to return to normal citizens activities are being carried out by the Indonesian government. So that the Indonesian citizens can continue to do their activities despite the COVID-19 virus which can still be transmitted if people are careless to carry out good and correct health protocols. Despite this, the learning activities of school students and university students decide to remain to be done online, because of the risk of transmission is still considered high enough if done offline or face to face.

One of the current efforts that the government is trying very hard to implement immediately is a mass vaccination program for all Indonesians. The whole community will be included in the list of vaccine recipients with factors of consideration which of course are also being determined by the government. Starting from the people who are most vulnerable to the transmission of the COVID-19 virus, namely the medical personnel. Where they are people whose roles are at the forefront to help treat and treat patients infected with the COVID-19 virus. So they are the main target priority in the implementation of vaccinations carried out by the government. So that at least by being vaccinated, the immunity of medical personnel can be helped to be even stronger when they have to deal directly with the COVID-19 patients they treat. After medical personnel, the target for COVID-19 vaccinations carried out by the government are people who work in the field of public services and also state officials. Because of course the work they do is non-negotiable to be done at home, they have to work outside to carry out their duties and obligations properly. So it is very necessary to be vaccinated to support their immune system. Then the next target is the elderly, with the aim of being able to reduce the death rate due to disease complications after the elderly are attacked by COVID-19. Because the elderly are very vulnerable to transmission of the COVID-19 virus because their immune system is of course not as strong as people who are in the productive age category. . Then the last target is all people who are in the productive age category, namely the age range of 18 years to 59 years. They are at the last target of giving vaccinations because they are considered to be of productive age, on average they still have activities to do so that their immunity is also well processed. However, there is also a further group, namely the delayed target. This group is intended for those who have comorbidities or comorbidities. People with comorbidities are included in the delayed category because their health with comorbidities must be ensured to be safe first if they are vaccinated. Because if it is not ascertained properly beforehand, unwanted risks such as deteriorating body condition to the risk of death may occur.

Within the citizens, of course, a program created and implemented by the citizens will get pro and contra reactions as a response from the community to every policy of the Indonesian government. (Asyafin et al., 2021) This includes the COVID-19 vaccination program which was carried out as an effort to accelerate the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which is currently still spreading, especially in Indonesia. Regarding this COVID-19 vaccination, there is also a lot of news and news whose truth cannot be confirmed. It is this kind of news and news that usually spreads faster and spreads in the citizens. Then, by accepting untrue news, it will then build a slanted stigma in the middle of citizens regarding the COVID-19 vaccination program implemented by the Indonesian government, which in turn will result in the rejection of the vaccine. (Rahman, 2021)

Public opinion regarding the COVID-19 vaccination program is very diverse. As some people think that they do not know how the vaccination program is implemented. They do not receive any socialization about the vaccination, so they are also vulnerable to being influenced by false news about the effects or side effects that are very bad or scary after being vaccinated. As before, they were healthy before the vaccine, even after the vaccine they got sick and some even couldn't be helped. There are also those who say that if you refuse to be given the vaccine, you will get a prison sentence, it is better to be imprisoned than to have to feel unwanted pain as a side effect of the vaccine, or even die as a result as a side effect. There are also those who say that their mother who is an elderly person who has received 2 (two) doses of complete vaccination, suddenly experienced swelling in her eye area after receiving the

vaccination. This makes the residents doubt that vaccinations will also be given to people who are of productive age in the future.



Figure 1 . Counseling on the regulation of COVID-19 vaccination in Indonesia

## 2.2. Counseling as One of the Efforts to Refine Public Stigma About COVID - 19 Vaccination

Ignorance of the community will be the policy - policies that are created and assigned by the government. Even though the policy was made to regulate the community. So the public should also know clearly how the policy is enforced. (Vincentius Gitiyarko, 2020) However, its overall lack of socialization in the middle of citizens about government's policies, which is that government's policies have made people very layman will policy - a policy made by the government. Like people who live in rural areas and are far from the reach of mass media and social media, so they cannot update on the latest developments of government policies, which then they also cannot know the various activities and programs that arise from these policies. So it is very necessary to hold socialization that is very evenly distributed to people throughout Indonesia. As is the case with the COVID-19 vaccination program. This program is very important and must be conveyed properly and correctly. So that the public can filter out false news and news regarding the COVID-19 vaccination. (Rahayu, 2021)

Counseling or socialization regarding an Indonesian government policy is very important to be held for all Indonesian people. Regarding the mass COVID-19 vaccination program held by the government, it is also very necessary to hold socialization or counseling to the public. Without any socialization or counseling carried out by the government, people experience information blindness which results in the absorption of untrue news and news from many parties. Even though the impact of untrue news and news regarding the COVID-19 vaccination can cause chaos. Not a few people experience excessive worry and bad thoughts about the COVID-19 vaccination provided by the government. In fact most of them choose to refuse to be vaccinated COVID - 19 for fear will appear bad side effects after given the vaccine. There are even those who are afraid that after being vaccinated it could threaten their life safety. So it can be seen that news and news regarding the COVID-19 vaccination, which cannot be verified, can have a very bad impact on the community, especially for people who do not have extensive knowledge and are easily influenced without being careful.

Through dedication service activities like counseling and socialization conducted by the researchers, in the form of outreach to the citizens about vaccination COVID - 19, researchers seek to provide a general overview of how policies are rendered by the government on vaccination COVID - 19. Many found that public opinion turns in to media massadi their respective gadgets, which can not be proven how true. The public admits that after reading the news about the COVID-19 vaccination on the internet, a lot of them have seen how dangerous the side effects of the vaccine given by the Indonesian government are. People also find news which say that the vaccinations is given free of charge is conspiracy which are rendered by the Indonesian government.



**Figure 2 . Door to door counseling regarding COVID-19 vaccination**

### **3. Conclusion**

Based on the discussion and results of research conducted through dedication service with counseling and socialization in the area of RT 10 RW 007 Manukan Kulon, Tandes, Surabaya, it can be concluded that counseling or outreach to the public regarding the government program of mass COVID-19 vaccination for all Indonesian people is very important. Because without the public's knowledge of the government's program policies, the public may absorb it raw without any filtering news or news that cannot be confirmed. This can also form a wrong stigma by the community towards government policies in the form of a mass COVID-19 vaccination program for all Indonesian people.

### **Thank's Note**

The researcher would like to thank the Institute for Community Service (LPPM) Universitas 17 August 1945 Surabaya, the Field Supervisor for this service activity, Dr. Tommy Michael, S.H., M.H., as well as the entire area of RT 10 RW 007, Manukan Kulon Village, Tandes, Surabaya.

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