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Attitude of University Students toward Covid-19 Vaccines

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Abstract

Background: A crucial defense against the coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19) pandemic is vaccination. It's crucial to look into students' opinions toward the COVID-19 vaccine in order to administer vaccination and immunization programs successfully. To determine the opinions of students at Mosul University about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Materials and Methods: The attitudes of university students in Mosul, Iraq, were examined using a descriptive research methodology. The project started in September and will be finished in December 2023. Only 938 individuals, including 402 men and 536 women. Three sections made up the questionnaire: The first part of the survey asked about the respondents' information source for learning about the COVID-19 vaccination; the second part asked about their profile (age, gender, type of college attended, and place of residence); and the final part asked about their opinions of COVID-19 vaccines.

Results: The study found that 57.15% of the questionnaire respondents were female students. The average age of the participants was between 21 and 23, which was 48.52%. 85.07% of the study's participants were university students from urban locations, and the majority of participants were from humanitarian institutions.

Conclusion: According to the findings of this study, college students in Mosul had a positive attitude toward receiving corona virus vaccinations.

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Keywords: Attitude, University Students, Covid 19, Vaccines

Introduction

Around the start of 2020, the first cases of pneumonia with no known etiology were reported in the Chinese province of Hubei ^[1,2]. Later, it was determined that the increase in clinical cases of the sickness was caused by a new coronavirus. Initially known as 2019-nCoV, the new virus was eventually referred to as SARS-CoV-2, and the illness it causes was known as COVID-19 ^[3,4]. A report from 2021 states that as of March 7 of 2022, the COVID-19 pandemic has claimed the lives of almost 6 million people. Undoubtedly, COVID-19 ability to spread quickly and because fatal sickness posed a huge threat to the entire international society. Due to the fact that the development of vaccines was anticipated to be a game-changer for infectious diseases in general, various research teams have been working nonstop for the past two years to produce safe and effective vaccines in an unprecedented length of time ^[5,6]. The COVID-19 vaccinations have throughout time proven to be effective in reducing the spread of serious sickness as well as infection. However, due in part to a widespread disapproval of the vaccine, vaccination coverage in some populations is still below average ^[7,8]. The authority initially excluded college students. However, since the public holidays ^[9,10] introduced to combat the pandemic, all universities have been closed. Due to the pandemic, some educational institutions have experienced severe losses ^[11]. On March 25, 2021, the Iraqi government began its immunization campaign, and as of February 13, 2022, about 10 million Iraqis had gotten at least one dosage of the vaccine. Vaccine reluctance, on the other

hand, poses one of the biggest obstacles to widespread vaccination and effective pandemic mitigation. The WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts described vaccine hesitancy as "delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccination notwithstanding availability of vaccination services." "Achieving the vaccination coverage necessary for population immunity will be significantly hampered by uncertainty and resistance to receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. The primary objections to the vaccines were that they were rushed into production, that they would have adverse effects, that their usefulness was questioned, and that many people believed they had already established immunity to the virus ^[12]. Due to their inadequate capacity for immune defense against infectious diseases, students are among the subpopulations that are most susceptible to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, in order to meet the public health objectives of vaccination programs, it is crucial to comprehend attitudes about COVID-19 vaccinations in this group.

Materials and Methods

Study design and setting

The attitudes of university students in Mosul, Iraq, during the COVID-19 immunization campaign were investigated using a descriptive research methodology. The project will be completed in December 2023, having begun in September. Students at the University of Mosul's in Iraq provided the sample.

Results

Studying participants and sampling

Total sampling was employed because all students were the target demographic. Only 938 persons, including 402 men and 536 women, registered for the study and gave their agreement to participate.

Data collection tools and technique

Several significant pieces of literature were used in the development of the study's questionnaire. Three sections make up the questionnaire: Respondents were asked where they first discovered about the COVID-19 vaccination in the first section, and their "ages, genders, the kind of colleges they had attended, and their residences" were covered in the second. The third asked them to express their views on the COVID-19 vaccinations, and the fourth requested more details. The information was gathered by having attendees fill out a questionnaire. Before any attempt was made to gather data, the project was accepted and presented to professionals.

Statistical analysis

The data were examined using SPSS, version (26) including "Percentage, Frequency and mean of score were used" ^[13-16].

Ethics consideration

Ethical approval for the purpose of collecting the study sample was obtained from the Medical Ethical Committee under approval No:6572901/980Nu

Table 1: Source of respondents' knowledge regarding the COVID-19 vaccine

Source	(%)	F
Internet	325	34.65%
Television and Radio	266	28.35%
Newspaper	67	7.14%
Friends	93	9.91%
Articles	31	3.3%
Report	65	6.93%
Family	91	9.7%

Table 2: Distribution of the study participant (N=938)

Variables	No.	Frequency (%)	Mean +SD
(A): Age			
18 – 20	236	25.15	Mean (21.7) SD (2.87)
21 – 23	455	48.52	
24 or more	247	26.33	
(B): Gender			
Male	402	42.85	
Female	536	57.15	
(C): Type of the College			
Medical	212	22.6	
Scientific	187	19.94	
Humanity	332	35.4	
Engineering	207	22.06	
(E): Residence			
Urban	798	85.07	
Rural	140	14.93	

Table 3: Responders' views on the COVID-19 vaccination

	"Strongly agree"	"Agree"	"Disagree"	"Strongly disagree"	"Weighted mean"
1. In my opinion, vaccinations are essential for reducing or eradicating harmful diseases.	312	505	97	24	3.31±0.57
2. I think immunizations work well and are generally beneficial.	292	466	103	45	3.12±0.66
3. I have no concern that getting vaccinated will make me ill.	132	363	345	88	3.01±0.71
4. I would definitely be vaccinated against COVID-19 if there were vaccinations available.	111	559	233	35	2.68±0.73
5. I think vaccines are crucial to preventing the onset of fresh pandemics and epidemics.	101	399	420	18	3.23±0.61
Total weighted mean					3.07±0.66

"F=Frequency; %=Percentage; 3.26–4.00=Completely agree, 2.51–3.25 = Agree, 1.76–2.50=Slightly disagree"

Discussion

Students from Mosul University participated in this study to learn more about their opinions on the coronavirus vaccine. Numerous students from both genders at Mosul University were given a variety of questions (males and females). According to demographic data, 57.15% of the students who responded to the survey were female. Approximately 48.52% of the participants were between the ages of 21 and 23. Most of the participants were from humanitarian institutions, and 85.07% of the study's participants were students from metropolitan areas. The Internet, particularly social media websites, was the first information source, followed by television. The main causes are the prohibition that was put in place during the pandemic and the fact that most people used television and other forms of communication to get their information. Table 3 demonstrates how pupils feel about the COVID-19 vaccination. They concur with every assertion, showing that the majority of them had a favorable opinion of the COVID-19 vaccination. As they believe vaccines will be crucial in putting an end to the pandemic and enabling them to return to their normal lives, the results show the students' positive attitude toward the COVID-19 vaccine. The outcome is consistent with the research of ^[13], whose subjects likewise had a favorable opinion of the COVID-19 vaccination. Additionally, ^[14] discovered that their participants firmly felt that getting vaccinated is necessary to protect people from COVID-19. Additionally, participants in ^[15] study expressed positive opinions of COVID-19. They committed to follow their health authority's instructions regarding COVID-19 and take all necessary precautions to protect themselves, their family, and their home. Positivity toward receiving the COVID-19 vaccine may enhance one's likelihood of getting the shot, which is positive for the eventual establishment of herd immunity against the dangerous and contagious COVID-19. In order to influence people's perspectives and ultimately persuade them to consent to receiving the shot when the opportunity presents itself, it is crucial to conduct health education programs to increase people's awareness of or comprehension about the COVID-19 vaccination. The establishment of herd immunity against the harmful SARS-CoV2 virus is progressing, which is positive ^[16].

Limitations and recommendation

One of the problems and obstacles that the researchers faced was the lack of desire of many students to participate due to their preoccupation with taking the quarterly exams. This study recommends conducting similar studies at the level of all colleges located in Iraq as a whole to obtain the best results for the purpose of comparison with each other.

Conclusion

This study came to the conclusion that students in Mosul's colleges have a favorable attitude toward receiving corona virus vaccinations.

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Conflicts of interest

Non

Reference

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