Indonesia has achieved significant COVID-19 vaccination coverage.

Until May 2023, 86% of target recipients have received the first dose, and more than 74% have received a complete dosage.

However, debate at the community level about the fors and againsts of the COVID-19 vaccination persists.

The intake of COVID-19 vaccination booster is decreasing with only 37% intake for 1st booster and 1% for 2nd booster (MoH, 2023).

Public perceptions of COVID-19 susceptibility, severity, and fatality, along with the benefits of vaccines, were found to be the predisposing factors.

Regardless, even though perceptions towards vaccination were negative, they still got vaccinated due to the reinforcing factors mentioned.

Meanwhile, individuals with positive perceptions towards vaccination were still concerned and felt they lacked information regarding the vaccine and its potential effects to their long-term health.

The perceived risk of administrative consequences if not vaccinated, such as the termination of social assistances and access to public services, was the most prominent reinforcing factor, especially among men.

Influence from family, peers, clinicians, community leaders and religious leaders reinforced elderly men and women to be vaccinated.

The Indonesian government’s measures to roll out the COVID-19 vaccine have significantly increased vaccine coverage.

Indonesia has utilised every level of governments structure down to the village, including the military to expand vaccine coverage.

Vaccination policy also imposed administrative sanction to those who refuse to be vaccinated.

The study aims to understand the community’s perceptions, acceptance, concerns, and attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccination to provide policy advice for more inclusive risk communication approaches in the context of health crises.

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Reference: