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### RESEARCH ARTICLE

#### “PERCEPTION OF PUBLIC AND ACCEPTANCE OF COVID-19 VACCINATION IN INDIA“

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#### Abstract

Corona virus disease is a serious viral disease that continues to afflict many countries around the world. Owing to vaccines are a key strategy to stop the escalation of the COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccine hesitancy is a potential threat to global public health. COVID-19 vaccine is one of the intervention which is most awaited and number of institutions are working on it with the pace. India the vaccine manufacturing center of the world , where 60% to the world wide vaccine supply. Low cost COVID-19 vaccines will give profit for low-income countries which cannot afford costly vaccines.

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#### Introduction:-

Corona virus disease is a serious viral disease that continues to afflict many countries around the world. SARS-CoV-2 has spread through the borders of approximately 200 countries, affecting about 150 million people and killing approximately 3 million people. Owing to their poor economic status and depleting resources available in their countries, the SARSCoV-2 (COVID 19) epidemic has had a hugely negative effect on many countries' public health systems. while there are no clear worldwide antiviral drugs for SARS-CoV-2 in which the World Health Organization recommendations are currently being followed in preventing further outbreak, early detection of those who have been infected, and developing a comprehensive and reliable treatment. <sup>[1]</sup>

However, over the last few months several researchers from around the world have assessed the safety, efficacy, and effectiveness of many repurposed drugs for the treatment of COVID-19. Among the therapeutic vaccines that have been studied, a few of them have shown promise in reducing and improving overall mortality in COVID-19 patients. We can see how maintaining social distance norms and using secure personal protective equipment with national lockdowns over a prolonged period is improbable. As a result, the only way to stop the pandemic from spreading further is to create a scientifically safe and widely available COVID 19 vaccine and make it available to the general public around the world. <sup>[2]</sup>

Owing to vaccines are a key strategy to stop the escalation of the covid 19 pandemic. <sup>[3]</sup>The development of a COVID 19 vaccine to combat the disease spread and devastating effects is still ongoing, and as the pandemic progresses new more effective vaccines are likely to be developed. Vaccine delivery is continuing and the public acceptance of the COVID-19 is critical. <sup>[4,5,6]</sup>

#### Hesitancy Regarding Covid 19 Vaccination Among People

Vaccine hesitancy is a potential threat to global public health. COVID-19 vaccine is one of the intervention which is most awaited and number of institutions are working on it with the pace .Several studies have conducted and

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these studies identify few factors which influence acceptance of COVID-19 vaccine. [7,8,9] These include the safety and efficacy of the vaccine, adverse health outcomes, misconceptions about the need for vaccination, lack of trust in the health system, lack of knowledge among the community on vaccine-preventable diseases. [10,11]

According to the recent studies on COVID-19, figures shown that about 65-80 percent of the population who live in community is in the need to vaccinated to prevent and reduce COVID 19 virus spread and control the extend at community level. [10] However Vaccine acceptance and vaccine demand are multipart in nature and, unreliable across place, time and seeming behavioral nature in the community. [12]

A cross sectional study was conducted on COVID-19 vaccination myths and conspiracy theories that were done by online platforms to understand their perspective, and review the interventions to handle this misinformation and increase vaccine acceptance. In the period between December 31, 2019 to November 30 , a multidisiplinary team was formed to collect all information about online myths and conspiracy theory. There were 637 COVID-19 vaccine-related items: 91% were myths and 9% were conspir- acy theories from 52 countries. Of the 578 rumors, 36% were related to vaccine develop- ment, availability, and access, 20% related to morbidity and mortality, 8% to safety, efficacy, and acceptance, and the rest were other categories. Of the 637 items, 5% (30/) were true, 83% (528/637) were false, 10% (66/637) were misleading, and 2% (13/637) were exaggerated. [13]

There are several factors which trigger vaccine hesitancy like safety and effectiveness of vaccination. The current disease of coronavirus in 2019 pandemic do not appear to show any signs of decrease in cases, 1.7 million deaths and 80 million reported cases globally, as of December 27 2020. [14,15]

### **Covid-19 Vaccination In India**

India the vaccine manufacturing center of the world , where 60% to the world wide vaccine supply . Low cost COVID-19 vaccines will give profit for low-income countries which cannot afford costly vaccines. The Indian government as of May 4, 2021 Serum Institute of India and Bharat Biotech have productively administered 160,494,188 vaccine , together with the first and second doses. The two vaccines in India that have received for urgent situation use are Covishield and Covaxin . In the need of improving the present vaccination treatment across different states due to inadequate vaccine supply, Sputnik V was accepted by the Indian government as a third vaccine in April ,2021. [16]

Phase 1 trial intiated by Bharat trial of using single-dose intranasal vaccine(BBV154) adenovirus vector for COVID-19. Covishield is the Indian version of the replication-deficient adenoviral vector vaccine developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca). The world's largest vaccine manufacturer by Serum Institute of India. A live-attenuated intranasal vaccine against COVID-19 is also manufactured by Serum Institute of India. [3] India has the ability to make 70-110 million doses per month of Covishield vaccine according to the Department of Biotechnology (DBT). [17]

### **Factors Affecting the Vaccine Acceptance in India**

A study conducted in October 2020, where 351 participants were selected using online questionnaire. The study aimed how vaccine hesitancy is there among general population of India. In this study 85% of population was highly educated. Out of this 351 paticipants , 55% of population believed that COVID- 19 vaccination if safe and 46% believe that it is effective. [18]

### **Attitude of people regarding safety and the effectiveness of COVID-19 Vaccine**

An online survey was conducted between March and April 2020, using a regression model to see whether people would accept vaccine at no cost or not which is 50 or 95% effective . 1,359 participants were selected for the study out of which , 93.3% of participants would definitely like to take vaccine which is 95% effective vaccine, but only 67.0% were ready to take vaccine which is 50% effective. [19]

### **Barriers related to COVID-19 Vaccine**

A study conducted by Sharun K about the COVID-19 vaccination acceptance and barriers related to vaccination among the population of India. In this study it has been seen that mostly (64.4%) of population were scared about the side effects of COVID- 19 vaccine and 20.2% of population are doubtful about the about the efficacy of vaccination, whereas 12% of population believed that vaccine is effective and there was A considerable Number i.e. (25.4%) which had extra reasons of preventing them from getting themselves vaccinated. [19]

### Different ways to improve Vaccine Acceptance

Knowledge regarding vaccine and acceptance of vaccine depends on socio-demographic factor. The most vital concern about vaccination of covid 19 are the side effects related to vaccine. There are following ways related to increase the knowledge of population regarding COVID-19 vaccination :-

1. To earn and build trust among population regarding the vaccine by building up novel sites and by providing education material to the population
2. To make possible that vaccine should be available in safer and convenient areas where overcrowding is not there
3. The government should take steps so that vaccine should be available at no cost and everyone who are in the need of the vaccine should get COVID-19 vaccine.
4. Make sure that important and significant communication should be there and there will be no misinformation regarding COVID-19 vaccination.
5. Promote confidence among general population and give support to the health works too. In above studies it is seen that doctors plays vital role in spreading the information regarding COVID-19 vaccine and it can really help people to get rid of all the misinformation regarding the vaccine.
6. Government should make sure that vaccination campaign and educational campaign should be conducted to ensure that the person who are at higher risk and who has vaccine hesitancy. <sup>[20]</sup>

### Conclusion:-

COVID-19 pandemic caused a very big loss of life and living across the world. The progress of vaccines is a trace of hope towards the ending of this crisis. Vaccine hesitancy has posed a serious threat to achieving global health as more time allows the virus to undergo mutations. It is possible that the vaccines may not be effective on all mutations of the virus in the future. It, therefore, becomes necessary to overcome this barrier of vaccine hesitancy.

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