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# VACCINE HESITANCY : PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE OF COVID 19

Varsha Sharma\*

### ABSTRACT

Vaccine hesitancy is the tendency of the individuals to refuse the vaccine which is in high demand or required highly for the sake of health. The vaccine hesitancy is the major mental hurdle which is a barrier in achieving the goal of 100% vaccination. The present paper is a review based analysis of different psychological factors which energies the tendency of vaccine hesitancy among masses. Though the covid vaccine is being formulated urgently but it achieved all the standard of the efficacy for the precautions from the covid.

KEYWORDS: VACCINE HESISTANCY, COVID, PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPEC-TIVE

### INTRODUCTION

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The 'curse of covid' was very bitter. It is still continued at some places round the globe. The fear and anxiety of upcoming waves are very stress provoking. India was one of the world's worstaffected countries due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Cases of Covid started with few numbers and gradually converted into many more. The situations are very crucial round the globe. All of us know that the only way to save our life is to follow covid appropriate behavior. By August 2021, more than 30 million Indians were infected and almost half a million died of COVID-19 infections (Thiagarajan, 2021; World Health Organization, 2021). Similar to many other countries, COVID-19 vaccines were granted emergency use authorization in India in early 2021. However, vaccine rollout in India faced a complicated path with political polarization, vaccine shortage, misinformation and rumors, challenges with registration and appointments, just to name a few (Thiagarajan, 2021; Chakraborty et al., 2021). By July 2021, nearly 75 million individuals were (Thiagarajan, 2021; Chakraborty et al., 2021). By July 2021, nearly 75 million individuals were (Thiagarajan, 001; S% of the Indian population being vaccinated (OurWorldinData, <sup>2021</sup>). Many of us get vaccinated but not all!! Either vaccine is not available or we are not willing to accept the vaccine. Due to some prevalent rumors connected to covid vaccine, vaccine hesitancy is seen in many places of the country.

A significant proportion of the Indian population is rural, without formal education, and affected by a greater digital divide (Thiagarajan, 2021; Chakraborty et al., 2021; Shah, 2021). This would <sup>mean</sup> that the actual rate of vaccine hesitancy could be much higher. A recent multisource report <sup>estimated</sup> that almost a third (29%–39%) of Indians were vaccine hesitant in early 2021 (Chowdhury <sup>et</sup> al., 2021). Another longitudinal study from January to June 2021 found that 12.7% of adult

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Indians would not obtain the COVID-19 vaccines (compared to the rate of 10% found in our study) (Umakanthan et al., 2021). Other reports have found that the major reasons for vaccine hesitancy and refusal in India are concerns about side effects and safety of the available vaccines (Chowdhury et al., 2021; Umakanthan et al., 2021; Danabal et al., 2021).

### Objective

Critically evaluate the causes and issues related to vaccine hesitancy.

### Causes and issues related to vaccine hesitancy

Vaccine hesitancy is one of the major challenges today. It is difficult to convince the totally disagreeing individuals. There are a number of psychosocial factors associated with the vaccine hesitancy. Major factors can be conceptually outlined as follows-

VACCINE HESITANCY
V- VAGUE EXCUSE GIVING TENDENCY A- ANXIETY CONNECTED WITH THE ASSOCIATED SYMPTOMS AFTER ACCINATION C- CARELESS ATTITUDE TOWARDS SELF C- CARELESS ATTITUDE TOWARDS OTHERS
I- INFODEMIC VICTIM N- NO TRUST ON VACCINE E- EXPECTING SIDE EFFECTS
H- HAVING NEGATIVE ATTITUDE FOR VACCINE E- EXCESSIVE ATTITUDE FOR NATURAL IMMUNITY S- STICKING TO RUMORS I- IMPROPER KNOWLEDGE ABOUT VACCINE
T- TENDENCY TO CRITICIZE A- ADVERSE EFFECTS OF VACCINE N-NO TRUST ON HEALTH ADVISORY C- CATALYST OF RUMORS Y- YATCH AMIDST QUIRKY MENTAL THUNDER

### **Psychosocial perspective**

The new variant of CORONA virus is stepping in different parts of the world. In India also cases of Omicron are increasing gradually, in such adverse situations it is very crucial stage where 47 Crore people of India still didn't get vaccinated with even a single dose (source-dainik bhaskar.com). Our hon'ble prime minister Modi has also requested several times to follow the covid guidelines and to get vaccinated. The problem of vaccine hesitancy can only be overcome by psychological counseling which will serve as the basis for attitude change among the masses.



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# Conclusion

Vaccine hesitancy is the major issue connected with the COVID 19. It is required to understand the notion that the psychological counseling can be of great help in overcoming the issue.

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