

# Vaccination Issue: Investigating the Parents' Perception of the Government's COVID-19 Vaccination Program

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**Abstract:** This pandemic changes our way of life. For some these changes is uncomfortable to the limitations by the government to slow the spread of COVID 19 to the population. This study aims to investigate the parents' perception on the current COVID-19 vaccination program of the government. Using the Parents as respondents of this study, it aims to assess the perception of the parents Binoni National High School on the emerging COVID 19 vaccination issues using the Likert Scale. This will assess if weather they believe that vaccination is beneficial to them or if it could bring harm to their family. The result yielded the overall mean of 4.07 which translated to a verbal description of Agree. Therefore, the parents of Binoni National High School had a positive perception on the vaccination program of the Government.

**Keywords:** COVID-19 vaccination, Government programs, Pandemic, Parents' perception vaccination issues.

## 1. Introduction

The onset of COVID 19 pandemic did change our way of life. Social distancing, community lockdowns are common in those depressing times. The world economy was severely affected to by the pandemic in fact some medium and large enterprises and businesses were closed. According to (Celik, Ozden, & Dane, 2020) there was a significant decrease in family incomes and a significant increase in family expenditures during COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. Covid 19 also had an adverse effect on education, there were disruption on learning, decrease in access to education and research facilities, job loss for working students and increasing debt. (Onyema, et.al, 2020) Due to this, the entire medical community was mobilizing their best Doctors and Scientist to find a solution to end this pandemic. One of the best solutions for this is the development of vaccines for COVID 19. To aid in the creation of COVID-19 vaccines, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) collaborates with international health organizations and vaccine producers. (Le, Et.al, 2020)

Based on all of the safety and efficacy information that is currently available, as well as whether or not it is appropriate for use in low- and middle-income countries, the WHO Emergency Use Listing procedure decides if a product can be advised for use. Utilizing information from clinical trials,

manufacturing processes, and quality control procedures, vaccines are evaluated to make sure they satisfy approved criteria of quality, safety, and efficacy. The assessment balances any potential dangers against the threat posed by the emergency and the benefit that would result from using the product. (WHO, 2022)

According to the World Health Organization the following vaccines have obtained Emergency Use Listing as of January 12, 2022. These vaccines are Pfizer/BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine, SII/COVISHIELD, AstraZeneca/AZD1222, Janssen /Ad26.COV 2.S, Moderna COVID-19, Sinopharm COVID-19, Sinovac-CoronaVac, Bharat Biotech BBV152 COVAXIN vaccine, Covovax (NVX-CoV2373) vaccine and Nuvaxovid (NVX-CoV2373) vaccine.

The Philippine Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted Covid 19 Vaccines with Emergency Use Authorization and are considered safe and effective based on the available evidence to date. (DOH, 2022). For the guidance in the vaccination program of the Department of Health, DOH Secretary Francisco T. Duque III, MD, MSc issued DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM No. 2021-0099 also known as "Interim Omnibus Guidelines for the Implementation of the National Vaccine Deployment Plan for COVID-19" this memorandum shall offer implementers of the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan general guidelines on how to administer vaccines. Due to conflicting worldwide demand, it is anticipated that vaccine supplies would initially be low and progressively rise. Therefore, it is appropriate to adopt a phased implementation strategy for the National Vaccine Deployment Program, following the objectives of ensuring a decrease in COVID-19 mortality and maintaining the capacity of the health system, and strategically matching the demand of priority populations to the anticipated vaccine supply, with three phases: Phase 1 or the Priority Eligible A, these are the frontliners workers such as medical professionals, Senior Citizen, adult with comorbidities, frontline personnel in essential sectors and the poor population who were included based on the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR). This will be followed by the Phase 2 or the Priority Eligible B, wherein the target population will be the

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teachers, social workers, government workers, essential workers, overseas Filipino workers, and the remaining workforce. Lastly the phase 3 also known as the Priority Eligible C, this time the rest of the Filipino population is the target population to be vaccinated. (DOH 2021)

The Philippines, a nation of about 120 million people, only 72,144,414 of its citizens had finished the second dosage as of August 15, 2022. (DOH, 2022) Misinformation about vaccines, particularly about their ineffectiveness and negative side effects, as well as some people's preferences for particular vaccine brands, as well as cultural and religious beliefs that are at odds with science and health are some of the causes of this "unconvinced" attitude. (Cordero 2022). Furthermore, according to Soares Et.al (2021) there are several factors why people delay or refuse vaccination. This are the following, younger age, loss of income during the pandemic, lack of flu vaccination intention, low confidence in the COVID-19 vaccine and the health services response during the pandemic, worse perception of government measures, perception of the information provided as inconsistent and contradictory, and completing the questionnaire prior to the release of information regarding the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines all contribute to low confidence in these measures.

## 2. Framework

The development of specific techniques is essential to boosting acceptance of the COVID-19 vaccination and reducing reluctance. In this study the researcher uses descriptive design. The frequency counts and frequency percentage will be used in the presentation of data. However, this research is still under descriptive because each statements response the weight mean is computed and be assigned by a verbal description. The overall mean will be emphasized in the presentation as it will give the final interpretation of the study based on its final calculative computation.

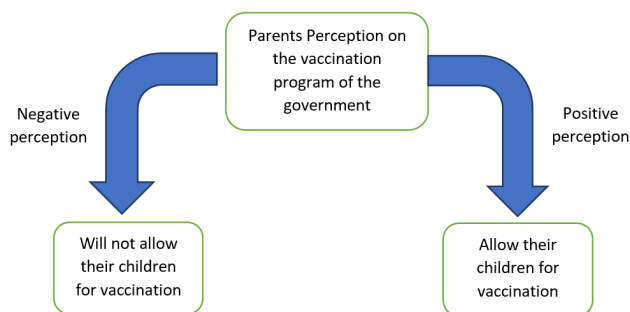


Fig. 1. Parents' perception on the vaccination program of the government

## 3. Objective of the Study

This study aims to discover the perception of the parents about the Vaccination Program of the government. Parents perception on the vaccination program would greatly impact the compliance to vaccinate their children against COVID-19 which would protect them especially during the face-to-face classes hence they have the parental authority over their children. For the process of this investigation the researchers aimed to answer the following questions about vaccination; (1)

To determine the present socio-demographic profile of parents in terms of age, sex and educational background? (2) To determine the vaccination status of the parents? (3) To determine the level of perception of parents in the vaccination program of the government?

## 4. Methodology

### A. Research Design

In this study, the researcher used a descriptive design. The frequency counts and frequency percentages were used in the data presentation. This study is descriptive because the weighted mean for each statement response was computed and assigned using a verbal description. The overall mean would be emphasized in the presentation as it would give the final interpretation of the study based on its final calculative computation.

### B. Research Area

This research was conducted at Binoni National High School, the samples came from the remote Barangays of the Municipality of Salug Zamboanga del Norte namely Barangays Pukay, Binoni, Dipolod and one from Municipality of Godood Zamboanga del Norte the Brangay Mauswagon. The areas mention were the feeder Barangays of Binoni National High School were the parents and students lived. People lived in these Barangay has different cultural backgrounds such as Muslims, Subanens and Christians.

### C. Research Respondent

The researcher did not use random sampling, purposive sampling was used because the majority of Binoni National High School parents were present in the distribution of modules. The researcher would ensure that the sample size was representative. That means, out of the 400 parents and guardians, those who visited the school regularly were requested as respondents. The data that was collected would be confidential, and the value of anonymity is observed.

## 5. Result and Discussion

*Question 1: Present socio-demographic profile of parents in terms of age, sex, educational background and vaccination status*

Age range in Years	Frequency	Percentage
20-40	73	40.55
41-60	84	46.66
61 - above	13	7.22
Did not indicate their age	10	5.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 1 showed the age range of the participants. The greater number of respondents is at the age range of 41-60 years old accounting to 46.66% and 5.55% of the participants did not indicate their age accounting to 10 respondents of the total respondents. This will show that most of the parents of Binoni National High School are in their late adulthood. According to

Pasion Et. al (2020) in their study it reveals that older individuals have a tendency of decreased perceived danger compared to middle-aged adults, and protective behavior involvement reduces with age.

Table 2  
Gender of the respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	26	14.44
Female	143	79.44
Did not indicate the gender	11	6.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 2 showed the gender distribution of the respondents. The data portrays that 143 or 79.44 of the respondents were females while 26 or 14.44 of the respondents were males. This suggest that most of the parents that were getting modules during the weekly releasing were females. These findings support with the study of Reyes (2021) which reveals that majority of his samples were females.

Table 3  
Educational attainment of the respondents

Educational Attainment	Frequency	Percentage
No Formal Education	3	1.66
Elementary Level	64	35.55
High School Level	80	44.44
College Level	16	8.88
Did not indicate their educational attainment	17	9.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3 showed the educational level of the respondents. This table depict that 80 or 44.44% parents are in High School Level and the only 3 or 1.66% has No Formal Education. This data showed that parents of Binoni National High School had undergone some form of basic education and most of them is able to read and write. According to Stenhammar, Sarkadi, and Edlund (2007) comparatively to parents whose highest educational attainment was a secondary school diploma, parents of 6-year-olds with college degrees indicated that their children consumed more milk, fruit, and vegetables, engaged in more physical exercise, and watched less television. According to these variations in reported behaviors, more college-educated parents wanted their kids to consume more milk, fruits, and vegetables, engage in more physical activity, and watch less television. This suggest that parents with high educational attainment may had more inclination to healthy practices. However according to Malik Et.al (2020) in their study the participants who did not complete high school had a very low

influenza vaccine uptake (10%), while 60% of the same group said they would accept the COVID-19 vaccine.

*Question 2: What is the vaccination status of the parents?*

Table 4  
Vaccination status of the respondents

Vaccination status	Frequency	Percentage
Partially vaccinated	12	6.66
Fully vaccinated	114	63.33
Not vaccinated	37	20.55
Did not specify their vaccination status	17	9.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 4 shows the vaccination status of the parents at Binoni National High School. This showed that the majority of the parents were fully vaccinated, garnering about 63.33 percent of the total respondents of 180, and 12 or 6.66% of the respondents were partially vaccinated. According to Padhi (2020), in support of this study, factors such as parental intention to vaccinate their children included higher risk perception, rural residence, gender, and trust in the healthcare system and domestic vaccinations.

*Question 3: What is the level of perception of parents in the vaccination program of the government?*

The table 5 shows the parents' level of confidence in the government's COVID-19 vaccination issue. The respondents believe that the vaccination program is effective and will protect their child from contracting COVID-19. As the first statement of the questionnaire, you are asked if you believe that the government vaccination program is good for your child. Their response is "strongly agree," which translates to a weighted mean of 4.31. This result indicates that respondents have a high level of trust in the vaccination program. The least weighted mean of 3.91, which translates to "agree," belongs to the seventh statement that says "Do you believe that all vaccines, regardless of brand, are effective and safe?" This may suggest that some of the respondents had a preferred brand of vaccine, and they may think that one vaccine brand is more effective and safer than other brands. The overall weighted mean is 4.07, which translates to a verbal description of "agree." This suggests that the respondents had a high level of confidence in the vaccination program of the government. This contradicts the finding of Kennedy et al. (2011) that even parents whose children have had all the recommended vaccinations for their age have questions, fears, or misconceptions regarding them. They suggested that parents should be given all the information they need to keep the

Table 5  
The level of perception of the government's vaccination program

Statements	Weighted Mean	Verbal Description
Do you believe that the government vaccination program is good for your child?	4.31	Strongly Agree
Do you believe that the vaccine can fully protect or effective?	4.09	Agree
Do you believe that vaccines are safe?	4.01	Agree
Do you believe that the vaccines can protect your entire family?	4.07	Agree
Do you believe that your child is safe inside the school when vaccinated?	4.11	Agree
Do you believe that your child is safe to travel any place when vaccinated?	4.18	Agree
Do you believe that all vaccines regardless of brand are effective and safe?	3.91	Agree
Do you believe that your decision to have vaccination for your child is right?	4.06	Agree
Do you believe that the vaccines have a minimal side effect but not risky?	4	Agree
Do you believe that the health condition of your child remains healthy?	4.04	Agree
<b>Overall Mean</b>	<b>4.07</b>	<b>Agree</b>

Note: 1-1.80- Strongly Disagree, 1.81-2.60- Disagree, 2.7-3.4- Neither Agree or Disagree, 3.5-4.2- Agree, 4.3-5.0- Strongly Agree

vaccination program a success.

Vaccines according to the Department of Health mimics the virus or bacteria that can cause disease. This will stimulate the body to create antibodies. These antibodies will now give protection to the person that is infected by an actual virus or bacteria. Following the vaccination program of the government the incidence of transmission among vaccinated group is significantly low and those people who are vaccinated yet got COVID has less symptoms experience and does not require hospital care. This may suggest that vaccines are working in protecting the population from COVID 19. Building trust in the COVID-19 vaccine is essential since taking the vaccination was substantially correlated with how safe and effective it was believed to be. Governments and health authorities should communicate better and foster more confidence.

## 6. Conclusions

The government's vaccination program encountered tremendous challenges in its implementation. However, due to the strong effort of all the officials, including the Department of Education, there was a manifestation of success. Thus, this study was purposely investigated for how parents believed in this program. The respondents were more females than males and with much level belongs to aging 40-60 years old, and a high school graduate majority of them. Their level of perception—the study found out that despite their lack of knowledge and other information regarding the details of the program, they tended to agree, looking at it as significant protection for their health, particularly against contamination. They foresaw it as giving protection also to their family and importantly to their children.

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