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Research Article

### THE ATTITUDES OF FOUR MALE PROFESSIONAL (SHEIKHS OF RELIGION, UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS, PHYSICIANS AND OFFICERS) TOWARDS COVID-19 VACCINES IN THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

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**Abstract:**

**Background:** The world is currently witnessing a dramatic disruption of everyday life owing to the rapid progression of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. As the pandemic evolves, there is an urgent need to better understand its mentality of people towards Covid-19 vaccinations and that is why we chosen professional people such as judges, university professors, physicians and officers. **Objective:** To understand the attitude of professional people (judges, university professors, physicians and officers) towards vaccinations of Covid-19 in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. **Method:** The sample were consisted of (500) professors, officers, physicians-health specialties, and Sheikhs of religion. **Results:** The average age of all sample were above 40 year (89.5%). Only 2.7% of the sample were their ages between 20-30 while the rest of sample ((7.8%) were there age between 41-49.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, Vaccines Taif University, KSA

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**INTRODUCTION:**

The **COVID-19** pandemic, also known as the **coronavirus** pandemic, is an ongoing global pandemic of **coronavirus** disease 2019 (**COVID-19**), which is caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome **coronavirus 2** (SARS-CoV-2). The virus was the first identified in December 2019 in **Wuhan**, China. The virus spread internationally within one month of first being identified, being transmitted via close human-to-human contact. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 11 February 2020. Over 200 countries have confirmed cases to date, including countries from Asia, Europe, North America and the Middle East. Middle Eastern countries call for additional regional actions to stem its further spread. In the first time in the eight decades the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia butted restrictions on Muslim pilgrimage to the holy sites. Placed a ban on inbound travel of persons coming from COVID-19-affected countries and restrictions on travel of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) citizens who have traveled to COVID-19-affected countries.

In case of vaccinations, there are four types of vaccines in clinical trials:

**Phase1:**

Whole virus, protein subunit, viral vector and nucleic acid (RNA and DNA), each of which protects people, but by producing immunity in a slightly different way. Vaccines contain tiny fragments of the disease-causing organism or the blueprints for making the tiny fragments. They also contain other ingredients to keep the vaccine safe and effective. These latter ingredients are included in most vaccines and have been used for decades in billions of doses of vaccine.. Most vaccines have been in use for decades, with millions of people receiving them safely every year. As with all medicines, every vaccine must go through extensive and rigorous testing to ensure it is safe before it can be introduced in a country's vaccine programme. Each vaccine under development must first undergo screenings and evaluations to determine which antigen should be used to invoke an immune response. This preclinical phase is done without testing on humans. An experimental vaccine is first tested in animals to evaluate its safety and potential to prevent disease. If the vaccine triggers an immune response, it is then tested in human clinical trials in three phases. The vaccine is given to a small number of volunteers to assess its safety, confirm it generates an immune response, and determine the right dosage. Generally in this phase vaccines are tested in young, healthy adult volunteers.

**Phase2:**

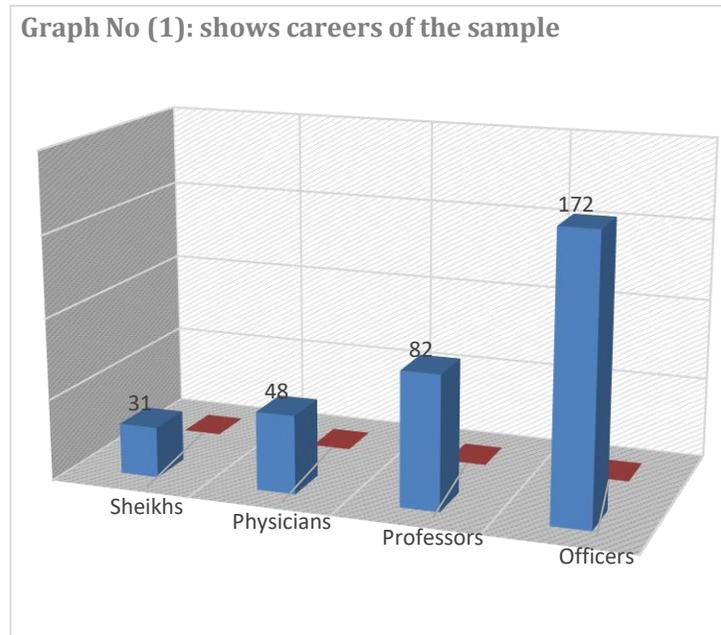
The vaccine is then given to several hundred volunteers to further assess its safety and ability to generate an immune response. Participants in this phase have the same characteristics (such as age, sex) as the people for whom the vaccine is intended. There are usually multiple trials in this phase to evaluate various age groups and different formulations of the vaccine. A group that did not get the vaccine is usually included in phase as a comparator group to determine whether the changes in the vaccinated group are attributed to the vaccine, or have happened by chance.

**Phase 3:**

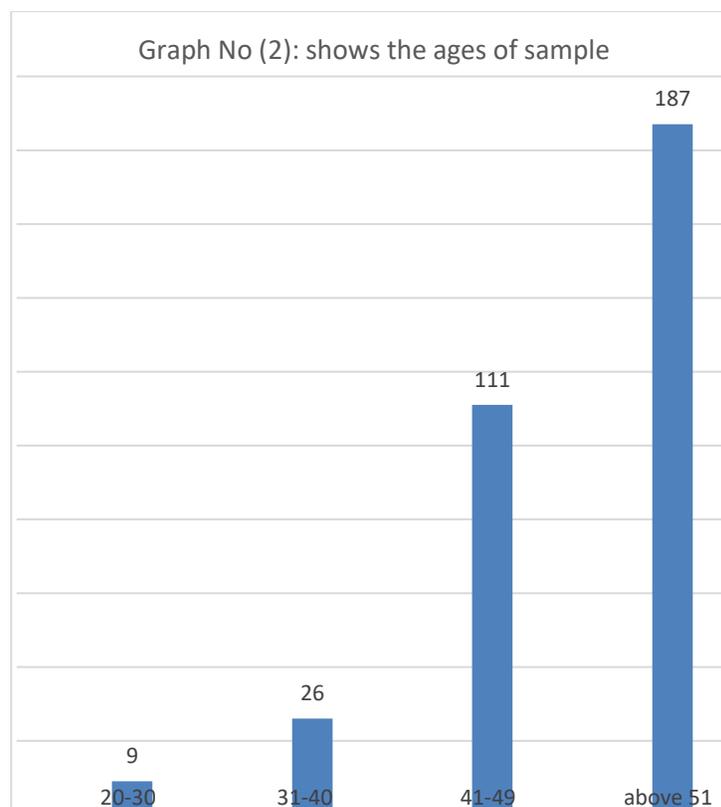
The vaccine is next given to thousands of volunteers – and compared to a similar group of people who didn't get the vaccine, but received a comparator product – to determine if the vaccine is effective against the disease it is designed to protect against and to study its safety in a much larger group of people. Most of the time phase three trials are conducted across multiple countries and multiple sites within a country to assure the findings of the vaccine performance apply to many different populations. During phase two and phase three trials, the volunteers and the scientists conducting the study shielded from knowing which volunteers had received the vaccine being tested or the comparator product. This is called "blinding" and is necessary to assure that neither the volunteers nor the scientists are influenced in their assessment of safety or effectiveness by knowing who got which product. After the trial is over and all the results are finalized, the volunteers and the trial scientists are informed who received the vaccine and who received the comparator.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS:**

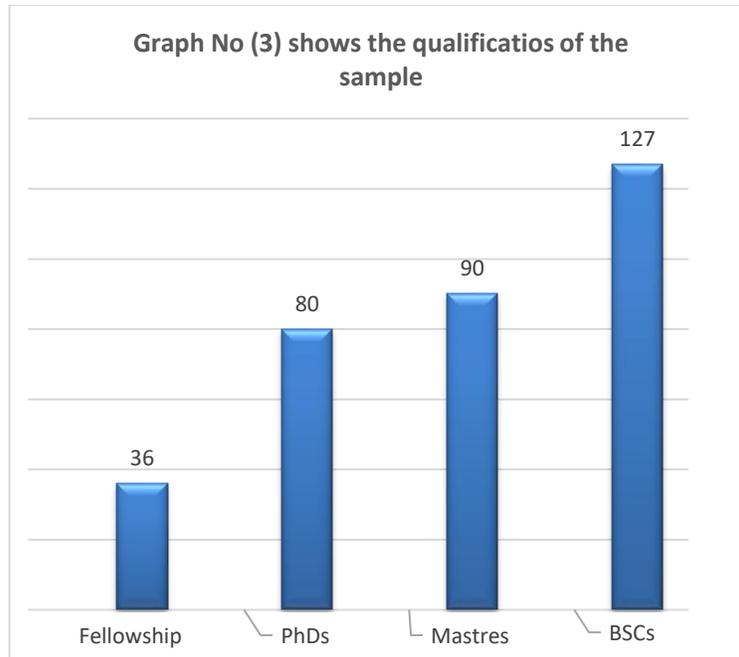
This study conducted on four male professionals' groups (professors, officers, physicians & health specialties, and Sheikhs of religion) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia using WhatsApp. The purpose of this study was to explore the Attitudes toward COVID-19 Vaccines. The sample were consisted of (500) professors, officers, physicians-health specialties, and Sheikhs of religion. The response rate for the whole sample was 66.6% (51.7 officers, 24.6% professors, 14.4% and 9.3% Sheikhs) (see graph No.1).

**RESULTS:**

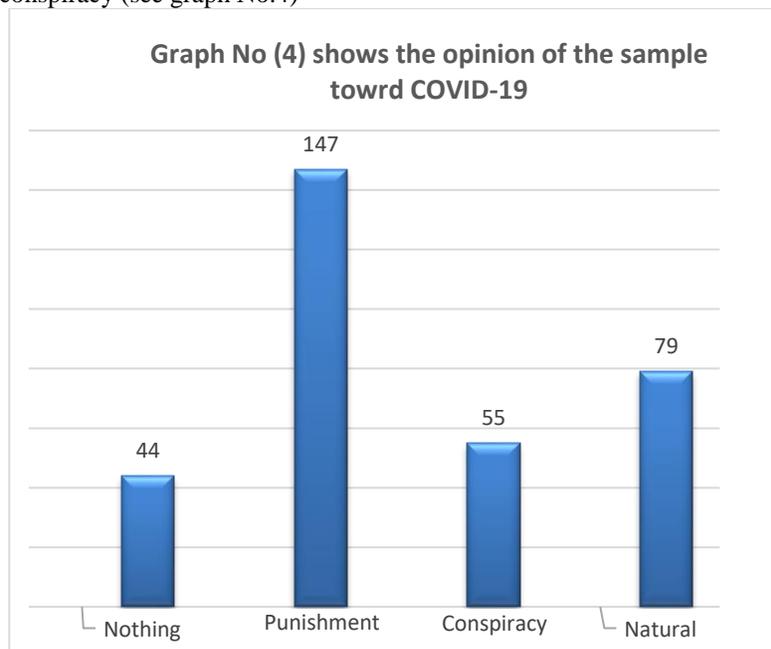
The average age of all sample were above 40 year (89.5%). Only 2.7% of the sample were their ages between 20-30 while the rest of sample ((7.8%) were there age between 41-49 (see graph No.2).



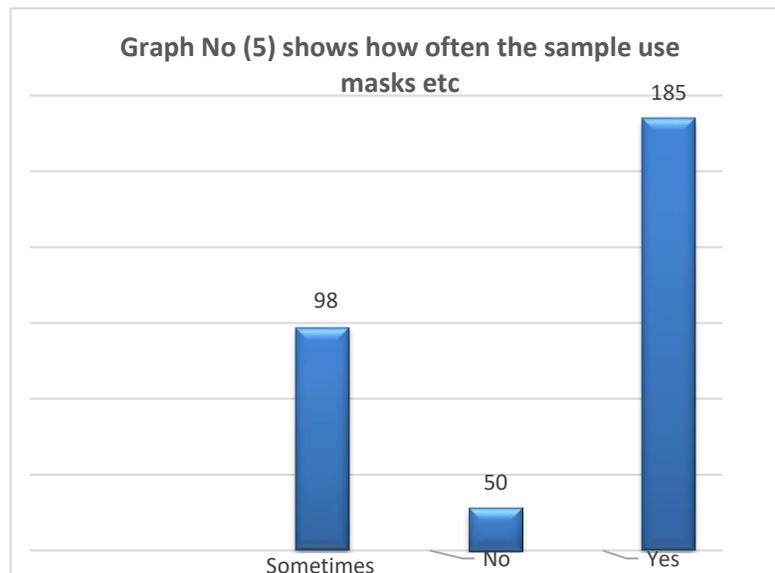
As you can see from the (graph No.3) the majority of the sample have Bachelor (38%), while 34.8% have a higher degree (PhD & Fellowship).



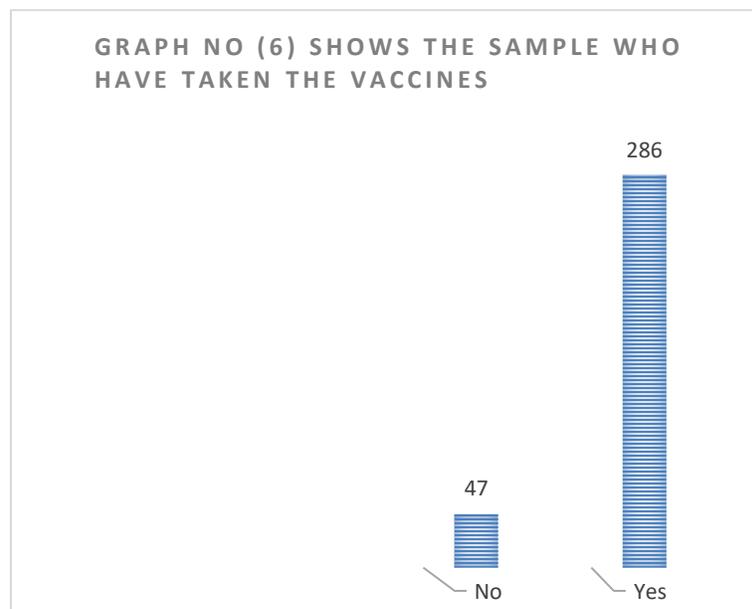
44.4% of the sample see covid-19 as a punishment form the God (Allah), while 23.7% believe it is natural. 16.5% they believe it was a conspiracy (see graph No.4)



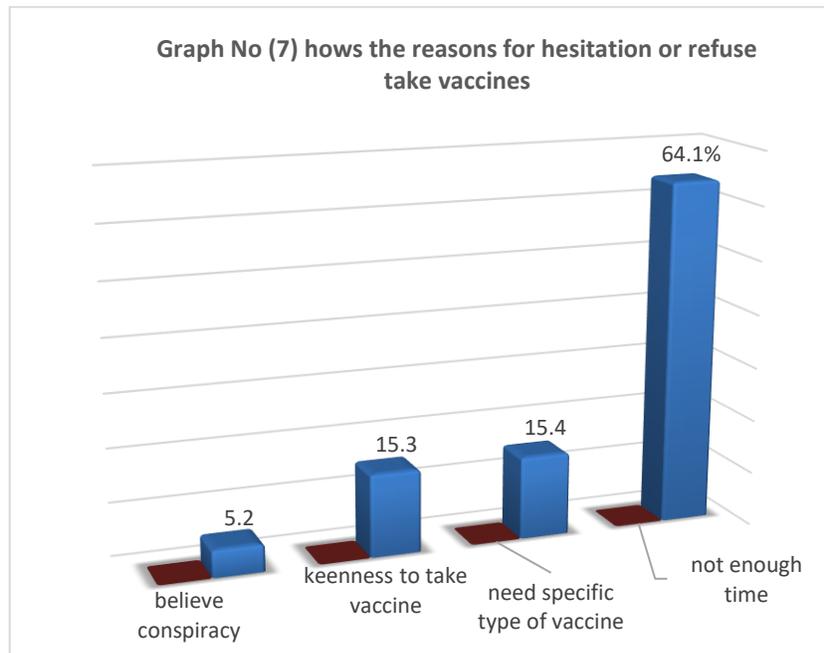
As you can see from the (graph No.5) how often the sample use a mask and other, protections.55.5 % said (yes) they used them, while 29.4% used them sometimes. Only 16.7% said never used them.



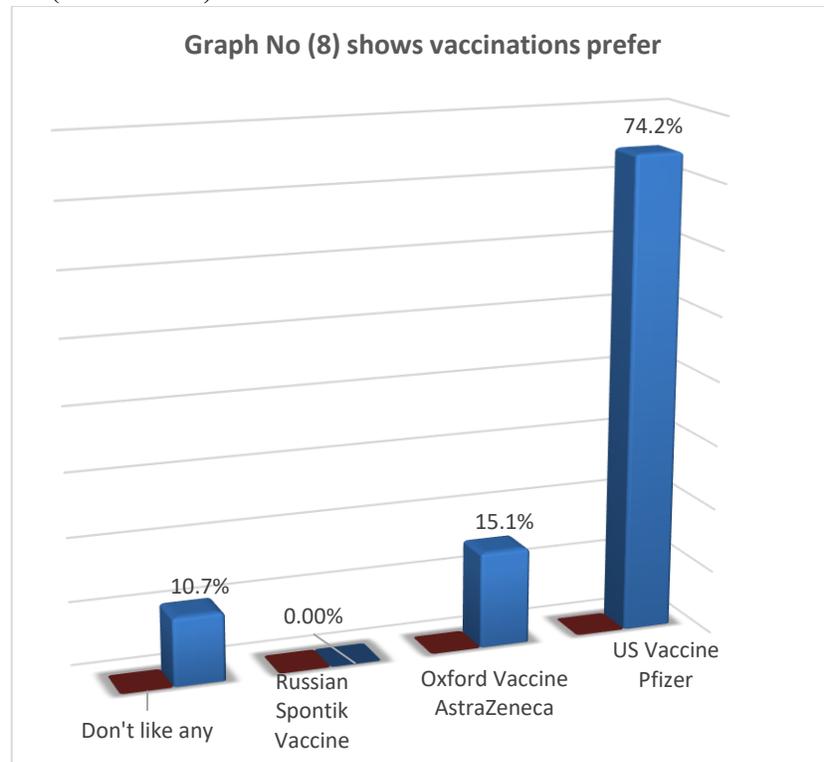
85.9% of sample already taken the vaccines, while 14.1% they have not decided yet (see graph No.6).



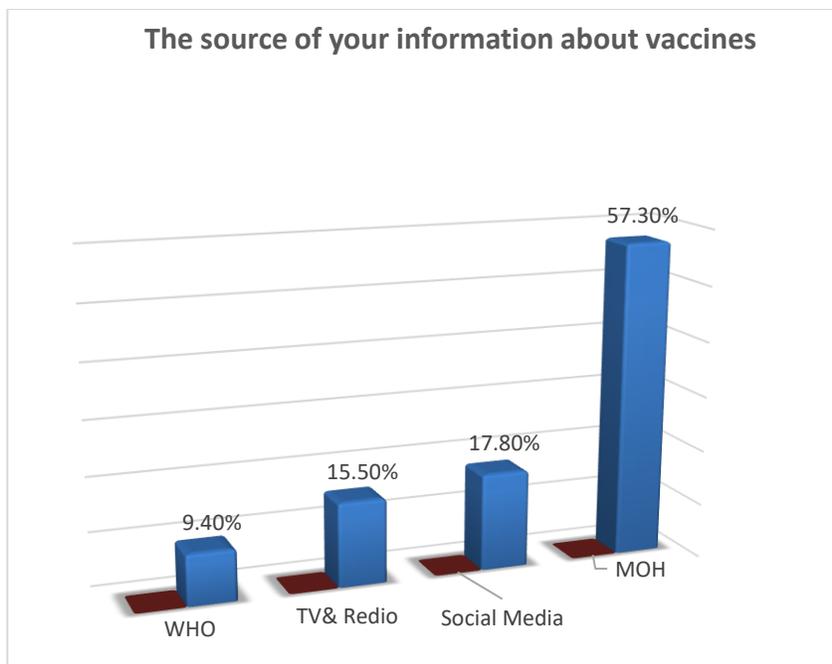
Graph number (7) shows the reasons for hesitation or refuse to take vaccines. 64.1% of the sample believe there was not enough time to study the Covid-19 vaccines. 15.4% said we are looking for specific type of vaccine. Only 5.2% they believe on (conspiracy theory).



As you can see from graph number (8), 74.2% of the sample already taken US vaccine (Pfizer), while 15.1% taken Oxford vaccine (AstraZeneca).



Graph number (9) shows the sources of information about vaccines. The majority of the sample taken their information from the Saudi Ministry of Health (57.3%), while (9.4%) taken their information from World Health Organization (WHO). 17.8% from social media, 15.5 from TV & Radio.



### DISCUSSION:

We should distinguish between rumor and gossip, as each appears to function differently in its pure state. Rumors have been described as public communications that are infused with private hypotheses about how the world works Rosnow (1991), or more specifically, ways of making sense to help us cope with our anxieties and uncertainties Rosnow (1988, 2001). On the other hand, as Wert and Salovey (2004b) noted, "almost as many functions of gossip have been argued as writers to write about gossip" (p. 77).

Jayson Harsin introduced the concept of the "rumor bomb" as a response to the widespread empirical phenomenon of rumoresque communication in contemporary relations between media and politics, especially within the complex convergence of multiple forms of media, from cell phones and internet, to radio, TV, and print. It is really true that rumor like bomb, where I had noticed that during my study to these groups. Before I conducted this study I thought mistakenly that professionals should be looking for the latest in their field, while in fact, 37% of physicians (in various subjects) sending text message, video etc dealing with rumors and gossip. The explanation for the physicians like rumor and gossip was they like their specialists and each one of

them try to undermine other colleagues. The second professional group using rumor and gossip was media people with 33%. It is well known to you that all people who working in the media is looking for so called "precedence of press". Therefore, they do not care about credibility, they care about precedence. As one of them said; it is matter of letter of apology, but not to lose precedence of press.

officers came third with 21% despite they sent between 300-350 text messages etc a day. The reason for that because they are more aware about how dangerous rumor on the societies. Professors came last with 9%, and the reason for that they sent just 30-40 text messages etc. Just 5 professors participated every day, while the rest of members do not participated at all.

64% which is significant of correspondence inside the groups were video clips. The content of these video clips attract members to watch them. in addition to that, the duration of the video clips are very short (2-5 minutes). Pictures came second with percentage of 25. Attract images and mysterious images were more likely to look it. Text messages came third with 8%. Members did not like a text message if it long than (10) lines. I had noticed that all members remind each other not to send long text

messages even it is built by the member himself. 3% only using links. The reason for that referred to a weakness of the Internet network.

Graph No.4 shows that 36% of the sample using WhatsApp's just for entertainment, while 21% sending wishes for members, families, societies, countries and religion, 17% of the sample were remind each other to be ideal in this life, 11% bringing news from the media or other resources, 8% using complement to any member of group and finally 7% using warnings if any member does not respect habits, tradition, norms or any key figures in the government.

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