

RESBAKUNA! RESBAKUNA? : IMPLICATION OF DENGVAIXIA CONTROVERSY ON COVID-19 VACCINE HESITANCY

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ABSTRACT

Vaccine hesitancy has contributed to the deceleration of COVID-19 vaccinations for Filipino citizens. The dominant explanation for this phenomenon is the relationship of the past Dengvaxia controversy and incident that makes them either refuse or wait for more scientific evidence. This study seeks to determine how the infamous Dengvaxia controversy affected Filipino citizens' trust in COVID-19 vaccinations and suggests an action plan based on the results. A computed Cronbach alpha of 0.82 justifies that the adapted and modified questionnaire is reliable, which was used to understand the correlation between the Dengvaxia controversy and COVID-19 vaccines hesitancy. The Demographic profiles of respondents were collected to see if it impacts vaccine hesitancy. Snowball sampling was applied to gather certain respondents living within Batangas Province. A very weak relationship between the Dengvaxia controversy and COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy was revealed based on correlational analysis. One-Way ANOVA illustrated no significant difference in vaccine hesitancy responses based on the grouped respondents' profiles. The results elicit in understanding Batangas citizens' awareness of COVID-19 and Dengvaxia vaccines and how it affects the COVID-19 vaccines' credibility. It shows that the Dengvaxia controversy slightly affected the citizens' opinions on the COVID-19 vaccines' hesitancy. It also implies that the citizens' profiles did not affect their willingness to receive COVID-19 vaccines. With the improving condition of vaccine hesitancy in the province of Batangas, the government could continue its efforts in eliminating the citizens' doubts about newer vaccines. This calls for a more comprehensive program in delivering safe and credible vaccination rollout.

Keywords: COVID-19 pandemic, COVID-19 vaccine, Dengvaxia controversy, COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy, Philippine COVID-19 vaccination