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Title: FACTORS AFFECTING COVID-19 VACCINE UPTAKE IN LOW INCOME SETTINGS: A CASE STUDY OF MORO LGA, KWARA STATE, NIGERIA.

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Background:

Since the emergence of COVID-19 in December 2019, the virus has spread to several countries making it a global threat. The long term solution of COVID-19 is the implementation of COVID-19 vaccination programme as it is the cost effective way of fighting COVID-19 pandemic. In low middle income cuntries, rumours, lack of information and misinformation has led to hesitancy taking the COVID-19 vaccine.

Objective:

To evaluate predictors of COVID-19 vaccine uptake among adult residents of selected communities in Moro Local Government Area (LGA) of Kwara State, Nigeria.

Method:

A descriptive cross sectional study was carried out among 500 adult residents of Moro LGA. Data was collected with the aid of a pretested, validated, structured, interviewer administered questionnaire. Data was analyzed with Epi-info statistical software package vesion 3. 5.1. Chi-square (χ^2) test was used to determine any association between the dependent and independent variables. Confidence level was held at 95% and a pvalue of less than 0.05 ($p < 0.05$) was considered as statistically significant.

Results:

Almost half 227 (45.4%) of the respondents have good knowledge of COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines while less one fifth 79 (15.8%) of the respondents have poor knowledge on COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccine.

Conclusion:

Almost half of the respondents 45.4% had good knowledge of COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccine. This was made possible due to the government aggressive approach to contain the spread of the virus through sensitization campaign using different media. Respondents unwilling to take the vaccine gave their reasons while some did not.

Keywords:

COVID-19, COVID-19 vaccine, predictors, vaccine uptake, hesitancy, vaccination.

