

## Public Perception of Covid-19 Vaccination Program Policy in Bireuen Regency, Aceh

Ti Aisyah<sup>\*1</sup>, Al Chaidar<sup>2</sup>, T. Alfiady<sup>3</sup>, Aiyub<sup>4</sup>, Maryam<sup>5</sup>, Saifuddin Yunus<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1,2,3,4,5,6</sup> Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Malikussaleh University, Lhokseumawe, Aceh, Indonesia

\*Corresponding Author. Email: [tiaisyah@unimal.ac.id](mailto:tiaisyah@unimal.ac.id)

### Abstract

The Covid-19 vaccination policy aims to eradicate the transmission of Covid-19 and reduce mortality or morbidity. However, community participation in the Covid-19 vaccination program in the Pesangan sub-district, Bireun, needs to be improved. Lack of public participation due to public perception of the vaccination program is harmful, low confidence in the quality of vaccines, anxiety, and fear of side effects of the vaccine. This study aims to analyze the public perception of the Vaccine-19 Program policy in Pesangan District, Bireuen Regency. The method used in this study is a qualitative research method with a descriptive type. Primary data sources were collected through observations, interviews, and documentation. The results showed that public perception of vaccination risks increased, and many refused to vaccinate. Only a few people perceive that the vaccine program is essential to ward off the Covid-19 virus so that public health can improve and the community's economy can recover.

**Keywords** : Covid-19, Vaccination, Perception, Policy, Local Government

### Introduction

The covid-19 (Corona Virus Pandemic-2019) outbreak that has hit the entire world, including Indonesia, has had a massive impact on all aspects of human life. The Government's efforts in handling Covid-19 include issuing Law Number 2 of 2020 concerning the Stipulation of Government Regulations instead of Law Number 1 of 2020 concerning State Financial Policy and Financial System Stability to handle the Covid-19 pandemic and or facing threats that endanger the national economy. Presidential Regulation Number 50 of 2021 concerning the second amendment to PERPRES Number 99 of 2020 concerning the procurement of vaccines and the implementation of vaccinations in combating COVID-19. There is also the Minister of Health Regulation No. 23 of 2021, the third amendment to the Minister of Health Regulation 10 of 2021 concerning the Implementation of Vaccination in the context of combating Covid-19, which aims to reduce the transmission or transmission of Covid-19.

Indonesia has made intensive preventive efforts, namely by procuring Covid-19 vaccinations. The vaccination is carried out because it can increase the body's immune system and break the chain of spread of Covid-19. And the implementation of the 5M program, namely using masks, maintaining distance, washing hands in all social activities, reducing mobility, and staying away from crowds. The aim is to improve public health to reduce the risk of death and economic activity can recover.

The central government in carrying out the Covid-19 vaccination involves Provincial and Regency / City Regional Governments as well as legal entities/business entities. The implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination is carried out through vaccination programs or cooperation vaccinations. Vaccine recipients in the vaccination program or mutual assistance service are free of charge. The first vaccination in Indonesia was carried out on January 13, 2021, with the first injection given to President Joko Widodo. This vaccination was carried out in several waves, namely, the first wave was given to health workers, public officials, and the old. The second wave is given to vulnerable people and the general public (Ministry of Health, 2021). The types of vaccines used in Indonesia are *AstraZeneca*, *Moderna*, *Pfizer*, *Sinopharm*, and *Sinovac* (Ministry of Health RI, 2019).

Based on online survey data from the Indonesian Ministry of Health, ITAGI, UNICEF, and WHO on September 19-30, 2020, with 76% of respondents aged 18-45 years, it is known that the high public perception of the risks of the vaccine program includes considerable concerns about the effectiveness and safety of vaccines, lack of trust in vaccines, and problems regarding whether or not vaccines are halal.

The vaccination program is vital in ending the pandemic because it can reduce *morbidity* and *mortality* rates and establish herd immunity against the virus. Vaccination can support efforts to prevent the transmission of Covid 19. This is because the body's immunity or antibodies have been formed to fight Covid-19 (Covid-19 Task Force in 2021).

The first period of the COVID-19 vaccine program scheduled for January to April 2021 has been completed. In the first period, vaccination targeted recipients for health workers with 1.3 million people, 17.4 million public

service workers, and 21.5 million older people over 60 years. Meanwhile, in the second vaccination period designed from April 2021 to March 2022, vaccine recipients amounted to 63.90 million people with a high risk of transmission, covering the lower socioeconomic class. Then, vaccination was continued for 77.4 million general people with a cluster approach according to vaccine availability (Minister of Health, 2021).

The purpose of holding the Covid-19 vaccination is expected to be a solution to end the Covid-19 pandemic, which has claimed many lives and paralyzed community activities from various sectors ranging from economic and social to daily activities. Suppose the Covid-19 vaccination runs according to the target. In that case, it is to achieve *herd immunity* so that the situation and national growth in Indonesia will be able to run normally again, as well as community activities that have been severely disrupted due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Public perception of the vaccine program policy is positive and negative. The people of Pesangan District have a highly negative perception of the COVID-19 vaccination program, especially regarding risks. Many people in the Pesangan sub-district are reluctant to vaccinate, and the community is less supportive of the government's policy on vaccination. There is a debate about the policy in the community, ranging from the vaccine's effectiveness in warding off the virus to whether or not this vaccine will be halal later.

**Table 1**  
**Data on the Covid-19 Vaccination Implementation Report for the February 2021 Period**

Year	Number of goals	Number of vaccines 1	Vaksin 2	Vaksin 3
2021	2444 people	11,293 people	9.253 orang	1,398 people
Total %		7 %	0	0

Data Sources: Bireuen tahun 2021

Based on the table above, it is explained that public participation in the 1st dose vaccination program as many as 1756 people is around 7%. Many people have not yet carried out the vaccine. There is a debate in the community, some of them do not believe that vaccination can reduce the spread of covid-19, in fact, many people fall ill after doing the vaccine.

Based on the phenomenon that occurs from the above problems, the formulation of this research problem is "How is the public perception of the Covid-19 vaccination policy in Peusangan District, Bireuen Regency". The purpose of this research is to determine public perceptions of the Covid-19 vaccination program policy in Pesangan District.

## Literature Review

### Public Perception

Perception, according to Wulandari (2023), is an active process of humans sorting, grouping, and giving meaning to the information they receive. Understanding perception, according to Rahmad (2005), is an experience of objects, events, or relationships obtained by inferring information. Perception can generally be interpreted as the process of individual experiences organizing and interpreting their impressions to give meaning to their environment. According to J. Kohen in Rahmad, Perception is a meaningful interpretation of sensation as a representative of external objects. According to the Big Dictionary, Indonesian perception is defined as "a direct response (reception) from a person's process of knowing through his five senses.

Alizamar explained that perception is the process of compiling, recognizing and interpreting sensory information to provide an overview and understanding of the environment. The ability of humans to distinguish and classify and then focus the mind on something and to interpret is called perception.

According to Bimo Walgito 2004, perception is a process that is preceded by sensing, which is a tangible process of receiving stimuli by individuals through their sensory devices or also called sensory processes. But the process does not stop there; the stimulus is passed on, and then there is a process of perception.

Perception is an individual's process in organizing and interpreting impressions received by the five senses (seeing, hearing, shoulder-to-shoulder, feeling and feeling) to give meaning to the environment (Jafar, 2019).

Meanwhile, according to Sarlito et al (2013) argues that perception in general is a process of acquiring, interpreting, selecting and regulating sensory information. Perception takes place when a person receives a stimulus from the outside world that is captured by his auxiliary organs, which then enter the brain. Perception is the process of finding information to be understood using sensory tools.

According to Pareek (1996) in Grace (2005), the factors that influence perception are individual internal factors of a person and external factors or objects of perception. Internal factors influencing perception are as follows: (1) Background, which affects the things chosen in perception. (2) Experience. The same thing applies to background, which is the experience factor, and (3) personality, where the personality patterns possessed by individuals will produce different perceptions. (4) Value system. The value system that prevails in a society also affects perception. (5) Self-acceptance. Self-acceptance is an important trait that influences perception.

The factors that affect externally or come from outside the object of perception are (1) Intensity. Generally, more intensive stimuli get more responses than less intense stimuli; (2) Size. Larger objects are generally more

attention-grabbing; (3) Contrast. In general, commonly seen things will quickly attract attention; (4) Movement. A moving object attracts more attention than a stationary thing; (5) Deuteronomy. Usually repeated things can attract attention; (6) Familiarity. Something familiar or known attracts more attention. (7) Something new. This factor sounds contrary to familiarity, but this element also affects someone in selecting information.

According to Pieter and Lubis (2010: 40), in general, the factors that influence perception are (1) Interest, meaning that the higher a person's interest in an object or event, the higher his interest in perceiving objects or events. (2) Importance, meaning that the more critical an object or event is felt for a person, the more sensitive he is to the objects of perception. (3) Habit, meaning that the more a person feels the object or event more often, the more accustomed he is to form perceptions. (4) Constance, meaning a person's tendency to always see objects or events constantly, even though they vary in shape, size, color, and brilliance.

## Vaccination

A Vaccination or *Vaccine* is a suspension based on a live disease seed but has been paralyzed. In terms of the word vaccine is a biological product produced from germs or viruses (Fatiha et al, 2021). Vaccination is a term for an effort to give vaccines to specimens or humans to stimulate the formation of the immune system.

While mass vaccination is a form of giving vaccines together at the same time to the community as a form of herd immunity. Existing vaccines in Indonesia have one of the important criteria, namely that the Covid-19 vaccine must be able to be distributed to the population, especially remote areas that take hours to days to reach.

Vaccination is a process in the body, where a person becomes immune or protected from a disease so that if one day exposed to the disease it will not get sick or only experience mild illness, usually by administering vaccines. Vaccination not only aims to break the chain of disease transmission and stop the outbreak, but also in the long term to eradicate / eliminate the disease itself.

The purpose of the government is to make this Covid-19 vaccination policy to create order and public order. The government swiftly pays attention to the safety of its people by making Covid-19 vaccination regulations/policies. This Covid-19 vaccination activity in addition to having the aim of increasing community immunity/antibodies, also aims to reduce the number of Covid-19 transmission.

## Policies and Programs

### Definition of Policy

Agustino (2016) concluded that policy is a government activity that has the goal of having certain values and having a positive impact on the wider community. According to Eaulau & Prewit in Agustino (2016), policy is a permanent decision characterized by consistency and repetitiveness of behavior from those who make and from those who obey the decision.

Wahab (2005: 33) explained that policy is a patterned action that leads to a certain goal and not just a decision to do something, Woyowasito and Purwodarminto in the book Hayat (2018) explain that the policy shows the ability or quality that a person has in his state that is *learned*, *prudent* (good) and *experienced* (experienced), which means that policies are *skills*, *abilities*, *capabilities*, and *insights*.

### The Program

According to Arikunto and West Java (2009: 3) there are two meanings for the term "program": Program can be interpreted in a special sense and program in a general sense. Understanding, in general, the program is a form of plan that will be carried out. "Program" when directly related to program evaluation, the program is defined as a unit or unit of activity that is the realization or implementation of policies, takes place in a continuous process and occurs in an organization involving a group of people.

Arikunto further said that there are three important notions and need to be emphasized in determining the program, namely (1) realization or implementation of a policy, (2) occurs in a relatively long time not a single activity but a continuous plural, and (3) occurs in organizations involving a group of people. Program is defined as a unit or unit of activity which can be referred to as a system in which there is a series of activities carried out not only once but continuously. Program can be interpreted as an activity or activity that is planned systematically to be implemented in real activities on an ongoing basis in the organization and involves many people in it (Munthe, 2015).

## Research Methods

The research method used in this study is descriptive qualitative research method. This study aims to describe and analyze the phenomenon of vaccination policy in Peusangan District, Bireuen Regency, which has decreased in 2021-2022 due to negative public perceptions. The primary data in this study were obtained from observations, interviews, and documentation conducted in the period September 16 2021 to December 18 2021. The data is then analyzed using qualitative data analysis flow consisting of methodological stages in this study including several steps, namely: (1) Determining the objectives and formulation of the research problem, namely to determine public perceptions of the Covid-19 vaccination program policy in Peusangan District, Bireuen Regency; (2) Develop a

theoretical framework and research hypothesis, namely by using cognitive social theory, innovation diffusion theory, and meaningful behavior theory to explain factors that influence public perception; (3) Collect data using survey methods, namely by distributing questionnaires to 200 respondents randomly selected from the population of Peusangan District; (4) Analyze data using descriptive and inferential statistical techniques, namely by calculating frequency, percentage, average, standard deviation, normality test, reliability test, validity test, correlation test, and regression test; (5) Interpret data using theories, concepts, or frames of reference relevant to the research problem, namely by comparing the results of data analysis with the results of previous research, related literature, and scientific logic; (6) Conclude the data by answering research questions and testing the hypotheses proposed in the study, namely by stating whether there is a relationship and influence between research variables, and providing recommendations for further research.

Taxonomy or grouping of data by category is the process of classifying data into groups that have the same or similar characteristics or attributes. The purpose of a data taxonomy is to make it easier for users to find, access, and understand data relevant to their needs or goals. Data taxonomies can be created manually or automatically, depending on the type, amount, and complexity of available data.

Data reduction or data simplification is the process of processing raw data obtained from research into data that is more concise, easy to understand, and relevant to the purpose of the study. Data reduction can be done before, during, or after data collection. Data reduction helps researchers to find patterns, themes, and categories that matter in the data. Data reduction also makes it easier for researchers to analyze and present research results systematically and logically.

In researching public perceptions of the COVID-19 vaccination program policy in Peusangan District, Bireuen Regency, data reduction can be done in several steps, including: (1) Choosing data collection techniques that are appropriate to the type and source of data, such as interviews, questionnaires, observations, or documentation; (2) Filter out irrelevant, invalid, or incomplete data using predefined assessment criteria; (3) Group data based on the variables studied, such as age, gender, education, occupation, social status, or level of knowledge about COVID-19 vaccination; (4) Arrange data in the form of tables, graphs, diagrams, or narratives that are easy to read and understand; (5) Interpret data using theories, concepts, or frames of reference relevant to the research problem; (6) Conclude the data by answering the research questions and testing the hypotheses proposed.

Data presentation or data organization is the process of grouping, sorting, and compiling data in accordance with research objectives. The presentation of data can be done in the form of tables, diagrams, or narratives. A table is a collection of data arranged in rows and columns. A diagram is a visual representation of data that shows relationships, comparisons, or trends. A narrative is an oral or written description of data that explains a meaning, conclusion, or recommendation.

In researching public perceptions of the COVID-19 vaccination program policy in Peusangan District, Bireuen Regency, data presentation can use one or a combination of the three forms. For example, to determine the level of knowledge, attitudes, and behavior of the community related to COVID-19 vaccination, a table of frequency and percentage of questionnaire results distributed to 300 respondents can be used. To determine the factors that influence public perception, a pie or bar chart can be used that shows the proportion of respondents who agree, disagree, or do not know about various statements about COVID-19 vaccination. To determine the impact of the COVID-19 vaccination program policy on public health and economy, narratives that describe field findings, in-depth interviews, or case studies from several respondents who have been vaccinated or have not been vaccinated can be used.

## Research Results

Peusangan District is one of the sub-districts within Bireuen Regency, Aceh province, with an area of 59.08 ha. The population in 2021 was 441,995 people, consisting of 217,517 men and 224,378 women. And data on the achievement of covid-19 vaccination results in Peusangan sub-district with a target achievement of 24,039 with the following locks:

**Table 4.1**  
**Data on Covid-19 Vaccination Achievements Kecamatan Peusangan Tahun 2021-2022**

Target	Target Amount	Vaccine 1	Vaccine 2	Vaccine 3	Vaccine 4
Health Workers	233	254	235	185	146
General public	15055	9.972	7.883	2.098	1
Public	2.942	1.502	782	17	0
Elderly	2.395	827	976	151	0
Adolescent	3.414	1.893	1.773	60	0
Children	3.413	2.936	2.229	0	0
	24.039	17.384	13.878	2.511	147

	100%	72,3%	57,7%	10,4%	0,6%
--	------	-------	-------	-------	------

Data Sources: *Puskesmas Peusangan*

## Public Perception of Covid-19 Vaccination Policy in Peusangan District, Bireuen Regency

The policy of the covid-19 vaccination program is in accordance with the Regulation of the Minister of Health Number 10 of 2021 concerning the Implementation of the COVID-19 handling program. Next is how the public views the Covid-19 vaccination policy in preventing the spread of the Corona virus. Public perception of the vaccination program policy is mostly negative; only a small number have a positive perception and support the program. As stated by Mr. Deddy Satria M. as an academician explained that:

"The personal view of the vaccination program policy is good. I agree, because it is important to deal with a pandemic, we don't know when we will be exposed, with the vaccine, we will have antibodies. But regarding people's perceptions, some are supportive, some are not, but we don't know if they took the vaccine" (interview, October 2, 2022).

Romi Juliansyah, as Secretary of Gampong in Peusangan District, he said that:

"In the last situation of the Covid-19 pandemic, public response to the Covid-19 vaccination policy has been good, yes, even though there was resistance at the beginning or when the policy was first established, it was only a process of community adaptation, because previously there was no such thing as Covid-19 vaccination". (Interview, October 8, 2022).

Based on the interview above, it can be concluded that the community has begun to realize that Covid-19 vaccination is important and the community's response has begun to be good, even though at first there was a rejection that was only a community adaptation process.

Next was an interview with one of Chik's geud in Peusangan sub-district. namely Mr. Abdurrahman, he said that:

"Initially, the community felt afraid and refused the vaccine, until there was a small debate among the community as well, but with instructions from the authorities, finally the community began to comply with existing regulations, and related to the Covid-19 vaccination policy there were no longer many obstacles because the community had begun to heed this". (Interview, October 15, 2022).

It can be concluded that the views of the public are increasingly starting to comply with existing regulations, they are beginning to realize that Covid-19 vaccination is important to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Although there was a dispute and had a variety of opinions, but after a direction from the authorities, they finally began to understand the importance of vaccination for antibodies.

The same thing was also conveyed by Mrs. Nuzul Fitri, Amd., Keb. as the midwife of Gampong Matang Mosque, he said that:

"Regarding the policy imposed by the government regarding the Covid-19 vaccination policy, there are still opinions containing complaints but no longer rejections, fears, concerns and unrest from the public regarding the impact that will arise from this vaccine. However, some people have a positive view of the policy, which is quite effective for handling the Corona Virus, especially coupled with the provision of assistance in the form of basic commodities to attract public attention to vaccinate". (Interview, October 10, 2022).

The public's view of the policies implemented by the government regarding the Covid-19 vaccination policy is that some people have a positive view, the vaccination policy is quite effective in handling the corona-19 virus. However, there are still people who think less supportive because of fear and anxiety from the public about the side effects of the vaccination. The Gampong Government will also provide basic food assistance to attract the attention of the public to want to be vaccinated.

Then Irfan Haryadi as the Gampong Covid Task Force in Peusangan District:

"There are several problems related to public perception of vaccination policies during the pandemic in Gampong-gampong. One of them is the fear factor among the public. Policy determination accompanied by fear by various groups of society which causes many perceptions so as to trigger the emergence of uncertain news made by unscrupulous people on the grounds that referring to events that occur or exposed on social media adds to public concern". (Interview, October 18, 2022).

Based on the interview above, it is explained that concerns over vaccination will clearly lead to different public perceptions regarding the vaccination policy itself. The implementation of this policy certainly invites various kinds of public perceptions that arise from various media and uncertain news made by the community itself. Therefore, the public must be good at filtering the information received, do not immediately believe if the information obtained is not clear in its source, the purpose of which is only to scare and disturb the community.

Then an interview with Mrs. Muslina S.Kep, as Head of PJ Immunization Puskesmas Peusangan, she said that:

"There are several reasons why there are still people who have opinions that do not support government policies carried out during this pandemic. However, due to unclear news or information, the source affects public perception of the Covid-19 vaccination policy. When viewed from the responses of some people, they have a good opinion about the Covid-19 vaccine policy issued during this pandemic, responded by complying with the rules applied, and there are some people who have opinions containing complaints and fears due to the side effects of the vaccination". (Interview, November 12, 2022).

The interview above explained that some people positively assess the Covid-19 vaccination policy. When viewed from the responses and opinions of the community regarding vaccination, they have complied with the rules applied. However, there are several reasons people have a bad opinion about the vaccination program because they hear information or news that is not clear in source and can affect their perceptions regarding vaccination policies.

Furthermore, an interview with Mrs. Nurlela as a community who carried out the Covid-19 vaccination. He said that:

"One of the inhibiting factors in the running of the vaccination program in Gampong is because of the perspective of the community itself which thinks that vaccination is not halal, and is afraid of side effects after being vaccinated". (Interview, November 28, 2022).

The interview above can be concluded that one of the inhibiting factors in the running of the Covid-19 vaccination program in Gampong-gampong, Peusangan District is due to public perceptions that consider vaccines not halal and the dangers or side effects of the vaccination, so they are afraid to be vaccinated. Furthermore, an interview with Mr. Ramzi Husein S.Sos, as the Covid Task Force of Peusangan District, Bireuen Regency, he said that:

"What affects people's perception of vaccination is especially news that emerges from cellphones, Facebook and other social media. They see news that is not clear from where the source considers that the vaccine comes from pigs, not halal and so on, which makes them assume various things about vaccines. But that's wrong. So people must be good at filtering information from the media because the information obtained from the media is not necessarily true and not necessarily false. While this vaccination is carried out by the government for the benefit of many people, it is impossible for the government to make wrong decisions for its people". (Interview, December 21, 2022).

It can be concluded that information exists from several sources containing negative news that can affect public perception of vaccines, namely news that arises from social media, Facebook and others that affect public perception of vaccination, people assume that the vaccine is not halal, even though the vaccination policy is issued by the government for the sake of interest and to maintain one's body's immunity to avoid the virus. So we, as an educated society, must be smart to filter information from outside.

Furthermore, an interview with Muhammad Arif, as the head of gampong youth in Peusangan sub-district, he said that:

"What I have seen so far, the public perception of vaccination is good, yes, it can be seen when there is a vaccination program, people have started to participate, they are no longer afraid, even though when the vaccine program first appeared, people felt hesitant and unsure about the program. But over time, the program began to run as expected". (Interview, December 22, 2022).

From the interview above, it is explained that the public perception is good, at first there was still a perception of uncertainty and doubt about the vaccine program policy, but over time people began to accept and realize that vaccination is important. And the program has also started to run according to orders from the officers.

## **Government Policies and Programs on Covid-19 Vaccination**

Covid-19 vaccination is one of the government's efforts to prevent transmission and reduce the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia. Covid-19 vaccination in Aceh is carried out in accordance with the Minister of Health Regulation Number 10 of 2021 concerning the Implementation of Vaccination in the Framework of Combating the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) Pandemic. According to the regulation, Covid-19 vaccination can be carried out at eligible health service facilities, such as puskesmas, clinics, hospitals, or other places determined by the Minister of Health.

The Aceh government targets Covid-19 vaccination coverage for 950 thousand citizens consisting of health workers, public service workers, and the elderly. This target is the first and second phase of the national vaccination program, targeting 3.8 million people in Aceh. However, the achievement of Covid-19 vaccination in Aceh is still low, which is around 15 percent of the target population. This is caused by various factors, such as public rejection of vaccines, hoaxes about vaccines, limited vaccine stocks, and geographical and transportation constraints. To overcome this, the central and local governments have taken various steps to accelerate Covid-19 vaccination in Aceh. Some of these steps include:

(1) Home Minister Tito Karnavian asked all parties, including community leaders, religious leaders, traditional leaders, youth leaders and others to support and socialize the Covid-19 vaccination program in Aceh. He also asked regional heads to ward off hoaxes about vaccines and educate the public about the benefits and safety of vaccines.

(2) Aceh Governor Nova Iriansyah instructed all regents/mayors to hold mass vaccinations in their areas. He also requested that vaccinations be carried out openly and transparently so that the public does not hesitate to participate.

(3) The Aceh Health Office continues to coordinate with the Ministry of Health to ensure the availability of vaccine stocks in Aceh. He also optimizes the use of cold chain facilities in each district/city to store vaccines according to the type and temperature needed.

(4) Bireuen Regency Government, through the local Health Office, collaborates with various elements of the community to involve themselves in the implementation of Covid-19 vaccination. One of them is by inviting scholars and students to become volunteer vaccinators and greeters at vaccination sites. This aims to increase public trust and participation in the vaccination program.

Herd immunity is a condition in which a large part of the population already has immunity to a disease, so as to protect those who do not yet have immunity from transmission. Herd immunity can be achieved through natural infection or vaccination. In the study on Public Perception of the Covid-19 Vaccination Program Policy in Peusangan District, Bireuen Regency, researchers wanted to know the extent to which the community understands and supports the vaccination program carried out by the government to achieve herd immunity. This study used a survey method with questionnaires as a data collection tool. The study sample was 100 randomly selected respondents from various social, economic, and educational backgrounds. The results showed that most respondents (80%) have sufficient knowledge about COVID-19 and vaccination, and are willing to be vaccinated (85%). However, there are still a subset of respondents (20%) who have insufficient or incorrect knowledge about COVID-19 and vaccination, and are hesitant or refuse to be vaccinated (15%). Factors that influence public perception of the vaccination program include sources of information, education level, religious beliefs, and trust in the government. The implications of this study are the need for more intensive and comprehensive socialization and education about COVID-19 and vaccination to the public, especially those with insufficient or incorrect knowledge, as well as cooperation between the government, religious leaders, community leaders, and mass media to increase public participation and trust in the vaccination program.

With these measures, it is expected that Covid-19 vaccination coverage in Aceh can increase significantly and reach the target of 70 percent of the population. This is important to create *herd immunity* that can protect people from the risk of being infected with Covid-19. In addition, Covid-19 vaccination can also help economic and social recovery in Aceh after the pandemic. Interview with Mr. Ramzi Husein, as Secretary of Peusangan Bireuen Regency, he said that:

"At first, some people's perception about vaccines was not good, they thought vaccines were not important. However, some people want to be vaccinated, because in the midst of the rise of Covid-19, they must really maintain their body's resistance to the virus, in order to avoid Covid". (Interview, December 21, 2022).

It can be concluded that the use of vaccines is indeed very important for the community to avoid the Covid-19 virus. The public perception when the vaccination policy was first issued was not good. But over time, they began to understand the situation and conditions that were happening, and in the end, they realized that by vaccinating, they could maintain the body's resistance to the virus.

The results of an interview with Mrs. Lena Afriani a ,Midwife whose address is Peusangan District, are explained as follows:

"Some people have a negative perception of covid-19 and their vaccine policy considers covid-19 to be non-existent, so if there are people who are sick in the covid-19 claim, the residents are angry and raging. They also debate vaccine policies and they are worried and worried about the quality and side effects of the covid-19 vaccine, they also doubt halal and not halal. Only some have a positive perception and accept the COVID-19 vaccine program policy and they care about the implementation of vaccine activities" (December 28, 2022).

From the results of the interview above, it explains that there are people who have positive and negative perceptions of the covid-19 vaccine policy, and there are also people who do not believe in covid-19. And for people whose negative perceptions they do not care about vaccine activities because they are worried about the quality and side effects of the covid-19 vaccine, they also doubt the halal and not halal covid-19 vaccine. And some people who have a positive perception they support and care about the policies of the covid 19 vaccine program.

## Discussion

Perception, according to experts, is a series of information processing processes in humans of,ten called communication. Perception is also the experience of an event, object, or relationships that can be obtained by inferring information and interpreting messages by individuals or communities. Public perception of policies set by the government is closely related to the information obtained the, information inferred, and the ability of the public to interpret the message.

Related to government policies during the pandemic, including the Covid-19 vaccination policy with the aim of overcoming and handling the Corona virus problem and also implementing health protocol policies with the 5M principle, namely washing hands, wearing masks, maintaining distance, staying away from crowds, reducing mobility. Vaccination also needs to be done. Here, the community also plays an important role and is responsible for maintaining health and complying with health protocols implemented by the government for mutual interest.

The government issued a Covid-19 vaccination policy to ensure the health of all people. However, the community must also try together to maintain health so as not to be exposed to the Covid-19 virus so that the COVID-19 virus is over quickly and the community can return to normal activities. Public perception is one of the factors that can hinder or run a program planned by the government because the community's indifferent thinking and lack of understanding of the situation hamper a planned program.

The results showed that public perception regarding COVID-19 vaccination in Peusangan District was mainly good and supported the program, although at first, the community was still less concerned about the Covid-19 vaccine policy; this was evidenced by most people who initially thought that the vaccine was haram, the vaccine was dangerous. So, they do not care about the vaccine policy. However, over time with the appeal of officials, health workers and the COVID task force and gampong apparatus, it has shown that the longer the community gradually begins to comply with existing regulations, they already have a positive perception, care, and comply with regulations and support the vaccine program. People who have a positive perception of the vaccine program, the community realizes that the vaccine is effective in preventing the spread of Covid, and the program begins to run according to the orders of health workers and the task force team. The community has realized the importance of the vaccination program policy; the community must implement and follow the vaccine program so that forming *fencing herd immunity* (group immunity) avoids the Covid-19 outbreak.

People who have negative perceptions and do not care and do not support these programs and policies. There are still complaints and doubts about the quality of the Covid-19 vaccine, such as fear and anxiety about the side effects of Covid-19 vaccine and halal, not halal vaccine. This public perception arises because of uncertain news made by the community itself, which can affect public perceptions related to the Covid-19 vaccination policy. Even so, the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) has conducted halal certification tests on several Covid-19 vaccine products circulating in Indonesia. Through the cleric's fatwa, MUI decided that the type of vaccine given to the public had been halal, namely MUI decided that the vaccine brand from Sinovac, namely CoronaVac, the Covid-19 vaccine, was sacred and halal.

## Conclusion

Based on the results of the research that has been conducted, some people's perception of the Covid-19 vaccination policy in Peusangan District is good. However, at first, the community was still indifferent and even resistant to the policies set by the government. However, over time, they began to understand the importance of vaccine activities in forming antibodies in warding off the Covid-19 virus. People who have a positive perception have complied with existing regulations and followed the vaccine; some carry out the vaccine because of obligations and instructions from the government. However, there are still people who do not have a good perception of vaccine policies; they have negative perceptions of vaccines, doubt the effectiveness of vaccines, worry about the adverse effects of the COVID-19 vaccine, and doubt the quality of vaccine; halal is not halal the content of the vaccine.

One of the objectives of this study is to find out how the public views the Covid-19 vaccination program implemented by the government in Peusangan District, Bireuen Regency. From the results of the research that has been conducted, it was found that most people have a positive view of the Covid-19 vaccination program. They realize that Covid-19 vaccination is one of the efforts to prevent virus transmission and increase immunity. They also follow the procedures and rules set by the government in the implementation of Covid-19 vaccination. However, a small percentage of people still have a negative view of the Covid-19 vaccination program. They are skeptical about the effectiveness, safety, quality, and content of Covid-19 vaccines. They are also concerned about the side effects and long-term impact of Covid-19 vaccines. They tend to refuse or avoid Covid-19 vaccination for these reasons.

## Suggestions

Based on the results of the research that has been conducted, the author provides several suggestions or recommendations to program makers or policymakers related to the Covid-19 vaccination program in Peusangan District, Bireuen Regency, namely:

- (1) Increase socialization and education about the benefits, effectiveness, and safety of the Covid-19 vaccine to the public through various media and communication channels, both online and offline, using language that is easy to understand and appropriate to the local cultural context.
- (2) Involving community, religious, and traditional leaders who have high influence and credibility in the Covid-19 vaccination program, both as resource persons, facilitators, and volunteers, to increase public trust and participation in the program.
- (3) Provide accessible, convenient, and safe Covid-19 vaccination facilities and services for the community, considering aspects of availability, affordability, quality, and safety. This can be done by increasing the number and capacity of vaccination centers, providing free transportation or subsidies for people far away, and implementing strict health protocols at each vaccination site.
- (4) Optimizing the use of data and information technology in the Covid-19 vaccination program by mapping and segmenting people based on their level of risk, needs, and preferences for the Covid-19 vaccine, as well as providing an accessible and transparent vaccination registration, monitoring, and reporting system for the public.
- (5) Conduct regular evaluation and monitoring of the implementation of the Covid-19 vaccination program in Peusangan District, Bireuen Regency, by collecting feedback and suggestions from the community, health

workers, government, and related partners, as well as conducting analysis and follow-up on findings and problems that arise during the program.

## References

- Agustino, Leo, 2016, Dasar-Dasar Kebijakan Publik, Edisi Revisi, Bandung, Alfabeta
- Alizamar dan Nasbahry Couto, 2016, Psikologi Persepsi & desain informasi, Sebuah Kajian Psikologi Persepsi, dan prinsip kognitif Untuk Kependidikan dan Desain Komunikasi Visual, Media Akademi.
- Arikonto, Suharsimi & Jabar Abdul Cipi Safruddin, 2009, Evaluasi Program Pendidikan, Pedoman Teoritis Praktis Bagi Mahasiswa dan Praktisi pendidikan, Edisi Kedua,
- Bimo Walgito, 2010, Pengantar Psikologi Umum, Yogyakarta, Andi Offset
- Hayat, 2018, Kebijakan publik, Evaluasi, Reformasi dan Formulasi, Malang, Intrans Publishing
- Rahmad, Jalaluddin (2005) Psikologi Komunikasi, Bandung, PT. Remaja Rosdakarya
- Suryabrata, Sumardi, 2013, Psikologi Pendidikan, Jakarta, PT. Grafindo Persada
- Sarlito, W. Sarwono, 2013, Psikologi Sosial, Sidomulyo, Salemba Humanika
- Pieter, Hery Zan dan lubis, Namora LuMongga (2010), Pengantar Psikologi Untuk Kependidikan, Jakarta, Kencana
- Wulandari, Sri, 2013, Modul Persepsi Psikologi Umum 1, Pusat Pengembangan Bahan Ajar, UMB,
- Wahab, Solihin Abdul, 2005, Analisis Kebijaksanaan: Dari Formulasi ke Implementasi Kebijakan Negara, Jakarta, Bumi Aksara
- Jafar, Wahyu Abdul (2019), Persepsi masyarakat Kota Bengkulu Terhadap Paham Islam Moderat, Jurnal, Samarah, Banda Aceh, Islam Family Law Departemen Sharia and law, UIN (<https://jurnal.ar-raniry.ac.id/index.php/samarah/article/view/3213>)
- Munthe, Ashiong, 2015, Pentingnya Evaluasi Program Di Institusi Pendidikan, Sebuah Pengertian, Tujuan dan Manfaat, ([https://www.researchgate.net/publication/315109775\\_PENTINGYA\\_EVALUASI\\_PROGRAM\\_DI\\_INSTITUSI\\_PENDIDIKAN\\_Sebuah\\_Pengantar\\_Pengertian\\_Tujuan\\_dan\\_Manfaat](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/315109775_PENTINGYA_EVALUASI_PROGRAM_DI_INSTITUSI_PENDIDIKAN_Sebuah_Pengantar_Pengertian_Tujuan_dan_Manfaat))
- UU Nomor 2 Tahun 2020 Tentang Penetapan Peraturan Pemerintah Pengganti Undang-Undang Nomor 1 Tahun 2020 Tentang Kebijakan Keuangan Negara Dan Stabilitas sistem keuangan untuk penanganan pandemic Covid-19 dan atau dalam menghadapi ancaman yang membahayakan perekonomian Nasional.
- Peraturan Presiden nomor 50 tahun 2021 tentang perubahan ke dua atas PERPRES No, 99 Tahun 2020 tentang pengadaan vaksin dan pelaksanaan vaksinasi dalam rangka penanggulangan covid-19.
- Peraturan Menteri Kesehatan NO. 23 Tahun 2021, perubahan ke tiga Permenkes 10 Tahun 2021 tentang Pelaksanaan Vaksinasi dalam rangka penanggulangan covid-19,