

Perception and attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccination among urban slum dwellers in Dhaka, Bangladesh

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BACKGROUND

- Vaccine hesitancy – ‘delay in acceptance or reluctance or refusal to vaccination despite the availability of vaccination services’ [1]
 - It is identified as one of the 10 major threats to global health in 2019 [1]
- Bangladesh started its COVID-19 vaccination drive from the 7th of February 2021 [2]
 - 72% people vaccinated with 1st dose [3]
 - 49% people vaccinated with 2nd dose [3]
- In Bangladesh, around 47 percent of the urban population live in densely populated slums [4]
- Urban slum dwellers live and work in poor conditions [5]
 - Unable to practice preventive measures in slums – handwashing, social distancing, wearing masks [5]
 - Often neglected in health provision, policy and practice
- Limited/no data on COVID-19 vaccination for urban slum dwellers



OBJECTIVE

To understand the perceptions and attitudes of urban slum dwellers in Dhaka, Bangladesh, towards COVID-19 vaccination through time

METHODS

Study design: Exploratory Qualitative

Study site: 3 urban slums in Dhaka

- Kollyanpur (Dhaka North City Corporation)
- Dholpur (Dhaka South City Corporation)
- Shyampur (Dhaka South City Corporation)

Target population: Urban marginalized people including extreme poor households, women headed households, people with disabilities, new migrant and comparatively well off households

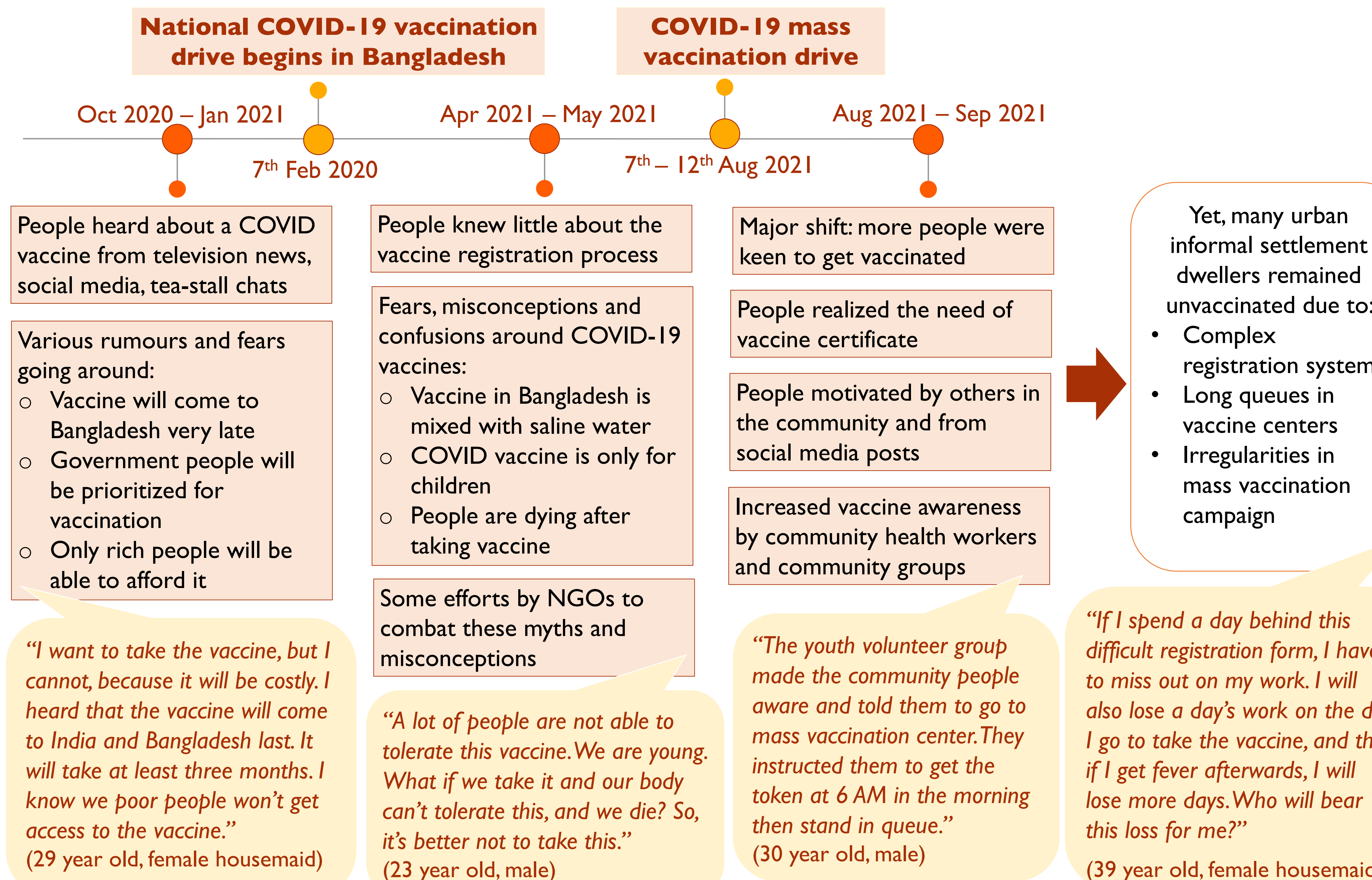


Data collection: 3 rounds of telephone interviews

- Oct 2020 – Jan 2021 (n = 30, 22 Female, 8 Male)
- Apr 2021 – May 2021 (n = 17, 10 Female, 7 Male)
- Aug 2021 – Sep 2021 (n = 9, 5 Female, 4 Male)

FINDINGS

Changes in perception and attitude towards COVID-19 vaccination



CONCLUSIONS

- Understanding how COVID vaccine is perceived in urban slums can help policymakers design effective communication to ensure adherence to COVID-19 vaccines
- Policymakers need to account for social challenges when forming strategies for future vaccination programs.
- Television news, government announcements and NGO workers are trusted sources of information slums dwellers and should be used to disseminate COVID-19 vaccine information
- Youth-based organizations can be engaged in community outreach activities to support vaccine campaigns.
- Communication messaging should be co-designed together with community members, relevant community groups

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