

COVID-19 VACCINE UPTAKE AMONG STUDENTS AT TAKORADI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY, GHANA: PREVALENCE AND PREDICTORS

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ABSTRACT

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, has significantly impacted global health and economies. Vaccine development and acceptance have been critical in mitigating its effects. This notwithstanding, anecdotal evidence suggests that young adults in many sub-Saharan African countries, including Ghana, have not taken the vaccine. However, there are limited documented facts to authenticate this assertion and the correlations between COVID-19 and vaccine uptake have not been well-interrogated.

As such, this study aims to examine the prevalence and determinants of COVID-19 vaccine uptake among students at Takoradi Technical University, Ghana. The study used a cross-sectional online survey to analyse demographic, socio-cultural, behavioural and belief factors influencing vaccine uptake. A sample of 375 students was randomly selected for the study, SPSS version 21 was used to analyse the data using univariate, bivariate and binary logistics regression.

The results showed low acceptance of the COVID-19 vaccine among TTU students. The study also showed that the correlates of the COVID-19 vaccine uptake among students are multifaceted. Of particular importance is the influence of students from urban areas. Most students from all tribes, except the Gas and those who did not wear nose masks regularly, did not accept the COVID-19 vaccine.

This study's major contribution to the literature is identifying students from urban centers and particular tribes/races as people who did accept the COVID-19 vaccine. Findings suggest targeted interventions for improving vaccine coverage among urban young adults, emphasizing socio-cultural inclusivity.

KEYWORDS: COVID-19, Vaccine Uptake, Predictor, Prevalence, Ghana

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