INTRODUCTION

Corona pandemic is a worldwide emergency that affects almost all countries of the world. The spread of corona disease was initially identified in Wuhan China. The initial symptoms of the diseases were resembling respiratory tract infections such as lower respiratory diseases and pneumonia. The disease rapidly spread to other countries of the world which forced the health care authorities to pay attention to this killer disease. Globally 185 million cases are reported and four million deaths are registered so far. The initial attack of coronavirus is on the respiratory system. Therefore, the symptoms of coronavirus are similar to respiratory diseases such as pneumonia, bronchiolitis, and upper respiratory tract infections. Furthermore, the signs and symptoms of the corona are flu, fever, cough, loss of taste and smell, sore throat, aches, headache, rashes on the skin, discoloration of the body organs, loss of speech, and chest pain. To prevent the spread of coronavirus, various steps had been taken. Initially, the health care organizations were failed to provide specific treatment. Social isolation, hand wash, and the use of facemasks were the only solution to control the spread of coronavirus. Similar to the rest of worldwide countries, Pakistan also faced difficulties to cover the spread of coronavirus. The tertiary care facilities in the country provided treatment to the covid-19 infected patients. Initially, the recommended treatment of corona was just like treating pneumonia and other respiratory tract infections. Following the standard guidelines of infection control, the vaccine trials showed the preventive capacity for corona virus. Vaccination was tested and provided positive results to control the chances of the corona. In the initial phase, health care providers were vaccinated because they were working on the front line and were more exposed to the corona. In the same way, people more than 60 years were also vaccinated because they were more prone to disease symptoms than younger population. The severity of corona also depends on the age because in the older age the comorbidities double the chance of death of corona. The role of health care workers is very important in vaccinating the population. Therefore, positive perceptions of the health care providers are very important in vaccinating the population. Currently, positive perceptions of the health care providers are very important in covering the corona pandemic with effective vaccination. Covid-19 vaccination Campaign were started in Pakistan in 2021 in which the health care
providers were vaccinated in the initial phase. Furthermore, vaccination has been gradually started for old age people and other populations of Pakistan. Health care professionals are facing a lot of difficulties such as convincing the populations for vaccination, counseling the population about the side effects and benefits. According to some studies, the researcher explored the perception of health care providers regarding the corona vaccination. The findings of the study revealed that health care works experience hesitation with getting covid-19 vaccination. Furthermore, they also reported fear of adverse effects and reactions due to covid-19 vaccination. World Health Organization recommended covid-19 vaccination for every citizen in Pakistan. Health care providers are the front-line warriors working against covid-19. Health care workers understanding and positive perception is very necessary for the smooth running of the covid-19 vaccination program all over the country. The limited number of individuals is spreading false perceptions among the population and health care workers to affect the covid-19 companies. This study may have vast implications in the health care sector. The findings of the study may create insight among the health care provides regarding the perceptions towards corona vaccination.

**METHODOLOGY**

A phenomenological qualitative study was carried out in tertiary care government hospitals of Peshawar. Data was collected in Hayatabad Medical Complex (HMC), Lady Reading Hospital (LRH), and Khyber Teaching Hospital (HMC). The study was carried out in June 2021 to November 2021. Overall, 15 health care were included in the study. The sample size for the study was decided upon the data saturation. The study was approved from the ethical review board of Khyber Medical University Peshawar. Permission from the hospital administration was obtained. Data was collected using focus group discussion and interviewing the participants. All the data was organized and thematic analysis was carried out.

**RESULTS**

Overall, 15 health care professionals were included in the study. 5 health care participants each were selected from HMC, LRH, and HMC. Demographic characteristics of study participants are shown in Table 1.

| Table 1: Demographic Profile of the Population, (n=15) |
|----------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Gender | Male | 06 | 40 |
|         | Female | 09 | 60 |
| Age (years) | < than 30 years | 03 | 20 |
|         | 31-40 years | 08 | 53.33 |
|         | > than 40 years | 04 | 26.66 |
| Marital Status | Unmarried | 04 | 26.66 |
|         | Married | 11 | 73.33 |
| Education | Bachelor Level | 07 | 46.66 |
|         | Diploma Level | 08 | 53.33 |
|         | Master Level | 0 | 0 |
| Experience | < than 5 years | 04 | 26.66 |
|         | 5-10 years | 08 | 53.33 |
|         | 11-15 years | 02 | 13.33 |
|         | 16-20 years | 01 | 06.66 |
|         | > than 20 years | 0 | 0 |

The first theme generated was Information. The theme was generated from many codes such as “Name of Vaccination”, “Awareness regarding covid-19 Vaccination”, “Role of Vaccination”, and “Number of vaccinations shots” (Figure 2).
“I exactly don’t know properly about the covid-19 vaccination. It is totally a new thing in the health care system. I don’t know whether these vaccinations may have a positive or negative impact on individuals. We follow the government rules and policies” (Participant 3, Age 37). “Different vaccination is available in government health care setups. Private health care setups also take part in the vaccination of people. I remember a few names of covid-19 vaccinations such as sinopharm and sinovac, the other I don’t remember” (Participant 11, Age 32). “There are different types of vaccines. Some of them have one shot or some of them have two. It’s the job of vaccinators to remember the shots and frequency. I don’t exactly know regarding the duration gap between the doses” (Participant 6, Age 34). The second theme was responsibility. This there was generated from four codes such as “Role of health care workers”, “Responsibility of the government”, “Active participation of the head of the family”, and “organizational strictness” (Figure 3).

“In the eradication of corona, the role of health care providers is very important to create the awareness among the people. Health care providers spread the message to their love once and other nearby population” (Participant 2, Age 43). “Government officials should take active part in the campaign of corona vaccination. The government should facilitate the people in their work places in the collaboration with health care department to vaccinate the people in their work place” (Participant 5, Age 44). “Vaccination rate against covid-19 vaccination can be increased by the active involvement of the head of every family member. Every family should educate their family members regarding the importance of covid-19 vaccination and make sure the vaccination of their family” (Participant 14, Age 39). The third there theme is “Potential Benefits”. This theme was generated from the codes such as “Disease Spread”, “Return to normal life”, “Reducing the likelihood of transmission”, “Protecting yourself and others” (Figure 4).

“Vaccination is not to protect myself from this deadly disease but it is to keep the community safe from corona. The chances of infection reduced with vaccination and we can keep our family, kids, neighbors and people with whom we are working safe” (Participant 15, Age 40). “I think corona vaccination is very important for everyone. Everything is disturbed due to corona and vaccination is the only way to come out from this miserable situation” (Participant 15, Age 43). “The benefits of corona vaccination are not limited to me. I am a nurse and if I am not vaccinated, how can I prevent my family members and other people safe from corona. If I am vaccinated, it’s mean that I am giving benefit to myself as well as to my family and other people” (Participant 13, Age 37). The fourth theme is hesitancy. There were three codes for hesitancy as Fear, Reactions, and Specific vaccination for specific countries (Figure 5).
“Although the covid-19 is a dangerous disease but it doesn’t have a specific treatment. Vaccination is not the recommended treatment and some of the vaccination is not worldwide approved. A lot of researcher I followed on Facebook said that there vaccination is dangerous” (Participant 15, Age 40). “All the people said that vaccination has a lot of adverse reactions. Some of the nurses and other people died due to corona vaccination. Vaccination clots the blood of the cardiac people that’s why the government should consider thinking about vaccination (Participant 12, Age 33). “A very strange thing, some of the vaccination is not recommended for Arabic countries and some of the vaccination used in Pakistan is not recommended in British countries. Majority of the Pakistani are working tout side of the county, I don’t understand what the people would do” (Participant 11, Age 32).

DISCUSSION

The basic purpose of the study was to explore the perception of health care professionals regarding covid-19 vaccination. Supporting the findings of the current study, a study was conducted to explore the perception of the health care workers regarding covid-19 vaccination. In this study, participant’s perceptions were highlighted in four themes such as “Information”, “Potential Benefits”, “Responsibility”, and “Hesitancy”. The study highlighted that information regarding covid-19 vaccination is very important for health care workers. In addition, health care providers and the population are required to take the responsibility for creating awareness among people about vaccination. Similarly, potential benefits of vaccination are highlighted and vaccination hesitancy was also described in this study.

CONCLUSIONS

The findings of the study concluded the perception of the health care workers towards covid-19 vaccination in four themes. These themes were “Information”, “Potential Benefits”, “Responsibility”, and “Hesitancy”. The study highlighted that information regarding covid-19 vaccination is very important for health care workers. In addition, health care providers and the population are required to take the responsibility for creating awareness among people about vaccination. Similarly, potential benefits of vaccination are highlighted and vaccination hesitancy was also described in this study.

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REFERENCES


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