COVID-19 vaccines: A method based on social pharmacology

Abhishek Shivanand Lachyan[1], Wong Min Fui[2], Rafdzah Ahmad Zaki[3] ,Bratati Banerjee[4], Saima Furqan[5], Hemant Adhikari[6],Rowena John[7], Aishwarya Potnis[8]

[1,2,3&7] Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence-Based Practice, Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya 50603, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
[4]Department of Community Medicine Maulana Azad Medical College- New Delhi.
[5]National AIDS Control Organisation, MoHFW, Govt. of India, Delhi.
[6]World Health Organization NPSP Sonbhadra ,Uttar Pradesh, India.
[8]Baroda Heart Institute & Research Centre, Vadodara, Gujarat, India.

Date of Submission: 08-07-2021   Date of Acceptance: 23-07-2021

I.   Highlights

COVID-19, the world's biggest public health epidemic of the twenty-first century, has hit 215 nations and territories, causing 15,151,738 confirmed cases and 621,121 fatalities. Despite stringent public health precautions, the disease has spread rapidly, causing havoc on the world economy and killing millions. The greatest approach for COVID-19 prevention right now is vaccination. Despite this, there has been a lot of interest in repurposing existing medicinal medicines to reduce the severity of the condition and alleviate the load on already overcrowded healthcare systems.[1]

The study of the interactions between societies and drugs, including the determinants, causes, and social repercussions of drug use, as well as drug representations in society, is known as social pharmacology. The recent discovery and commercialization of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccines raises a number of social pharmaceutical issues: Are vaccinations the same as any other medication? What are their perspectives on things at the individual, population, and society levels? What are people's thoughts on the vaccinations' dangers and benefits? How does the general person feel about the situation? What is the individual and social acceptability of these vaccinations in the case of a pandemic? In light of current results, all of these concerns are addressed. A variety of remedies are proposed to aid in the resolution of these social pharmaceutical issues, both on an individual and collective or population level.

• All of these facts, observations, and comments demonstrate that drugs in general, and vaccinations in particular, are no longer only a scientific and medical issue, but also a social (societal) and political one. We can recall the 2018 vaccine recommendations, which had the practical objective of restoring vaccination trust while also improving vaccination safety and coverage.
• Design data-gathering and information-gathering systems;
• Streamline the vaccination procedure and expand vaccination opportunities.
• Develop health-care professional training.
• Vaccines are taught in school.
• In an educational intervention, employ motivational interviewing.
• Take on local initiatives.
• Boost vaccine supply and spread the word about their importance.

The medical and sociological consequences of the current COVID-19 vaccination campaign, as well as those that will undoubtedly occur in the future can only be understood via these upcoming activities and trainings. According to this viewpoint, social pharmacology is an essential component of rational drug evaluation (i.e. clinical pharmacology). Social pharmacology skills should be examined and included into drug legislation in all nations. The health of our citizens is at risk.[2]

Conflicts of interest
There are no conflicts of interest.
Ethical approval
Not required

References

[1]. Chakraborty, R. and Parvez, S., 2020. COVID-19: an overview of the current pharmacological interventions, vaccines, and clinical trials. Biochemical pharmacology, p.114184.
[2]. Montastruc, J.L., Lafaurie, M., de Canecaude, C., Montastruc, F., Bagheri, H., Durrieu, G. and Sommet, A., 2021. COVID-19 vaccines: a perspective from social pharmacology. Therapies.