

## **Kompas.com Report on COVID-19 Vaccination: Impact on Anxiety Levels and Community Behaviour in Medan City**

**Alya Nur Sabrina<sup>1</sup>**

Communication Science Masters Study Program, Faculty of Social and Political Science,  
Universitas Sumatera Utara, Medan  
Email: [alyanursabrina0608@gmail.com](mailto:alyanursabrina0608@gmail.com)

**Lusiana Andriani Lubis**

Communication Science Masters Study Program, Faculty of Social and Political Science,  
Universitas Sumatera Utara, Medan  
Email: [Lusiana\\_andriani@yahoo.com](mailto:Lusiana_andriani@yahoo.com)

**Rahmanita Ginting**

Communication Science Masters Study Program, Faculty of Social and Political Science,  
Universitas Sumatera Utara, Medan  
Email: [rahmanita\\_ginting@umsu.ac.id](mailto:rahmanita_ginting@umsu.ac.id)

### **Abstract**

Research objectives are to analyze the relationship between Kompas.com's news about COVID-19 and the level of public anxiety, to analyze the relationship between Kompas.com's news about COVID-19 and changes in people's behaviour, and to analyze the relationship between Kompas.com's news about COVID-19 and the level of anxiety and changes in community behaviour in Medan City. This research is correlational quantitative research. The research population was 629,873 people, with a sample of 400 aged 20-34 years who were residents of Medan City. Data collection uses questionnaires and interviews. Data analysis using Spearman shows a significant relationship between Kompas.com reporting and the level of public anxiety facing COVID-19 in Medan City. There is also a significant relationship between Kompas.com reporting and changes in people's behaviour in facing COVID-19 in Medan City.

**Keywords:** Kompas.com, COVID-19, anxiety level, behaviour change, COVID-19 vaccination, Medan city.

### **Introduction:**

Mass media plays a crucial role in delivering information to the broader community (McQuail, 2011). With the diverse issues we face today, one significant challenge is the emergence of the COVID-19 virus. Mass communication has an effect that we can see when we want to know not why we read newspapers or watch television, but how newspapers and television increase knowledge, change attitudes or move someone's behaviour (Rakhmat, 2005, p. 217). The pandemic has created an urgent need for accurate, timely, and comprehensive information to guide

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<sup>1</sup> Corresponding author

public behaviour and policy (Mulyana, 2014, p. 148). Kompas.com has been at the forefront of this effort, leveraging its platform to disseminate vital information about COVID-19.

From the outset of the pandemic, Kompas.com has provided extensive coverage on various aspects of the virus, including prevention measures, symptoms, and the importance of hygiene and social distancing (Arkida et al., 2022). The platform has consistently offered the latest updates on the global situation, presenting data on infection rates, recovery statistics, and new scientific findings. This continuous flow of information is crucial in helping the public understand the evolving nature of the virus and the measures needed to combat it (Flew, 2021). Based on the phenomenon presented above, it can be concluded that mass communication must be used as a mass communication medium in conveying information to the public (Effendy, 2013, p. 20). Moreover, Kompas.com has placed significant emphasis on the topic of vaccination, recognizing it as a critical component in the fight against COVID-19. The site offers detailed information about vaccine development, availability, and efficacy, helping to demystify the vaccination process for the public. This effort includes addressing common concerns and misinformation about vaccines, thus alleviating public anxiety and building trust in the vaccination campaigns (Prajarto, 2021).

The role of Kompas.com extends beyond mere information dissemination; it actively engages with its audience to promote responsible behaviour. By reporting on the latest health protocols and government guidelines, the platform encourages individuals to adopt practices that reduce virus transmission (Tsoy et al., 2021). This has been particularly important in managing public anxiety, as informed citizens are more likely to follow recommended health protocols and support community-wide efforts to control the spread of the virus. The high or low level of anxiety can be caused by several factors which include the level of media consumption (media exposure), and how often a person consumes media (So'emah et al., 2021).

During the COVID-19 period, the city of Medan was deemed to have a fairly high risk for the spread of the virus, this was stated in the North Sumatra iNews news portal which stated that Medan City had again entered the red zone for the risk of spreading COVID-19 in North Sumatra (INS, 2021). Based on the descriptions above, researchers want to examine Kompas.com's news regarding COVID-19 on the level of anxiety and changes in people's behaviour in the city of Medan. It has been known that in its development, human behaviour changes, influenced by several factors, both internal and external which include exposure to the media (Maulana, 2018, pp. 120-124).

### **Method:**

The research was conducted in Medan City which has 21 sub-districts. The research method used is the quantitative correlational method (Paramita & Kristiana, 2013). The sampling technique used a purposive sample technique (Febrianti, 2014), from the population of Medan City in 2019 aged 20-34 years totalling 629,873 residents (BPSKM, 2024), so the sample was taken using the Taro Yamane formula with a precision of 5% with a level of 95% confidence in the results for 400 residents of Medan City.

The data collection technique in the research was carried out by distributing questionnaires and supporting materials, taking them directly to the research location, and distributing the questionnaires (Fachrista & Sarwendah, 2014). The data analysis technique uses single data analysis because it divides variables into several categories based on frequency (Singarimbun and Effendi, 2011). Hypothesis testing is used, which is a temporary answer to the research problem

formulation based on relevant theory (Sugiyono, 2018), with Spearman’s Rho Rank Order Correlations statistical test with the help of SPSS.

**Results:**

The comprehensive reporting by Kompas.com on COVID-19 vaccination has had a significant impact on public anxiety levels. Through its detailed and transparent coverage, the platform has played a vital role in shaping public perception and understanding of the vaccination process. This has led to a more informed public that is better equipped to navigate the complexities of the pandemic and make informed decisions regarding their health and safety. Based on the table 1 data, it shows that the majority of respondents are in the 29-30 interval, namely 18.3%:

**Table 1: Community Anxiety Interval**

Community Anxiety Level Facing COVID-19					
		Frequency	Per cent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	41-42	1	,3	,3	,3
	39-40	2	,5	,5	,8
	37-38	7	1,8	1,8	2,5
	35-36	37	9,3	9,3	11,8
	33-34	30	7,5	7,5	19,3
	31-32	52	13,0	13,0	32,3
	29-30	73	18,3	18,3	50,5
	27-28	68	17,0	17,0	67,5
	25-26	58	14,5	14,5	82,0
	23-24	34	8,5	8,5	90,5
	21-22	32	8,0	8,0	98,5
	19-20	5	1,3	1,3	99,8
	17-18	1	,3	,3	100,0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	

The in-depth coverage by Kompas.com on COVID-19 vaccination has also significantly influenced public behaviour changes. This informed approach has led to tangible behaviour changes, with more individuals taking proactive steps to protect themselves and their communities from the virus. Based on the table 2, it shows that the majority of respondents are in the 53-54 interval, namely 18.8%:

**Table 2: Interval of Societal Change**

Changes in Community Behaviour Facing COVID-19					
		Frequency	Per cent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	63-64	8	2,0	2,0	2,0
	61-62	10	2,5	2,5	4,5
	59-60	19	4,8	4,8	9,3
	57-58	35	8,8	8,8	18,0
	55-56	43	10,8	10,8	28,8
	53-54	75	18,8	18,8	47,5
	51-52	63	15,8	15,8	63,3
	49-50	46	11,5	11,5	74,8
	47-48	50	12,5	12,5	87,3
	45-46	32	8,0	8,0	95,3
	43-44	13	3,3	3,3	98,5
	41-42	5	1,3	1,3	99,8

	39-40	1	,3	,3	100,0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	

### Hypothesis test results:

Hypothesis test results from Kompas.com reporting on the level of public anxiety in the city of Medan

**Table 3: X and Y1 correlation**

Correlations			
	Kompas.com news regarding COVID-19 vaccination. Community Anxiety Level Facing COVID-19		Community Anxiety Level Facing COVID-19
Kompas.com news regarding COVID-19 vaccination.	Pearson Correlation	1	-,283**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		,000
	N	400	400
Community Anxiety Level facing the COVID-19 Pandemic	Pearson Correlation	-,283**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,000	
	N	400	400

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

By calculating the coefficient of determination, we will know the magnitude of the relationship between Kompas.com’s news regarding COVID-19 vaccination and the level of public anxiety facing COVID-19, where the value of R<sup>2</sup> or R square in the table is -0.283, this shows that the contribution of Kompas.com’s reporting regarding COVID-19 vaccination to the level of public anxiety facing COVID-19 is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 KD &= r^2 \times 100\% \\
 &= (0.283)^2 \times 100\% \\
 &= 8\%
 \end{aligned}$$

8% of Kompas.com’s reporting on COVID-19 vaccination contributed to people’s anxiety levels facing COVID-19, while the remaining 92% was the contribution of other variables not included in the research. Hypothesis test results from Kompas.com reporting on changes in community behaviour in the city of Medan are as given below:

**Table 4: X and Y2 correlation**

Correlations			
	Kompas.com News Regarding COVID-19 Vaccination.		Changes in Community Behaviour Facing COVID-19.
Kompas.com news regarding COVID-19 vaccination.	Pearson Correlation	1	,520**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		,000
	N	400	400
Changes in Community Behaviour in Facing COVID-19.	Pearson Correlation	,520**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,000	
	N	400	400

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

By calculating the coefficient of determination, we will know the magnitude of the relationship between Kompas.com's news regarding COVID-19 vaccination and the level of public anxiety facing COVID-19. The value of R<sup>2</sup> or R square in the table is 0.520, this shows that the contribution of the news Kompas.com regarding COVID-19 vaccination on changes in people's behaviour in facing COVID-19 is:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{KD} &= r^2 \times 100\% \\ &= (0,520)^2 \times 100\% \\ &= 27,40\% \end{aligned}$$

27.04% of the contribution of Kompas.com's news regarding COVID-19 vaccination to changes in people's behaviour in facing COVID-19, while the remaining 72.96% is the contribution of other variables not included in the research.

### Discussion:

Research regarding Kompas.com's reporting regarding COVID-19 vaccination on anxiety levels and changes in people's behaviour in Medan City was obtained by distributing questionnaires to 400 respondents in Medan City and reading information regarding COVID-19 vaccination reported by Kompas.com.

**Kompas.com reporting on anxiety levels:** The level of anxiety experienced by respondents can be seen from several indicators including (Rahmi & Zuhri, 2018):

- i. **Physical disorders arise such as heart palpitations, sweating, muscle tension and others:** When someone reads the news about the COVID-19 vaccination on Kompas.com, there is a feeling of excitement when reading, which gives rise to feelings of anxiety and causes heart palpitations and other physical disorders. However, people in Medan City do not feel that, in other words, anxiety in the form of physical disorders does not affect respondents.
- ii. **Difficulty concentrating:** After reading the news about the COVID-19 vaccination, people in Medan City did not find it difficult to concentrate so they felt disturbed in their activities and kept remembering the news they read about the COVID-19 vaccination. They can still concentrate and try not to think about the COVID-19 vaccination so that it doesn't interfere with their daily activities.
- iii. **Feeling worried or unpleasant memories come to mind:** In this case, it is a concern for people to be vaccinated or leave the house without being vaccinated against COVID-19 because they will easily be exposed to the virus once they know the information on Kompas.com. However, this does not make the people of Medan City feel worried about this.
- iv. **Severe fear in certain situations and trying to avoid the situation:** Similar to the worry that arises when reading vaccination news on Kompas.com, the feeling of fear of the outside world does not affect the people of Medan City.
- v. **Sleep disorders:** When we read information that is deeply embedded in our minds, it will give rise to images of something happening to us, this can also disrupt the sleep process. There is a feeling of anxiety that will affect our head when we are

about to fall asleep. However, the people of Medan feel that they have not experienced this after reading the news about the COVID-19 vaccination.

The correlation calculation between Kompas.com's reporting on COVID-19 vaccination and the level of public anxiety in Medan City is that there is no relationship between the two. This can be seen from the correlation interval where the anxiety felt is not due to the Kompas.com media coverage.

**Kompas.com reporting on changes in behaviour:** Changes in behaviour experienced by respondents can be seen from the following indicators (Fitriah, 2014):

- i. **Displacement effect:** This effect discusses how someone consumes more media and reduces other activities that are more important for consuming media.
- ii. **Content effect:** This effect makes individuals learn attitudes or behaviours that are intended or taught or not.
- iii. **Enculturation:** Instilling values, beliefs, traditions and habits in the reality held by the majority of the target community.
- iv. **Change of attitude:** It can be seen from the elaboration of similarities that mass media influences attitudes both peripherally and centrally.
- v. **Cultivation hypothesis:** People who consume media will have a perception of reality that is more related to mass media depictions than to actual social reality.
- vi. **Political effects (agenda setting):** Dictating the reception of the message is not for thinking.
- vii. **The effects of pornography:** The existence of displays or images that are intentional or do not have value that can be associated with pornography.
- viii. **Pro-social effect:** When consuming mass media such as cooperation, helping each other, empathy, self-control, reducing fear and avoiding stereotypes themselves.

Based on the theory explained, one of them states that there is a content effect caused by mass media. This makes a person or individual learn the attitudes or behaviour conveyed in the information in the media, which are intended directly or indirectly. Apart from that, there is an enculturation effect, in this case, the enculturation carried out by the community is in terms of habits, where before the pandemic and the COVID-19 vaccination process in Indonesia, using masks and following health protocols was very rare and it was thought that not everyone had the habit. However, with this incident, new habits have begun to be instilled in society, one of which is the use of masks and health protocols as well as carrying out the COVID-19 vaccination itself.

The correlation calculation between Kompas.com's reporting on COVID-19 vaccination and changes in people's behaviour in Medan City is that there is a positive relationship between the two. This can be seen from the correlation interval where there is a change in behaviour by the people in Medan City due to the news about the COVID-19 vaccination by Kompas.com media.

### **Conclusion:**

Based on the results it is concluded that Anxiety and changes in people's behaviour facing COVID-19 in Medan City are:

- i. Kompas.com's reporting regarding COVID-19 vaccination has a low but definite relationship to the level of public anxiety regarding COVID-19 in Medan City. The results of the research show that there is no significant relationship between Kompas.com reporting and the level of public anxiety facing COVID-19 in Medan City, so in this study, there is a relationship, but it is very slight, not yet at the level of physical disorders and excessive anxiety, just normal fear. So it is considered that there is no relationship between Kompas.com and the level of public anxiety regarding COVID-19 in Medan City.
- ii. Kompas.com's reporting regarding COVID-19 vaccination has a significant relationship to changes in people's behaviour towards COVID-19 in Medan City. There is a significant positive relationship between Kompas.com reporting and changes in people's behaviour in facing COVID-19 in the city of Medan. Changes in people's behaviour in this research show that changes in people's behaviour are already at the stage of adapting to their new behaviour, which is also related to the news carried out by Kompas.com regarding COVID-19 vaccination.

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