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THE ATTITUDE OF THAI PEOPLE TOWARD COVID-19 VACCINATIONNoppakhun W¹ and Setchoduk K²¹*Samsenwittayalai School, Bangkok, Thailand*²*Assumption University, Bangkok, Thailand**watsarapha.nop@gmail.com**ABSTRACT**

One of the key successes to battle Coronavirus pandemic is vaccination. However, there is an issue of COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among Thai people due to doubt in its efficacy and side effects. The exploration of the issue regarding COVID-19 vaccine among Thai people will help healthcare providers understand the reason underpinning this issue and find the strategies to deal with COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy. This study aims to explore the attitude of Thai people toward COVID-19 vaccine regarding its efficacy and side effects. Cross-sectional survey study was conducted with 634 participants by using an online questionnaire constructed by the researcher. The content validity was checked by the experts and reliability was 0.708. The results revealed that most of the participants were female (66.2%), mean age is 44.4 (± 12.21) years old. 72.1% were vaccinated with Sinovac (35.0%), AstraZeneca (33.6%), Sinopharm (2.4%) and combined types of vaccine (1.1%). The higher percentage of unvaccinated participants were due to age barrier for vaccination (7.3%), unable to reserve the vaccine (4.7%), medical limitation (0.6%) and undesirable to get the vaccine (15.3%) because feared of its side effects and unsure of its efficacy. The participants received information about fear side effects of COVID-19 vaccine from social media (3.23 ± 1.31), which caused worriedness of vaccine side effects and efficacy. They thought that Thailand has not well managed vaccination for Thai people (1.87 ± 1.02) especially the distribution of vaccines (1.84 ± 1.02) and the efficacy of provided vaccines (2.22 ± 1.17). In conclusion, people hesitate to receive the COVID-19 vaccine due to uncertainty about its efficacy and fear of its side effects. Social media should play a crucial role in disseminating positive information regarding COVID-19 vaccination to encourage people for vaccination.

Keywords: COVID-19 vaccine, vaccine hesitancy, vaccination, vaccine efficacy, vaccine side effect