**Interview Session**

**Interviewer:** Sir, do I have your permission to record you?

**Interviewee**: Yes, you do.

**Interviewer**: What is your age group between 18-24years, 25-34 years, 35-44years , 45-55 years and 55 years and above ?

**Interviewee**: 25-34 years

**Interviewer:** What is your gender? Male or female?

**Interviewee**: I am a male

**Interviewer**: Do you live in this community?

**Interviewee:** Yes, I do

**Interviewer**: What is your highest level of education attained?

**Interviewee**: I am a BSc holder.

**Interviewer**: Do you have any child under the age of 5?

**Interviewee**: Yes, I have a boy.

**Interviewer**: Have you been vaccinated with Covid19 vaccine?

**Interviewee**: Yes, I have.

**Interviewer**: What is your occupation?

**Interviewee**: I am a civil servant

**Interviewer**: How aware are people of Bayelsa state about the importance of routine immunizations to prevent infectious diseases?

**Interviewee**: I think the level of the level of awareness in Bayelsa is very low considering it especially from the medical aspect. I have come to realize that so many marriage problems diseases are caused basically because of unsensitized early coming infants even adults and pregnant women also.

**Interviewer**: What factors do you think contribute to their lack of awareness?

**Interviewee:** I would say the information they gathered concerning this particular vaccination or whatever they should have that they don’t would determine how much you know what you are exposed would determine what you get from the society.

**Interviewer:** Ok what are some common reasons that these individuals choose not to get vaccinated in Bayelsa state? What are those reasons you think make some people decide not to get vaccinated for routine immunizations?

**Interviewee**: I think first of all, it’s the influence we have on ourselves. Because if everybody is coming with the ideology that it’s not real, or maybe because it doesn’t happen to you, you can be easily influenced. if your neighbor hasn’t done it, there will be no reason for you to do the vaccination. And then we also see stories online, some people have come up complaining about vaccinations, although we physically have not seen them in person but you know we humans, these things have a great effect on our emotional psychological behavior. We see things and immediately we get a conclusion over them. Even when they are good for our benefit but then, because of how much misinformed we have been, then we tend to neglect and these things later have adverse effect on us and society

**Interviewer**: How do these reasons differ from the concerns people have about covid19 vaccine?

**Interviewee**: These reasons, I think basically covid19 vaccine is majorly to prevent this virus from affecting somebody but then when your personal reason have been influenced it would change the ideology in which the vaccination was prepared for. Imagine seeing neighbor complaining that when he was given the vaccine, his hand is swollen, it would not give you enough reason to take up courage and also for the vaccination even if it’s not true.

**Interviewer**: How confident are the people in Bayelsa state in the safety and efficiency of routine immunization?

**Interviewee**: Considering the level of just my environment, I would say we are not so confident because so many people would not want to, in fact so many people see you that have taken the vaccine as somebody that will die very soon so there is no way they could also go up to take the vaccination.

**Interviewer**: Are there any specific sources of information they trust or distrust when it comes to making decisions to get vaccinated?

**Interviewee**: Yes, sometimes you hear**(inaudible)** like pastors, when they tell you something on vaccination, it alters your beliefs and it will have a very great impact on you not going for the vaccination.

**Interviewer**: In your opinion, what do you think should be done to increase awareness and uptake of routine immunization in Bayelsa state?

**Interviewee**: In that aspect, I don’t know how much of campaigns and teachings on vaccination has been effective in Bayelsa but I have not seen much as it should be. I think people are having vaccination based on the knowledge they have so there should be more campaigns and sensitization talks and the rest.

**Interviewer**: How has the experience of living through covid19 pandemic influenced people’s attitude towards public health measures such as wearing face-mask and social distancing and vaccinations?

**Interviewee**: I think in some ways it had a positive aspect because you see people washing their hands, putting on nose-masks, in such scenarios, so many people will tend to avoid other diseases that could have effect so it had a great positive effect on humans at large.

**Interviewer**: What are some of the main factors that have either motivated or deterred individuals in Bayelsa state from getting vaccinations against covid19?

**Interviewee**: I think basically in Nigeria here, around us, we don’t see much people being infected, so coming for vaccination is like you building up a blackmail system to make money that’s what Nigerians believe. Maybe some of us have watched videos online seeing people complain about the stuff, and it would make you not to get so much courage for this vaccination.

**Interviewer**: How do these factors vary among different demographic groups? Like your reasons, is it different from people in other areas?

**Interviewee**: I wouldn’t say I see much difference because Nigeria we basically share the same ideology and spread it fast. So, if I am saying here that this vaccination this vaccination is having negative effect on people based on reasons I mentioned, I think they are basically around the same reasons for people in different destinations.

**Interviewer**: In your view, what role does misinformation play in shaping public perceptions of covid19 and its vaccine?

**Interviewee**: Misinformation does not have a negative effect on just the covid19, misinformation can do a lot of harm. Your health is determined by how much knowledge you have gathered about it. So, it depends on how much you know. If you have not been informed properly, then I think you are even more at risk and your life is in danger because you don’t know what’s happening out there.

**Interviewer**: How can this rumors be addressed to promote better awareness and understanding?

**Interviewee**: I would say let’s take hold of the social media and we have places like churches. Even just any place of social gathering that has this amount of people that you can easily reach, give them sensitization on the importance of this vaccine, it would go a long way.

**Interviewer**: How was the information about covid19 and the vaccine brought to the public? Like through channels like TV, radio, community awareness or events?

**Interviewee**: Community awareness I guess, but like I said before, I don’t really observe much awareness or sensitization. What I was really prone to was just an immediate vaccination. I don’t think there was a proper sensitization on this covid19 that’s why people misunderstood what should be done for them.

**Interviewer**: What channels and messengers were commonly used to deliver this information back then?

**Interviewee**: I think the social media was used also; local health workers were also part of it. I don’t know but that’s basically what I can fish out

**Interviewer**: What specific topics and key messages were covered in the information about covid19 and its vaccines?

**Interviewee:** We heard how it has killed so many people outside the country, curfew, so many negative things like that. I think this disease has been a trauma for so many people and I just hope with time it would be resolved and people will get more of the vaccine.

**Interviewer**: Are there differences in the focus or emphasis between different communication platforms? Where you are hearing one thing on social media and the government is saying another thing?

**Interviewee**: Yes, there were differences that’s why I said if we could get hold of the social media because if the government is telling us that the vaccine is good and we are seeing more evidence about people that are saying negative things about the vaccine then there’s a totally big difference and it should be addressed as well.

**Interviewer**: How did people in Bayelsa state react to the information they received about covid19 and its vaccine?

**Interviewee**: I would practically say most people laughed about it. It was a joke. Imagine Nigeria was one of the least affected countries of this disease so and in a country like this we don’t get serious with things like this so it was a very poor and very low.

**Interviewer**: When the information about Covid19 came, was it easily understandable? Were there any challenges such as Language barriers that hindered the effective communication?

**Interviewee:** It was not easily understandable. In Nigeria, we believed our leaders have a way of always exploiting us to make money, we see covid19 as a way which leaders have crafted to make money for themselves so with that mindset, there is no way it could have major effect on the society at large.

**Interviewer**: What are the common rumors you heard about covid19 and its vaccine among the people in the community?

**Interviewee**: When you hear people saying that the vaccine is killing people then they were scared. We heard that the place you took the injection vaccine in your body is getting swollen.

**Interviewer**: Are there any cultural or religious beliefs in Bayelsa sate that may influence people’s attitude toward covid19 and its vaccine?

**Interviewee**, that why our roots as Bayelsans matter a lot. We havegrown up with a belief system. That’s why I mentioned pastors back then, if we can get hold of the church and social gatherings, there will be a lot of positive impacts. We have been engrafted toward what our parents have been telling us from childhood. And in their time, there was nothing like this or it was very low so we tend to neglect some of these things.

**Interviewer**: How do you think reliable and accurate information about covid19 and its vaccine could be more effectively brought into the public? Particularly to those that have been influenced by the rumors?

**Interviewee**: If it’s possible to be having a public demonstration of how this disease works how it kills people, it could also help. The social media as well, we could have the local health workers, people that speak local languages and interpreters, go to the villages, teach them about the importance of the vaccine and the deadly aspect of this disease. We can be able to sensitize the public

**Interviewer**: How do you think people view the routine vaccinations for other diseases compared to covid19 vaccines?

**Interviewee**: That’s the problem. Most people we have in Nigeria are sick because of sickle cell and that’s maybe when you fail to check your genotype and premarital test you should do. Basically, we suffer a great loss when we neglect it. Majority of us have neglected this test and it’s causing great harm

**Interviewer**: What strategies do you think could bridge the gap and encourage wider acceptance so that people can see routine immunization and covid19 vaccines to be one?

**Interviewee:** First of all, we need to educate the public about the vaccine, about the disease about the importance and then strategic measures. If you have to go to schools, the churches, social gatherings, social media. We could come up with ideas; demonstrative, dramatic displays of how this disease affects people and importance of these vaccines.

**Interviewer**: In your opinion, what specific measures or targeted approaches could be used to address those people in the state that have refused to get the covid19 vaccines?

**Interviewee**: Such kind of people, I would say we go through their families. We could have set of health workers go them in person through families in the society, teach them about it, get the mindset they have about the diseases and then use that to build an immune response to convince them.

**Interviewer**: That’s all the questions I have, is there something else you were expecting me to ask?

**Interviewee**: No

**Interviewer**: Is there something you will like to ask us?

**Interviewee**: No