

Teamwork makes the dream work

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The COVID19 pandemic posed a profound challenge necessitating united and coordinated efforts to contain the outbreak. In the bustling region of Malaysia's Klang Valley, the Kepong Health District Office found itself in the spotlight, tasked with the demanding job of repurposing *Dewan Pusat Komuniti Manjalara* into a fully functioning vaccination centre to facilitate the National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme. A challenge of such magnitude beckoned for a significant shift from traditional siloed working models to innovative and cooperative strategies incorporating various government and non-governmental agencies. **Materials and Methods:** Understanding the critical role of community buy-in for the success of our initiative, we prioritised engagement with the local populace. We orchestrated a strategic meeting with *Gabungan Persatuan Penduduk* Kepong Kuala Lumpur, a conglomerate of multiple Residents Associations within the Kepong District. More than a cordial meet and greet, this interactive session served as a platform to strengthen bilateral relationships, discuss potential challenges, and brainstorm collaborative strategies for a seamless vaccination rollout. Addressing vaccine hesitancy, a notable barrier in global vaccination campaigns, was paramount in our mission. We embarked on a unique public awareness campaign, establishing information booths at the lively weekend night market spots in Kepong Baru. These booths served as a point of dissemination for reliable and crucial information about the vaccine and the vaccination program, dispelling myths, and addressing concerns. Recognising that the digital divide could hinder our progress, particularly among the elderly, we employed tech-savvy volunteers to provide on-site technical assistance for downloading and registering the *MySejahtera* application. Our team of dedicated staff also took the time to teach the elderly on how to navigate the app to check their appointment date for their vaccination. The interactions between our healthcare staff and the elderly citizens from all walks of life was a beautiful sight to behold. It truly depicted unity within diversity. This innovative strategy not only boosted accessibility but also functioned as a tangible cue for action, encouraging vaccine uptake. **Results:** The Vaccination Centre operations kicked off on 3rd May 2021. In the span of 25 days, up until 28th May, we administered a remarkable total of 11,425 doses of vaccines. This achievement, which represented a significant proportion of the district's target population, was a clear testament to the acceptance and trust our community placed in our efforts, marking substantial headway towards achieving widespread immunity. **Conclusion:** The success story of the Kepong Health District Office underscores the transformative power of collaboration, proactive leadership, and strong organizational camaraderie in overcoming complex challenges. The experience aptly demonstrates the validity of the saying: teamwork makes the dream work. The COVID-19 vaccination drive has not only strengthened our public health response but also fortified the community's resilience and spirit of solidarity. Beyond its immediate outcomes, this initiative has provided invaluable lessons and reinforced our commitment to public health. It has demonstrated the profound potential of community-based strategies and cross-sectoral collaboration. This accomplishment, therefore, serves not only as a landmark in our battle against COVID-19 but also a beacon guiding our future public health initiatives. We stand testament to our community's capacity to rise to any occasion, united in purpose, and relentless in our pursuit of equitable healthcare.