

## Alert on Racial Discrimination in COVID-19 Vaccination

Dear Editor,

COVID-19 is a disease that started in late 2019 and after more than a year, according to the World Health Organization, there are more than 225 million confirmed cases and more than 4 million deaths in the world. This disease continues to take victims and the only solution to control it is vaccination.<sup>[1]</sup>

The discovery of the corona vaccine has been one of the most important human achievements, and so far, several vaccines including Pfizer–BioNTech, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson (Janssen), AstraZeneca, Sputnik V, Sinopharm, COVAXIN vaccine have been provided to countries around the world.

All countries are trying to vaccinate their people with the mentioned vaccines, but they are not being fairly distributed worldwide. Some of these vaccines are not available to all countries in the world, and such a situation has become practically the most obvious gap between rich and poor countries at present.<sup>[2]</sup>

In this critical situation, the World Health Organization is urging developed American and European countries to refrain from injecting a third or booster dose to their people, so that all the people of the world can access the vaccine. In Africa, which is the second-largest and most populous continent after Asia, there is practically no progress in vaccination, and according to statistics, less than 7% of its population has received only the first dose.<sup>[3]</sup> China, the largest producer and exporter of vaccines, and India have restricted vaccine exports to combat the wave of COVID-19 and the United States has stockpiled almost all of its birth vaccines for domestic use<sup>[4]</sup> and in such a situation, the hope of the countries of the world to deal with COVID-19 is the vaccine exporting countries, and also the recommendation of the World Health Organization is that If there is a safe vaccine to deal with COVID-19, the vaccine should be given. In such a critical and deplorable situation with the number of deaths increasing day by day, it is reported that some countries in the world only allow travelers who have used the approved vaccines, namely Pfizer – BioNTech, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson (Janssen), and AstraZeneca!<sup>[5]</sup>

The world has not yet passed the corona crisis. It is not safe yet and is still in shock of this disease and its high

mortality. How is it that some of the poorest countries in the world are involved in successive waves of corona and the rich countries are widening the gap between rich and poor and racial discrimination?

The global expectation is that rich countries will reduce their political thinking when such a crisis has occurred and control the crisis by helping poor countries. The world's expectation is that the rich countries will reduce their political thinking in such a situation where the global crisis has occurred and help the poor countries to control the crisis, While the plan of such thoughts will practically make all the efforts of the World Health Organization and different countries to deal with COVID-19 ineffective and create racial discrimination.

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MM contributed to the design, prepared the manuscript.

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There are no conflicts of interest.

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