

Report of the Virtual Room of 2nd September 2021

Topic	Should we take the COVID 19 Vaccine?
Date	22.09.2021
Number of participants	17
Meeting format	Online Virtual Room

The session started with an opening remark from the chairperson of African Impulse who welcomed and thanked all for taking time to attend the session. A brief introduction about the goals of African Impulse e.V. was given and the use of the virtual room to achieve these goals. The virtual room will serve as a platform to discuss diverse topics that concern the African migrants while using cross generational participants to have diverse opinions.

After introducing the moderator, the rules of the session were read and these rules (Invitation to dialog) formed the base of the fruitful debate we had:

Points for the vaccine:

- Reduces risk of catching the disease.
- Reduces the death rate.
- Vaccine has been well tested especially the ones available in Germany.
- Many negative information about the vaccine cannot be backed up scientifically.

Points against the Vaccine:

- Test period for the vaccine is too short.
- Side effects of the vaccine are being ignored.
- A participant confessed of experiencing an unusual side-effect after taking the vaccine.
- The fact that people are not tested if they already have antibodies of the vaccine could create complications if they take the vaccine with available antibodies.
- Too many information about the vaccine is kept secret to the population.
- Young people are being forced to take the vaccine although they must not.

Other Information:

- The discussions about the vaccine and the approach causes a lot of fear and anxiety.
- The vaccine is becoming a dividing factor among family members, friends and other members of the community between those who have taken the vaccine and those who haven't taken it.
- Vaccine is also causing some psychological pressure on community members.
- People who don't want to take the vaccine feel discriminated.

Conclusion:

Corona Virus exists and one needs to be cautious. Nevertheless, there is some indication that there is a conscious effort to create fear so that everyone must take the vaccine even if this may not be necessary. Young people should make an antibody test or other tests to understand their underlying health situation before taking the vaccine.

Thank you all for your participation.

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