

## Twitter as a Public Sphere for COVID-19 Vaccine Discussion

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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to discover how Gen Z discusses the COVID-19 vaccine through social media discussion, participation, and ideas in a virtual public space. Recently, online media coverage has been massive, especially regarding the COVID-19 vaccine produced in Indonesia or purchased by the Indonesian government from foreign countries. Another thing that was also discussed was the priority of the vaccine recipients, which ministers in Indonesia presented with different approaches. Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Culture, Muhadjir Effendy, emphasized that lecturers and teachers are prioritized to receive vaccines. Previously, the coordinating minister for the Economy, Airlangga Hartarto, said medical personnel was prioritized. The Chief Executive of COVID-19 Handling and National Economic Recovery Committee (KPCPEN), Erick Thohir, also stated that health workers were a priority.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Health, Terawan, noted that the priority for vaccine recipients is medic, paramedic, public services, TNI/Polri, and all educators. This variety of information and news is understood differently by the Indonesian people, including among Gen Z. Using the virtual public sphere, where freedom of expression in a democratic manner is the key to the emancipatory communication process. This research method uses extensive data analysis to collect conversations about the COVID-19 vaccine on social media, especially on Twitter, from 1-31 March 2021. The results show that although Generation Z is actively involved in the COVID-19 Vaccine discussion, they are not The Prominent Key Opinion Leader (KOL), who is the key player in communicating this issue via Twitter.

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### INTRODUCTION

Recently, online media coverage has been massive, especially regarding the COVID-19 vaccine produced in Indonesia or purchased from foreign countries. The Indonesian government is also reported to have secured doses of potential COVID-19 vaccines, as many as 100 million doses provided by the British-Swedish company Astra Zeneca. The agreement was reached through the visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno LP Marsudi, Minister of SOEs Erick Thohir, and a team from the Ministry of Health to the UK in mid-October 2020. Another thing that was also discussed was the priority of receiving the vaccine, which Ministers in Indonesia conveyed with a different approach. Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Culture (Menko PMK), Muhadjir Effendy, emphasized that lecturers and teachers are prioritized to receive the first vaccine. Previously, the government, through the Coordinating Minister for the Economy, Airlangga Hartarto, said that the priority was medical personnel. The Chief Executive of the COVID-19 Handling and National Economic Recovery Committee (KPCPEN), Erick Thohir, also stated that health workers were a priority.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Health, Terawan, stated that the priority for vaccine recipients is medical and paramedical, public services, TNI/Polri, and all educators. This variety of information and news is undoubtedly understood differently by the Indonesian people (Salim et al., 2021), including the younger generation. The younger

generation, especially the generation Z cohort category (born 1995-2010), is one of the groups actively discussing this issue (McCrimdell & Wolfinger, 2011).

The pros and cons, of course, will be released more than just that, including on various existing social media (Mayangsari & Salim, 2021). Social media, as one of the public spheres, is very open and is not taboo if different views and opinions exist. As long as differences and diverse discussions are emancipatory and participatory, it will be a healthy discussion space (Collins et al., 2020). It includes the younger generation. Some previous research shows how Gen Z is very active in using social media, including making social media a means of the public sphere (Lee & Leuang, 2015; Laouni, 2020; Ayish, 2018). The problem investigated in this study is how the actual discussion about the -19 vaccine plan has become the subject of discussion among Generation Z on various social media in Indonesia.

In various previous studies, his research mapped the younger generation, both Y and Z, and tended to discuss the use of social media as part of political activities. Meanwhile, this research is more focused on gene Z and the issue of vaccines, which are not solely based on political issues but also have health issues.

### A. Public Sphere

The public sphere is famous for the opinion of Jurgen Habermas, a German sociologist, in 1962 in his writing entitled *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere*. The public sphere is an essential concept in understanding a democracy. Habermas defines the public sphere as a public problem, where every individual who is part of the public has an equal portion in expressing an opinion and has freedom from other parties. However, it can create a public opinion expected to help the emergence of a fair public policy (Bruns & Highfield, 2015). This situation is expected to occur in every society that wants the presence of a prosperous civil society, civil society.

Hardiman (2010) also said that the public sphere aims to understand how democracy is in a complex globalized society in the early 21st century, formed by people who respect each other or the rights of one another. So the community will continue to pair up with the concept of public space, where the community aims to be public and who becomes an actor in the public space. The community or citizens form a political community with the right to political participation.

The public sphere is very close to various concepts of democracy, public opinion, political participation, and communication. In Indonesia, the emergence and development of the public sphere coincided with the opening of democracy after the fall of the New Order regime, which directly made Indonesia enter democracy. This change process is marked by the increasing number of public spaces being formed and increasing public participation, especially in conducting public oversight of government performance. Opening public spaces directly makes citizens participate in public decision-making, encouraging participants to be more meaningful (Siahaan, 2017).

Habermas classifies public space as consisting of community actors building public spaces, the plurality (families, informal groups, voluntary organizations), publicity including mass media and institutions, and privacy. Which is the area of development and individuals, and legality, which includes common law and rights base so that it conveys that there are many public spaces in the community (Aštuti, 2018). In addition, Habermas also categorizes three types of public spaces; (1) The public or political sphere, (2) the Literary public space, and (3) the Public sphere for representation/representation.

Meanwhile, success in the public sphere depends on; (1) The breadth of access, (2) The degree of autonomy (without coercion); (3) The rule of law; (4) the Quality of participation. The public space itself is said to function if it is based on representing a diversity of information, ideas, and opinions. In addition to the diversity of content, the ability to access information and the existing internet infrastructure is also essential in measuring a public sphere process that occurs in society (Loblich & Musiani, 2014).

### B. Social Media As Public Sphere

Habermas's idea later became the development of the public sphere. The scope of public space is extensive and is formed from natural processes in the interaction of individuals with public groups, namely the State and society. So, the State has a role in providing a public space that can become a space for community members as citizens who have full access to all public activities and have the right to do so independently, whether to convey it orally or in writing (Malik, 2018). In practice, this public space was developed face-to-face and through the internet.

Along with the development of technology and the presence of new media today, the popularity of the industrial revolution 4.0 will directly impact the media. The same applies to understanding the public sphere as technology grows and changes. The emergence of new media and developments in communication and technology has brought a significant transformation in terms of the conceptual realm of the public domain. Previously only included newspapers, television, radio, magazines, advertisements, and others represented in opinion rubrics, letters from readers, or voices of readers. Public space development is now not only physical and tangible, such as in coffee shops, salons, or the field.

Now the public space has adapted to the development of communication technology in virtual public space through social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Youtube, and others. It makes the virtual public space even

more prominent, which functions as a place to exchange information and communicate. It has expanded in the form of public activities to convey opinions and opinions in politics and democracy.

Currently, virtual public spaces have various forms and forms of means of communication. Virtual public space is better known through social media, which is very massively used by the millennial generation. Social media has also entered the realm of government, where regional and national governments have social media accounts as an entry point for meeting government officials with the community. So that the power of social media will directly make virtual public spaces more intensively used, including current conditions, namely when discussing the plan to give the covid 19 vaccine.

Various researchers from various countries have acknowledged that the internet is a massive public space. Social media is also part of the public space, inseparable from today's digital era. The internet and social media directly provide freedom for citizens to express opinions, participate, and at the same time, fight for the existence of democracy (Soon & Cho, 2011); (Nanabhay & Farmanfarmaian, 2011); (Espiritu, 2014); (Steinhardt, 2015); (Flores-Yeffal et al., 2019).

One social media that is also in demand by the young generation to carry out discussion activities is twitter. As part of the modern public sphere, Twitter has been widely researched, especially in terms of free expression and expressing opinions with various structures (Liu & Weber, 2014); (Bruns & Highfield, 2015); (Yang et al., 2017). One thing that continues to make young people use Twitter as a place for debate is the freedom to use accounts, including undercover identities. Twitter does not mind if its users use pseudonyms and do not use their real names or show their real identities. Unlike other social networking platforms that require a real name, Twitter gives its users the freedom to access Twitter according to their wishes and needs without the need to show the user's actual name because Twitter realizes that it provides much value for its users (Panjaitan et al., 2020)

### **C. Young Generation in the Public Sphere**

The existence of young people, including Generation Z, in the public space in the form of social media is fundamental. The younger generation can become relatively pure voices and become differentiating voices. It can also be gatekeepers and actors of social change in the discussion process in the public sphere and the functioning of the democratic order in a country (Ayish, 2018); (Lefevre, 2013); (Laouni, 2020).

There is no doubt that the younger generation has widely adopted networked digital media technology in all corners of the world. This trend has been reinforced significantly in recent years with the advent of social media platforms accessed through mobile apps and wireless technologies. By opening up new mobile spaces for interactive socialization, communication, and shared identity, social media is increasingly facilitating global mass collaboration, creativity, and discussion between individuals worldwide (Loader, 2014). At this stage, the process public sphere has begun to occur without realizing its presence in the younger generation. The practice of communicating on openness, expressive and argumentative way has been very often used by young people on various social media platforms. They do not recognize that it is part of a participatory and democratic communication process, as described by Habermas.

The results of a similar study (Ayun, 2015) showed that teenagers use social media because they want to establish communication with their friends. So they decided to have more than one social media account. In addition to the individual values displayed on social media, teenagers try to create a positive image of themselves on social media. Teens love to display their Smart identity, look happy, and showcase hobbies or activities they like.

Studies still reject social media use among the younger generation, especially Gen Y, as part of political discussions and participation in the public sphere because they are considered too afraid of harassment through online media and in the workplace. They are unwilling to discuss with different political groups and only look for fun on social media (Kruse et al., 2018). Of course, this assumption needs to be studied more deeply, considering the different characteristics of Gen Y and Z.

The difference in the cohort between generations cannot help but be a separate study if we want to listen to the various existing approaches. This generational cohort distinguishes several perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors among different cohorts (Hajdu & Sik, 2018); (Mckercher et al., 2020), including differences in their social media use habits (Brown, 2016);(Ohme et al., 2020) (Mckercher et al., 2020). Based on the explanation above, this study aims to find out how Gen Z carries out the discussion about the COVID-19 vaccine through social media discussion, participation, and ideas in a virtual public space.

## **METHOD**

This research approach uses a qualitative approach with big data analytics. Extensive data analysis is the process of extracting useful information by analyzing various types of large data sets. Big data analytics finds hidden patterns, trends, audience preferences, and more. The discussion of an issue on social media is undoubtedly extensive in number. In this section, the data is called big data.

The rise of social media has generated tremendous interest among internet users today. Data from these social networking sites can use for several purposes, such as prediction, marketing, or sentiment analysis. Twitter is a social media site that posts comments through short statuses. Millions of tweets received each year can be subjected to sentiment analysis. Using existing big data tools will facilitate researchers' work in analyzing the phenomena in conversations on Twitter (Kumar & Bala, 2016).

The method used in this research is content analysis with a big data analysis tool. Big data will be collected using a data crawling tool through the Drone Emprit Academy (DEA) quantitatively with networking statistical analysis (NSA). The keyword used in this big data is 'covid-19 vaccine'. Conversations that are captured are specific to those in Indonesia. The analysis will be carried out after finding data in terms of the number of conversations (mentions), engagement (engagement), sentiment (positive and negative), potential reach (potential reach), and the top 10 influencers/gatekeeper. The researcher will examine the top 10 gatekeepers who predict they will come from young people.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

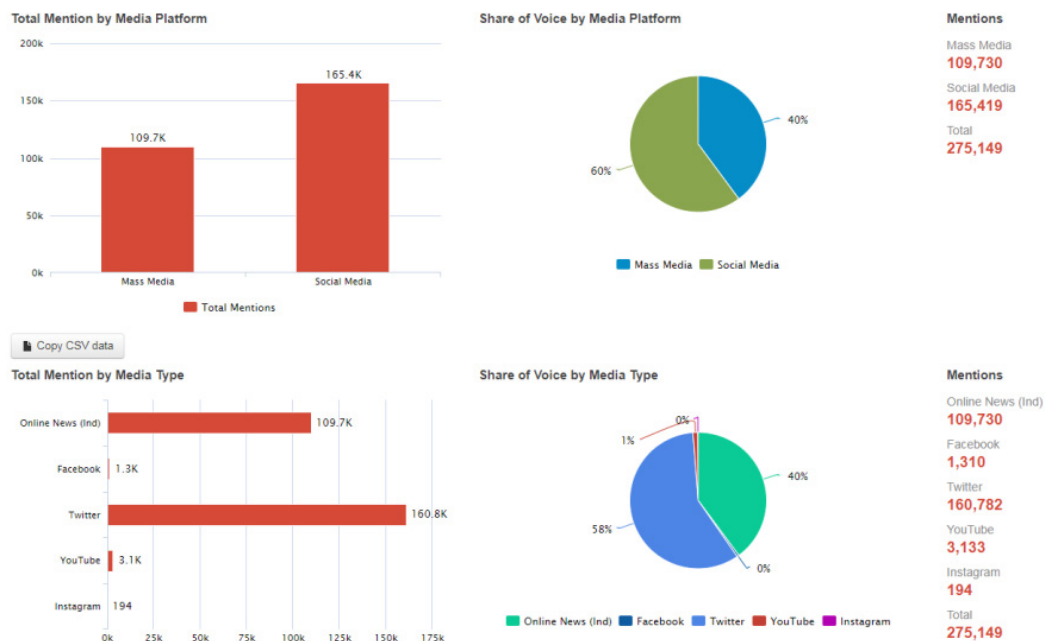


Fig. 1. Total Mention and Share of Voice

Based on the graphic data shown in Fig. 1, it is conveyed that most conversations about vaccines are on social media, 165.4k with a comparison of 109.7k on mass media, with the number of conversations being shared as much as 275,149 on social media and 109,730 on mass media. In the graphic data, the total mentions used by the younger generation in conversations about vaccines are 109.7k on online news, 3.1k on YouTube, and 160.8k on Twitter. At the same time, the share of voice is also the majority on Twitter, as much as 160,782. On online news, as much as 109,730; on YouTube, as much as 3,133, as well as other data on social media, Facebook, and Instagram. From this data, it is clear that young people do prefer Twitter as a discussion space compared to other social media. This situation is similar to the research trend of (Burgess, 2016), who found that Twitter dominates the digital conversation and discussion space compared to other social media.

It explains that the millennial generation uses social media, especially Twitter, to find information and converse on specific topics, including the COVID-19 vaccine discussion. Twitter, which has a retweet and mention feature for each post between users, is more accessible for users to discuss specific topics and issues, including the COVID-19 vaccine.

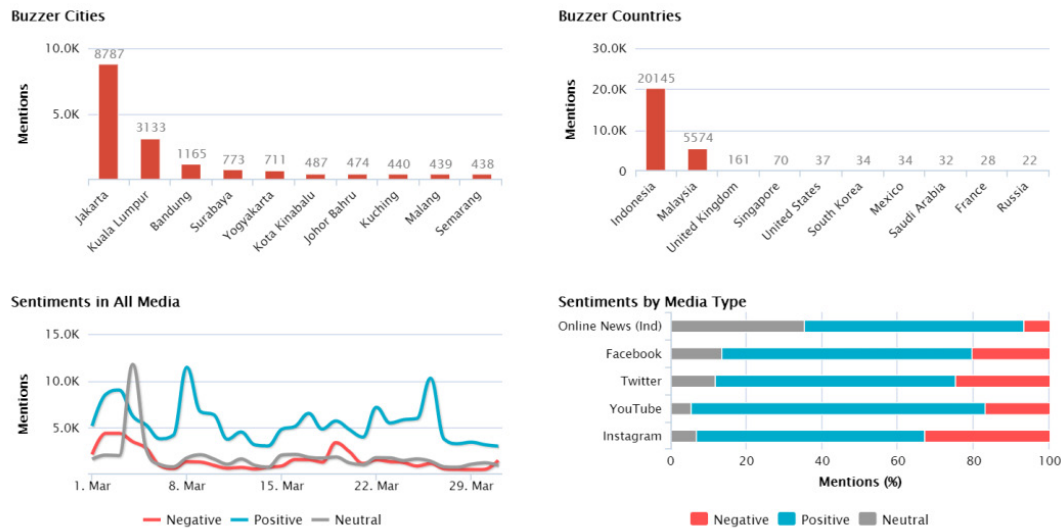


Fig. 2. Media Sentiments

Before explaining further, the researcher limits the definition of the buzzer in this research. Buzzers here are actors on Twitter who persuade their followers to receive information related to an issue or brand. In their online activity, buzzers update general information to share.

In the buzzer chart data, as seen in Fig. 2 above, the number of mentions discussing the COVID-19 vaccine is the majority of the younger generation from Indonesia. With the city of Jakarta as many as 8,787, then 1,165 from the city of Bandung, and 773 from the city of Surabaya, followed by other cities such as Yogyakarta, Malang, and Semarang. The conversations discussed on social media through mentions show positive sentiments, and negative and neutral sentiments show almost the exact graphic figures. Although positive and neutral sentiments showed the same position at the beginning of March, neutral sentiments continued to decline until the end of March 2021.

It shows that the sentiments above follow the initial media coverage of the COVID-19 vaccine that the government conveyed through the mass media, so this news also gave rise to conversations, discussions, and information exchange through social media, especially Twitter, used by the younger generation. The conversation that co-occurred showed the younger generation’s reaction and response regarding implementing the COVID-19 vaccine set by the government.

Fig. 2 shows that the conversations carried out by the younger generation led to the pros compared to the cons, as well as showing the position or alignment of the younger generation in the conversation.

A. Demographics

Table 1. Demographic

Demography By Age  
Total Users By Age Group  
Statistics by Age Group

Total Posts By Age Group

Age Group	Users	Users (%)	Posts	Posts (%)	Retweeted	Mentions	Replies
18	6,727	26.42 %	16,055	22.03 %	12,981	2,363	711
19-29	12,695	49.86 %	31,019	42.57 %	24,303	5,381	1,334
30-39	2,405	9.45%	8,43	11.57 %	5,45	2,487	492
40	3,636	14.28 %	17,368	23.83 %	7,175	8,415	1,774

User Statistics	
Active users	59,644
Identified Users	25,463
Identified Users (%)	42.69 %

**Demography By Gender**  
**Total Users By Gender**

Statistics by Gender			Total Posts By Gender				
Gender	Users	Users (%)	Posts	Posts (%)	Retweeted	Mentions	Replies
male	17,149	67.35 %	53,399	73.28 %	35,554	14,42	3,419
female	8,314	32.65 %	19,473	26.72 %	14,355	4,226	892

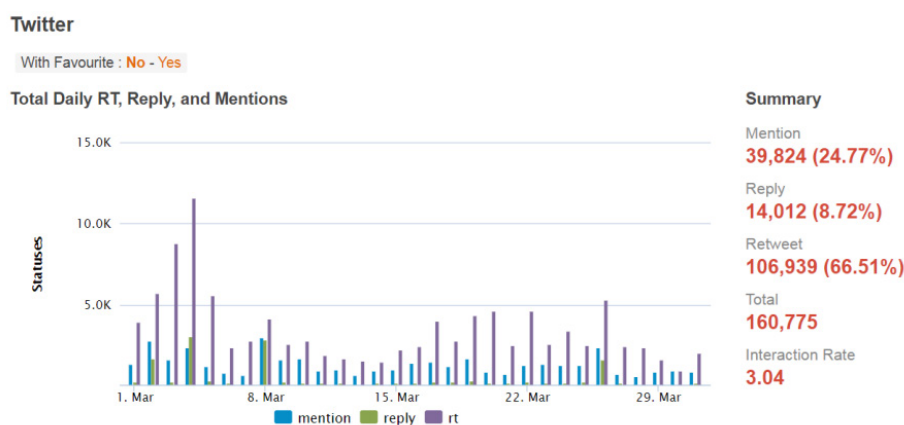
User Statistics	
Active users	59,644
Identified Users	25,463
Identified Users (%)	42.69 %

In the demographic category, Table 1 shows the age of the younger generation involved in the conversation is the age range of 19-29 years, namely as the owner of a Twitter social media account, or 49.86%, with 31,019 posts (tweets), 24,303 retweeted, 5,381 mentions and as many as 1,334 replies made in the COVID-19 vaccine conversation. Although the data also shows that the mentions or replies feature is done mainly by the 40-year-old age range, the statistical data for combining the majority of users are in the younger generation group in the age group of 19-29 years.



**Fig. 3.** The trends of interaction rate

The interaction trend in Fig 3 shows that the COVID-19 vaccine conversation from the beginning until the end of March 2021 remains unchanged on the curve. It continued to increase in early March, but decreased in mid-March 2021, then increased again at the end of March. Referring to the news on the implementation of the covid 19 vaccine, early March 2021 is the time for the first covid 19 vaccine implementation submission. Covid 19 vaccine implementation begins at the end of March 2021. Hence, the news frequency also affects the activities, conversations, and interactions of the younger generation on Twitter, as shown in Fig. 4.



**Fig. 4.** Total daily RT, Reply, and Mentions on Twitter

Meanwhile, if we look at the five most retweeted tweets, it turns out that in March 2021, a lot happened to Twitter that Twitter account owners from Malaysia tweeted. The similarity in the use of Indonesian and Malay seems to indicate a point of intersection and a meeting between Twitter account owners from Indonesia and Malaysia. Especially in the discussion of the Covid-19 vaccine, as seen in Fig. 5.

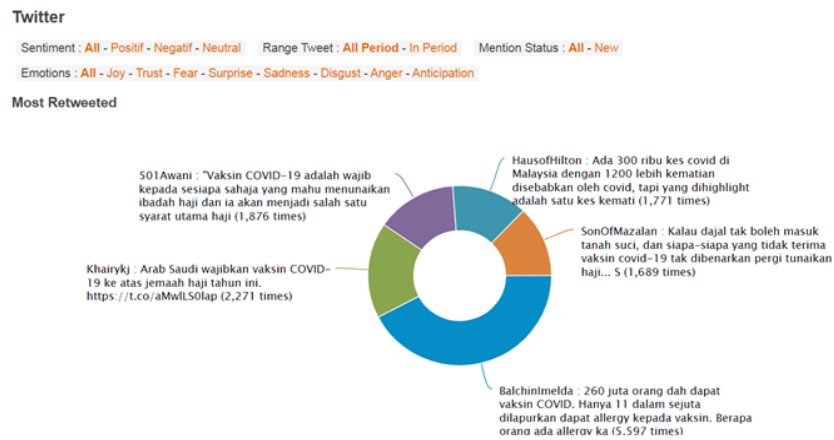


Fig. 5. Most retweeted

**B. Indonesian Twitter Account on the Issue of the COVID-19 Vaccine.**

When this research was conducted, Malaysia’s buzzers and influencers monopolized the Covid-19 Vaccine issue discussion. Many accounts from Indonesia are still actively spreading on Twitter about the Covid-19 Vaccine issue, as seen from the data collection results from the Drone Emprit Academy (DEA) big data engine in Table 2.

Table 2. Most engaged user account who spread data about Vaccine Covid-19

No	Most Engaged Users	Post	No	Most Engaged Users	Post	No	Most Engaged Users	Post
1	@Balchinmelda	6,124	21	@JapenSarawak	1,26	41	@NinjaCir3ng	474
2	@iokowi	5,209	22	@sinach_z	1,189	42	@hmetromy	464
3	@JPenerangan	4,147	23	@dirgarambe	1,079	43	@BidhumasKalbar	458
4	@KKMPutraiaya	4,147	24	@triwul82	1,073	44	@UyokBack	456
5	@Khairvki	3,142	25	@suhazeli	1,005	45	@drzul_albakri	451
6	@DGHisham	2,782	26	@AirinNzBergincu	961	46	@mochamadarip	441
7	@NayDonuts	2,585	27	@polisi iatim	958	47	@RTM_Malaysia	425
8	@501Awani	2,429	28	@JapgnSabah	851	48	@poldasulsel_	416
9	@ltrenggalek	2,008	29	@rezarazali	840	49	@grobogan_polres	410
10	@JapenTerengganu	1,963	30	@MKNJPM	777	50	@kompascom	402
11	@JKJAVMY	1932	31	@DocMummy22	740	51	@sociotalker	394
12	@HausofHilton	1,828	32	@katzen_jammer	684	52	@BernamaTV	383
13	@SonOfMazalan	1,691	33	@geloraco	627	53	@YN__79	353
14	@KemenkesRI	1,565	34	@detikcom	624	54	@arusbaik_id	350
15	@poldajateng	1,414	35	@CNNIndonesia	615	55	@kumpanan	349
16	@ProfesorZubairi	1346	36	@HumasPoldaJatim	553	56	@JaPenWPKL	343
17	@HumasPolres Bin	1,342	37	@DrBeniRusani	542	57	@asumsico	331
18	@fahmirusliMFR	1,312	38	@muannas_alaidid	528	58	@ferdiriva	324
19	@bernamadotcom	1,309	39	@CCICPolri	502	59	@Wedhus999	310
20	@DrAdhamBaba	1,275	40	@tempodotco	490	60	@H_Bakkaniy	310

From the top 100 list with the most engagement, then the researchers took the top 10 from account owners who are personal and Indonesian. After reviewing it more deeply, the ten people are ranked seven @NayDonuts, then 23 @dirgarambe, 24 @triwul82, 32 @katzen\_jammer, 38 @muannas\_alaidid, 41 @NinjaCir3ng, 46 @mochamadarip, 51 @sociotalker, position 58 @ferdiriva and finally position 59 on the account @Wedhus999.

The ten accounts were examined individually to see if they were organic or bot accounts and whether they were influencers or buzzers. In Indonesia, some influencers who get paid are known as buzzers. They are in charge of carrying out campaigns on social media. Usually, they correlate highly with their followers (Suciati et al., 2019). Buzzers spread information deliberately, with specific themes and issues according to the party renting it. In some countries, they are sometimes referred to as Trolls. So in this paper, we understand two definitions of a buzzer with two different meanings.

After looking at the pattern of each account, it can be seen that five buzzers are suspected of being unclear and whose true identities are not revealed, namely: @NayDonuts, @triwul82, @katzen\_jammer, @NinjaCir3ng, @Wedhus999. Even though the five accounts received much engagement, a vast number of these engagements were not organic but done mainly by other bot accounts. When researchers rechecked for accounts @NayDonuts and @Wedhus999 a few months after the research was over, both accounts had been suspended. There are many ways and tools to detect fake accounts on Twitter. Detection methods are used with further analysis to find out and distinguish real users and fake users. However, they aim to protect other Twitter users from fake news and spammy information (Çıtak et al., 2019).

In the demographic category, Table 1 shows the age of the younger generation involved in the conversation is the age range of 19-29 years, namely as the owner of a Twitter social media account, or 49.86%, with 31,019 posts (tweets), 24,303 retweeted, 5,381 mentions and as many as 1,334 replies made in the COVID-19 vaccine conversation. Although the data also shows that the mentions or replies feature is done mainly by the 40-year-old age range, the statistical data for combining the majority of users are in the younger generation group in the age group of 19-29 years.

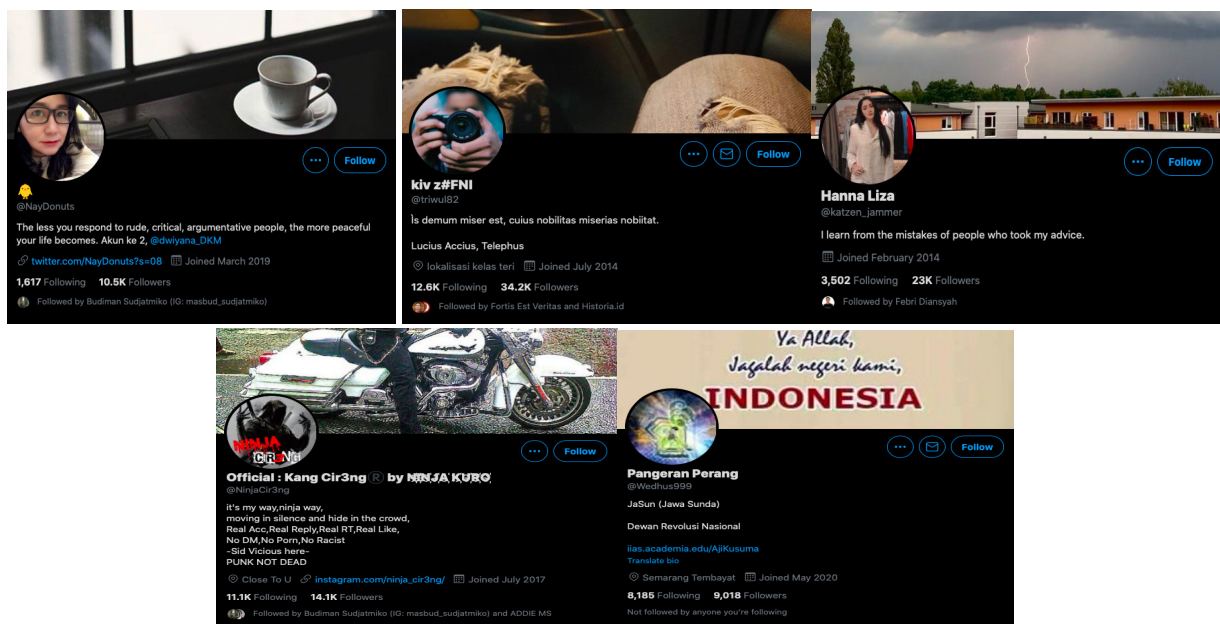


Fig. 6. Unclear Twitter account

Meanwhile, the other five accounts are organic, namely @dirgarambe, @muannas\_alaidid, @mochamadarip, @sociotalker, and @ferdiriva. The five accounts show the widespread retweet pattern and have a diversity of followers that are not just bot accounts. The @dirgarambe account is an account owned by dr. Dirga Sakti Rambe, M.Sc, Sp.PD. He is Internal Medicine Specialist who actively serves patients at EMC Pulomas Hospital. He earned his specialist degree after completing his education at the University of Indonesia, Depok. Vaccine experts who are members of the Indonesian Doctors Association (IDI) as members can provide consultation services about internal medicine (Halodoc, n.d.). The @muannas\_alaidid account is owned by Muannas Alaidid, Founder & Lawyer at Law Firm Muannas Alaidid & Associates - Founder of Indonesian Cyber I, Executive Director of The Committee-PMH. He is best known as a lawyer with a variety of controversial cases. The @mochamadarip account is owned by a young man who claims to be a culinary entrepreneur, Interested in investment & cryptocurrency, loves to walk and travel, and is also a local culture philosophy books enthusiast. The owner of the @sociotalker account is Prof Sulfikar Amir, a disaster sociology expert at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. He is known to often criticize the government in handling the pandemic. One is about the corona vaccination program independently (Kumparan, 2021). The @ferdiriva account is owned by



Ferdiriva Hamzah, MD, a full-time Ophthalmologist at JEC Eye Hospital, who graduated in 2002 from a medical school in Medan. He continued his study as an Ophthalmologist at the University of Indonesia. After that, he joined training in India and became a cataract and LASIK surgeon, including LASIK with a microkeratome, Femtosecond LASIK, and Epi-LASIK since 2008. He is often invited to be a guest speaker for health-themed events on mass and digital media, realizing that he is one of the bests in his field as an ophthalmologist (Jec, n.d.) From the data of the account owner, it can be seen that two accounts belong to professional doctors, one account belongs to a professor in engineering, one account belongs to a lawyer, and one account belongs to a social media influencer.



Fig. 7 . Active Twitter account.

However, the conversations and discussions seemed to have slight diversity, as did the relatively weak participation. It means that the discussion material seems to only question the pros and cons, not discussing other issues beyond that, even though the issue of the covid vaccine is extensive. The public sphere often resembles the traditional form, with elite players such as news portals, experts, and companies participating, but differs significantly in terms of the mechanisms for disseminating information. Experts are significant in commenting, conveying, and understanding information (Yang et al., 2017).

In this study, it does not appear that the public sphere does not work as a democratization tool for ordinary citizens, including young people. Participation in the public sphere should be diverse, and the involvement should be active with an emancipatory nature. This study, as well as previous studies conducted by (Rauchfleisch et al., 2021), shows that the pandemic causes a narrowing of the topic agenda and a more inward-oriented public sphere, with increased Twitter activity by experts. Furthermore, actors from the social periphery can reach the center of public discourse with their tweets. However, this study does not indicate the existence of the concept of public space as part of a communication network.

## CONCLUSION

Discussions about the Covid-19 vaccine were held simultaneously in Indonesia and Malaysia. In addition, this conversation is dominated by buzzers, influencers, and government institutions. There are few young influencers for Twitter users in Indonesia with the Covid-19 vaccine issue.

Ten (10) personal accounts from Indonesia whose position was tracked at 7 (2,585 RT/Reply) - 59 (310 RT/Reply) out of the top 100 engagements. Looks less prominent than the Twitter account from Malaysia. Five (5) accounts from Indonesia are suspected to be non-organic buzzers: @NayDonuts, @triwul82, @katzen\_jammer, @NinjaCir3ng, @Wedhus999. For accounts @NayDonuts and @Wedhus999, both accounts had been suspended from Twitter.

The public sphere is not visible because the quality of participation needs to be visible. Likewise, the representation of the diversity of information does not occur, and the ideas and opinions are relatively the same carried out by the existing buzzers and influencers. The public sphere, which has a predominantly participatory, emancipatory, and democratic nature, is not found on Twitter on the issue of COVID-19 vaccines.

The research suggests that the government and various related stakeholders should involve young people more to discuss the issue of COVID-19 vaccines. The discussion is undoubtedly by strengthening the younger generation to better understand the substance and benefits of the Covid-19 vaccine. Includes providing space for different views, thus making the public sphere more participatory, emancipatory, and democratic. The use of social media influencers among young people is essential because discussions between peer groups will open a more comprehensive forum for discussion.

Further research that can be developed is to conduct a more in-depth focus group discussion on young people (Z generations) who have been influencers groups who have become gatekeepers on political issues and health communication.

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