**Ethical issues in vaccine roll-outs**

A principled and pragmatic approach to securing and allocating Covid-19 vaccines works best

By Chuah Mei Hoong

**Home Ground**

The government’s decision to make vaccination a compulsory exercise for all new employees in the civil service and civil servants, the Health and Frontier Services and the Ministry of Education, in order to ensure high vaccination rates, is a responsible move, but it also raises ethical questions. The government has to ensure that the vaccine is safe and effective, and that the benefits of vaccination outweigh the risks. It should also consider the impact of vaccination on the economy and society, and the potential for vaccine hoarding or nationalism. The government should also ensure that the vaccine is distributed fairly and equitably, and that the information about vaccination is accurate and transparent. It is important to avoid a situation where the vaccine is used as a tool for political advantage or to foster divisions, and to ensure that the vaccine is available to everyone, regardless of their socio-economic status.

**MOVING TARGET**

The government is facing a number of challenges in ensuring that the vaccine is distributed fairly and equitably, and that the information about vaccination is accurate and transparent. It is important to avoid a situation where the vaccine is used as a tool for political advantage or to foster divisions, and to ensure that the vaccine is available to everyone, regardless of their socio-economic status. The government should also consider the impact of vaccination on the economy and society, and the potential for vaccine hoarding or nationalism. The government should also ensure that the vaccine is distributed fairly and equitably, and that the information about vaccination is accurate and transparent. It is important to avoid a situation where the vaccine is used as a tool for political advantage or to foster divisions, and to ensure that the vaccine is available to everyone, regardless of their socio-economic status.

**Singapore has adopted a principled and pragmatic approach. By taking part in Covax, it reinforces its commitment to multilaterism. As a responsible member of the international community, it did not impose export restrictions on essential medical supplies and even worked with New Zealand to get other countries to make commitments to do likewise, to ensure smooth supply chains. At the same time, it has pragmatically made sure to place early orders for promising vaccines even in the development phase. This has led to the salutary situation where Singapore is able to vaccinate its citizens at a steady clip.**