

ABSTRACT

This research aims to uncover the intricate interplay between social trust, government trust, cultural backgrounds, and compliance behaviour regarding COVID-19 rules in Norway, particularly within the international student community in Kristiansand associated with the University of Agder. Focusing on Norway's renowned high level of social trust, this study delves into its profound impact on compliance behaviour of pandemic rules during the pandemic. Specifically, it explores how trust in the government influences compliance, highlighting the direct correlation between the University's regulations and governmental directives. Employing a phenomenological research approach, this study conducts semi-structured interviews with individuals from Indonesia, Norway, and Nepal—countries characterized by varying levels of societal trust. The findings reveal a nuanced spectrum of social trust-related behaviours and compliance attitudes among international students in Kristiansand with different cultural background. Additionally, it rigorously examines International and Norwegian students amid the pandemic. This research underscores the pivotal role of decision-making processes, policy development, and the influence of diverse cultural backgrounds in shaping social trust dynamics in Norway. Ultimately, this study emphasizes the critical importance of comprehending these factors for fostering and sustaining social trust, particularly within multicultural communities, during global health crises. The research reveals that social trust plays a pivotal moderating role in the impact of trust in government on compliance behaviour. Through in-depth exploration, it becomes evident that cultural backgrounds significantly influence the manifestation of social trust and subsequently affect compliance attitudes.

Keywords: Social Trust, Trust in Government, Compliance Behaviour, Norway, Covid-19