

A Descriptive Study to Assess the Knowledge and Attitude Towards HPV Vaccination among Students of Selected School at Ludhiana Punjab

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Cervical cancer is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer worldwide and fourth leading cause of cancer in women. HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI).. But there are vaccines that can stop these health problems from happening.

Aim: The study was carried out to assess the knowledge and attitude towards HPV vaccination among students of school.

Methodology: A descriptive research design was used to assess the attitude and knowledge of 60 students in selected school by sampling techniques who were studying in the school of Ludhiana, Punjab. A self structured questionnaire tool was used to assess the knowledge and attitude with method.

Results: It shows that 3% of students having good knowledge (5%) and 46% of students having average knowledge (76.6%) and 11% of students having poor knowledge (18.3%). This study shows that 49% of the students having unfavourable attitude (81.6%) and remaining 11% the student having favourable attitude (18.3%) regarding HPV vaccination.

Conclusion: Hence, it is concluded that the majority of students having average knowledge and majority of student having unfavourable attitude towards HPV vaccination.

Keywords: *Assess, knowledge, attitude, HPV Vaccination, School students*

Introduction

Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among aged 15-44 years in India. Every year 50,000 new cases are diagnosed and 27,000 women dies of this disease, mostly 85% in developing countries, worldwide 15% of all cancer cases and nearly 26% of cancer cases in developing countries are attributable of infectious agent, particularly viruses. 67,477 new cases of cervical cancer deaths occur annually in India. Cervical cancer which is caused by human papilloma virus (HPV) is the leading cause of cancer mortality in 70-80 % cases¹. The approval and recommendation of two vaccines – Gardasil and Cervarix – help to reduce the burden of cervical cancer. These include high cost of vaccine and vaccine delivery, low cervical cancer screening levels, inaccessibility to medical care, low awareness and knowledge of HPV and cervical cancer, and failure of cervical cancer to recognized as a major

health concern. Lack of knowledge of cervical cancer in the population and among health care worker is a prime barrier of access to cervical cancer in the population and to cervical cancer prevention. It is crucial that Indian students should be aware of the advances and especially of those interventions, which can be utilized, in low resource settings. Cancer of the cervix is a major health problem in India and account for 26.1 to 43.8% of all cancers in Indian women.⁴ Students were chosen because they will be sought by the population as the first line information resources in clearing myth and spreading awareness regarding cervical cancer in future when they become clinicians. Educational initiative targeting youth have a definite role in promoting vaccine acceptance and can positively influence screening for cervical cancer.⁵

Human papilloma virus, which infect 20 million people in US and cause cervical cancer and genital warts. The vaccine is widely recommended for girls

and women aged (11-26) whereas, new launched HPV vaccine (Cervarix) approved in early 2008, could help to reduce the virus load in women who are already infected with HPV. A woman should vaccinate with HPV upto 26 years of age, if she is not vaccinated early.²

HPV infection or virus is the viral infection that is passed between people through skin to skin contact. There are more than 100 varieties of HPV, 40 of which are passed through sexual contact and can affect your genital, mouth or throat. According to centers for disease control and prevention (CDC), HPV is most common infection that affects both men and women. Most people get HPV through direct sexual contact, such as oral sex.³

Risk of HPV infection is anyone who had sexual skin to skin contact is at risk for HPV infection. It is impossible to know who will develop health problems from HPV, but people with weakened immune system may be more at risk.²

Prevention of HPV infection is easiest way to prevent HPV is to use condoms and to limit the number of sexual partners. In addition, CDC recommends the HPV vaccine for boys and girls at age of 11 and 12. Women and men can get vaccinated until age of 26. The vaccine is said to protect against types of HPV know to be associated with cancer and also to prevent some type of cancer cause warts.³

Methodology

It include research design of the study, research setting, target population, sample and sample technique, data collection tools and technique pilot study and plan for data collection and data analysis.

Research Design: Descriptive research design is used to assess the knowledge of students of the selected school at Ludhiana, Punjab.

Research Setting: This study is conducted in selected school at Ludhiana, Punjab.

Target Population: The target population is adolescent between the age group of 13-19 years of selected school at Ludhiana, Punjab.

Sample Size: The sample size is 60 students between the age group of 13-19 years.

Sampling Techniques: The sample is drawn using purposive sampling techniques, which are purposeful sampling techniques, keeping in mind the following inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion Criteria: Students who are:

- Student between the age group of 13-19 years in the selected school at Ludhiana, Punjab
- Willing to participate

Exclusion Criteria

- Students less then age group of 13 years
- Those who are absent during data collection.

Analysis and Interpretation of Data

In frequency and percentage distribution it has been depicted that According to age, (43.3%) respondent belongs to age group of 18 years followed by (30%) respondent of age group 17 years. One fourth (28.3%) falls in the age group of 15 years and (23.3%) of respondent belong to age group 16 years. According to gender, more than the half of respondent (56.6%) were female and near to half (43.3%) were males. According to class, more than half of respondent (75%) were the student of +2 and rested over (25%) of respondent were from +1. According to course category, the higher percentage of the respondent of non medical (55%), medical (36.6%) and commerce (8.3%). According to academic Performa, the highest percentage of the respondent 71-80% is (58.3%), 61-70% is (28.3%) and 81-90 % is (13.3). According to education of father, the higher percentage is of secondary (65%), graduation and above (23.3%), and primary 11.65%. According to education of mother, the higher percentage is of secondary (65%), graduation and above (21.6%), and primary (1.6%). According to monthly income, (43.3%) respondent had income 10001-20000, followed by (33.3%) had income 20001-30000, and (23.3%) had income >30001. According to religion, the Sikh respondent had (93.3%) and the Hindu respondent had (6.6%). According to knowledge of Pap smear test, (81.6%) respondents are unaware, whereas (18.3%) respondents are aware. According to habitat, more than half (95%) of respondents belongs from rural area and (5%) belongs from urban area.

In the percentage distribution of knowledge score of the subjects regarding among students it is depicted that more than half (76.6%) of the respondents had Average knowledge, followed by 5% had good knowledge and 18.3% respondents had poor knowledge regarding HPV vaccination. Hence, it was concluded that the some students had good knowledge about HPV vaccination.

In the percentage distribution of attitude of the subjects regarding among students. students it is depicted that more than half (81.6%) of the respondents had unfavourable attitude, followed by 18.3% of the respondents had favourable attitude regarding HPV vaccination. Hence, it was concluded that most of the students had unfavourable attitude about HPV vaccination

The association between the knowledge and with all social demographic variables was mostly found to be statistically non significant as ($p>0.05$) except education status of father and academic Performa of students was found to be statistically highly significant as ($p=0.01^*$) as calculated by ANOVA and t-test. Therefore, it can be concluded that education of father and academic Performa has impact on HPV vaccination.

Implications: The findings of the study have several implications in nursing education, nursing practice, nursing administration and nursing research.

Nursing Education: The finding of the present study shows the result regarding knowledge about HPV vaccination among students. It helps to assess the knowledge and attitude of HPV vaccination of student in the field of nursing education.

Nursing Administration: Nurse administrator can utilize the findings of study and imparting HPV vaccine education to the students. It also makes provision of theoretical skill facilities for students having less knowledge.

Nursing Practices: Health care professional, nurses are well positioned to advocate individual and family in implementing the knowledge on HPV vaccination. There is need to arouse interest among students regarding HPV vaccination.

Nursing Research: The findings of the study provide baseline data about knowledge of HPV vaccination among students (13-19) age group. The nurses will come to know about the knowledge of student regarding HPV vaccination. So, they can conduct further research in this area.

Limitation

- The size of the sample under study was limited to 60 students. Hence, results cannot be generalized due to limited sample size.
- Data collection was based on information provided by the subject

The study was limited to residing in selected school of a selected village at Ludhiana

Ethical Consideration:

- The study was conducted after approval from ethical committee of SKSS CON Sarabha.
- A written permission was taken from principal college of nursing Sarabha.
- Consent was taken from all students between the age group of 13-19 years those who are studying in selected school at Ludhiana Punjab and it was assured this information would be kept confidential.

Conflict of Interest: There is no conflict of interest

Source of Funding: Self

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