

A Descriptive Study to Assess the Level of Knowledge Regarding HPV Vaccination and prevention of Cervical Cancer Among Nursing Students with A View to Develop an Information Pamphlet

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Abstract

Background: Cervical cancer is mainly caused by persistent infection with the Human Papillomavirus (HPV). HPV vaccination is an effective method to prevent cervical cancer by protecting against high-risk HPV types. The vaccine is recommended for girls aged 9-14 years, ideally before the onset of sexual activity. It is safe, effective and usually given in 2 or 3 doses depending on age.

Materials & Methods: A descriptive quantitative research design was used. The study was conducted among 40 nursing students at Meerut Nursing College, Meerut using convenient sampling technique. Data were collected using a self-structured knowledge questionnaire.

Results: 10% participants had excellent knowledge, 25% had good knowledge and 50% had good knowledge and 15% had poor knowledge regarding HPV vaccine and prevention of cervical cancer. No statistically significant association was found between knowledge and demographic variables.

Conclusion: Nursing students have moderate knowledge about HPV vaccination and prevention of cervical cancer. The study highlights the urgent need of awareness. awareness is still insufficient as many lacked prior knowledge.

Keywords: HPV Vaccination, Nursing students, Knowledge and Prevention of cervical cancer.

13Cervical cancer is mainly caused by persistent infection with the Human Papillomavirus (HPV). HPV vaccination is an effective method to prevent cervical cancer by protecting against high-risk HPV types.¹ The primary cause of cervical cancer is infection with the Human Papillomavirus (HPV). Cervical cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer related deaths among women.^{2,3}

The world health organization (who) recommends

HPV vaccination for adolescent girls, ideally before they become sexually active.^{4,5} Despite the availability and proven effectiveness of the HPV vaccine, its acceptance and uptake remain low in many regions. Including parts of India.^{6,7,9}

Therefore, this research becomes particularly timely and important in providing baseline data on the level of knowledge regarding HPV vaccination among nursing students.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To assess the level of knowledge regarding the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine and Prevention of Cervical Cancer among the target population.
- 2) To find out the association between knowledge score and their selected demographic variable.
- 3) To develop and distribute comprehensive pamphlet on key information about HPV vaccination and prevention of Cervical Cancer.

MATERIALS & METHODS

A quantitative research approach with descriptive research design was adopted. The study was conducted at Meerut Nursing College, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. The population included nursing students studying in the college.

A total of 40 participants were selected using convenient sampling technique. Data were collected using a self-structured questionnaire consisting of demographic variables and 30 knowledge-based multiple choice questions on infection and prevention of cervical cancer.

Each correct response was given one mark. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics such as frequency and percentage. Inferential statistics (Chi-square test) was used to determine association between knowledge and demographic variables.

RESULTS

Majority of the participants (55%) were in the age group of 17-19 years, 32.33% were in the 20-21 years 10% were in the age group of 22- 23, 2.5% were in the age group of 24-25.

Regarding educational qualification, 2.5% had degree of ANM, 97.5% had degree of GNM. 10% participants had excellent knowledge, 25% had good knowledge and 50% had good knowledge and 15% had poor knowledge regarding HPV vaccine and prevention of cervical cancer. No statistically significant association was found between knowledge and demographic variables.

Chi-square test indicated no statistically significant association between knowledge level and selected demographic variables such as age, gender, educational status and years of experience.

S. NO	Demographic variable	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age	22	55.0
	a) 17-19 years	13	32.5
	b) 20-21 Years	4	10.0
	c) 22-23 Years	1	2.5
	d) 24-25 Year		
2.	Educational Status	1	2.5
	a) ANM	39	97.5
	b) GNM	0	100.0
	c) BSC (Nursing)		
3.	Do you have previous knowledge regarding HPV Vaccination?	18	45
	a. Yes	22	55
	b. No		

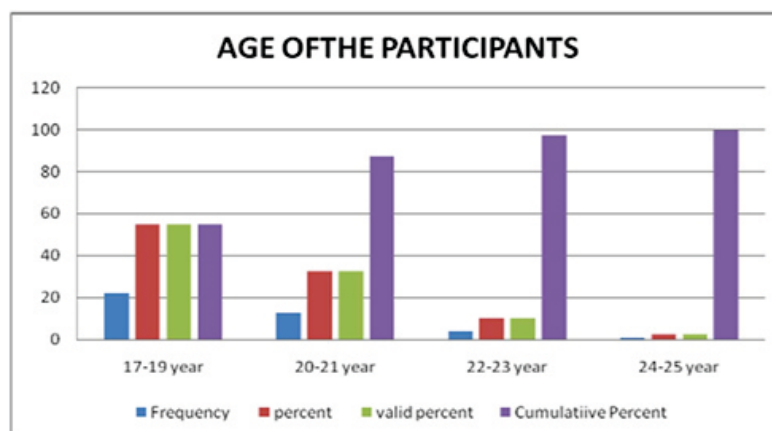


Fig1. The graph reveals the distribution of different ages from which the Nursing students belong. It shows that 55% of nursing students are 17 years of age, 32.33% of girls are 20 years of age, 10% are 22 years of age, and the rest, 2.5%, are 25 years of age.

DISTRIBUTION OF KNOWLEDGE SCORE

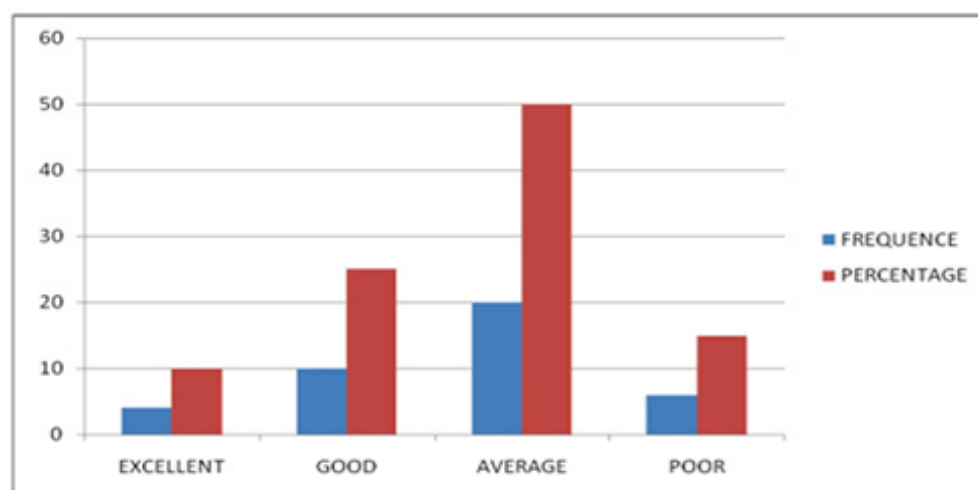


Fig.2: Distribution of Knowledge Score

DISCUSSION

The findings of the present study revealed that most nursing students had an average level of knowledge regarding HPV infection and prevention of cervical cancer. This suggests that awareness is required to enhance their knowledge.

CONCLUSION

Nursing students have moderate knowledge about HPV vaccination and prevention of cervical cancer. The study highlights the urgent need of awareness. Awareness is still insufficient as many lacked prior knowledge. Information booklets can help improve awareness and knowledge of HPV vaccination and prevention of cervical cancer among Nursing students.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Similar study can be conducted on a larger scale.
- A study can be done to assess the HPV vaccination coverage through the structured checklist.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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