

A Study to Assess the Knowledge and Attitude on Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccination among Adolescents Girls in Selected School of Durgapur, West Bengal

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Abstract: Background: Human Papilloma virus (HPV) is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections globally and is a leading cause of cervical cancer among women. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), nearly all cases of cervical cancer can be attributed to HPV infection, particularly types 16 and 18. Objectives: To assess the level of knowledge and attitude regarding HPV vaccination among adolescent girls. To determine the co-relation between the level of knowledge and attitude regarding HPV vaccination. Material and Method: A Cross-sectional descriptive research design was used. A purposive sampling technique was used to enroll 100 adolescent girls. A Self-administered structured questionnaire was used to collect the data. Data obtained were tabulated and analyzed in terms of objectives of the study using descriptive and inferential statistics. Conclusion: The findings of the study showed that majority of adolescent girls (47%) have average level of knowledge, 44% of adolescent girls have inadequate level of knowledge and 9% of adolescent girls have adequate knowledge on HPV Vaccination. 54% of adolescent girls have neutral level of attitude, 43% adolescent girls have non-favorable level of attitude and 3% adolescent girls have favorable attitude on HPV Vaccination. The mean value of knowledge and attitude score was 25.37 and 24.94 respectively. Obtained r value is 0.701. Therefore, there was a strong correlation present between knowledge and attitude on HPV Vaccination.

Keywords: Knowledge, Attitude, Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccine, Adolescent girls

1. Introduction

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections worldwide and is a major cause of cervical cancer. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), nearly all cases of cervical cancer are attributable to persistent infection with high-risk HPV types, particularly HPV 16 and 18. Although effective HPV vaccines are available and can prevent the majority of HPV-related cervical cancers, vaccination coverage remains suboptimal in many parts of the world, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

India contributes substantially to the global burden of cervical cancer, accounting for approximately 21% of global cervical cancer cases and 23% of cervical cancer deaths. In 2020, approximately 123,907 new cases and 77,348 deaths due to cervical cancer were reported in India. These figures highlight the continuing public health importance of cervical cancer prevention and the importance of preventive strategies such as HPV vaccination.

Adolescence is an important period for health promotion and preventive healthcare. HPV vaccination is most effective when administered before exposure to HPV, making adolescent girls an important target group for HPV vaccination programmes. However, acceptance and uptake of HPV vaccination may be influenced by several factors, including knowledge and awareness, cultural beliefs, perceived susceptibility to HPV infection, accessibility and availability of healthcare services, socioeconomic factors,

parental support, and recommendations from healthcare providers.

Assessing the knowledge and attitude of adolescent girls regarding HPV vaccination is therefore important for identifying gaps in awareness and understanding factors that may influence vaccine acceptance. Such information can help healthcare professionals develop appropriate educational interventions and health promotion strategies to improve HPV vaccination acceptance and coverage among adolescent girls.

Therefore, the present study aims to assess the level of knowledge and attitude regarding HPV vaccination among adolescent girls in selected school of Durgapur and to determine the association between their level of knowledge and attitude and selected demographic variables.

Objectives of the study were

- 1) To assess the level of knowledge and attitude regarding HPV vaccination among adolescent girls.
- 2) To determine the co-relation between the level of knowledge and attitude regarding HPV vaccination.

Hypothesis:

H1-There will be significant co-relation between the level of knowledge and attitude regarding HPV vaccination among adolescent girls.

2. Material and Method

The research approach used for this study was a

quantitative approach to assess the knowledge and attitude on HPV Vaccination among adolescent girls. A Cross-sectional descriptive research design was used. A Self-administered structured questionnaire was used to collect the data. The pilot study was conducted with 10 samples in Beachwood school, Durgapur. The main study was conducted in Hem Sheela Model School. A purposive sampling technique was used to enroll 100 adolescent girls. Data obtained were tabulated and analyzed in terms of objectives of the study using descriptive and inferential statistics.

3. Results

The findings of the study showed that majority of adolescent girls (47%) have average level of knowledge, 44% of adolescent girls have inadequate level and 9% of adolescent girls have adequate- knowledge on HPV Vaccination. 54% of adolescent girls have neutral level of attitude, 43% adolescent girls have non-favorable level of attitude and 3% adolescent girls have favorable attitude on HPV Vaccination. The mean value of knowledge and attitude score was 25.37 and 24.94 respectively. Obtained r value is 0.701. The results revealed that there was a strong correlation present between knowledge and attitude on HPV Vaccination. So, the research hypothesis was accepted.

4. Conclusion

The findings of the study highlight the need to improve awareness and understanding of HPV vaccination adolescent girls in the selected school. Enhancing knowledge and developing a favorable attitude toward HPV vaccination are essential for promoting informed health-related decisions, improving vaccine acceptance, and reducing the risk of HPV-related diseases. The study also revealed a statistically significant association between the levels of knowledge and attitude regarding HPV vaccination and selected socio-demographic variables.

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