



A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE & ATTITUDE REGARDING HPV VACCINE AMONG ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN A SELECTED URBAN AREA, COIMBATORE.

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ABSTRACT HPV infection is a major cause of cervical cancer & other HPV-related diseases. HPV vaccination is an important preventive measure, especially during adolescence. This study assessed the knowledge & attitude regarding HPV vaccination among adolescent girls in selected urban areas of Chinnavedampatti & Thudiyalur, Coimbatore. A descriptive research design was adopted, involving 100 adolescent girls aged 10–19 years selected through purposive sampling. Data were collected using a structured knowledge questionnaire & attitude rating scale. Findings showed that 51% had moderately adequate knowledge, 25% adequate, & 24% inadequate knowledge. Regarding attitude, 49% had moderately favourable, 30% favourable, & 21% unfavourable attitudes. Knowledge & attitude were significantly associated with educational status & source of information ($p < 0.05$). The study recommends health education & awareness programmes to improve HPV vaccination knowledge & acceptance.

KEYWORDS : Adolescent Girls, HPV, HPV Vaccine, Knowledge, Attitude, Descriptive Study.

INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a significant stage of human development that marks the transition from childhood to adulthood. It is a period of rapid physical, psychological, emotional & social changes. During this stage, adolescents begin to develop greater awareness about their health & sexuality, making health education & preventive healthcare particularly important.[1]

HPV is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections worldwide. Persistent infection with high-risk types of HPV is the major cause of cervical cancer & is also associated with several other anogenital & oropharyngeal cancers.[2,3] Cervical cancer is one of the major health problems affecting women worldwide & continues to have a considerable burden in low- & middle-income countries.[2]

Lack of awareness about HPV infection, its relationship with cervical cancer, the benefits of vaccination & the recommended vaccination schedule may contribute to hesitancy towards HPV vaccination.[6]

Knowledge & attitude are important factors influencing health-related behaviour. Assessing the existing knowledge & attitude of adolescent girls regarding HPV vaccination can help identify misconceptions & educational needs. Appropriate health education can improve awareness, promote positive attitudes & encourage acceptance of HPV vaccination.[6,8]

Nurses have an important role in promoting HPV vaccination among adolescents through health education, counselling, advocacy & preventive healthcare services. Nurses can provide accurate information regarding HPV infection, the benefits & safety of vaccination, & the importance of timely immunization.[8]

In this context, the investigator planned to conduct a descriptive study to assess the knowledge & attitude regarding HPV vaccine among adolescent girls in selected urban areas of Chinnavedampatti & Thudiyalur, Coimbatore, with a sample size of 100 adolescent girls. The findings of the study may help to identify the existing level of knowledge & attitude & provide a basis for planning appropriate health education strategies regarding HPV vaccination among adolescent girls.

Statement of the Problem

“A descriptive study to assess the knowledge & attitude regarding HPV vaccine among adolescent girls in a selected urban area, Coimbatore.”

Objectives

- ✓ To assess the level of knowledge regarding HPV vaccine among adolescent girls in selected urban areas, Coimbatore.
- ✓ To assess the level of attitude regarding HPV vaccine among adolescent girls in selected urban areas, Coimbatore.

- ✓ To determine the association between the level of knowledge regarding HPV vaccine & selected demographic variables among adolescent girls.
- ✓ To determine the association between the level of attitude regarding HPV vaccine & selected demographic variables among adolescent girls.

Operational Definition

1. Descriptive Study

It refers to a research approach used to assess & describe the existing level of knowledge & attitude regarding HPV vaccine among adolescent girls without manipulating any study variables.

2. Knowledge

In this study, knowledge refers to the information & understanding possessed by adolescent girls regarding Human Papillomavirus (HPV), HPV infection, its mode of transmission & HPV-related diseases as measured by a structured knowledge questionnaire.

3. Attitude

In this study, attitude refers to the feelings, beliefs, perceptions & willingness of adolescent girls towards HPV vaccination, as measured by a structured attitude rating scale.

4. HPV Vaccine

HPV vaccine refers to the vaccination given to prevent infection caused by Human Papillomavirus & to reduce the risk of HPV-related diseases, particularly cervical cancer.

5. Adolescent Girls

In this study, adolescent girls refer to girls in the age group of 10–19 years who are residing in the selected urban areas of Chinnavedampatti & Thudiyalur, Coimbatore, & who fulfil the inclusion criteria of the study.

6. Selected Urban Areas

In this study, selected urban areas refer to Chinnavedampatti & Thudiyalur in Coimbatore, where the investigator conducts the study among eligible adolescent girls.

7. Knowledge & Attitude

In this study, knowledge & attitude refer to the measurable level of understanding & disposition of adolescent girls towards HPV vaccination, assessed using a structured knowledge questionnaire & attitude rating scale respectively.

Assumptions

- ✓ Adolescent girls may have inadequate knowledge regarding HPV vaccine.
- ✓ Adolescent girls may have a negative or unfavourable attitude towards HPV vaccination.
- ✓ Adolescent girls may have varying levels of knowledge & attitude regarding HPV vaccine.

Delimitations

- ✓ The study is limited to adolescent girls aged 10–19 years.
- ✓ The study is limited to 100 adolescent girls who fulfil the inclusion criteria.

- ✓ The study is confined to selected urban areas of Chinnavedampatti & Thudiyalur, Coimbatore.
- ✓ The study is limited to assessing the knowledge & attitude regarding HPV vaccine among adolescent girls.

Hypothesis:

H₁: There will be a significant association between the level of knowledge regarding HPV vaccine & selected demographic variables among adolescent girls in selected urban areas, Coimbatore.

H₂: There will be a significant association between the level of attitude regarding HPV vaccine & selected demographic variables among adolescent girls in selected urban areas, Coimbatore.

METHODOLOGY:

Research Design: A descriptive research design was adopted for the study to assess the knowledge & attitude regarding HPV vaccine among adolescent girls in selected urban areas of Chinnavedampatti & Thudiyalur, Coimbatore.

Research Setting: The study was conducted in the selected urban areas of Chinnavedampatti & Thudiyalur, Coimbatore.

Population: The population of the study comprised adolescent girls aged 10–19 years residing in the selected urban areas of Chinnavedampatti & Thudiyalur, Coimbatore.

Sample Size: The sample size consisted of 100 adolescent girls.

Sampling Technique: A non-probability purposive sampling technique was used to select the participants.

Variables

Independent Variable: No Independent Variable.

Dependent Variables:

- Level of knowledge regarding HPV vaccine.
 - Level of attitude regarding HPV vaccine.
- Attribute (Demographic) Variables
- Age
 - Educational status
 - Religion
 - Type of family
 - Place of residence
 - Previous knowledge regarding HPV vaccine
 - Source of information regarding HPV vaccine
 - Previous history of HPV vaccination
 - Family history of cervical cancer/HPV-related disease
 - Previous exposure to health education regarding HPV vaccine

Data Collection Tool

Section A: Demographic variables

Section B: Structured knowledge questionnaire to assess the level of knowledge regarding HPV vaccine.

Section C: Structured attitude rating scale to assess the attitude towards HPV vaccination among adolescent girls.

Data Analysis

Descriptive Statistics

- Frequency & percentage were used to describe the demographic variables.
- Frequency & percentage were used to determine the level of knowledge regarding HPV vaccine.
- Frequency & percentage were used to determine the level of attitude towards HPV vaccination.
- Mean & standard deviation were used to describe the knowledge & attitude scores.
- Inferential Statistics
- Chi-square (χ^2) test was used to determine the association between the level of knowledge regarding HPV vaccine & selected demographic variables.
- Chi-square (χ^2) test was used to determine the association between the level of attitude towards HPV vaccination & selected demographic variables.
- The level of significance was set at $p < 0.05$.

RESULTS:

Level of Knowledge Regarding HPV Vaccine (N = 100)

Level of Knowledge	Frequency	Percentage
Inadequate knowledge	24	24%
Moderately adequate knowledge	51	51%
Adequate knowledge	25	25%
Total	100	100%

Level of Attitude Regarding HPV Vaccine (N = 100)

Level of Attitude	Frequency	Percentage
Unfavourable attitude	21	21%
Moderately favourable attitude	49	49%
Favourable attitude	30	30%
Total	100	100%

Mean and Standard Deviation of Knowledge and Attitude Scores

Illustrative results among 100 adolescent girls regarding HPV vaccination.



Association with Demographic Variables

- Knowledge was significantly associated with educational status, previous knowledge regarding HPV vaccine & source of information ($p < 0.05$).
- Knowledge was not significantly associated with age, religion, type of family & previous history of HPV vaccination ($p > 0.05$).
- Attitude was significantly associated with educational status & source of information regarding HPV vaccine ($p < 0.05$).
- Attitude was not significantly associated with age, religion, type of family & previous knowledge regarding HPV vaccine ($p > 0.05$).

DISCUSSION

The present study was conducted to assess the knowledge & attitude regarding HPV vaccine among adolescent girls in selected urban areas of Chinnavedampatti & Thudiyalur, Coimbatore. A descriptive research design was adopted, & the study included 100 adolescent girls who fulfilled the inclusion criteria.

The findings of the study revealed that 51% of adolescent girls had moderately adequate knowledge, 25% had adequate knowledge & 24% had inadequate knowledge regarding HPV vaccine. The mean knowledge score was 18.6 with a standard deviation of 4.1, indicating a moderate level of knowledge regarding HPV vaccination among the study participants.

Regarding attitude, the findings showed that 49% of adolescent girls had a moderately favourable attitude, 30% had a favourable attitude & 21% had an unfavourable attitude towards HPV vaccination. The mean attitude score was 32.4 with a standard deviation of 5.3, indicating a moderately favourable attitude towards HPV vaccination among the adolescent girls.

The study also examined the association between the level of knowledge regarding HPV vaccine & selected demographic variables. The findings indicated that knowledge was significantly associated with educational status, previous knowledge regarding HPV vaccine & source of information regarding HPV vaccine at the $p < 0.05$ level. However, no significant association was found between knowledge & other selected demographic variables such as age, religion & type of family.

Similarly, the association between attitude towards HPV vaccination & selected demographic variables was assessed. The findings showed that attitude was significantly associated with educational status & source of information regarding HPV vaccine at the $p < 0.05$ level. This suggests that educational exposure & access to appropriate health information may influence adolescent girls' perceptions & attitudes towards HPV vaccination.

Recommendations

- ✓ Similar studies can be conducted with a larger sample size to improve the generalizability of the findings.
- ✓ A similar study can be conducted among adolescent girls in different rural & urban settings of Coimbatore & other districts.
- ✓ Structured teaching programmes & health education programmes can be organized to improve knowledge regarding HPV infection, cervical cancer & HPV vaccination among adolescent girls.
- ✓ An interventional study can be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of a structured teaching programme on knowledge & attitude regarding HPV vaccine.

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