



KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE OF SCHOOL TEACHERS ABOUT HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS VACCINATION IN CHANDIGARH: PILOT STUDY

Community Medicine

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ABSTRACT

**Background:** Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine showed successful trials and has recently been approved for use in primary prevention of cervical cancer. Cervix cancer is the fourth most common cancer in the world and second leading cause of cancer death in Indian women.

**Objective:** To assess the knowledge and attitude of Govt. School Teachers towards Human Papilloma Virus Vaccine.

**Methodology:** Cross-sectional study among Female School teachers was carried in Chandigarh. 51 teachers between 20 to 60 years were interviewed in a pre-designed and pretested questionnaire.

**Results and conclusion:** Out of all 57 % were aware about cervical cancer and 43% were aware about availability of HPV Vaccine. Only 18% could tell the correct age for HPV Vaccination.

KEYWORDS

HPV Vaccine, Female School Teachers, Cervical Cancer

**Introduction:** Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine showed successful trials and has recently been approved for use in primary prevention of cervical cancer. Cervix cancer is the fourth most common cancer in the world<sup>1</sup> and second leading cause of cancer death in Indian women.<sup>2</sup> Epidemiologic studies have shown that the HPV DNA was detected in 93% of the tumors of cervical cancer<sup>3</sup>. It is also one of the most preventable types of cancer. The Primary Target population for Vaccination in developing countries is adolescent girls within the range of 9 to 13 years. HPV Vaccination represents an important opportunity to significantly reduce the burden of cervical cancer. In resources strained settings, young adolescent girls who are less likely to be infected with HPV remain the primary target for vaccination.<sup>4</sup> School Teachers constitute important stake holder position in a Community. They have influence on Children and Adolescents whom they teach. Awareness about HPV Vaccination in School Teachers will create indirect awareness in adolescent girls so present study has been taken up among school teachers to assess their knowledge and attitude about HPV vaccination.

**Objective:** To assess the knowledge and attitude of Govt. School Teachers towards Human Papilloma Virus Vaccine.

**Method:** A Cross-sectional study was conducted in February 2017 on female school teachers of three government schools of Chandigarh. Semi-structured questionnaire was used to interview the study participants. The questionnaire was pre-structured and pretested. Total of 51 teachers were interviewed personally by the investigator. Participants were in age group of 20 to 60 years. Convenient sampling technique was used to select the participants. The confidentiality of the participants was ensured and written consent was taken from all the participants.

**Inclusion Criteria:** Female school teachers, who were willing to participate in study,

**Exclusion Criteria:** Those who did not give consent.

Results:

**Table 1** Majority of participants were in age group 30 to 40 (47%). ¾ of participants were post graduate. 84% were married.

Demographic		
Age	Numbers	Percentage
20-30	6	12%
30-40	24	47%
40-50	11	22%
50-60	10	20%
Monthly Income	Numbers	Percentage
Less than 15000	0	0%

15000-30000	6	12%
30000-60000	26	51%
More than 60000	19	37%
Education Status	Numbers	Percentage
Graduate	12	24%
Post Graduate	39	76%
Marital Status	Numbers	Percentage
Married	43	84%
Unmarried	5	10%
Others	3	6%

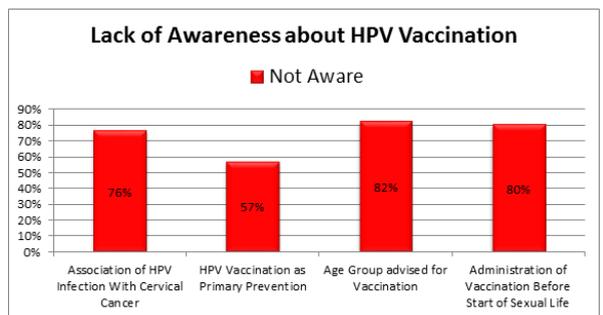


Figure 1 76% of participants did not know about the association of Human Papilloma Virus infection and cervical cancer. 82% were unaware in which age group vaccination is advised.

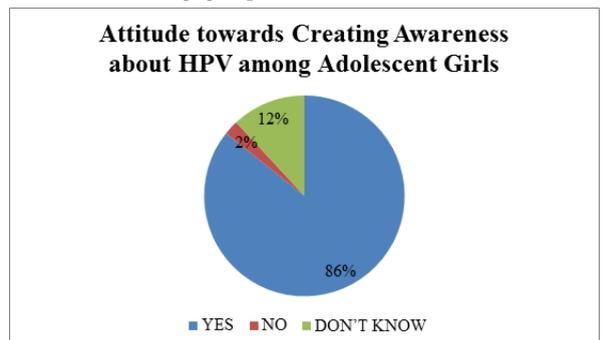


Figure 2

43% of participants were unaware about cervical cancer but 86% felt about need about creating awareness.

Discussion

2% women were aware of role of HPV infection in Cervical Cancer<sup>5</sup> in study of Zutshi V et al, where as 24% were aware of association of HPV with cervical cancer in our study due to difference in educational and socioeconomic status. In study of Rani A et al. only 6.03% women had heard about cervical cancer vaccine<sup>6</sup> but in our study 43% were aware, it may be due to better educational status as all study participants were graduates or post graduate in our study. Ganju SA et al. study shows more than 80% of the participants were aware that a vaccine is available against HPV<sup>7</sup> as their study participants had medical or nursing background but our study show HPV vaccine awareness in only 43% of participants. Tripathy S et al. study shows Thirty one percent medical students knew the correct age of initiation of the vaccination<sup>8</sup>, but in our study only 18% were aware about age for vaccination as they had non-medical background.

### Conclusion and Recommendations:

Inadequate knowledge and inaccessibility of HPV vaccine among school teachers becomes obstacle in acceptance of primary prevention. The findings of the study suggest that knowledge levels are required to increase through media and health promotion activities by public health specialist.

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