



A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS HPV VACCINE AMONG MOTHERS OF YOUNG GIRLS FROM A SELECTED URBAN COMMUNITY WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOP HOPE (HPV OUTREACH, PREVENTION AND EDUCATION) MODULE.

Nursing

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KEYWORDS

HPV Vaccine, Mother, Young Girls, Knowledge, Attitude, HOPE Module

INTRODUCTION

Cervical cancer remains a leading yet largely preventable cause of morbidity and mortality among women, with India bearing nearly one-fifth of the global burden. Despite the availability of safe and effective HPV vaccines, the uptake remains low due to limited awareness, socio-cultural misconceptions, stigma, and cost barriers. Mothers, being the primary health decision-makers for their daughters play a crucial role in vaccine acceptance. By providing them with accurate, factual information about HPV, cervical cancer, and the vaccine's safety and efficacy, we can address the deeply rooted myths and fears that prevent them from vaccinating their daughters, thus transforming mothers from passive recipients of information into informed advocates for their daughters' health.

BACKGROUND OF STUDY

Cervical cancer is a leading cause of cancer-related mortality and morbidity among women globally, with India accounting for a significant portion of this disease burden. The primary cause of cervical cancer is persistent infection with the human papillomavirus (HPV), making it a significant public health issue. Although the disease is largely preventable through vaccination, the uptake of the HPV vaccine remains low in many communities due to multiple barriers, including lack of awareness, various social and cultural stigmas, and widespread misconceptions about the vaccine. The high cost of imported vaccines has historically been a major obstacle, limiting accessibility and widespread use, especially in low-income settings. In response to these challenges, India has introduced Cervavac, an indigenously manufactured and more affordable HPV vaccine, with a cost ranging from 0 to 400 per dose. This initiative aims to improve affordability and access. Despite this, raising awareness and enhancing public trust remain critical for the successful and widespread adoption of the vaccine.

NEED OF THE STUDY

As the number of cases rise with each passing day, 1 woman dies of cervical cancer every 8 minutes in India. The country's annual birth rate exceeds 24 million, and each year's delay in vaccine implementation results in approximately 12 million girls aging out of eligibility. Out of this, an estimated 160000 girls may develop preventable cervical cancer in their lifetime.

Mothers as primary decision makers in the family play a pivotal role in the vaccine acceptance and administration, therefore there is a pressing need to assess the mother's awareness and perception regarding the HPV vaccine, in order to identify the gaps and tailor an educational intervention to sensitize mothers on HPV vaccine and empower them to make informed decisions.

AIM

To assess knowledge and attitude regarding HPV vaccine among

mothers of young girls in a selected urban community and develop HOPE (HPV Outreach, Prevention and Education) Module.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To assess knowledge of mothers regarding HPV vaccine.
- 2) To assess attitude of mothers regarding HPV vaccine.
- 3) To develop HOPE module.

METHODOLOGY:

A descriptive survey was conducted among 229 mothers of girls aged 9–26 years, in an urban community using convenience sampling. A validated structured questionnaire assessed demographics, knowledge (15 items), and attitude (10 items, 5-point Likert scale). Reliability was high ($\alpha = 0.86$ for knowledge; 0.82 for attitude). Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, chi-square tests, and correlation.

RESULTS:

Among 229 mothers, knowledge was limited (20.1% poor, 38.9% moderate, 41.0% good; mean 9.26 ± 3.69). Attitudes were favourable, with 0% low, 32.3% moderate, and 67.7% high (mean 37.39 ± 7.30). A mild–moderate negative correlation existed between knowledge and attitude ($r = -0.367$, $p < 0.001$). Monthly income ($\chi^2 = 87.8$, $p = 0.001$) and education (knowledge $\chi^2 = 73.6$, $p < 0.001$; attitude $\chi^2 = 125$, $p = 0.002$) were significantly associated with outcomes.

CONCLUSION:

Despite favourable attitudes, knowledge remained inadequate, supporting the need for the HOPE module to improve awareness, address misconceptions, and promote timely HPV vaccination.

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