

Association of availability of healthcare resources and training provided for PHMs on cervical screening coverage in Jaffna district.

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Introduction In Sri Lanka, cervical cancer ranks as the second most common cancer among women and is the 4th most common cancer in women aged 15 to 44 years. Among the districts in Sri Lanka, Jaffna also shows relatively increased incidence of cervical cancer. There are number of studies done to assess the knowledge and attitude towards cervical screening in Sri Lanka. But none of the studies done to assess the association of the availability of resources, training provided for PHMs and cervical screening coverage.

Methodology It was descriptive cross-sectional study. Data were collected from field PHMs of Jaffna district through pre tested self-administered questionnaire and analyzed using SPSS version 21. Mean, standard deviation and percentage were used to summarize the data. Chi square test was used to assess the association between availability of healthcare facilities, training received by PHMs and coverage of cervical screening in Jaffna district.

Results 131 PHMs participated in the study giving a response rate of 90.9%. Overall 41.2% of PHM areas achieved the coverage above 70 % with 100% coverage in 11 PHM areas. It is notable that 4 PHM areas achieved less than 20 % coverage. Essential equipment availability is almost 70 % with shortage of fixatives and alcohol which are available less than 70%. Basic infrastructure facilities are available in 70% of PHM areas. All essential facilities are available in 48.9% of PHM areas. Availability of essential facilities associates with coverage above 70% (p=0.05)

Conclusion On the whole the target coverage was not achieved in many PHM areas. The health care resources, basic infrastructure and human resources are available in most of the areas but availability of essential facilities lack in many PHM areas. Though some PHM areas achieved 100% coverage. Provision of training to organize cervical screening was not given in some PHMs. Majority of the population had moderate workload and achieved target coverage.