

Awareness and knowledge on human papillomavirus vaccination among grade six female students in the Nallur Education Division

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Introduction Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is the etiological agent for cervical cancer. Health professionals recommend to give the vaccine prior to becoming sexually active for the prevention of HPV. Although the suggested age for vaccination is between 11 and 12 years of age, catch-up vaccines are available up to the age of 26. Individuals who receive the vaccine prior to initial sexual activity are inoculated against the four major types of HPV. Individuals who receive the vaccine after becoming sexually active will only be protected from the types of HPV they have not yet contracted (Markowitz et al., 2007)

Objective The aim of this study to assess the Awareness and knowledge on Human Papilloma Virus vaccination among grade six female students in the Nallur education division.

Methodology This study was a descriptive cross sectional study among grade six female students in Nallur educational Division. Self-administered questionnaire was used to collect the data from the sample of 245 students during 2nd January to 28th February 2020. SPSS version 26 was used to analyse the data. Whole population was included, thus no sampling technique was used.

Results All the participants were Srilankan Tamil. Most of them (88.6%) were Hindus. Among the participants 50.2% had adequate awareness on HPV and HPV vaccine. 81.3% had adequate knowledge on cervical cancer. Mean knowledge score was 18.93(SD=3.946) out of 24. There is a statistically significant relationship ($p < 0.05$) was found with the fathers' occupation ($\chi = 14.084, p < 0.05$), received HPV vaccine ($\chi = 15.806, p < 0.05$) and attended to awareness programme ($\chi = 10.124, p < 0.05$) in school with the knowledge on HPV vaccination.

Conclusion Awareness on HPV vaccination and cervical cancer needs to be improved in the area. Health education activities should be arranged by the public health staff with the involvement of the teachers