



Knowledge about Cervical Cancer and Associated Factors among Women of Reproductive Age Group of Bangladesh

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Abstract

Cervical cancer is a malignant neoplasm arising from cells originating in cervix of uterus. Cervical cancer is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality among Women worldwide. The highest incidence about 86% of the disease is estimated to occur in developing countries. Cervical cancer incidence, morbidity and mortality have been reduced in high income countries due to implementation of national screening programs.^[4] Thus, the objectives of this study were to assess women's knowledge about cervical cancer and to identify socio-demographic factors related to knowledge about cervical cancer. A descriptive cross-sectional Institution based study was conducted by face-to-face interview using a self-administered questionnaire among the women attending at BSMMU and NICRH for VIA (Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid) test. Maximum age group was from 36-40 years. Out of 300 respondents 230 were married. Most of the respondents were housewife. Of the 300 respondents only 175 (58%) told that they had heard about cervical cancer, while 195 (65%) knew that VIA is the screening test for cervical cancer. A total of 45 (15%) respondents did not know any cause of cervical cancer. Regarding info-guidance most of the respondents (23%) were from relatives. Majority (59%) of the respondents were not informed about the vaccine of cervical cancer. The level of education and occupation was found to positively influence their knowledge of cervical cancer and their acceptance of the screening test. Adequate health information and counseling on cervical cancer and regular screening test need to be emphasized in our country.

Key words: *Knowledge and awareness; Risk factor; cervical cancer; Screening program; Vaccination*

INTRODUCTION

Cervical cancer is a malignant neoplasm arising from cells originating in cervix of uterus. Cervical cancer is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality among Women worldwide. The highest incidence about 86% of the disease is estimated to occur in developing countries, like Bangladesh. Cervical cancer is a preventable disease.^[1] Globally, an estimated 274,883 women die annually as a result of cervical cancer. It is the second most common cancer among women. The Asia Pacific region accounts for more than half of the world's cervical cancer burden. Among all cancers, cervical cancer is the one which can be effectively controlled by organized screening programmes.^[2] Screening is a universally accepted early detection strategy that allows for treatment of precancerous lesions before they progress to invasive cancer.^[3] Cervical

cancer incidence, morbidity and mortality have been reduced in high income countries due to implementation of national screening programs.^[4]

Bangladesh and India have annual incidence of cervical cancer of 11956 and 12595 respectively. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) statistics, incidence of cervical cancer cases in Bangladesh has been estimated at 167 per 1,00,000 populations and 6,582 women die every year in the country for this cancer.^[5]

Though cervical cancer is a major public health problem facing women in Bangladesh, there are limited data on women's knowledge of cervical cancer and associated factors. A risk factor is anything that changes your chance of getting a disease such as cancer. The current study sought to assess women's knowledge about cervical cancer and associated factors.

OBJECTIVES

- To assess women's knowledge about cervical cancer and associated risk factors.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

Study Design

A descriptive cross-sectional study was carried out in two Hospitals in Dhaka City.

Study population/ subject

All women, those who attended in the outdoor hospital for Visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA) were purposively allocated enrolled in the study. Out of 300 women's were equal distribute in each selected area.

Study Area

The study was conducted in *Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) and National Institute of Cancer Research & Hospital (NICRH)*.

Sampling Method and Technique

300 respondents were selected through purposive sampling from BSMMU, NICRH. A total of 150 women's was interviewed in each study area.

Data collection Procedure

Data were collected by face-to-face interview from women who came to above mentioned Facilities for VIA test.

Data collection tools

Semi-structured Questionnaires were used as a form of collecting data.

The gathered data was interpreted and analyzed by using suitable computer program, such MS word, Excel etc. Finding was presented by adequate tables and graphs.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio demographic characteristics of the study Respondents'

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents' Age

Respondents' Age	n = 300
30-35 years	33
36-40 years	153
41-45 years	83

45 + years	31
Total	300

Table 2: Distribution of respondents' marital status

Respondents Marital Status	n = 300
Un-married	23
Married	230
Divorced	27
Widow	20
Total	300

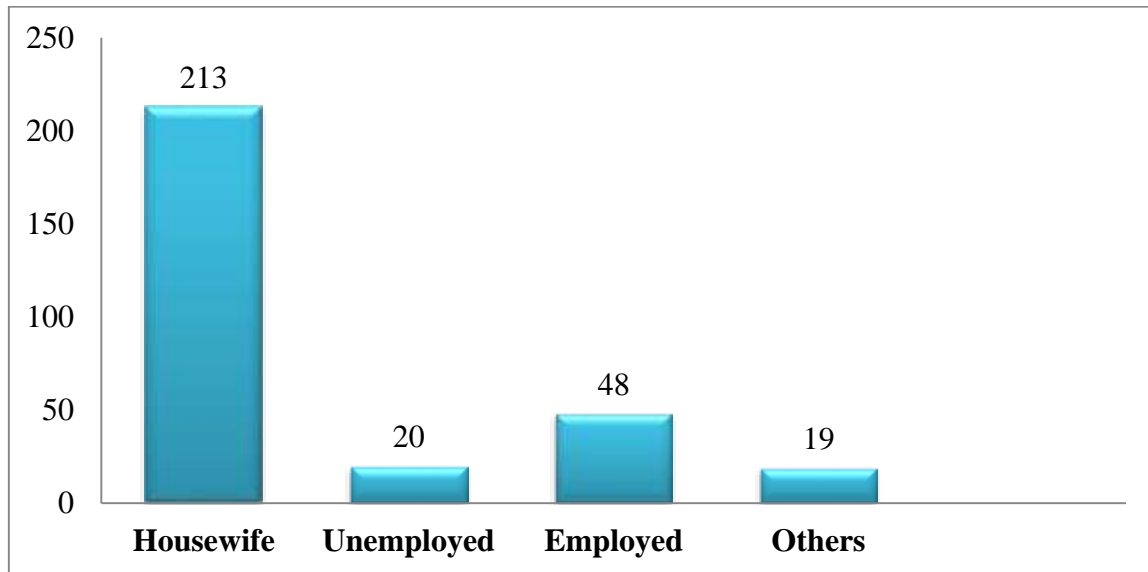


Figure1: Respondents' Occupation

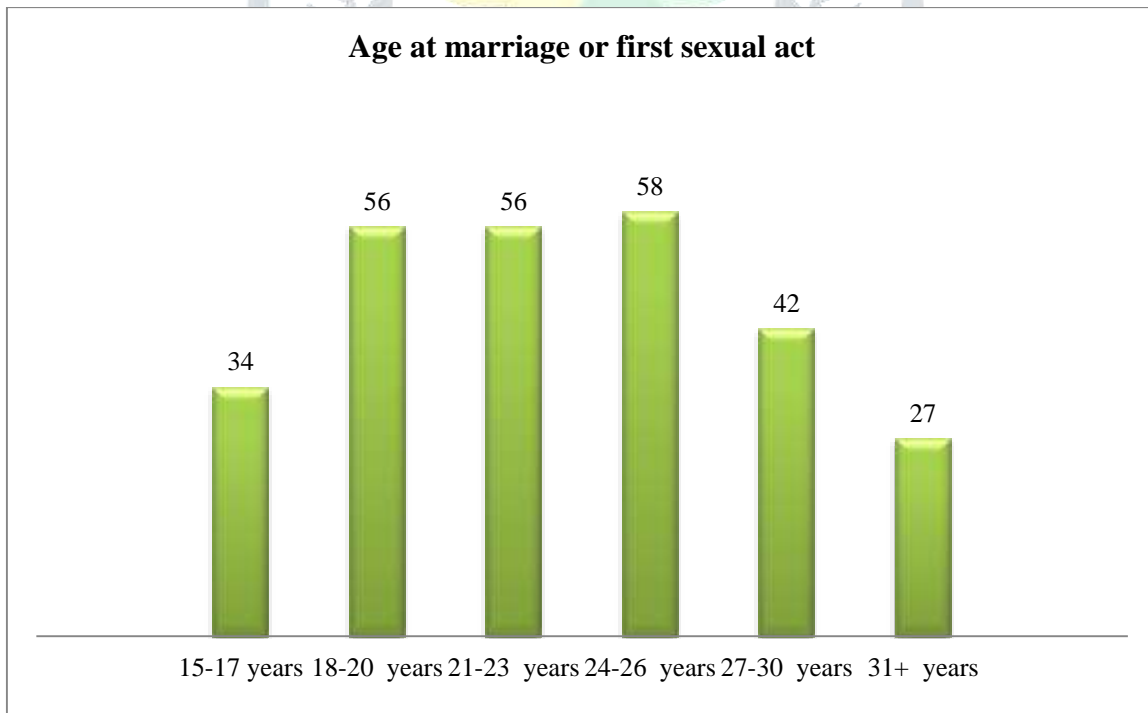


Figure 2: The age at marriage or first sexual act of respondents

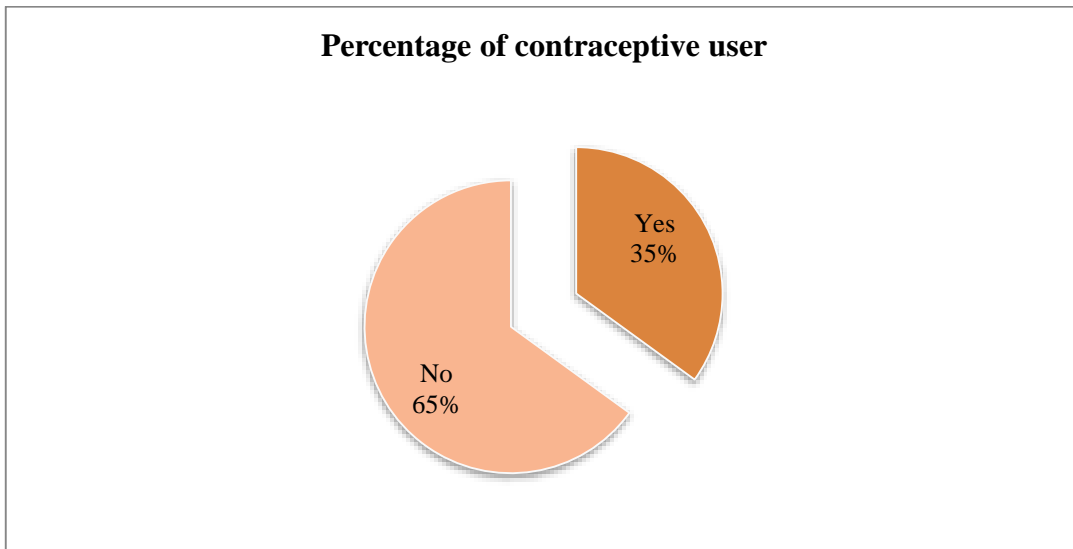


Figure 3: Percentage of contraceptive user

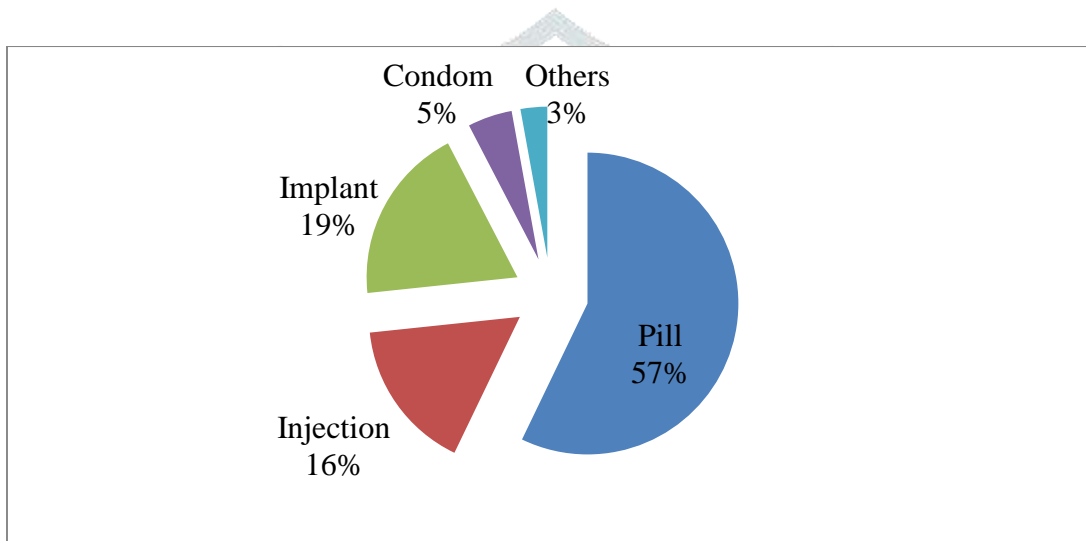


Figure 4: Types of contraceptive user

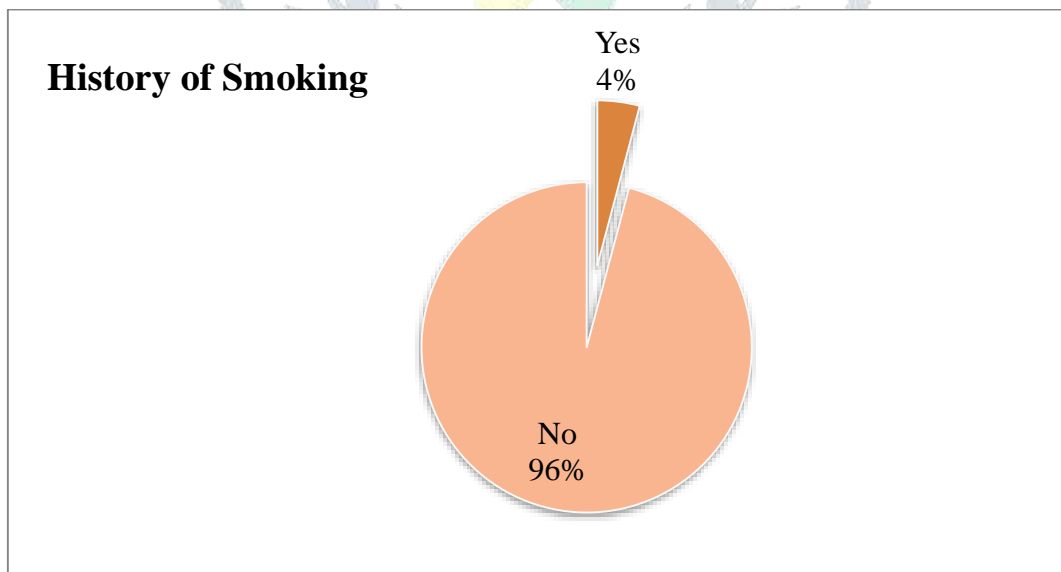


Figure 5: Smoking percentage of Respondents

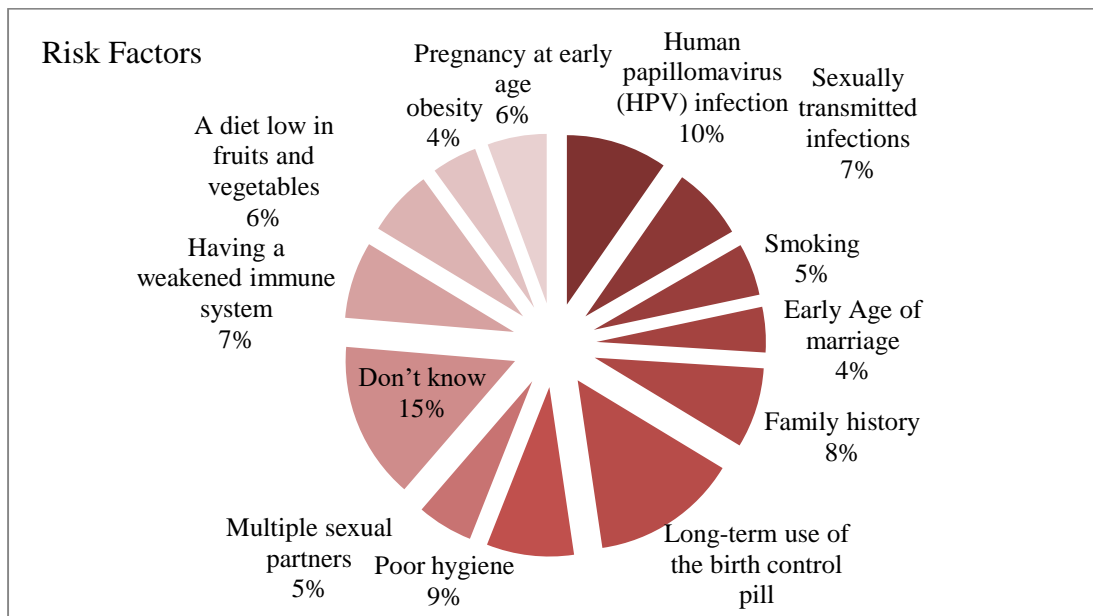


Figure 6: Knowledge regarding Cervical Cancer Risk Factors

A total of 45 (15%) respondents did not know any risk factors of cervical cancer.

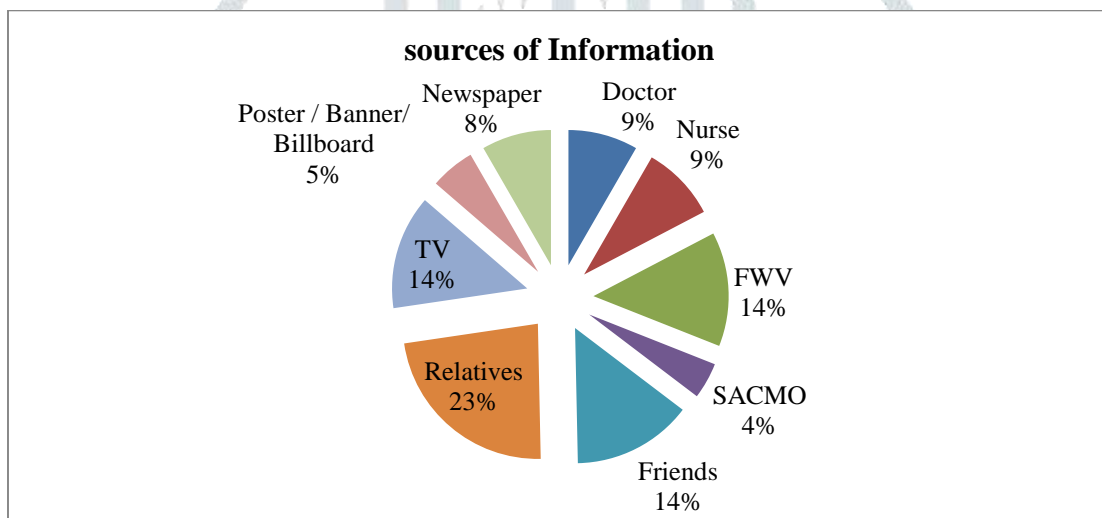


Figure 7: Sources of Information

Regarding info-guidance most of the respondents (23%) were from relatives.

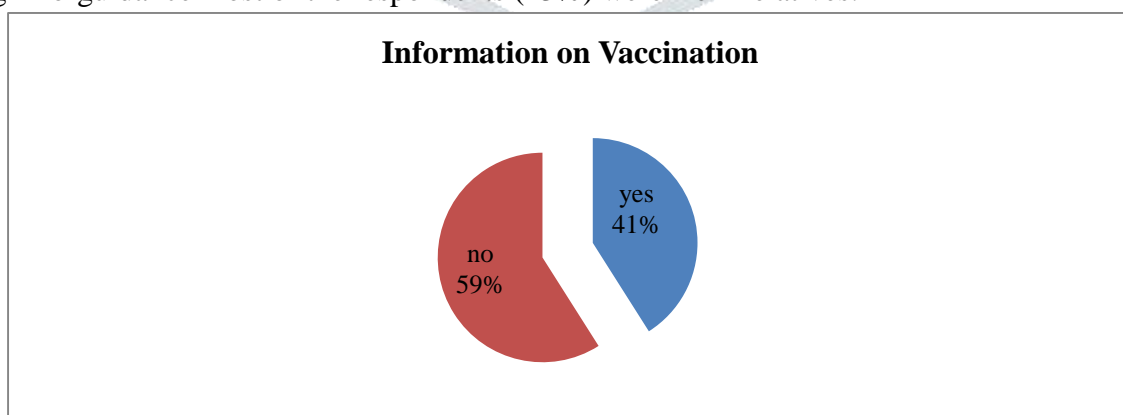


Figure 8: Information on Vaccination

Majority (59%) of the respondents were not informed about the vaccine of cervical cancer.

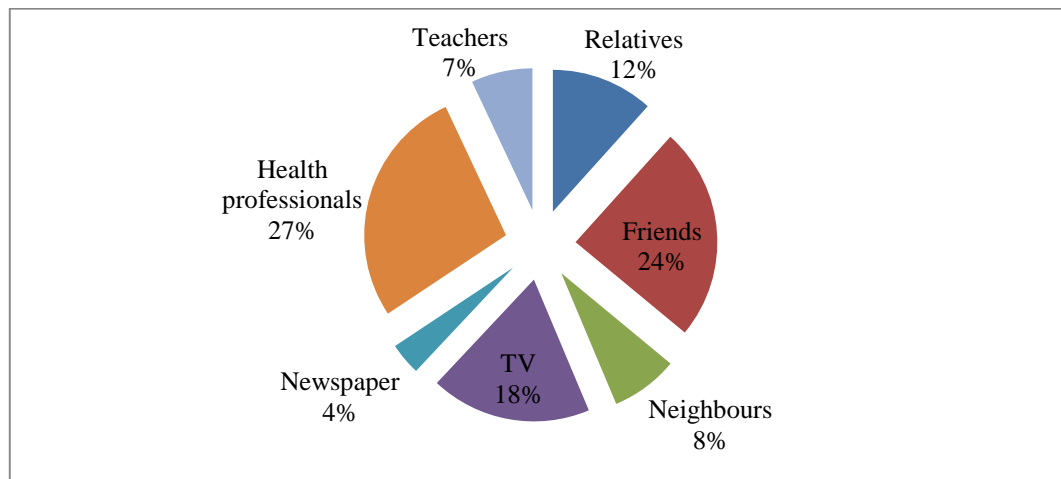


Figure 9: Sources of information About Vaccine

Of the 300 respondents only 175 (58%) told that they had heard about cervical cancer, while 195 (65%) knew that VIA is the screening test for cervical cancer.

CONCLUSION& RECOMMENDATION

The level of education and occupation was found to positively influence their knowledge of cervical cancer and their acceptance of the screening test. Adequate health information and counseling on cervical cancer and regular screening test need to be emphasized in our country.

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