

## Knowledge and Awareness Regarding Cervical Cancer Prevention among Married Women of Reproductive Age Group in a Rural Area of Bangladesh

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### Background

Worldwide, cervical cancer is the second most common and the fifth deadliest cancer in women. Approximately 80% of cervical cancers occur in developing countries. In Bangladesh, every year 17676 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 10364 die from the disease. It has been proved that cervical cancer is a preventable disease. Most common types of cervical cancer can be prevented by regular cytological screening program. To achieve this there must be a high rate of acceptance by the women.

### Aims & Objectives

To determine the knowledge and awareness regarding cervical cancer prevention among married women of reproductive age group in a rural area of Bangladesh.

### Material & Methods

The study was descriptive cross sectional study, done in Mulaid village of Sreepur upazilla under Gazipur district. The study was conducted during the period from January 2013 to May 2013 in the women above the age of 15 years and below 49 years. Married women of reproductive age group (15-49 years), who were permanent residents of Mulaid village and were co-operative and willing to take part voluntarily were included in the study. Married or unmarried women

below 15 years and above 49 years of age and unmarried women of reproductive age (15-49 years) were excluded. Final sample size was 200 from whom data was collected using a structured questionnaire. Data was collected through face to face interview based on structured questionnaire. After meticulous checking and rechecking all data were entered and analyzed by computer by help of SPSS 17.0.

### Results

Majority 79 (39.5%) women belonged to the age group of 20-24 years and the least 13 (6.5%) were found between the age group of 45-49 years. 87 (43.5%) respondents had heard about cervical cancer. Doctors and health workers were the source of information for majority 66.67% (n=58) respondents. 23 (11.5%) respondents knew that cervical cancer was a preventable disease. Among them 82.6% respondents knew about the dose schedule of the vaccine against Human Papillomavirus. Education ( $P=0.00012$ ) had a significant effect upon the knowledge of the respondents.

### Conclusions

The level of awareness regarding cervical cancer prevention among rural women was not satisfactory. All the women should be educated about cervical cancer and learn how to prevent it. Vaccination against Human Papillomavirus should be mandatory for all the women of reproductive age group.