

Attitudes, willingness and factors associated with participation in Pap smear test among women in Ingiriya MOH area

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Objectives

To describe attitudes, willingness and factors associated with participation in Pap smear test (PST) among 35-60 year old married women in Ingiriya MOH area.

Methods

A cross-sectional descriptive survey was conducted to collect data using interviewer-administered questionnaire. Cluster sampling technique was used to select participants from the gramasewa divisions of the selected MOH area. Ethical approval from the ethical review committee of Faculty of Medical Sciences and informed consent from the participants were obtained. Frequency distribution with percentages and chi square statistics were calculated using SPSS version 21.

Results

Of the sample (n=456) only 41.3% has had a PST done at least once. Most (73.1%) of the participants believed that cervical cancer is preventable if it is detected early through a PST. Findings of the attitudinal dispositions for PST revealed that negligence (58.7%) shyness (63%) and fear (52.7%) were the obstacles for participating PST. More than 93% participants were willing to participate in a PST.

Having at least one PST was significantly related to age, OR=1.7 (95% CI: 1.2-2.4); education level, OR=1.2 (95% CI: 1.0-1.4) and current employment status, OR=1.2 (95% CI: 1.0-1.4). Willingness to participate in a PST was associated with age, OR=5.9 (95% CI: 2.3-15.2); marital status, OR=4.6 (95% CI: 1.8-11.6) and level of education OR=2.1 (95% CI: 1.0-4.1).

Conclusion

Though most of the women were willing, negligence, shyness and fear were the main obstacles for participating in PST. Having at least one PST and willingness to participate in a screening program were significantly associated with age and education level of the participants.