

**KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE ON PREVENTION OF CERVICAL
CANCER AMONG URBAN REPRODUCTIVE WOMEN IN HMAWBI
TOWNSHIP, YANGON REGION**

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ABSTRACT

A descriptive cross-sectional study of knowledge, attitude and practice on prevention of cervical cancer among urban reproductive women was carried out in Hmawbi Township, Yangon Region from September to November, 2016. One-hundred and seventy women aged from 18-49 years old were interviewed by using semi-structured questionnaires.

Mean age of the respondents was 35 years. Half of the respondents were aged 35 years or less and the other half were aged more than 35 years. Half of the respondents were below high school level. Most respondents (81%) were married. Regarding knowledge on prevention of cervical cancer, 96% of the respondents had heard cervical cancer, 26% had heard HPV and 42% of women had heard Pap smear. While 84.7% of women were willing to have a Pap smear, 7 respondents (4%) had undertaken Pap smear. Although 81% had heard HPV vaccine, only 5 respondents (3%) had received the vaccine.

Thirty-six percent of the respondents had high level of knowledge and 64% of the respondents had low level of knowledge on prevention of cervical cancer. All women had positive attitude on prevention of cervical cancer.

The associations between socio-demographic characteristics and knowledge and practice of the respondents were analyzed and also between knowledge and practice themselves were analyzed. It was seen that there was statistically significant associations between educational level, monthly family income and level of knowledge ($p < 0.0001$). Moreover, it was found that there were significant associations between monthly family income level and practice on consulting with doctor, doing Pap smear and using feminine cleanser ($p < 0.05$). Knowledge level was also associated with doing Pap smear ($p = 0.003$) and using feminine cleanser ($p < 0.0001$). In conclusion, the study revealed low knowledge on prevention of cervical cancer and therefore giving effective information and health education should be promoted among community. Moreover, the study showed that the screening practice among respondents was low and therefore screening programs should be accessible, feasible and acceptable to women.