

# **A QUALITATIVE STUDY ON FACTORS AFFECTING THE DECISION MAKING OF HPV VACCINATION INTAKE AMONG FEMALE YOUTH IN KLANG VALLEY**

## **ABSTRACT**

Cervical cancer is estimated to affect 500 000 women each year, whereby 80% of the cases are in developing nations. Almost all cervical cancer cases were attributed to Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) infection. This study was conducted to identify factors influencing the decision-making of HPV vaccination intake as prevention for cervical cancer among female youth in the Klang Valley. Furthermore, this study also looked into the level of knowledge, understanding and awareness of female youth regarding cervical cancer and HPV vaccine, factors influencing the uptake of HPV vaccine and the deterring factor for HPV vaccine uptake. This qualitative study uses in-depth interview; purposive sampling and snowball sampling method were carried out to interview 15 respondents in the Klang Valley comprising the Malays, Chinese and Indians. The questionnaire is based on Health Belief Model, which consisted of perceived susceptibility, severity, benefit, barrier and cues to action. Nvivo 7 software was utilised to process, transcript and analyse the data from interview sessions. Important themes have been extracted whereby emphasis are on 4 main themes; (i) to gauge the level of understanding and knowledge among female youth regarding cervical cancer and HPV vaccine, and three sub-themes; the understanding, the causes and the preventative measures on cervical cancer (ii) level of awareness among female youth on HPV vaccine; sub-themes are the awareness on importance of HPV vaccine and regime compliance (iii) to explore factors influencing the uptake of HPV vaccines, sub-themes are; concerns on contracting the illness, roles and responsibilities of family members and friends, subsidy, recommendations by MOH personnel, government policies and the benefits of vaccine (iv) to explore factors hindering the uptake of HPV vaccine; sub-themes are; costs, time, services, not at risks, no knowledge and awareness. In conclusion, the awareness on HPV vaccine is extremely important to ensure the increased uptake of HPV vaccine among female youth. Women should be made aware on the risks of HPV infection and its relation to cervical cancer. Many women are unaware that HPV infection is among the largest contributor to cervical cancer. Factors leading to the uptake of HPV vaccine should be seen in a transparent manner to ensure the success of HPV vaccination program in this country. Moreover, the factors hindering the uptake of HPV vaccine should be studied in-depth to find an effective solution in facilitating women getting vaccinated.