



## AWARENESS ON CERVICAL CANCERS AND UTILIZATION OF PAP-SMEAR (PAPANICO- LAOU) TEST AMONG ADULT WOMEN: A HOSPITAL-BASED STUDY

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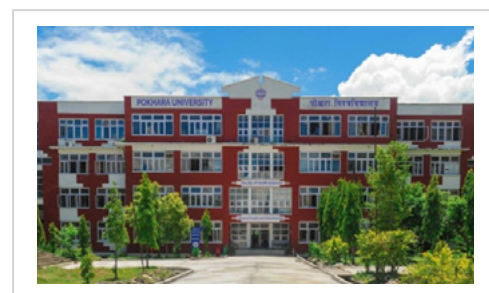
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### Abstract

Cervical cancer, a major public health problem is the most common and stood in 2nd position among other cancers in women and accounts more than 84% new cases worldwide and more than 85% death from middle and low income countries. It can be prevented by vaccination, Screening and treatment before pro- gression along with health education are the most efficient and cost effective way of controlling the cervical cancer, unfortunately it is very low and it ranks as the 1st most frequent cancer among women of age 15 to 44 years in Nepal. Therefore, the aim of the study is to assess the awareness on cervical cancer and screening test and its practice among women in Nepal. A cross sectional study was conducted at the Gynecology Out Patient Department (OPD) of Helping Hands Community Hospital Kathmandu from June 2017 to August 2017. The participants were the women visiting the Gynecological Department for various other gynecological problems. A total of 409 sample was taken through purposive nonprobability sampling method and data were analyzed. Mean  $\pm$  SD age of the women was 33.52 where minimum age was 17 and maximum age was 67 years and 347 (84.8%) married and among them more than 3/4th (78.5%) were married before the age of 20 years. Among total respondents, 32.8% heard about cervical cancer and among them only 13.4 per cent of them had knowl- edge of causative agent the HPV and about 21.1% of them had an idea about vaccine. Women who had heard about cervical cancer, less than half (47.8%) had an idea about the screening test and, only 13% had knowledge on Pap smear test, but most of them (89.7%) had no idea when to be performed. Among the women who have heard about cervical cancer, only 23.9% (32 persons) of them had experienced on Pap smear test. Among the women who had knowledge on cervical cancer (134), only 9.7% (13) of them had heard about the HPV vaccine and only (1) 7.6% of them had inoculated HPV vaccine. This study showed that heard about cervical cancer, knowledge on Pap smear test and knowledge of the HPV vaccine are significantly associated with the educa- tion level of the respondents ( $P < 0.01$ ). Enrollment of women in academic education and adequate information through different media targeting eligible women is needed to raise awareness to change their behaviors to utilize the screening facility.

### Biography

Arun Kumar Koirala is presently working as a Professor at Department of Health and Allied Sciences, Pokhara University, Nepal. He had many publications in his career. His main research areas are behavior, pregnancy & childbirth.



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