

Knowledge and Attitude toward Human Papillomavirus Vaccination among Staff Nurses in Anand District: A Descriptive Study

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Abstract

Background: Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection. Persistent infection with HPV, though often initially asymptomatic and self-limiting, can progress to anogenital warts, precancerous changes, and cancers such as cervical, anogenital, and oropharyngeal malignancies in both men and women. Existing HPV vaccines provide coverage against 2, 4, or 9 viral types, including high-risk strains 16 and 18 that contribute to the majority of cervical cancer cases. Widespread vaccination has the potential to prevent approximately 70% of cervical cancers and plays a crucial role in reducing the burden of HPV-related cancers.

Materials and Methods: This study utilized a descriptive cross-sectional approach and included 100 staff nurses from selected Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres in Anand district. A non-probability convenience sampling technique was used to select participants. Data were collected through a structured questionnaire comprising dichotomous items for knowledge assessment and a 5-point Likert scale to evaluate attitudes. The data were processed and analyzed using descriptive statistics, Karl Pearson's correlation coefficient, and the Chi-square test.

Results: The mean knowledge score was 16.14 ± 3.99 . More than half of the participants (52%) had average knowledge, while 66% demonstrated a negative attitude. A minimal positive correlation was observed between knowledge and attitude ($r = 0.026$); however, the association was not statistically significant ($P = 0.80$). However, professional qualification, work experience, and training/workshops showed a statistically significant association with attitude.

Conclusion: Despite having a fair level of understanding, most staff nurses reported unfavorable attitudes toward HPV vaccination, suggesting a clear mismatch between what they know and their willingness to accept or support it. The absence of a significant knowledge-attitude relationship underscores that information alone does not ensure positive perception. Instead, professional qualification, experience, and prior training emerged as key determinants of attitude. Focused, competency-based training and continuous professional development are essential to shift attitudes and strengthen nurses' role in effective HPV vaccine advocacy.

Keywords: Cervical cancer prevention, human papillomavirus vaccine, knowledge and attitude, primary health centers, staff nurses