

## Knowledge And Attitude of Female Workers in Selected Rural Local Government Areas of Imo State, Nigeria Towards Cervical Cancer and Its Screening

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**Abstract :** Purpose: This study was aimed at determining the knowledge and attitude of female workers in six selected rural Local Government Areas of Imo State (Ezinihitte Mbaise, Ngor Okpala, Ohaji/Egbema, Ideato South, Ihitte Uboma and Obowo) towards cervical cancer and its screening. Methodology: Data was collected using a validated open-ended, semi-structured questionnaire. After responses to the questionnaire were received, a seminar on Cervical cancer and its screening was delivered to the respondents. Afterward, a second set of the same questionnaires was administered to the same respondents. A total of 460 women of reproductive age were randomly selected upon their informed consent. Data obtained/responses were analyzed using simple percentages. The chi-square test was used to assess the relationship by testing the hypothesis. Result: Results revealed that, before the seminar, a high average percentage of 72.2% (332) of respondents had not heard of cervical cancer while 27.8% (128) had heard. Of those who know about Cervical cancer, an average of 70.3% (90) showed low knowledge. The majority of respondents, 366 (79.6%), had poor attitudes toward screening. They mostly implicated lack of awareness 205 (44.6%) and lack of funds 104 (22.6%) as major reasons for not participating in the screening test. Few 128 (27.8%) agreed to go for screening and vaccination. After the awareness, 400 (87%) agreed to go for the screening test and vaccination if free/affordable. None of the participants had ever been screened. A significant relationship between attitude to cervical cancer and level of knowledge and academic level and attitude to cervical cancer screening was obtained. Conclusion: This calls for continued enlightenment about cervical cancer screening, especially as soon as sexual activity begins.

**Keywords :** cervical cancer, rural areas, Imo state, knowledge, attitude

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