

PP019

## Cervical cancer: Screening, factors associated with screening and follow up pattern among women of reproductive age in a selected health area in Sri Lanka

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**Introduction and Objectives:** Even after more than two decades of inception of the Well Woman Clinic (WWC) programme in Sri Lanka, national coverage of pap smear screening of a 35-year age cohort is 25.5% in 2011, which remains below the national target of 80%. Hence, it is a timely need to identify the gaps in service provision. The study aimed to determine the screening pattern, factors associated with cervical screening and its follow up among married women aged 35–39 years in a selected health area in Sri Lanka. A two-stage cluster sampling technique with probability proportional-to-size (PPS) was used.

**Methods:** A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among 525 women aged 35–39 years in the Medical Officer of Health area, Kuruwita.

**Results:** Screening coverage in 35–39 year age group was 17.8% (n=93). Coverage among the 35-year age cohort was 13.7%. Highest coverage was among the 36 year cohort (36.6%). Females married before the age of 20 years (OR= 1.76, 95% CI= 1.01–3.08), unemployed (OR= 0.50, 95% CI= 0.28–0.88) and low income (OR= 1.78, 95% CI= 1.02–3.11) showed a significant association with coverage. Utilization of field services by the clients (OR= 2.94, 95% CI= 1.51–5.74), awareness on WWCs (OR= 2.5, 95% CI= 1.0–6.34) and motivation towards screening (OR= 8.80, 95% CI= 4.01–19.30) were positive factors. Only 48% had received the pap-smear reports and 43.6% received it within three months.

**Conclusion:** Screening coverage (17.8%) among 35 years cohort was below the national target. Further, this value is lower than the recorded national coverage of 2011. Media publicity, mobile clinics, and peer group motivation are recommended for improvement. Introducing a Pap Test Registry would strengthen follow-up.