

Utilization of Cervical Cancer Screening Service Among Nurses in Ekiti State, Nigeria

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Abstract: Cervical cancer is a preventable cause of death among women especially in developing nations which can be prevented through regular and timely screening. Nurses who are assume to be knowledgeable about cervical cancer screening options and ought to act as leading examples in utilization of cervical cancer screening services, however studies have documented otherwise, The purpose of this study therefore, is to evaluate the Utilization of Cervical Cancer Screening Service among Nurses in Ekiti State, as little literary study have been done on the topic among nurses in the setting. A mixed method design study was conducted in four health facilities that were purposively selected in Ekiti State, Nigeria. A total of 278 consenting nurses participated in the study. Data were collected using self- structured questionnaire and interview guide. Data were analyzed using chi square and Student's t-test at $p = 0.05$. Nurses' mean age was 35 years with average work experience of 10 years. Results from the study shows that a preponderance of the nurses which stood at 75.8% had never been screened for cervical cancer while only 24.2 have been screened and 90.6% willing to be screened if given the opportunity. It was observed that Nurses' avoid cervical screening exercise as a result of the following; lack of time, fear of positive result, embarrassment of exposing the vulva to the opposite sex, cost implication and spiritual assurance that they can never be a victim of cervical cancer. Also 164 (59.2%) of the participants had adequate knowledge about cervical cancer screening, while slightly more than half 143 (51.6%) of the respondent had positive attitude towards cervical cancer screening, There was also a significant association between years of professional practice and utilization of cervical cancer screening service as p value was 0.003 This implies that participants who had longer years of professional experience are more likely to utilize cervical cancer screening services than those who had shorter years of professional experience. Therefore, the null-hypothesis was rejected. it was also noted that participants' level of academic education did not determine whether or not their attitude was positive or negative as the p value gotten was 0.544 The null-hypothesis was not rejected. It was concluded that nurse's utilisation rate was very low. Thus, regular educational programs on cervical cancer, government and hospital management should make policies that will encourage utilization of cervical cancer screening among nurses are recommended.

Keywords: Utilization, Cervical Cancer Screening, Nurses, Ekiti State

1. Introduction

Globally, Cervical cancer is the 4th commonly occurring cancer in women and the 8th most commonly occurring cancer overall, with over 500,000 new cases in 2018 and the most common cancer in women in Eastern and Middle Africa. With majority (85%) of the global burden occurring in the less developed regions, where it accounts for almost 12% of all

occurring female cancers. [1, 2] In Africa, approximately 6,000 women die of this preventable disease each year [3]. Also Also Ndejjo, Mukama, Musabyimana and Musoke [4] revealed that only 4.8% of 900 Uganda women had been screened for cervical cancer while 48.8% of them did it on health care workers' request.

Cervical cancer was reported to be the second most frequent cancer among women in Nigeria [5]. In south-western Nigeria, data retrieved from the Ife-Ijesa Cancer Registry between the

period 2010-2014 identified that out of the 2,042 total cases registered, the relative distribution of cancers at Reproductive sites was 18% with cervical cancer constituting more than half (55%). This agrees with Ojo, Adeola, Awe, Oluwasina, Akinyemi, Omotoso, & Alatise, in data retrieved from the Cancer Registry of the Federal Medical Centre, Ido Ekiti between 2010-2015 which also reveals that the commonest site of infection is the breast (29.9%) followed by the cervix (17.5%). [6]. Despite this hike, Babatunde, Elegbede, Ayodele, & Abidoye reported a low uptake of cervical screening service among women in Ikere Ekiti local government of Ekiti State. [7]

About 50.33 million Nigeria women aged 15 years and above who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Further estimates indicate that every year 14,089 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and more than half, over 8,240 die from this preventable disease. [5].

Cervical cancer is a preventable disease due to the long pre invasive stage. Early detection and appropriate treatment are possible if robust screening is implemented. Also early cervical epithelial changes can be identified by a Pap smear test, which is the primary screening test for detection of precancerous cervical intraepithelial neoplasia and the early stage of invasive cervical cancer [8].

Therefore, early detection of the presence of pre-cancerous stage through timely screening has been indicated in inhibiting the progression of many forms of tumors into malignant stages [9] cervical cancer screening has been found to reduce the incidence of cervical cancer and associated death. In England, screening currently prevents 70% of cervical cancer deaths and if everyone attended screening regularly, 83% could be prevented. [10].

Regardless of the rise in the prevalence of cervical cancer, its associated deaths and increasing efforts towards awareness and education about the importance of regular cervical cancer screening, studies have shown a very low level of utilization of cervical cancer screening service even among female health care workers Arulogun & Maxwell; Bakari, Takai & Bukar, Report 23.3% and 32.6% uptake of cervical screening services among female nurses in Maiduguri and Ibadan respectively. [11, 12]

Health care workers (HCW) especially nurses are always looked upon as "role models" in health related issues. As they play major role in health education of the public on the availability and need for cervical cancer screening services and immunization. [13] Report in a study among Ekiti women shows that majority 71.8% of the participants got to know about cervical cancer and its screening through Nurses. Nurses who are informed individuals are expected to have more information and knowledge about several health related services and also act as leading examples in the utilization of cervical cancer screening service, but studies have documented otherwise [14, 15, 16]. Despite the high level of knowledge about cervical cancer screening and its benefit, nurses have been reported to show very low utilization and uptake of cervical cancer screening service [11, 14] with varying statistics among female nurses and other female Health care workers. Thus poses a greater threat to health care delivery system in Nigeria hence, prompt action must be

taken to address this persistent trend in Nigeria. Although cervical cancer seems to be over flogged in some settings but very little work has been done on utilization, attitude and perception of cervical cancer screening among nurses especially in Ekiti State. Due to the peculiarity of the state, thus, this study was set to assess the utilization of cervical cancer screening service among nurses in Ekiti State, Nigeria

2. Research Questions

The following research question and hypothesis guide the study

1. What is the level of knowledge among nurses on cervical cancer screening in Ekiti State, Nigeria?
2. What is the attitude of nurses towards cervical cancer screening in Ekiti State, Nigeria?
3. What is the level of utilization of cervical cancer screening Service among the nurses in Ekiti State, Nigeria?
4. What are the factors influencing utilization of Cervical Cancer screening Service as identified by nurses in Ekiti State, Nigeria?

Research hypothesis

H0 1: There is no significant difference between highest level of qualifications of the respondents and attitudes toward utilization of cervical cancer screening.

H0 2: There is significant association between years of professional practice and utilization of cervical cancer screening service

3. Methodology

Purposive sampling techniques were use in selecting the four hospitals 2 teaching hospital, 1 general hospital and 1 state specialist hospital, because they provide mainly secondary and tertiary health care services with highest number of registered nurses, high patronage from within and outside Ekiti state and each hospital has facilities for cervical cancer screening and also houses Cancer Registries.

Proportionate technique was use in the distribution of respondents to each hospital based on the nurses' population in each hospital.

Systematic sampling techniques was used in selecting nurses in the different hospitals from the list on the duty roster in each unit of the hospital with interval of 2, calculated using the ratio of the total population with calculated sample size $668/278 = 2.4 = 2$.

Purposive sampling techniques was used in selecting the head of unit in each of the units of the hospitals for the Key informant interview since they are informed individuals, unit head and are involved in decision making committee of the hospitals. It was assumed they have more information on factors influencing utilization in their respective hospitals.

4. Result

4.1. Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 1 below shows the respondents' socio-demographic

characteristics of respondents. Results from the study indicate that the greatest proportion of the respondents, 72.2% were aged between 20-39 years, 71.8% were divorced/separated and 92.4% were Christians. More so, 54.9% had first degree as their highest level of education, 93.9% had 1-20 years of experience and 53.1% pay out of pocket for healthcare.

4.2. Knowledge of Respondents on Cervical Screening

Results from the study show that 96.4% of them know that human papilloma virus can cause cervical cancer, 91.3% know that vaccination against human papilloma virus infection will prevent development of cervical cancer, 97.1% believe that early detection and treatment of cervical cancer through VIA/ pap smear screening can prevent development of cervical cancer, while 95.3% know that mortality rate of cervical cancer can be reduced by early detection through screening. Also, 78.8% know centres where cervical screening is being performed in Ekiti State, Nigeria. However, 28.5% do not know that HPV DNA testing is one of the methods used in cervical cancer screening service and 23.8% do not know that the risk of cervical cancer increases with age and 32.9% do not know that cigarette smoking and alcohol intake can increase ones' chance of developing cervical cancer. In addition, 94.2% have heard of human papilloma virus before, while 87.7% know it is the main cause of cervical cancer.

Table 1. Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents.

Socio-demographic Characteristics	Frequency	Percent (%)
Age Range		
20 - 39 years	200	72.2
40 - 59 years	77	27.8
Marital status		
Married	74	26.7
Divorced/Separated	199	71.8
Widowed	4	1.4
Religion affiliation		
Christianity	256	92.4
Islam	21	7.6
Highest level of education		
Diploma	115	41.5
First degree	152	54.9
M.Sc.	9	3.2
PhD and above	1	0.4
Years of professional practice		
1 - 20 years	260	93.9
21 - 40 years	17	6.1
Financial source of healthcare		
NHIS	108	39
Out of pocket	147	53.1
Other	22	7.9

Mean Age – 35; Mean Year of Practice – 10

Table 2. Knowledge of Cervical Cancer Screening.

Knowledge of Cervical Cancer Screening	Incorrect		Correct	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Human papilloma virus can cause cervical cancer?	10	3.6	267	96.4
Vaccination against human papilloma virus infection will prevent development of cervical cancer?	24	8.7	253	91.3
Early detection and treatment of cervical cancer through VIA/ pap smear screening can prevent development of cervical cancer?	8	2.9	269	97.1
Mortality rate of cervical cancer can be reduced by early detection through screening?	13	4.7	264	95.3
Do you know any centre where cervical screening is been performed in Ekiti State, Nigeria?	59	21.3	218	78.7
Do you know where cervical screening is been performed in hospital where you work?	77	27.8	200	72.2
Do you know that HPV DNA testing is one of the methods used in cervical cancer screening service?	79	28.5	198	71.5
HPV can be cure if detected early?	28	10.1	249	89.9
The risk of cervical cancer increases with Age?	66	23.8	211	76.2
A positive family history increase ones chance of developing cervical cancer?	52	18.8	225	81.2
Cigarette smoking and alcohol intake can increase ones chance of developing cervical cancer?	91	32.9	186	67.1
Having multiple sexual partners increase the chance of cervical cancer?	22	7.9	255	92.1
Late menopause after the age of 55yrs is a risk of developing cervical cancer	156	56.3	121	43.7
Use of contraceptive is risk factor for developing cervical cancer	117	42.2	160	57.8
Breast feeding is also a risk factor for developing cervical cancer?	233	84.1	44	15.9
Early exposure to sexual intercourse is a risk factor for developing cervical cancer?	59	21.3	218	78.7
Do you know you can be infected by human papilloma virus?	92	33.2	185	66.8
HIV is the main cause of cervical cancer?	233	84.1	44	15.9
Have you heard of human papilloma virus before?	16	5.8	261	94.2
Human papilloma virus is the main cause of cervical cancer?	34	12.3	243	87.7

Table 3 below shows level of knowledge of cervical cancer screening. Results from the study indicate that the greatest percentage of the participants, 164 (59.2%) had adequate knowledge about cervical cancer screening, having get more than 9 (50%) of the knowledge base question with 113 (40.8%) having inadequate knowledge about cervical cancer screening, having score less than 9 (50%) of the knowledge base question

Table 3. Level of knowledge of cervical cancer screening.

Level of Knowledge	Frequency	Percent (%)
Inadequate Knowledge	113	40.8
Adequate Knowledge	164	59.2
Total	277	100

Level of Knowledge

Attitude of Respondents towards Cervical Cancer Screening

Table 4 shows attitude of respondents towards cervical cancer screening. Results from the study indicates that 27.8% are scared of going for cervical cancer screening because it is painful, while 45.1% stated they know it is necessary but it has not occurred to them to go for it. Also, 36.8% disagreed with the fact that there is no need for screening since both partners are faithful to each other, while 34.7% disagreed with the fact that

there is no need for the test since they are not at risk of developing cervical cancer. Also, 31% disagreed with the fact that time is a factor militating against cervical cancer screening. However, 30% disagreed with testing stating that it is embarrassing to expose themselves to doctors when they are not at risk of contracting cervical cancer. In addition, 36.8% agreed that they will screen for cervical cancer in the future.

Table 4. Attitude of Respondents towards Cervical Cancer Screening.

Statement Items	SA		A		U		D		SD	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
I am scared of going for cervical cancer screening because is painful	48	17.3	77	27.8	32	11.6	74	26.7	46	16.6
I don't really need cervical cancer screening because my partner and I are faithful to each other	23	8.3	58	20.9	22	7.9	102	36.8	72	26
I don't really need it because I am not at risk of developing cervical cancer	32	11.6	47	17	14	5.1	96	34.7	88	31.8
I know is necessary but it has not occurred to me to go for it	41	14.8	125	45.1	30	10.8	56	20.2	25	9
I don't really know where the screening it performed in Ekiti	37	13.4	52	18.8	10	3.6	80	28.9	98	35.4
I don't have time for the screening	20	7.2	75	27.1	32	11.6	86	31	64	23.1
I like to do it but will prefer to have it done in a private hospital rather than where I work	52	18.8	80	28.9	80	28.9	71	25.6	52	18.8
It is embarrassing to expose myself to doctors when am not at risk	44	15.9	57	20.6	27	9.7	83	30	66	23.8
I will screen for cervical cancer in future	60	21.7	102	36.8	34	12.3	43	15.5	38	13.7
I have never recommended cervical cancer screening for someone before	30	10.8	106	38.3	16	5.8	60	21.7	65	23.5
I believe God cannot allow me to develop cervical cancer hence, I don't really need it	44	15.9	68	24.5	30	10.8	64	23.1	71	25.6

Table 5 shows types of attitude displayed by participants. Results from the study indicates that slightly more than half 143 (51.6%) of the respondents had positive attitude towards cervical cancer screening, having get more than 5 (50%) of the attitude base question right and 134 (48.4%) negative attitude toward cervical cancer screening, having score less than 5 (50%) of the attitude base question

Table 5. Types of Attitude Displayed by Participants.

Attitude Types	Frequency	Percent%
Negative Attitude	134	48.4
Positive Attitude	143	51.6
Total	277	100

Pattern of Cervical Cancer Screening

Table 6 shows Pattern of Cervical Cancer Screening. Results from the study show that the greatest proportion of the respondents, 75.8% had never been screened for cervical cancer. The reasons given for non-use of screening services include lack of time, 38.6%, fear of result, 32.5%, embarrassment/cost consideration, 19.1%

Table 6. Pattern of Cervical Cancer Screening.

Screening for Cervical cancer	Frequency	Percent (%)
Never screened	210	75.8
Screened	67	24.2
Regularity of Screening		
Every year	16	5.8
Every 2 year	12	4.3
Every 3 year	18	6.5
Every 4 year	21	7.6
Never screened	210	75.8
Reasons for non-use of Screening Services		
Lack of time	107	38.6
No approval from my spouse	27	9.7
Embarrassment/cost consideration	53	19.1
Fear of result	90	32.5

Reasons for not Using Cervical Screening Services

Table 7 shows the reasons for not using cervical screening services. Results from the study indicates that the most implicated reason for non-use of cervical cancer screening services is fear of the result, 31%

Table 7. Reasons for not using Cervical Screening Services.

Reasons	Frequency	Percent (%)
Fear of result	86	31
Expensive	6	2.2
Not interested	3	1.1
Not yet ready	3	1.1
Painful	5	1.8
Not at risk	31	11.2
Lack of time	11	4
Religious faith	132	47.7
Total	277	100

Hypotheses testing

H0 1: There is no significant difference between highest level of qualifications of the respondents and attitudes toward utilization of cervical cancer screening.

Table 8. Association between highest level of Education and attitude towards cervical cancer screening.

Highest level of education	Displayed Attitude		Chi-sq.	df	p	Remark
	Negative	Positive				
Diploma	53 (39.6%)	62 (43.4%)	0.412	1	0.544	NS
University Degree	81 (60.4%)	81 (56.6%)				

Table 8 shows the no significant association between the level of education and attitude towards the screening service is 0.544 which is more than 0.05 ($p > 0.05$). This implies that participants' level of academic education did not determine whether or not their attitude would be positive or negative

towards the screening services. Therefore, the null-hypothesis was not rejected.

H0 2: There is significant association between years of professional practice and utilization of cervical cancer screening service

Table 9 shows the significant association between years of

professional practice and utilization of cervical cancer screening service is 0.003 which is less than 0.05 ($p < 0.05$). This implies that participants who had longer years of professional experience are more likely to utilize cervical cancer screening services than those who had shorter years of professional experience. Therefore, the null-hypothesis was rejected.

Table 9. Association between years of professional practice and utilization of cervical cancer screening service.

Years of professional practice	Screening Status		Chi-sq.	df	p	Remark
	Not Screened	Screened				
1 - 20 years	206 (96.3%)	54 (85.7%)	9.399	1	0.003	S
21 - 40 years	8 (3.7%)	9 (14.3%)				

5. Discussion of Findings

5.1. Socio Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Results of the study indicate that the greatest proportion of the respondents, 72.2% were aged between 20-39 years, 71.8% were divorced/separated and 92.4% were Christians. More so, 54.9% had first degree as their highest level of education, 93.9% had 1-20 years. This agrees with Ifemelumma, Anikwe, Okorochukwu, Onu, Obuna, Ejikeme & Ezeonu in their study shows that majority of the respondents, 179 (46.1%), were between 21 and 30 years of age and 209 (53.9%) Of the respondents were married, while 41.2% were single. Nurses with less than 5 years of working experience made up the largest proportion (47.2%). [17]. Also Yörük, Selda, Açıkgöz, Ayla, Türkmen, Hülya, & Ergör, in their study among 367 female health care workers shows that the mean age of the respondents was 28.2 years with more than half, 196 (53.3%) of them been of the protestant religion. One hundred and eighty-one (49.3%) of them were married and 304 (82.8%) of the respondents had a diploma and working experience of 1–5 years respectively. [18]

5.2. Knowledge of the Respondents on Cervical Cancer and Its Screening Service

Results from this study also shows that 96.4% of the respondents know that Human Papilloma Virus can cause cervical cancer, 91.3% know that vaccination against Human Papilloma Virus infection will prevent development of cervical cancer, 78.8% of the respondents know centres where cervical cancer screening is being performed in Ekiti State. However, 28.5% do not know that HPV DNA testing is one of the methods used in cervical cancer screening service and 23.8% do not know that the risk of cervical cancer increases with age and 32.9% do not know that cigarette smoking and alcohol intake can increase ones' chance of developing cervical cancer. In addition, 94.2% have heard of human papilloma virus before, thus more than half of the participants, 59.2% had adequate knowledge about cervical cancer screening. This agrees with the in LUTH, majority of the nurses, 92% of the respondents were aware of the

causative organism of cervical cancer (human papilloma virus). 99% of the nurses have good knowledge of cervical cancer screening. Also 97.1% believe that early detection and treatment of cervical cancer through VIA/pap smear screening can prevent development of cervical cancer, while 95.3% know that mortality rate of cervical cancer can be reduced by early detection through screening [15] It also corroborates with study on perception and utilization of cervical cancer screening among female nurses in University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria Which reveals that more than half of the nurses 54.5% correctly identified HPV as the primary cause of cervical cancer, the overall analysis of knowledge of respondents showed that 84.9% had average knowledge score, 14.3% had poor knowledge.[11] It also agrees with another study among female health care providers which reveals that 100% of Health care providers were aware of cervical cancer. [19] Also Also Yörük, Selda, Açıkgöz, Ayla, Türkmen, Hülya, & Ergör, Gül [18] shows (86.9%) health workers had a good level of knowledge on cervical cancer. Most of the respondents, 341 (92.9%), had heard about cervical cancer. Similarly, 299 (81.5%) and 140 (38.1%) of them knew that cervical cancer was preventable and were aware of its preventive measures, respectively. Also 223 (60.8%) and 133 (36.2%) of respondents knew that early screening and vaccination for HPV could prevent cervical cancer, while 291 (79.3%) and 271 (73.8%) of stated using holy water and praying to God as the preventive measures. Also 183 (37.6%) mentioned visual inspection with acetic acid as a screening method. Similarly, 113 (30.8%) mentioned Pap smear as a screening method. Majority of the respondents, 306 (83.4%), knew that the cervical cancer screening test was used to check the health of the cells of the cervix. Regarding the cervical cancer screening services, 158 (43.1%) of the respondents stated that there was no cervical cancer screening test in their institution.

This suggests that nurses in Ekiti like other nurses globally have registered nursing certificates as the least requirement to practice, they have sufficient knowledge on cervical cancer and cervical cancer screening from their nursing schools as a greater percentage of then know the causative organism, vaccine available and types of screening for early detection of cervical cancer.

5.3. Pattern of Cervical Cancer Screening Service Utilization among Respondents

Results from the study show that the greatest proportion of the respondents, 75.8% had never been screened for cervical cancer and out of the 24.2% who have done it, 37.2% had only been screened once and 45.8% of them between the age of 36 - 45 as at last screening with 90.6% willing to be screened if given the opportunity. The reasons given for non-usage of screening services include lack of time (38.6%), fear of result (32.5%), embarrassment/cost consideration (19.1%), this corroborates with Awodele, Adeyomoye, Awodele, Fayankinnu, & Dolapo, in their study which shows that minority 32.6% had never used cervical cancer screening facility and main reasons for non-usage included lack of time (50.8%), fear of result (13.9%) and not being sexually active (6.3%). [15] This also agrees with the study on utilization of cervical cancer screening among female nurses in University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria which reveals that minority (34.6%) of the nurses had made use of cervical cancer screening and main reason cited by this set of nurses were lack of time, fear of the result, cumbersome procedure, cost consideration, and not being sexually active. [11] Also Fasanu, Akindele, Adebimpe, Ala, Omopariola & Adisa, in their study among health care workers in Maiduguri which revealed that majority of the nurses (141) were aware of Pap smear and only minority constituting 23.3% of the respondents had previously done the test with majority of the women willing to do the test if offered the opportunity either free (70.6%) or with payment (29.4%). [20] This is in consonance with another study among female health care providers which reveals that minority (18.4%) of the respondents have never undergone cervical cancer screening. [19] Also Yörük, Selda, Açıkgöz, Ayla, Türkmen, Hülya, & Ergör, Gül in Ethiopia shows that majority of the nurses in their study, 325 (88.6%) have not been screened for cervical cancer before. And among the few (11.4%) who were screened for cervical cancer, acetic acid test accounted for 18 (42.8%). fear of the result and lack of sufficient information among others constituted a significant percentage for reason for non utilization. One hundred and eighty (49.1%) of the respondents stated that no vaccination for HPV was available in their institution, and all study respondents were not vaccinated. [18]

5.4. Attitude of the Respondent on Cervical Cancer and Screening Service

Results from the study indicates that 27.8% of the participants were scared of going for cervical cancer screening because it is painful, while 45.1% stated they know it is necessary but it has not occurred to them to go for it. Also, 36.8% disagreed with the fact that there is no need for screening since both partners are faithful to each other, while 34.7% disagreed with the fact that there is no need for the test since they are not at risk of developing cervical cancer. Also, 31% disagreed with the fact that time is a factor militating against cervical cancer screening. However, 30%

disagreed with testing stating that it is embarrassing to expose themselves to doctors when they are not at risk of contracting cervical cancer. In addition, 36.8% agreed that they will screen for cervical cancer in the future. This agrees with Awodele, Adeyomoye, Awodele, Fayankinnu, & Dolapo [15], in their study carried out among female nurses in University Teaching Hospital Lagos which shows good number of the nurses (88%) correctly perceived cervical cancer to be preventable and 82.0% believed that screening should be carried out as soon as sexual intercourse starts irrespective of age. It also correlates with Fasanu, Akindele, Adebimpe, Ala, Omopariola, & Adisa in their study which shows majority 146 (60.8%) of the respondents felt that early detection has good treatment outcome. [20] However, it disagrees with the study conducted on attitude and practice of cervical cancer screening among female health workers in university of Port Harcourt teaching hospital, Rivers State which shows that a good number of the respondents 323 (91.7%) did not support opinion that all women of child bearing age should participate in the uptake of cervical cancer screening, while a few 29 (8.3%) supported it. Majority of the health workers 326 (92.6%) did not support that cervical cancer screening should be for only those in O & G unit while 26 (7.3%) support it. 325 (92.3%) of respondents from the same study disagree with the opinion that cervical cancer screening should form part of the routine examination for women of menopausal and child bearing age, only a few 27 (7.6%) agreed. 48 (13.7%) of the respondents agree that women who maintain good genital hygiene and one sex partner do not need cervical cancer screening while 304 (86.3%) disagreed. The result however showed that the attitude of female health workers towards the uptake of cervical cancer screening was negative and not favorable. Similarly, it was reported from the study that only 93 (26.4%) have voluntarily presented themselves for cervical cancer screening while 259 (73.6%) have not. It was concluded from the study that there was no significant relationship between profession and the attitude of healthcare workers. [21]

5.5. Factors Affecting Utilisation of Cervical Cancer Screening Services Among Ekiti Nurses

Factors deduced from the key informant interview to affect utilization of cervical cancer screening include lack of time, fear of lack of privacy and confidentiality, fear of discomfort or pain during the procedure, fear of positive result, inaccessibility of the cervical screening services facility, cost of the screening, inadequate information about cervical cancer screening center, fear of unsafe and infected procedure, fear and beliefs of adverse effect of pap smear, distance of working unit from screening center location and spiritual assurance that I can never be a victim of cervical cancer which agrees with the factors highlighted in study of Sachan, Singh, Patel, & Sachan; Nwobodo, & Malami; Ifemelumma, Anikwe, Okorochukwu, Onu, Obuna, Ejikeme, & Ezeonu. [17, 18, 19] Recommendations from the nurses interviewed include continuous education/awareness program on the benefit of cervical screening for the nurses,

subsidizing the cost of the screening, increase awareness about the screening and available centers, policy that favours nurses, e.g. making the procedure to be weekends so that those who are on week day duty can do it on weekends and making it a must before picking up a job in government establishment, only female health care workers should be allowed to do the procedure since it is a feminine illness etc.

6. Conclusion

This study concludes that there is satisfactory knowledge and positive attitude among female nurses in Ekiti State about cervical cancer and screening services, but uptake of screening services for cervical cancer is very low. Knowledge is very important but not usually sufficient in changing individual practices. Motivation usually comes from sources other than factual knowledge about something. Almost half of the nurses 40.8% have inadequate knowledge about cervical cancer screening services. This group has to be given adequate training as they are the ones who go to the field for outreach activities, maintain a close relationship with the public and play a very important role in educating and motivating the females to undergo cervical cancer screening. Hence, this group has to be given high focus.

7. Recommendation

- 1) Government policy should be directed to compulsory screening as prerequisite for employment like other screening.
- 2) Screening and vaccine should be made available and affordable not only to the nurses but everybody.
- 3) Government should subsidize the cost of cervical cancer screening and vaccine or completely make them free for everybody.
- 4) Further research is recommended in aspect of comparison of the utilization and attitude among health care worker on cervical cancer screening service especially in Ekiti state and also emphasizes on the need for addressing the misconceptions and incorrect practices on cancer screening

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