

Exploring the risky sexual behaviour and use of condom among homeless women in New Delhi city, India

Chourase Mithlesh

International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS)

ABSTRACT

Objectives: The objective of this research is to explore the risky sexual behaviour and the dynamic of contraceptive use among the homeless women in New Delhi city. **Methods:** The data was collected during July-December 2015. A total of 300 homeless women above 15 years living in New Delhi were interviewed on various issues; i.e., homelessness, living condition, sexual and reproductive health. A structured interview tool and semi-structured in-depth and key informant tool were developed. The tools were pretested before final data collection. **Results:** About one-third homeless women had intercourse before the age of 13 years and 85% had before age of 18 years. Two-third women reported the first intercourse happened forcefully and only 12% women used condom at that time. About 10% women had sex with multiple partners in last six months. Use of condom during sex is not common among the homeless women as only 40% ever had used condom. Only 5% use condom every time they had sex, while 35% use sometimes or rarely in last six months. As reported by the respondents, sex without concern, lack of information and lack of accessibility for a contraceptive methods are emerged as the major reasons for not using condom. It is also observed that about half of the respondents had five or more number of living children. About 40% suffered from STI. **Conclusion:** The study found that the homeless women have a high risky sexual behaviour as they had to intercourse at early age and don't use condom. This leads to high prevalence of STI as well as higher number of children. The study suggests that it is necessary to make awareness on the benefits of protected sex and also condoms should be distributed frequently among the homeless women to have protected and health sexual life.

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Factors affecting uptake of cervical cancer screening among immigrant African women attending selected church services in Klang valley, Malaysia

Nwabichie Chinemerem Cecilia, Rosliza Abdul Manaf, Suriani Ismail

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Cervical cancer is a health concern among women worldwide as it ranks as the fourth most common cause of cancer among women. Human papillomavirus (HPV) 16 and 18 are the main causative agent of cervical Cancer. Cervical cancer can, however, be prevented with the use of early and regular cervical cancer screening. **Objective:** This study aims to identify the cervical cancer screening practices and factors affecting the factors that affect screening status of African immigrant women in Malaysia. **METHODOLOGY:** A cross-sectional study among 320 randomly selected respondents between ages 18-69 was conducted in 3 different churches with high number of African participant. A structured questionnaire was used to conduct a face to face interview. 3 levels of analysis were conducted using spss 21, involving descriptive analysis, chi square and multiple logistic regression. **Results:** The majority of the respondents are aged 31-50 years, and married. Only 27.2% have had screening in the past 3years. The final model showed that Marital status (OR=1.002, 95%CI=0.000-0188, P=0.007), Knowledge (OR=119.586, 95%CI= 4.864-2940.006, p=0.003), and perceived barriers (OR=119.586, 95%CI= 4.864-2940.006, p=0.003) were the only significant predicting factors of uptake of cervical screening among African immigrant women in Klang valley, Malaysia. **Conclusion:** The findings revealed that the uptake of cervical cancer screening among the respondents since the past 3years was very low. Marital status, knowledge and perceived barriers are the predicting factors. Specific awareness programs to increase the uptake should be designed and implemented by the relevant authorities.

KEY WORDS:

Cervical cancer, Pap test, African women in Malaysia