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UNIVERSITY

ILISHAN-REMO, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA

COLLEGE OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

2022/2023 PhD Thesis Abstract

Department of Nursing Science

RFN: Julius Olatade MAITANMI

RD: Nursing Science

RS: Nursing Sciences

RE: maitanmij@babcock.edu.ng

RAE: jmaitanmi@gmail.com

RP: 07038469533

RT: Nursing Intervention on Cervical Cancer Screening Uptake among Women of Reproductive Age in Ikere Local Government Area of Ekiti State, Nigeria

MS: Prof. Janet O. KIO

ME: kioj@babcock.edu.ng

SP: 08101612635

CS: Dr. Ngozi A. OKAFOR

CE: okafor@babcock.edu.ng

CP: 08035273775

AB: Cervical cancer is a type of cancer affecting the cells of the cervix and it remains one of the leading cancers in women contributing to morbidity. Despite the availability of screening process which is a secondary form of prevention, studies show that the uptake of the screening process among women of reproductive age is still low. The uptake of screening among women in Ikere Local Government Area (LGA) of Ekiti State is low and this contributes to the high rate of morbidity and mortality as evidenced by literature. There had been limited effective strategies to enhance the uptake of cervical cancer screening. Therefore, this study assessed the effect of nursing intervention on cervical cancer screening uptake, knowledge, attitude and the perception among women of reproductive age in Ikere LGA of Ekiti State, Nigeria.

The study adopted one group pre-test post-test quasi-experimental research design. The population were women of reproductive age between 15 and 49 years who reside in Ikere LGA of Ekiti State. The sample size of 222 was derived using Cochran formula. Multistage sampling technique was used in recruiting participants into the study. Health education and free cervical cancer screening were offered for six weeks as the nursing intervention. A structured validated questionnaire was used to collect data at the pre- and post-intervention phases. The instrument has a reliability Cronbach's Alpha coefficient ranging from 0.72 to 0.81. Data collected were analyzed using IBM Statistical Product and Service Solutions

version 23. Descriptive (frequency and percentage) and inferential (t-test) analyses were done at 0.05 level of significance.

Results show that majority of the participants were above 40 years (53.5%), were Christians (85.6%), Yorubas (80.8%) and married (72.5%). The uptake improved from 15.2% to 56.2% after the nursing intervention. The pre-intervention knowledge about cervical cancer screening was low (4.86 ± 1.70) but there was improvement in the post-intervention phase (8.53 ± 2.40). The attitudinal disposition of the participants improved from 11.58 ± 3.49 (pre-intervention) to 17.39 ± 3.35 (post-intervention), while the perception improved from 27.75 ± 6.58 (pre-intervention) to 40.62 ± 6.85 after the intervention. The study also found significant differences between pre- and post-intervention knowledge mean score of cervical cancer screening ($t = 16.39$; $p < 0.001$), between pre- and post-intervention attitudinal mean score of cervical cancer ($t = 17.86$; $p < 0.001$) and between pre- and post-intervention perception mean score of cervical cancer screening ($t = 19.51$; $p < 0.001$).

The study concluded that the nursing intervention improved the uptake, knowledge, attitude, and perception of women of reproductive age in Ikere LGA of Ekiti State towards cervical cancer screening. It is therefore recommended that a sustained health education by health workers should be held in the different units of the hospital where care is rendered to women about cervical cancer screening.

Keywords: Attitudinal disposition, Cervical cancer screening uptake, Knowledge about cervical cancer screening, Nursing intervention, Perception, Uptake of cervical cancer screening, Women of reproductive age

Word Count: 461

Abbreviations: RFN: Researcher's Full Name, RD: Researcher's Department, RS: Researcher's School, RE: Researcher's Email, RAE: Researcher's Alternate Email, RP: Researcher's Phone Contact, RT: Registered Title, MS: Main Supervisor, ME: Main Supervisor's E-mail Address, SP: Main Supervisor's Phone Contact, CS: Co-Supervisor, CE: Co-Supervisor's E-mail Address, CP: Co-Supervisor's Phone Contact, AB: Abstract

Suggested Citation: Maitanmi, J.O., Kio, J., and Okafor, N.A. 2023. Nursing Intervention on Cervical Cancer Screening Uptake among Women of Reproductive Age in Ikere Local Government Area of Ekiti State, Nigeria. PhD Thesis Abstract, College of Postgraduate Studies, Babcock University.
[https://doi.org/10.61867/pcub.1\(5\).182](https://doi.org/10.61867/pcub.1(5).182)