

Global Initiative Against HPV and Cervical Cancer (GIAHC)
Project: Rural Unit for Health and Social Affairs (RUHSA), CMC Vellore
Report Summary: Jan-June 2016

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1. Introduction

The department of RUHSA of Christian Medical College Vellore along with its partners, the Global Initiative Against HPV and Cervical Cancer and other international organizations has continued its engagement, this quarter, with the community by screening women for cervical cancer through its educate, screen, and treat strategy using low-cost technology tools. The Educate, Screen and Treat program has been delivering tangible results where the primary focus is on community-based peer education followed by screening and treatment, as appropriate.

The K.V. Kuppam block has 39 Panchayats and 89 Revenue villages. The population of K.V. Kuppam block has been grouped by RUHSA under 18 peripheral service unit /PSU. Each PSU has weekly clinics. It is visited by a doctor (doctor-run clinic) once in 4 weeks, and the remaining weeks are run by public health nurses. The educate and screen components of the programme are being done as routine activity in 18 of the 23 peripheral service units/PSU of RUHSA in K.V. Kuppam block of Vellore district in Tamil Nadu, South India. Apart from this a camp approach is also being followed to increase access and coverage to the community.

2. “Educate” component

Community awareness on cervical cancer – causes, symptoms, importance of early detection, diagnosis and available treatment facilities are given to the general community (small groups in the villages), women attending RUHSA, PSUs, and also during the camps. Posters to promote screening and early detection are displayed in all PSUs and also during camps

32 campaigns have been done so far for patient education this year.

3. Screen & Treat details

Followed by education, women who are motivated, willing and have given consent are,

- a) routinely referred to the nearby PSU or RUHSA for cervical screening by trained nurses using visual inspection with acetic acid /VIA (routine activity)
- b) Through camps (thrice in a month) being organized by RUHSA in select PSU/villages (camp approach)

VIA positive cases were biopsied and one required referral to the CMC hospital for further treatment.

4. Challenges faced

One of the major challenges is to mobilize/motivate the women to undergo cervical screening even after effective health education campaign. There is still some lack of awareness. However, we see an increasing number of women accessing screening.

5. Action plan for the second quarter of 2016

- a. To continue existing health education campaigns followed by screening through routine as well as camp approach.
- b. New approaches that are in the thought process are,
 - Incorporating cervical cancer as one of the topics of school health programmes for the adolescent girls, and involving them to motivate their mother/family to undergo cervical screening
 - Similarly, the college girls can also be empowered to work as “pressure groups” to improve access and coverage. Eventually, the nearby colleges can take it up as a social service under National Social Service/NSS
 - Involvement of women self-help group can be enlarged to include other like-minded community-based organizations/CBOs and panchayatiraj institutions/PRI as well.