

UNIIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**AWARENESS, KNOWLEDGE AND
PREVENTION OF CERVICAL CANCER AMONG
FEMALE STUDENTS FROM SECONDARY
SCHOOLS IN KUALA TERENGGANU,
TERENGGANU**

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ABSTRACT

Cervical cancer is a cancer that occurs to the epithelial cells of the cervix. It is the secondary cause of female cancer after breast cancer. The study was conducted to observe the level of awareness, knowledge and prevention of cervical cancer take by the female students in Kuala Terengganu. A cross-sectional study had been done to 470 students. Out of 470, 438 questionnaires were returned completely. The data was collected by using a validated and self-administered questionnaire which included demographic data, awareness, knowledge and prevention of cervical cancer. In this study, the data were analysed by using a Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 22.0. It included descriptive analysis and Chi-square test. The data presented that 51.83 % was from PMR/PT3 level, 39.50 % from UPSR level and 8.68 % from SPM level aged 13 to 19 year-old. Majority of these students (90.9 %) had heard about cervical cancer. Out 438, 229 respondents got information about cervical cancer from mass media, which were television and radio. However, most of the students still had inadequate knowledge on risk factors and symptoms of cervical cancer. More than half of the students aware of HPV vaccination. It was because 79.5 % of them already vaccinated against HPV.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

“Cancer is defined as an overgrowth or rapidly dividing cells in the human body system.” The abnormal cell growth can invade and spread to other parts of the body. Cancer is one of the diseases that cause high morbidity and mortality rates worldwide. Cervical cancer is a solid tumor derived from epithelial cells of the cervix. It develops at the lower part of the uterus that opens into the vagina. As we are discussing about cervical cancer, it is important that we have to know and understand which part of the cervix was located, and its functions for the body reproductive system. Cervix is a connection of the uterus and vagina made of cartilage covered by smooth muscle tissue. Functions of the cervix are to cause wide dilation during childbirth to allow baby, while it opens in a small amount to allow the passage of menstrual flow during menstruation. In Malaysia, it ranks as fifth cause of female cancer deaths and fourth leading cause of deaths in women aged from 15 to 44. Besides that, it ranks as the second cause of female cancer after breast cancer in Malaysia (Bruni et al., 2015).

Awareness means the ability to observe, to sense, and to be concerned about the things around. Women regardless socio-demographics should be aware of cervical cancer. They must have at least general knowledge about it. For examples, what is cervical