

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**KNOWLEDGE OF HUMAN
PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV) AND HPV
VACCINATION AMONG UNDERGRADUATE
FEMALE STUDENTS**

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**Project submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the
degree of**

Bachelor of Nursing (Hons.)

JULY 2016

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Our most gratitude goes to Allah, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful. An effort such as undertaking undergraduate studies for a degree needs the direct and indirect assist of several people. This is an opportunity for us to remember their help and acknowledge their contribution to enlighten, educate and enable us to complete this thesis.

Our deepest appreciation is extended to our dearest academic advisor Madam Norhafizatul Akma binti Shohor for being a great supervisor for us. Thanks also to Dr Hamzah Bin Fansuri, Dean of Faculty of Health Sciences, UiTM Puncak Alam Campus and Prof Madya Dr. Rasidah Binti Mohamed, Head of Nursing Department for approval and support to conduct the study.

Moreover, we would like to express our special thanks to Mr Khairil Anuar Bin Md Isa for his guidance in using the SPSS system in completing our research study. We also would like to give our appreciation to Madam Zoe Unger for giving us the permission to use her questionnaire in our study.

We would like to thank the Nursing Department of Faculty of Health Science, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Puncak Alam Campus and also the Ethics Committee of UiTM Shah Alam for the approval of this study.

ABSTRACT

Background: Human Papillomavirus is a main cause of developing cervical cancer among women. In Malaysia, cervical cancer ranks as second most cancer that causes mortality and morbidity.

Objective: This study is aimed to assess knowledge of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and HPV vaccination among undergraduate female students at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Puncak Alam, Selangor.

Method: A cross-sectional study conducted at UiTM Puncak Alam. A total of 226 of Faculty Health Sciences students have participated in this study using a questionnaire adapted from previous study.

Results: Overall findings of this study was that majority of the participants have an average knowledge score regarding knowledge of HPV and HPV vaccination. Majority of the participant which accounts 88.1% had average level of knowledge. The comparison between nursing and medical laboratory technology shows that a significant difference ($p=0.004$) where medical laboratory technology had good knowledge score than nursing. Next, the finding of relationship between sociodemographic variables with knowledge of HPV and HPV vaccination shows no significant difference and no correlation.

Conclusion: The overall scores for participants about the knowledge of HPV and HPV vaccination show satisfactory knowledge information. However, there is very little significant difference on knowledge of HPV and HPV vaccination and field of study. Moreover, this study shows no significant difference no correlation between sociodemographic variables with knowledge of HPV and HPV vaccination. The

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Information

HPV is one of the virus that can affect both men and women health who is sexually active (CDC Information Centre, 2016). Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is commonly associated with sexually transmitted disease (Blodt et al., 2011). HPV is spread through infected skin usually through sexual debut. Women are mostly affecting with HPV infection however the men also can be affected. In United States, HPV affects 43% of females aged 14 to 59 years old through sexually transmitted infection (Hariri et al., 2011).

There are some factors that contribute to HPV infection which are sexually active, multiple numbers of partner and sex at an early age. The person that being infected by HPV will have no symptoms and not realizing they have been infected thus can transmit the virus to another person by sexual contact. There are more than 130 subtypes of HPV and about 70 subtypes that can affect human. There are about 40 different genotypes of HPV that can affect the ano-genital area in men and women.

In order to reduce risk of HPV infection, CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends routine vaccination of boys and girls at age 11-12 years with catch-up vaccination for females age 26 years, and males 21 years; male's age 22 – 26 years may be given vaccination. Vaccination is a first prevention measure of HPV infection. According to Brotherton et al., (2011), HPV was approved in mid-2006, have been applied in more than 28 countries as part of their national immunization programmes and implemented at a sub-national level through donation in at least 17 developing countries. In Malaysia, HPV vaccine was licensed in November 2006, and recommended for routine use in girl's aged 11 to 12