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CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING PRACTICE AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS AMONG WOMEN AGED 21-49 YEARS LIVES IN NEKEMTE TOWN, WEST ETHIOPIA, 2018

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Background: Cervical cancer is one of the most frequently occurring types of reproductive cancers in women worldwide. Cancer is predicted to be an increasingly important cause of morbidity and mortality in the next few decades, in all regions of the world. Within the forecasted changes in population demographics in the next two decades, even if current global cancer rates remain unchanged, the estimated incidence of 12.7 million new cancer cases in 2008 will rise to 21.4 million by 2030.

Objective: To assess cervical cancer screening practice and associated factors among women of 21-49 years lives in Nekemte Town, West Ethiopia.

Method: A community based cross-sectional study was conducted from 11th-20th Jun' 2016. Multi stage sampling was utilized and a total of 786 women were included in the study. Data was checked for completeness and entered to EPI data and analyzed using SPSS version 20. Variables found to have association with the dependent variables ($p < 0.25$) in bivariate analysis were entered in to multiple logistic regression for controlling the possible effect of confounders. Finally, the variables that have p-value of < 0.05 were considered statistically significant. The strength of association between independent and dependent variable was assessed using odds ratio with 95% confidence interval.

Result: A total of 786 women aged 21-49 years were participated in this study with a response rate of 93%. The proportion of cervical cancer screening practice was 3.1%. Knowledge and attitude of the respondents were significantly associated with cervical cancer screening practice with an adjusted odd ratio (AOR) of 7.52, 95% CI (2.36-23.91) and 3.778, 95% CI (1.063-13.428), respectively.

Conclusion & Recommendation: This study revealed that the cervical cancer screening practice is low. Knowledge and attitude towards cervical cancer screening were found to be significant predictors of cervical cancer screening practice. Health offices and their stakeholders should work on community at the grass root level through sustained community involvement to improve knowledge and attitude towards cervical cancer screening.

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