LEVEL OF UPTAKE OF CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING AMONG WOMEN OF CHILD BEARING AGE (18 TO 49 YEARS) IN BINDURA DISTRICT

BY

URITA MANGWANDA

REGISTRATION NUMBER: B1130118

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SCIENCES, BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION, IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS DEGREE IN NURSING EDUCATION

BINDURA, ZIMBABWE

2014
ABSTRACT

The research focused on determining the level of uptake of cervical cancer screening among women of child bearing age in Bindura District. The health belief model (HBM) was used to guide the study. The theory was chosen to explain factors contributing to health screening behaviours. Simple random sampling (SRS) was used in which papers with yes or no responses were put in a hat and those women who picked the yes response were selected as the sample population. Data was collected using guided interviews using structured questionnaires and descriptive statistics were used to analyze the data. Data presentation was in the form of tables, pie charts graphs and narrations. The researcher used descriptive research design using a questionnaire and the sample size was 100 women of child bearing age. Although a high percentage of the women (78%) had knowledge of what cervical cancer is, uptake of screening services was poor. Only 22% of the respondents had ever been screened which clearly shows lack of initiative to go for screening. Of the 22% who had ever been screened, only one respondent had been screened consistently. The study findings indicated that women had knowledge about cervical cancer but lacked the initiative to go for regular screening. Recommendations were that health care personnel should ensure that adequate and appropriate information through health education is given so that women are informed about the importance of regular screening so that early detection and treatment for cervical cancer can help prevent death from a preventable disease.