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Knowledge, Attitude and Practice regarding Screening of Cervical Cancer among Women Visiting Tertiary Care Hospital

Renuka G[1], Jesindha K Beyatricks[2], Rakesh S[3], Rewati Chandran[4], Shivacharan M[5], Kavya S A[6], S N Sriharsha[7]

[1, 3, 4, 5, 6]Pharm D Intern, Hillside College of Pharmacy and Research Centre Bangalore.

[2]Vice Principal, HOD, Department of Pharmacy Practice, Hillside College of Pharmacy and Research Centre, Bangalore
Corresponding Author Email: *jolyjesi[at]gmail.com*
+91 99169901013

[7]Principal, Professor and Research Director, Hillside College of Pharmacy and Research Centre, Bangalore.

Abstract: ***Background: Currently global estimate indicate cervical cancer is the fourth most common form of cancer diagnosed in women and fourth leading cause of death. Hence it is essential to assess the knowledge in the women. Study Method: A cross - sectional study was conducted among women who were seen at the Tertiary Care Hospital, Department of OBG, BGS - GIMS Hospital. A data is summarized based on the patient response. Results: In the current study, we gathered data from 154 study participant of which 92 were from urban and 62 from rural place of residence. And we assess the Knowledge about cervical cancer and screening test among the study participants by giving questionaries forms and there was no statistical significance in awareness of cervical cancer between urban and rural study participants using chi - square test value with p - value. Therefore, the knowledge about cervical cancer and screening test among the study participant was found to be same in urban and rural area. Conclusion: the current study demonstrated that there is a lack of awareness among women about cervical cancer. This was mostly rendered due to lack of proper infrastructure facilities and hesitation shown by the women. There is a clear need for information sharing on cervical cancer including screening targeting women with less educated. Educational campaigns on the disease and screening, providing information to the women on cervical cancer including screening service availability when women visit hospital or any medical centers.***

Keywords: cervical cancer, awareness, urban and rural, knowledge

1. Introduction

Among gynecological cancer, cervical cancer is the one of the most prevalent and India's single biggest killer of middle - aged women. [1] Human papillomavirus infection or change in normal cervix surface cells that causes to proliferate uncontrollably and develop a mass known as a tumor. Adenocarcinoma and Squamous cell carcinoma are types of cervical cancer. [10] In India, 1, 22, 844 women is diagnosed with cervical cancer and 67, 477 of them pass away from the condition. [5] And signs and symptoms are loss of appetite, weight loss, fatigue, pelvic pain, vaginal bleeding and unusual discharge from vagina. [6]
Our study's primary goal is to assess and explore the knowledge, attitude and practice regarding cervical cancer among women visiting tertiary care hospital.

Pap smear test, HPV testing, Colonoscopy, Cervical cancer biopsy is the diagnostic tool. [8]

Surgery, Radiation therapy, Chemotherapy, Targeted therapy, Immunotherapy is the treatment available for cervical cancer. [9] [11]

2. Study Method

For a period of six months (April 2022–October 2022), a cross sectional study was conducted at BGS GIMS hospital in Kengeri, Bangalore, 560041 with ethical approval from the relevant hospital IRB. Study was conducted for a period of six months. All women participants with age 18 years and above visiting the tertiary care hospital. [3]

3. Results

In the present study, there were 154 study participants of which 59.7% (92) were from urban and 40.3% (62) were from rural places of residence (Fig 5.2). In the study most of the participants were married (Fig.5.5).

The knowledge about signs of cervical cancer is assessed among the study participants. There was no statistical significance using the chi - square test value 0.113 with a p - value of 0.737>0.05 (Fig 5.7). In the study, 81.2 (125) were told Vaginal bleeding is the most common sign of cervical cancer. There was no statistical significance using the chi - square test value 0.019 with a p - value of 0.891>0.05 (Fig 5.8).

The knowledge about causing factors of cervical cancer is assessed among the study participants. There was no statistical significance using the chi - square test value 1.898 with a p - value of 0.168>0.05 (Fig 5.9).

In the study, 65.6% (101) were aware that HPV causes cervical cancer. There was no statistical significance and the chi - square test value 0.052 with a p - value of 0.819>0.05.

In the study, 60.4% (93) were aware that cervical cancer can

be from unprotected sexual intercourse. There was no statistical significance and the chi - square test value 0.274 with a p - value of 0.601>0.05

The knowledge about the consequences of cervical cancer is assessed among the study participants. There was no statistical significance and using the chi - square test value 0.081 with a p - value of 0.776>0.05 (Fig 5.10).

The knowledge about the prevention of cervical cancer is assessed among the study participants. There was no statistical significance and using the chi - square test value 0.039 with a p - value of 0.844>0.05 (Fig 5.11).

In the study, 92.2% (142) were aware that screening can detect cervical infection so that it will not develop into cervical cancer. There was no statistical significance using a chi - square test value of 0.041 with a p - value of 0.8395>0.05.

The attitude towards the prevention of cervical cancer is assessed among the study participants. and there was no statistically significant difference using the chi - square test value 1.234 with and p - value of 0.267>0.05 (fig 5.12).

In the study, 65.6% (101) had a positive attitude, even if they are single, they would go for screening. In the study 44.2% (68) had a positive attitude, Pap smear is necessary even if no signs and symptoms. In the study 40.9% (63) had a positive attitude, Pap smear is not too expensive (fig 5.13).

In the study 45.5% (70) had a positive attitude, they will not feel Pap smear is a painful procedure. In the study 97.4% (150) had a positive attitude, they will allow their children to be vaccinated.

Therefore, the positive attitude towards the prevention of cervical cancer is the same among urban and rural study participants.

4. Conclusion

The present study demonstrated that there is a lack of awareness among women regarding cervical cancer risk factor, signs and symptoms, screening method in developing areas. This was mostly rendered due to the lack of proper infrastructure, facilities and partly towards hesitation shown by the woman. There is a clear need for information sharing on cervical cancer including its screening targeting woman with less educated. A well - designed health education program focusing on effective strategies, personal communication, visual aids on cervical cancer should be enrolled for beneficial result. Educational campaigns on the disease and screening, involving the mass media providing information to the women on cervical cancer when women visit hospital or any medical centers. [1] [8]

References

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Figures

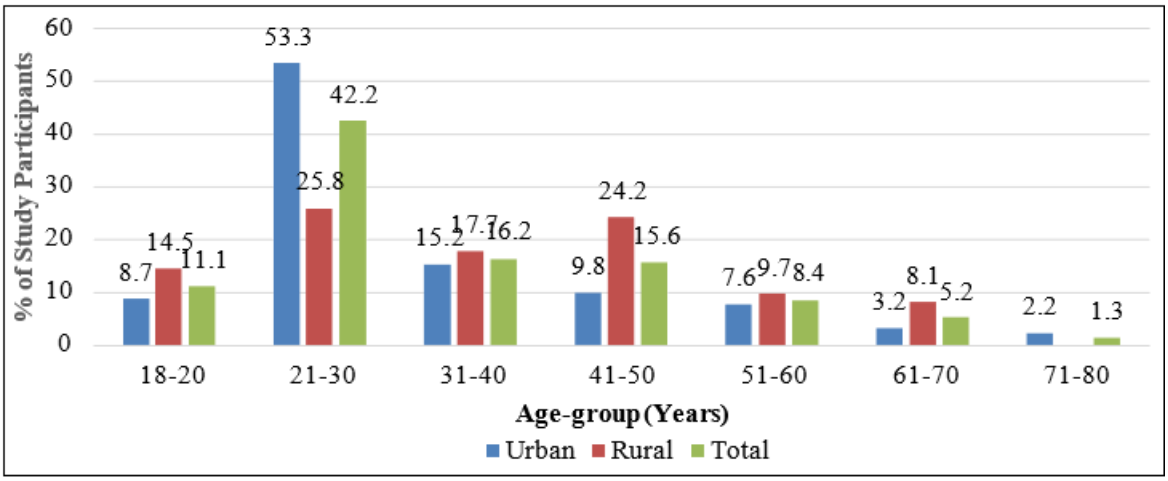

Figure 5.1: Age & place of residence distribution of the Study Participants

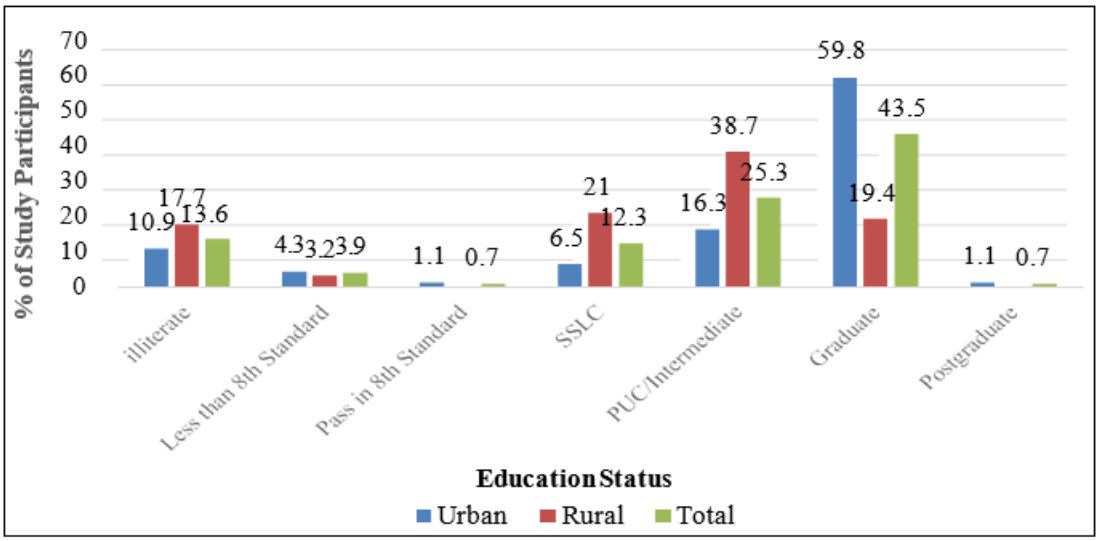

Figure 5.2: Education Status of the Study Participants

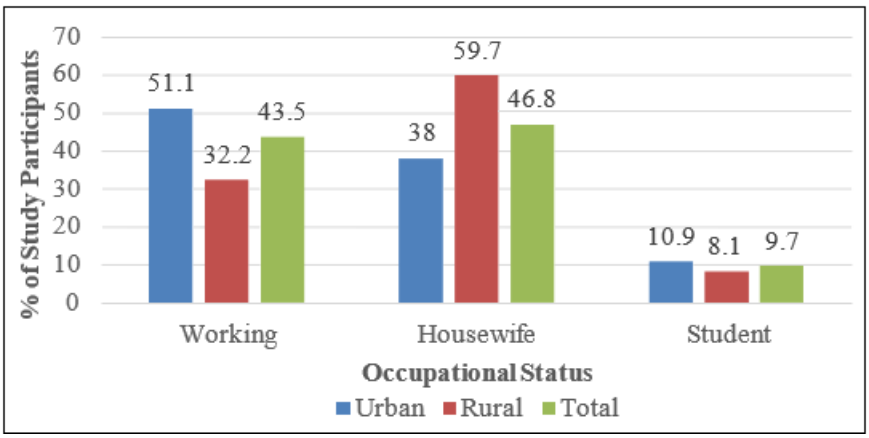

Figure 5.3: Occupation Status of the Study Participants

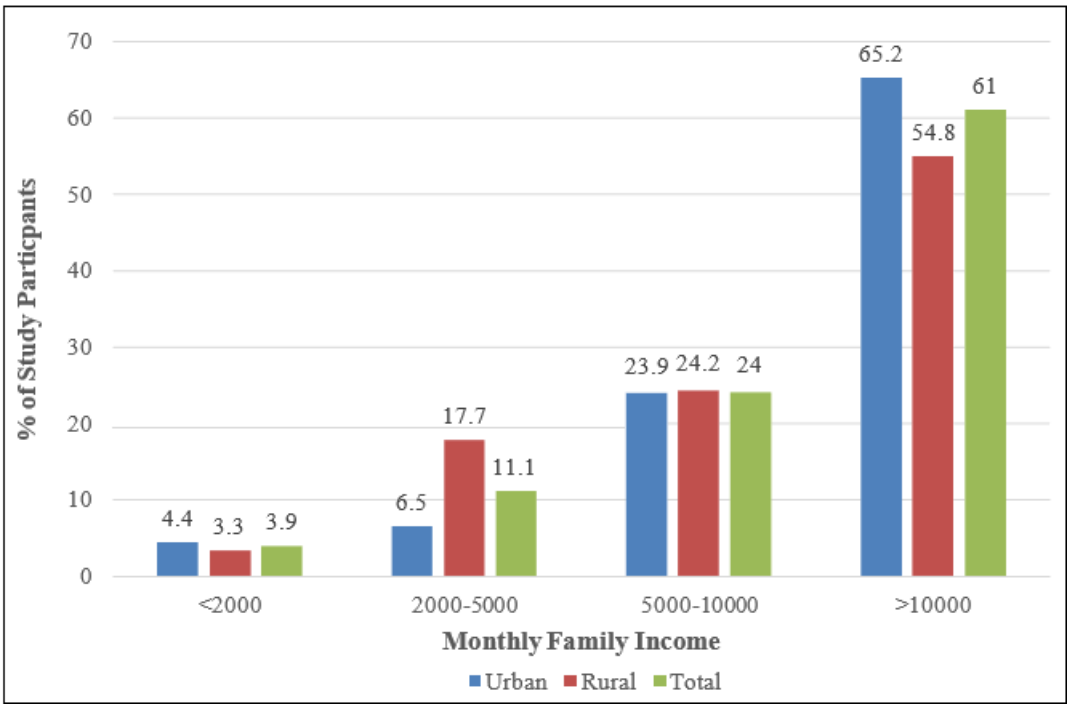

Figure 5.4: Monthly Family Income of the Study Participants

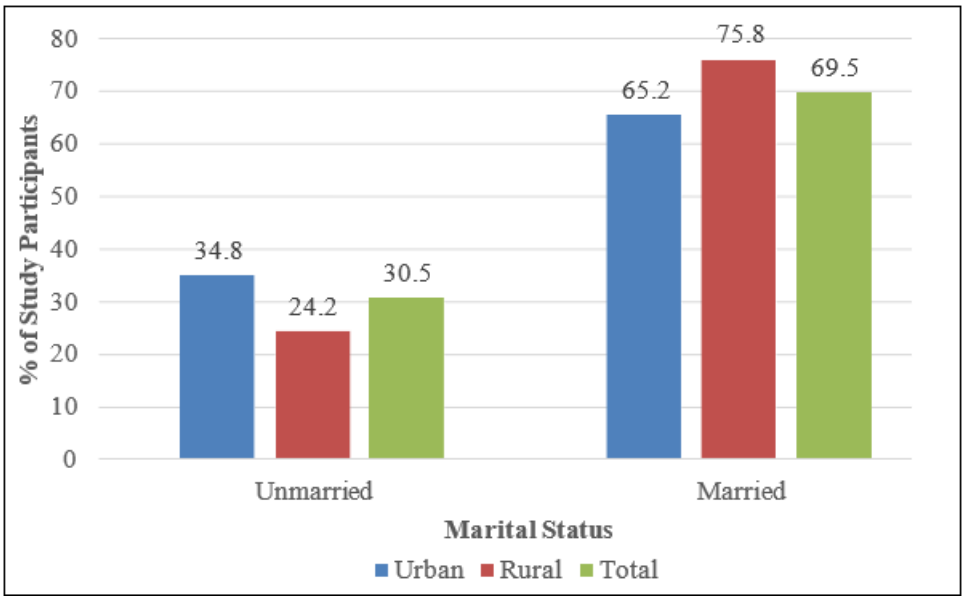

Figure 5.5: Marital Status and age at marriage of the Study Participants

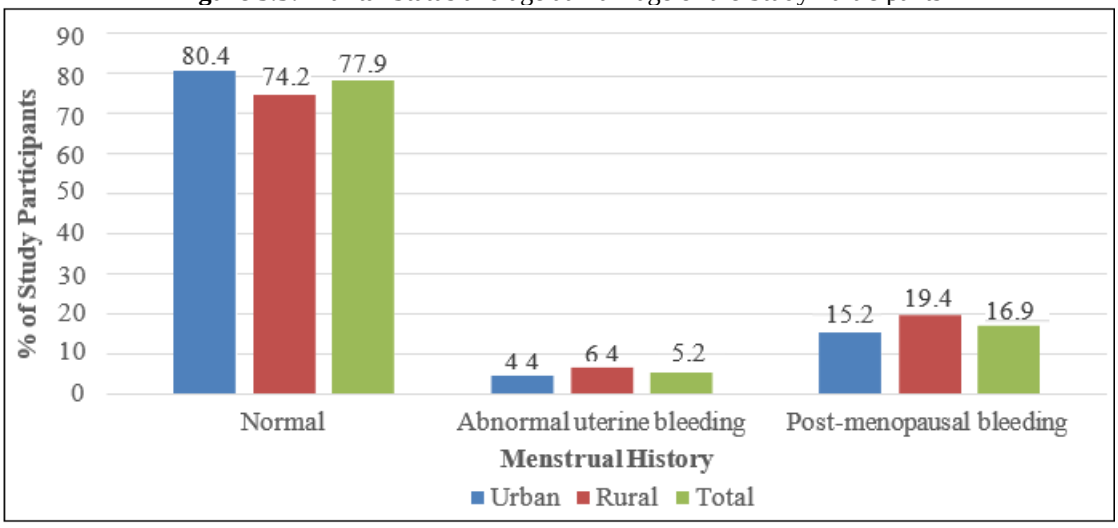

Figure 5.6: Menstrual History of the Study Participants

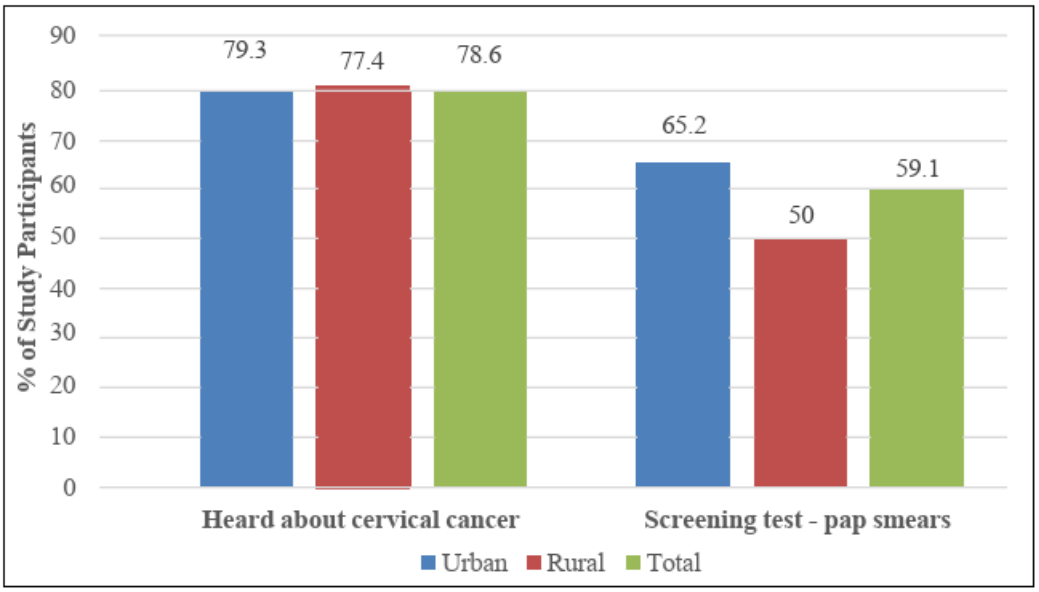

Figure 5.7: Knowledge about cervical cancer and screening test among the study participants

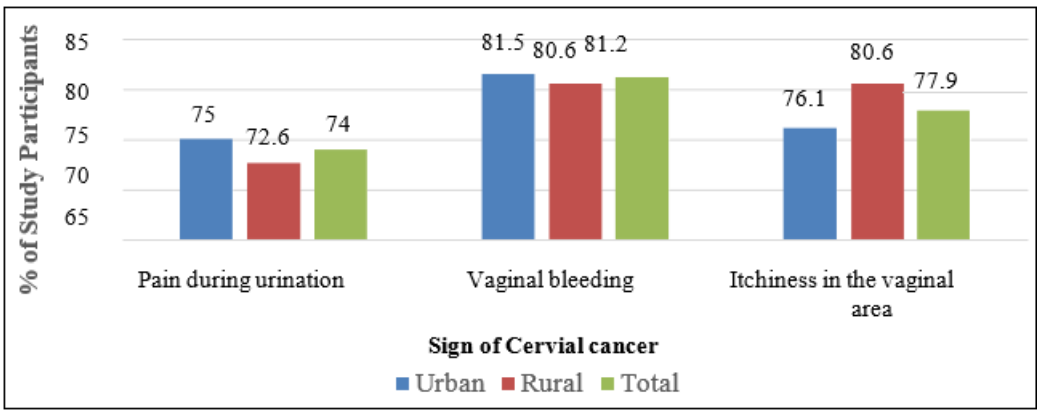

Figure 5.8: Knowledge about signs of cervical cancer among the study participants

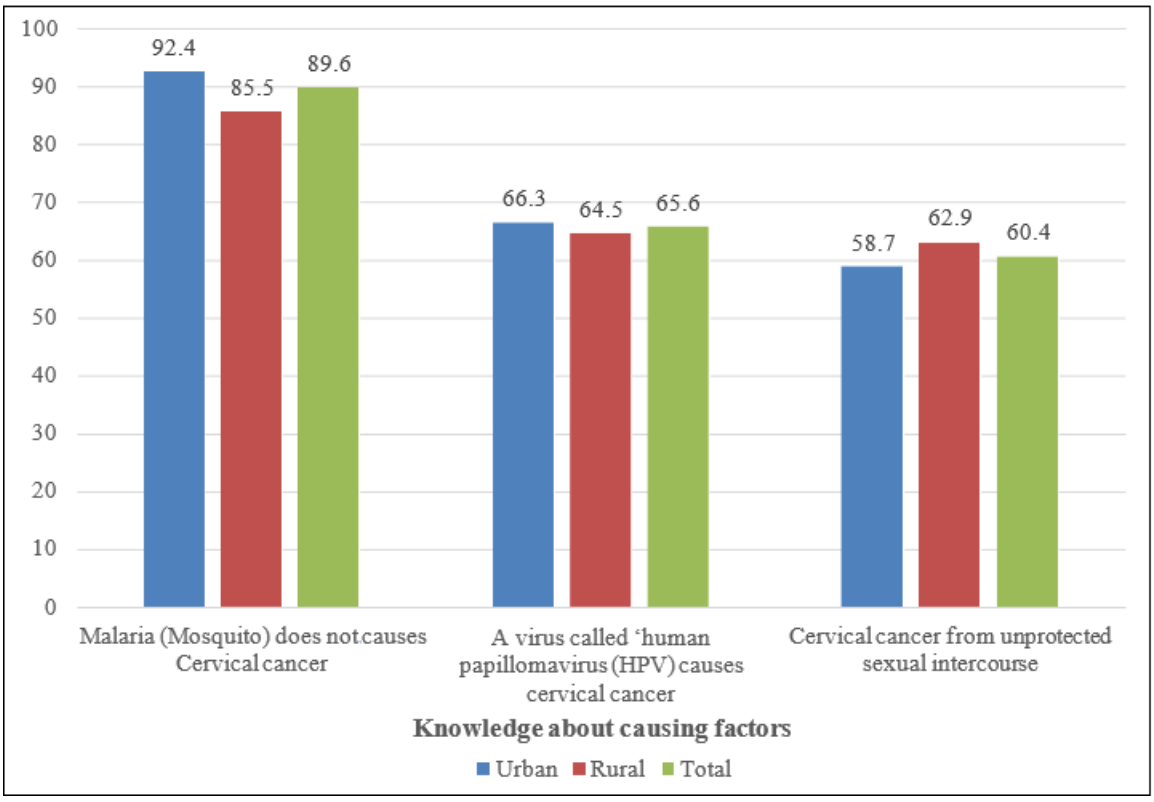

Figure 5.9: Knowledge about causing factors of cervical cancer among the study participants

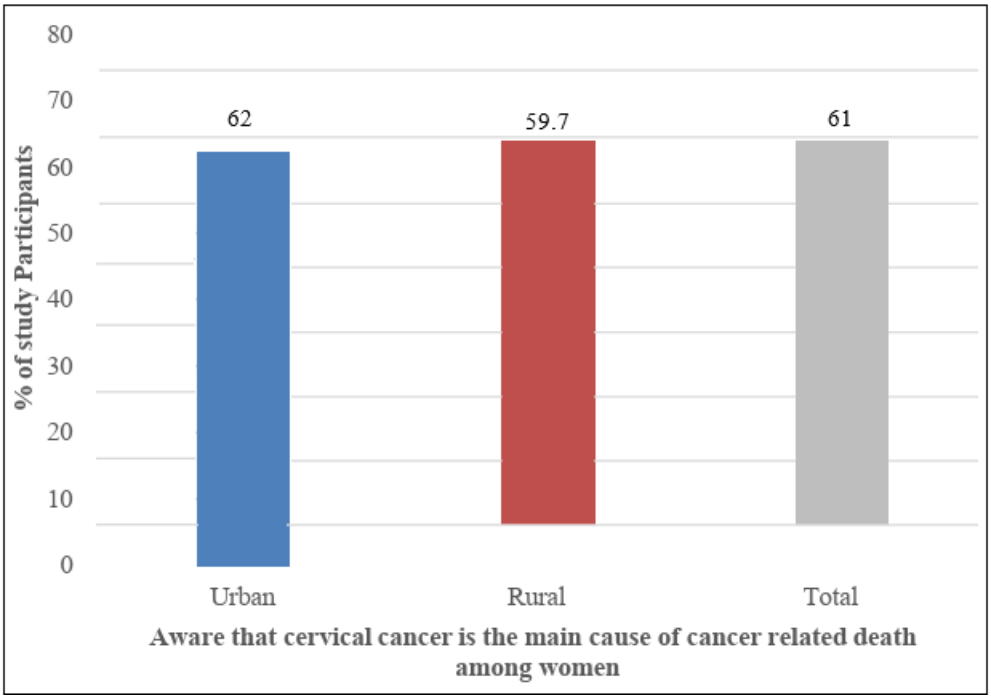

Figure 5.10: Knowledge about the consequences of cervical cancer among the study participants

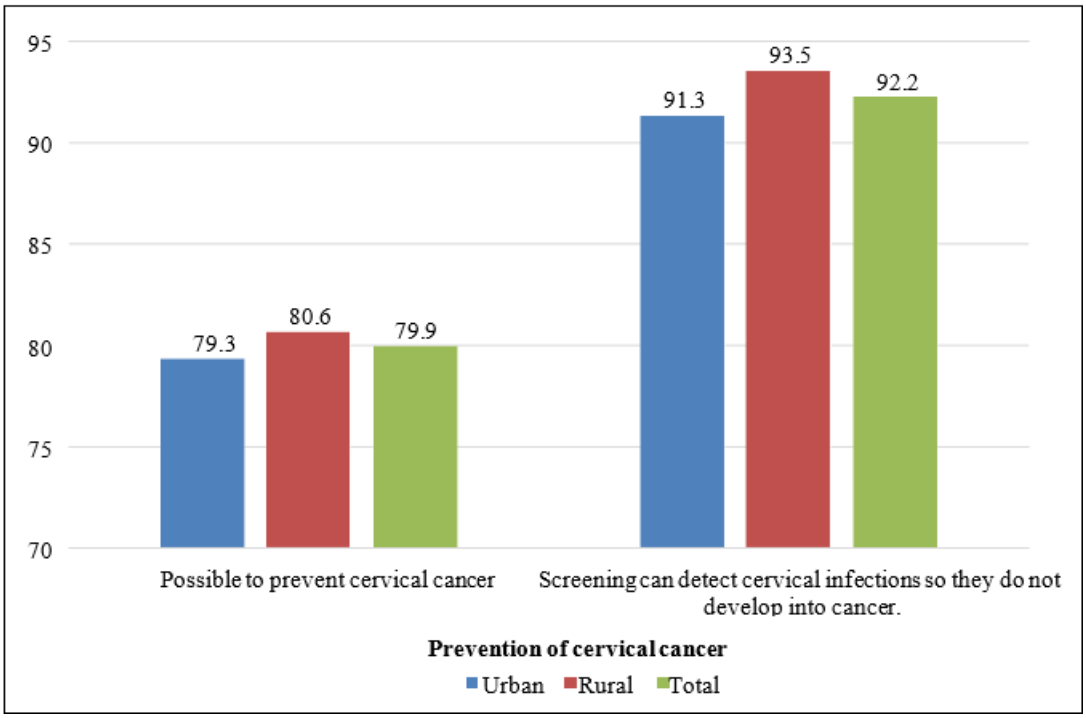

Figure 5.11: Knowledge about the prevention of cervical cancer among the study participants

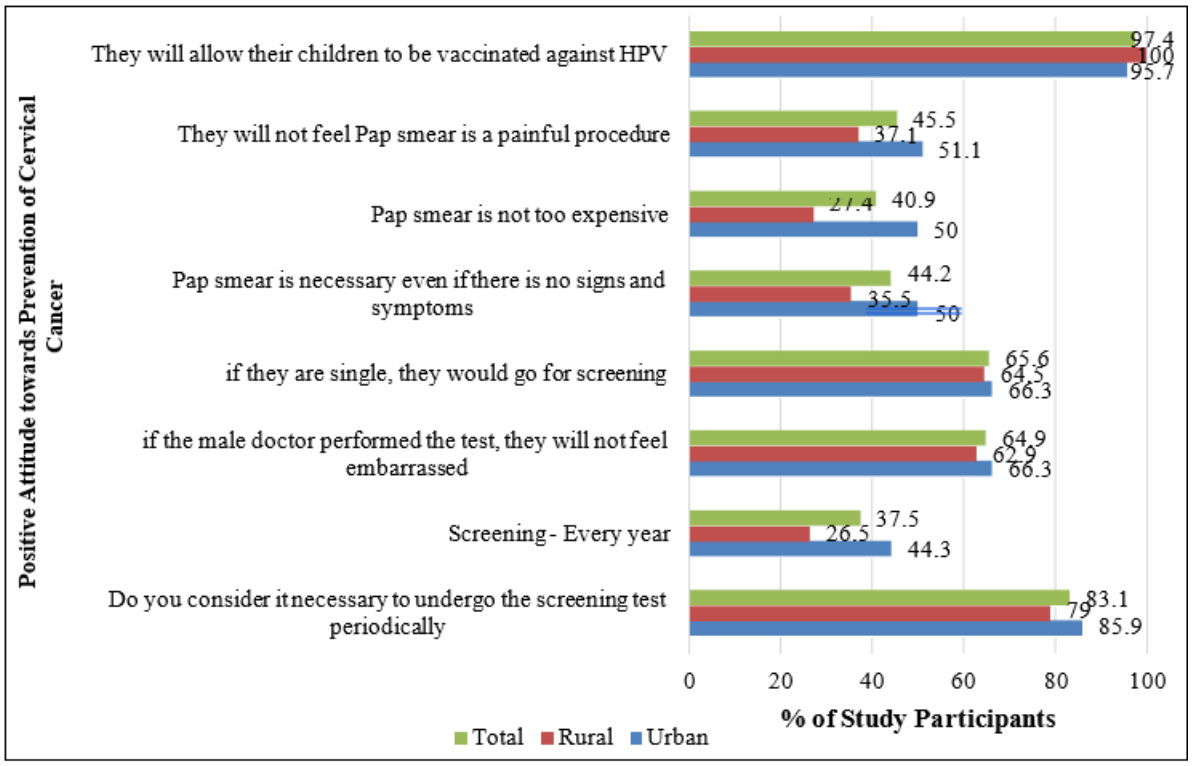

Figure 5.12: Attitude toward prevention of cervical cancer among the study participants

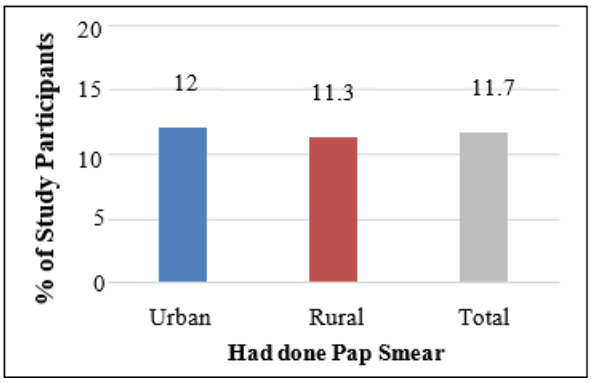

Figure 5.13: Practice towards prevention of cervical cancer among the study participants