



## **CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING PROGRAMME: WHY URBAN SRI LANKAN WOMEN DO NOT PARTICIPATE?**

Perera H.M.S.<sup>1</sup>, Perera P.G.S.D.<sup>1</sup>, Seneviwickrama K.L.M.D.<sup>2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Allied Health Sciences, Faculty of Medical Sciences,  
University of Sri Jayewardenepura

<sup>2</sup>Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences,  
University of Sri Jayewardenepura  
maheeka@sjp.ac.lk

### **Abstract**

Morbidity and mortality due to cervical cancer is preventable by early detection through screening. Our objective was to determine the factors associated with non-participation in cervical cancer screening among women in an urban Sri Lankan setting. A community based descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among 247 women aged 35-60 years in Boralesgamuwa Medical Officer of Health area selected using simple random sampling. A pretested interviewer administered questionnaire was used to collect socio-demographic information and knowledge level about pap test. Data were analyzed using SPSS version 26.0. Comparisons were made between participation rates of different groups using Chi-square test with  $p < 0.05$  as significant level. Marital status (married 76.1% vs unmarried 23.9%,  $\chi^2 = 25.813$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ), education level of the spouse (secondary or above 90.9% vs primary 9.1%  $\chi^2 = 12.327$ ,  $df = 2$ ,  $p = 0.002$ ), parity (equal or more than two 52.3% vs less than two 47.7%,  $\chi^2 = 30.628$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), having children (Yes 60.6% vs No 39.4%,  $\chi^2 = 44.970$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), having heard of Pap test (Yes 76.7% vs No 23.3%,  $\chi^2 = 13.766$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), being aware of free availability of Pap test (Yes 50.8% vs No 49.2%,  $\chi^2 = 42.379$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ) were factors associated with non-participation. Age, education level or occupational status did not show a significant association with non-participation. Being unmarried, parity of  $< 2$  or not having children, less educated spouse, not heard of Pap test and not being aware of free availability of Pap test are the factors associated with non-participation of women in cervical cancer screening programme in an urban Sri Lankan setting.

**Keywords:** *Cervical cancer screening, Pap test, non-participation, Sri Lanka, urban*