

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR CERVICAL CANCER
PREVENTION AWARENESS AMONG WOMEN IN PORT HARCOURT
METROPOLIS, RIVERS STATE**

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Abstract

The study investigated community engagement strategies employed to raise awareness about cervical cancer prevention among women residing in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State. The research employed a descriptive survey approach, encompassing a population of 1232 respondents. This group consisted of 18 oncologists from two tertiary teaching hospitals, as well as 1214 members of community based women organisations in the Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State. A stratified proportionate sampling technique was employed to draw a sample size of 383 respondents, comprising 18 oncologists and 365 members of community based women organisations. Data collection for this study involved the utilisation of a questionnaire titled "Community Engagement Strategies for Cervical Cancer Prevention in Rivers State" (CESCCP). The tool underwent face and content validation by three specialists. The researchers employed a measure of internal consistency to arrive at dependability coefficients of 0.84 and 0.73, utilising the Cronbach Alpha technique. The data were subjected to analysis, utilising measures of central tendency such as the mean and standard deviation. These measures were employed to answer the research questions. Additionally, the hypotheses were tested using the z-test statistic, with a significance threshold set at 0.05. The data analysis demonstrated that to a high extent, the utilisation of the Each-One-Teach-One and role play strategies in community engagement promote awareness of cervical cancer prevention among women in Port Harcourt Metropolis. Based on the

research outcomes, it was recommended that primary health care centres in close proximity to rural populations should collaborate with community members to implement the Each-One-Teach-One and play role strategy of community engagement on the use of vaccine and pap smear test to raise awareness about cervical cancer prevention among women.

Keywords: *Community engagement, strategies, cervical cancer, prevention, awareness, women*

Introduction

The overall well-being of women is of paramount importance for their general health and vitality. However, women face numerous health-related challenges that significantly impact their overall state of well-being. Cervical cancer stands as a prominent health concern currently faced by women in Rivers State. Cervical cancer is the most prevalent form of cancer affecting the female genital tract in women aged 15 years and older, and it is associated with a significant mortality rate in Nigeria and other developing nations (Goddy, Kennedy, & Michael, 2015). According to Ezeruigbo and Ude (2012), it has been found that approximately 9,000 Nigerian women succumb to cervical cancer annually. From the discovery of Ezeruigbo and Ude, in Nigeria, there were an estimated annual diagnosis of twelve thousand (12,000) cases and eight thousand (8,000) deaths related to cervical cancer. This translates to a daily incidence rate of 33 new cases and a mortality rate of 22 deaths. These findings were corroborated with data obtained from 2021 to 2022 in the Oncology clinic and Pathology section of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital which indicated an annual rise of 3% in the rate of detected cases.

Cervical cancer, also referred to as cancer of the cervix, is primarily attributed to the persistent or chronic infection of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). This virus is typically acquired through sexual intercourse, including anal, oral, or vaginal,

particularly among women who engage in early sexual activity, early marriage, multiple partnerships, or polygamous relationships. Cervical cancer is a malignancy that arises in the cellular tissue of the cervix, the anatomical structure that serves as the entrance or aperture to the uterus. The cervix is the anatomical structure located at the lower portion of the uterus, which serves as the opening connecting the uterus to the vaginal canal. Symptoms of cervical cancer encompass various manifestations, such as inter-menstrual bleeding, post-coital bleeding, post-menopausal haemorrhage, dyspareunia, malodorous vaginal discharge accompanied by blood, pelvic pain, and dysuria (Abiodun, Olu-Abiodun, Sotunsa, and Oluwole, 2014).

Ezeruigbo and Ude (2012) have recognised that the occurrence of cervical cancer and its associated mortality can be diminished by means of sustained efforts in preventive awareness. Ezeruigbo and Ude additionally asserted that the prevention of cervical cancer can be achieved through early identification, using the Prophylactic HPV vaccine and regular screening with Pap smear to identify any pre-cancerous lesions, followed by prompt initiation of therapy. As a result, research findings indicate that a significant proportion of women, particularly those residing in rural areas with high population densities, possess limited knowledge of cervical cancer and its preventative measures. According to Abiodun, Olu-Abiodun, Sotunsa, and

Oluwole (2014), the aforementioned phenomenon may be attributed to insufficient health education, substandard health practices, and inadequate healthcare infrastructure. The World Health Organisation (WHO), government entities, and other health sectors commonly implement preventative campaigns aimed at reducing the occurrence of cervical cancer. These campaigns involve raising public awareness through various means such as radio jingles, television programmes, seminars, and workshops. However, the level of awareness among women residing in rural communities in Rivers State appears to be significantly low, as there is a noticeable lack of participation in cervical cancer screening among women. The lack of community-based strategies and inadequate community engagement hindered the effective involvement of rural women in health activities focused on cervical cancer prevention. Therefore, it is imperative to use community engagement strategies, such as Each-One-Teach-One and role-play strategy, to effectively raise awareness about cervical cancer prevention among women residing in the Port Harcourt Metropolis. These strategies should be conducted in local languages to have maximum impact.

Community engagement, in this context, refers to the collaborative effort of individuals and groups who are connected by factors such as geographic proximity, shared beliefs, social bonds, established norms, cultural similarities, and shared governance. The purpose of community engagement is to collectively address and tackle issues that have an impact on their respective lives. According to Fasukun in Otamiri (2021), it is argued that community-based strategies, such as organising town hall meetings and utilising role play methods, can effectively engage communities and mobilise women to

actively participate in programmes and activities that are advantageous to them. Similarly, Nussbaum (2011) highlighted the significance of community engagement as a means of facilitating access to esteemed social environments and endeavours for community members, particularly women. This process entails fostering an environment where individuals feel empowered to make meaningful contributions to these activities and cultivate functional capabilities that enable them to actively participate, thereby promoting their overall health and well-being. According to Bacallo and Zimmerman (2016), community engagement plays a crucial role in the effectiveness of comprehensive, community-based programming aimed at promoting positive transformation. Based on the aforementioned statements, it can be inferred that community engagement plays a crucial role in the successful implementation of any substantial initiative aimed at enhancing the welfare of women within communities.

Ihejirika (2015) acknowledged that community engagement involves the inclusion of community members in the decision-making process to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate programmes aimed at raising awareness among rural women about the importance of participating in community outreach initiatives, particularly those focused on enhancing their health and well-being within the community. He additionally asserted that community involvement revolves around interacting with communities, particularly women, to address problems that impact their everyday lives and surroundings. The implementation of effective engagement methods has the potential to foster trust and enhance the capabilities of women, thereby encouraging their active involvement in various matters

that have an impact on their lives. According to Imhabekhai (2009), community engagement refers to the active participation of individuals within a community, regardless of their age, citizenship status, socio-economic background, political affiliation, religious beliefs, or educational attainment. This involvement entails the collaborative planning and execution of programmes that aim to bring about positive outcomes for the community members. Community-led development refers to a participatory process in which individuals within a community, either independently or in partnership with governmental and non-governmental entities, take the initiative to design and implement programmes.

Community engagement necessitates the active involvement of individuals within a community in initiatives that directly pertain to their daily experiences and circumstances. The scope of involvement expands beyond mere physical participation to encompass the development of ideas, contributions to decision-making processes, and the sharing of responsibilities. According to Henry (2011), individuals are driven to engage actively in endeavours that enhance their well-being, foster a sense of inclusion, and contribute to the attainment of sustainable development. In a similar manner, the World Health Organisation (WHO) defined community engagement in 2002 as a participatory process that empowers individuals to actively and authentically engage in identifying the issues that are of importance to them. This involvement extends to making decisions regarding factors that impact their lives, formulating and executing policies, planning and developing services, and taking proactive measures to bring about desired transformations.

Community engagement necessitates the

recognition of the importance of participation in community development programmes, regardless of whether they originate internally or externally. This recognition is rooted in the acknowledgement of community members' rights and capabilities to actively participate in the identification of their needs, as well as the design, implementation, and execution of programmes aimed at addressing the identified issues within their community. The aforementioned underscores the significance of leaders demonstrating respect, attentiveness, and receptiveness to the perspectives and insights of community members. The aforementioned consequences, namely the loss of time, trust, resources, and effectiveness, can be attributed to the absence of mutual respect and co-learning (Miller, 2005).

In contrast, the implementation of community involvement tactics inside community development programmes significantly enhances and reinforces the attainment of sustainability, appropriateness, and efficacy of these programmes (Cheetham, 2002). According to Bede and Ojekheta as cited in Ugwoegbu and Abey-Fashae (2017), community engagement plays a significant role in determining the success or failure of community development programme implementation. In contrast, Ofuoku (2009) emphasised the importance of involving community members in all stages of developmental programmes, from decision-making to implementation. By doing so, community members develop a sense of ownership and are more likely to fully utilise and protect the programme, thereby ensuring the long-term sustainability of communal initiatives. Based on the above information, it is evident that the effective mobilisation of women's participation in

cervical cancer awareness programmes necessitates the implementation of specific strategy.

Nevertheless, there exists a considerable array of community engagement strategies and this study specifically concentrates on two distinct approaches. Two effective strategies that can be employed in educational settings are the Each-One-Teach-One and the role-play strategy. The concept of Each-One-Teach-One entails a customised approach to promoting literacy, wherein educated people are encouraged to impart knowledge to at least one uneducated person. The utilisation of this particular approach serves as a mechanism for fostering public awareness and was initially implemented in the Philippines with a religious objective by Frank C. Lauback. The efficacy demonstrated by this approach served as a catalyst for other nations to embrace it as a means of fostering public consciousness. With this conceptual framework in consideration, the National Commission for Mass Literacy, Adult and Non-Formal Education (NMEC) has embraced this strategic approach to facilitate the advancement of literacy at the individual, community, and organisational levels. By using this particular strategy, the expenses associated with delivering literacy services were diminished, hence enhancing overall enlightenment and educational attainment throughout the country. The implementation of this approach may entail the active involvement of people and community members in raising awareness about cervical cancer prevention among women. This entails the engagement of those who have previously acquired knowledge and awareness for the prevention of cervical cancer, to educate others about the early indications of cervical cancer as well as the

importance of receiving vaccine and undergoing pap smear testing.

According to Ihejirika (2015), role-play is a collaborative method that aims to provide learners with the chance to take on various roles within a problem scenario. The term "role-play" is often referred to as "socio-drama" in academic literature. The procedure involves delineating the roles to be assumed by the participants, which aims to elucidate the learning experience being examined. The process aids participants or learners in recognising and defining problems that require resolution, thereby enabling them to make informed decisions regarding the respective roles of various players in addressing these difficulties. In this particular scenario, community members are actively involved in the prevention of cervical cancer through the implementation of vaccine and Pap smear testing. To ensure the efficient dissemination of information, it is advisable to utilise the local language for this purpose.

The adoption of these strategies could promote cervical cancer awareness among women. It is against this background that this study examined community engagement strategies on cervical cancer prevention awareness among women in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State.

Statement of the Problem

Cervical cancer is a significant public health challenge on a global scale, particularly in developing nations such as Nigeria, with specific emphasis on Rivers State. According to a study conducted by Abiodun, Olu-Abiodun, Sotunsa, and Oluwole (2014), the majority of women in Nigeria face a significant risk of acquiring cervical cancer. The study estimates that by the year 2050, there might be around 588,000 additional instances of cervical cancer in Nigeria if appropriate preventative measures and

treatment are not implemented. According to data obtained from Oncology clinics and pathology units at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital and Rivers State University Teaching Hospital in Rivers state, there has been an annual increase in the incident rate of cervical cancer by three percent. This upward trend has been attributed to a lack of sufficient awareness and prevention measures for cervical cancer among women. Despite the efforts of the government and the health sector managers to raise public awareness through various means such as radio jingles, television programmes, seminars, and workshops, the incidence of cervical cancer continues to rise steadily. The lack of effective implementation of appropriate community-based engagement strategies may be responsible for the limited engagement of rural women in health programmes aimed at educating them about the knowledge and skills necessary for cervical cancer prevention. Both the Each-One-Teach-One and role-play strategy have been recognised as effective community engagement strategies. The need to bring these strategies to bear and also show how they can be used to promote cervical cancer prevention awareness among rural women in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State, was the problem of this study.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was to examine the influence of community engagement strategies on cervical cancer prevention awareness among women in Port Harcourt Metropolis. Specifically, the objectives are to: -

1. ascertain the extent to which Each-One-Teach-One as community engagement strategy promote awareness on the prevention of cervical cancer among women in

Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State.

2. find out the extent to which role-play as community engagement strategy facilitates awareness on the prevention of cervical cancer among women in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State.

Research Questions

1. To what extent does Each-One-Teach-One as community engagement strategy promote awareness on the prevention of cervical cancer among women in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State?
2. To what extent does role-play as community engagement facilitate awareness on the prevention of cervical cancer among women in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State?

Hypotheses

1. There is no significant difference between the mean responses of oncologists and members of community based women organisations on the extent to which Each-One-Teach-One community engagement strategy promote awareness on the prevention of cervical cancer among women in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State.
2. There is no significant difference between the mean responses of oncologists and members of community based women organisations on the extent to which role-play community engagement strategy facilitate awareness on the prevention of cervical cancer among women in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State.

Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive survey design. The study population consisted of 1,232 respondents, including 18 Oncologists from the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital and Rivers State University Teaching Hospital, as well as 1,214 members of Community Based Women Organisations (WBOs) residing in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State. The study sample comprised 383 respondents, consisting of 18 Oncologists and 365 members of community-based women organisations in the study area. The study employed a census approach to include all 18 Oncologists, as this sample size was deemed manageable. In contrast, a stratified proportionate sampling strategy was utilised to choose 30% of the population from community-based women organisations. Data collection for this study involved the utilisation of a questionnaire titled "Community Engagement Strategies on Cervical Cancer Prevention in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State" (CESCCP). The

response ratings for the questionnaire items were measured using a 4-point summated rating scale. The scale ranged from Very High Extent, which was assigned a value of 4, to High Extent (HE), assigned a value of 3, Low Extent (LE), assigned a value of 2, and Very Low Extent (VLE), assigned a value of 1. The instrument underwent face and content validation by three experts, consisting of two individuals with expertise in Adult Education and Community Development, as well as one expert from the field of Oncology. A study was undertaken within each cluster to assess the internal consistency of the instrument, using the Cronbach Alpha technique as a measure of reliability. The reliability coefficients of 0.84 and 0.87 were obtained, indicating a high level of reliability for the instrument. The survey was conducted by two proficient research assistants under the guidance of the researchers. The data were gathered and subjected to descriptive analyses including the calculation of measures such as the mean, standard deviation and z-test statistics to test the hypotheses.

Results

Research Question 1: To what extent does Each-One-Teach-One strategy of community engagement creates awareness on the prevention of cervical cancer among women in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State?

Table 1: Mean analysis of the extent to which Each-One-Teach-One strategy of community engagement creates awareness on the prevention of cervical cancer among women in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State

| Statement Item | Oncologist n=18 Mean | SD | Remark | WB Os n=36 Mean | SD | Remark |
|----------------|----------------------------|----|--------|--------------------------|----|--------|
| | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | the use of community members who are aware of cervical cancer to sensitise others will help to disseminate knowledge on prevention of cervical cancer. | 3.50 | 0.93 | Very High Extent | 3.92 | 0.33 | Very High Extent |
| 2 | encouraging members of the community to sensitise others will promote knowledge on the prevention of cervical cancer. | 3.60 | 0.92 | Very High Extent | 3.93 | 0.32 | Very High Extent |
| 3 | the use of local languages to sensitise community members will create awareness on the prevention of cervical cancer. | 3.39 | 0.89 | Very High Extent | 3.91 | 0.34 | Very High Extent |
| 4 | members of the community will acquire more understanding when they discuss about prevention of cervical cancer among themselves. | 3.56 | 0.83 | Very High Extent | 3.92 | 0.32 | Very High Extent |
| 5 | members of the community will participate effectively in sensitisation on prevention of cervical cancer when information comes from within them. | 3.50 | 0.93 | Very High Extent | 3.93 | 0.34 | Very High Extent |
| 6 | the use of community members who have been vaccinated of HPV to share their experiences will create awareness on the prevention of cervical cancer. | 3.39 | 0.89 | Very High Extent | 3.91 | 0.38 | Very High Extent |
| 7 | the use of community members who have done pap smear test to share their experiences will create awareness on the prevention of cervical cancer. | 3.78 | 0.53 | Very High Extent | 3.88 | 0.46 | Very High Extent |
| Grand Mean | | 3.53 | 0.85 | Very High Extent | 3.91 | 0.36 | Very High Extent |

The data analysis presented in Table 1 indicates that both Oncologists and members of community-based women organisations held a strong belief in the effectiveness of the "each-one-teach-one" strategy for

community engagement. They perceived this strategy as highly effective in raising awareness about cervical cancer prevention among women in the Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State. This finding was

supported by the average

scores of 3.53 and 3.91 obtained by Oncologists and members of community based women organisations, respectively. These scores fell within the acceptable range

of values, which is 3.00 – 4.00.

Research Question 2: To what extent does role-play strategy of community engagement facilitates awareness on the prevention of cervical cancer among women in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State?

Table 2: Mean analysis of the extent to which role-play strategy of community engagement facilitates awareness on the prevention of cervical cancer among women in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State

| Statement Item | Oncologist n=18 Mean | SD | Remark | WB Os n=365 Mean | SD | Remark |
|---|----------------------------|------|------------------|---------------------------|------|------------------|
| 1. Engaging members of the community to organize drama on the use of vaccine will sensitise them on the prevention of cervical cancer. | 3.60 | 0.92 | Very High Extent | 3.89 | 0.40 | Very High Extent |
| 2. Attention can be retained when members of the community participate in role-play for prevention of cervical cancer. | 3.93 | 0.93 | Very High Extent | 3.88 | 0.43 | Very High Extent |
| 3. Information on prevention of cervical cancer will be assimilated and retained through acting role in local languages of the community. | 3.53 | 0.53 | Very High Extent | 3.92 | 0.38 | Very High Extent |
| 4. Engaging members of the community to organise drama on the signs and symptoms of cervical will create awareness. | 3.50 | 0.90 | Very High Extent | 3.89 | 0.38 | Very High Extent |

| | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| 5. Training members of the community to organise play scenes on healthy life style will create understanding on the prevention of cervical cancer. | 3.11 | 0.80 | Very High Extent | 3.90 | 0.37 | Very High Extent |
| Grand Mean | 3.53 | 0.82 | Very High Extent | 3.90 | 0.39 | Very High Extent |

The data analysis presented in Table 2 indicates that both Oncologists and members of community-based women organisations hold a significant belief that the role-play strategy of community engagement greatly contributes to raising awareness about cervical cancer prevention among women in the Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State. This is supported by the grand mean scores of 3.53 for Oncologists and 3.90 for members of community-based women

organisations, which fall within the value range of 4.00 - 3.00.

Test of Hypotheses

Hypotheses 1

There is no significant difference between the mean responses of oncologists and members of community based women organisations on the extent to which Each-One-Teach-One strategy of community engagement prevent cervical cancer among women in Port Harcourt Metropoli, Rivers State.

Table 3: z-test Analysis on the extent to which Each-One-Teach-One Strategy of Community Engagement prevent Cervical Cancer among women in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State

| Respondents | N | \bar{x} | SD | Df | z-cal | z-crit | Decision |
|--------------|-----|-----------|------|-----|-------|--------|-------------|
| Oncologists | 18 | 3.53 | 0.85 | 381 | -1.89 | 1.96 | Significant |
| CBWO Members | 365 | 3.91 | 0.36 | | | | |

The data presented in Table 3 reveals that the computed z-value is -1.89, whereas the critical value is 1.96. Given the degree of freedom of 381 and a significance threshold of 0.05, it is observed that the estimated z-value is lower than the crucial z-value. The aforementioned outcome confirmed that there was no statistically significant disparity observed in the average responses provided by oncologists and members of community-based women organisations regarding the effectiveness of the

Each-One-Teach-One strategy in preventing cervical cancer among women in the Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State. Thus, it can be inferred that the implementation of the Each-One-Teach-One approach in community involvement effectively mitigates the incidence of cervical cancer among women residing in the Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State.

Hypotheses 2

There is no significant difference between the mean responses of oncologists and

members of community based women organisations on the extent to which role-play strategy of community engagement prevent cervical cancer among women in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State.

Table 4: z-test Analysis on the extent to which Role-Play Strategy of Community Engagement prevent Cervical Cancer among women in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State

| Respondents | N | \bar{x} | SD | Df | z-cal | z-crit | Decision |
|---------------|-----|-----------|------|-----|-------|--------|------------|
| Oncologists | 18 | 3.53 | 0.82 | 381 | -1.91 | 1.96 | Significan |
| CBWO, Members | 365 | 3.90 | 0.39 | | | 5 | t |

The data shown in able 4 reveals that the computed z-value is -1.91, whereas the critical value is 1.96. Given the significance level of 0.05 and the degrees of freedom of 381, it is observed that the estimated z-value is lower than the crucial z-value. The findings of this study indicated that there was no statistically significant disparity in the response of Oncologists and members of community-based women organisations on the effectiveness of the role play technique in preventing cervical cancer among women in the Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State. Hence, it can be inferred that both Oncologists and members of community-based women organisations hold a firm belief that the implementation of a role play method for community involvement serves as a preventive measure against cervical cancer among women residing in the Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State.

Discussion of findings

- The data analysis pertaining to research question one demonstrated that the Each-One-Teach-One strategy of community engagement significantly contributes to raising knowledge about cervical cancer prevention among women residing in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State. The evidence of the effectiveness of the

Each-One-Teach-One strategy of community engagement in preventing cervical cancer is demonstrated by the grand mean values of 3.53 and 3.91 recorded for items 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7. These values indicate that the strategy involves utilising community members who are already knowledgeable about cervical cancer prevention to educate and raise awareness among others. This is achieved through various means, such as facilitating discussions to encourage community. The findings were supported by null hypothesis 1, which indicated that there was no statistically significant disparity in the average responses of oncologists and members of community-based women organisations regarding the effectiveness of the Each-One-Teach-One strategy in preventing cervical cancer among women in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State. This finding is consistent with the assertion made by Ademuwagun in Ugwu, Ofuebe, Umoke and Samson (2016) that the dissemination of public exchange information serves as an efficacious strategy for conducting sensitisation campaigns. The efficacy of the Each-One-Teach-One strategy has been found to be significant in raising awareness, particularly among rural women. This approach proves

particularly effective when employing indigenous languages as the primary mode of communication. This aligns with Owolabi and Nurudeen (2020) argument that indigenous languages are potential channels through which health information could reach the grassroots. In the same vein, Salawu (2006) support it by stating that indigenous languages is a logical approach that people express themselves and their culture better.

- The findings from the analysis of data pertaining to research question two indicate that the role play strategy of community engagement can be employed to a significant degree in the prevention of cervical cancer. This strategy involves the utilisation of community members to orchestrate dramatic performances centred around vaccine usage, the organisation of play scenes focused on promoting healthy lifestyles, and the utilisation of local languages to facilitate effective assimilation and retention of information. The aforementioned discovery was validated by the outcome of hypothesis 2, which indicated that there was no statistically significant disparity in the average responses of oncologists and members of community-based women organisations regarding the effectiveness of the role-play strategy in preventing cervical cancer among women in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State. This finding aligns with the research conducted by Uzoagu (2017), which highlighted the significance of generating awareness and stimulating interest as crucial factors for the effectiveness of community development initiatives. It is important to acknowledge that the promotion of awareness regarding the prevention of

cervical cancer is achieved through the implementation of a role-play strategy, which aims to generate interest among community members. The findings is also consistent with Otamiri (2021), which argued that community-based strategies, such as organising town hall meetings and utilising role play methods, can effectively engage communities and mobilise women to actively participate in programmes and activities that are advantageous to them. This will generate a high level of engagement and active involvement in the implementation of the plan. The utilisation of role play as a strategy to generate interest can instill a sense of urgency within individuals, compelling them to actively contribute towards the success of developmental programmes and to foster long-term sustainability

Conclusion

ased on the findings of the study, the researchers concluded that Each-One-Teach-One and role-play strategies of community engagement are key strategies for carrying out community based awareness creation on the prevention of cervical cancer among women. This means that proper planning and utilizations of these community engagement strategies in cervical cancer preventive awareness measures such as the use of vaccine and pap smear test among others, will become a common knowledge among women in communities when and where these community engagement strategies are adopted.

Recommendations

ased on the findings and the conclusion of the study, it was recommended that:

1. The primary healthcare centers which are closer to people in rural areas should work hand in gloves with members of community-based

organisations on the use of each-one-teach-one and role play strategies of community engagement to sensitise rural dwellers on the use vaccine and pap smear test to prevent cervical cancer among women

2. Community change agents who are at the grass-root should intensify efforts by encouraging members of the community irrespective of gender and age on engagement of cervical cancer prevention awareness programmes

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