

REVIEW ARTICLE

Impact of Community Based Cervical Cancer Screening Programs: A Nursing Perspectives

Savitri Devi¹, Mehvish Khalid²

HOW TO CITE THIS ARTICLE:

Savitri Devi, Mehvish Khalid. Impact of Community Based Cervical Cancer Screening Programs: A Nursing Perspectives. Int J Practical Nurs. 2025; 13(1): 25-27.

ABSTRACT

Cervical cancer remains a significant public health challenge in India, with high incidence and mortality rates, particularly in underserved and rural communities. Community – based cervical cancer screening (CBCS) programs offer a promising strategy to improve early detection rates and reduce disease burden. This review synthesizes findings from nursing research, including studies from India to evaluate the effectiveness of CBCS initiatives, focusing on the role of nurses, barriers to screening, and health outcomes. The review highlights the need for culturally sensitive interventions and the challenges related to program sustainability to ensure long-term success.

KEYWORDS

• Cervical Cancer • Screening Programs • Community

INTRODUCTION

Cervical cancer is a leading cause of cancer related deaths among women, especially in low-resource and underserved areas. In many rural and low-income communities, access to regular screening remains limited, contributing to high incidence and mortality rates. Community-based cervical cancer screening programs (CBCS) are a promising strategy to address this issue, aiming to

increase participation in screenings, improve health outcomes, and raise awareness about cervical cancer prevention. This article reviews nursing research, including studies from India, to explore the impact of CBCS programs and the key role nurses play in their success.

METHODOLOGY

This review synthesizes findings from ten peer-reviewed nursing studies published

AUTHOR'S AFFILIATION:

¹ Assistant Professor, SIMS, College of Nursing, Seeshambra, Sighniwala, Dehradun 248197, Uttarakhand, India.

² Nursing Officer, Community Health Centre, Madan Negi, Terhi, Garhwal, Uttarakhand, India.

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR:

Mehvish Khalid, Nursing Officer, Community Health Centre, Madan Negi, Terhi, Garhwal, Uttarakhand, India.

E-mail: mehvish.khalid@rediffmail.com

Received: 23.12.2024

Accepted: 05.04.2025



Creative commons non-commercial CC BY-NC: This article is distributed under the terms of the creative commons attribution non-commercial 4.0 License (<http://www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>) which permits non-commercial use, reproduction and distribution of the work without further permission provided the original work is attributed as specified on the Red Flower Publication and Open Access pages (<https://rfppl.co.in>)

between 2015 and 2023. The selected articles focus on the implementation of CBCS programs in various community settings, with particular attention to the role of nurses in promoting participation, overcoming barriers, and achieving long-term health outcomes. The studies examined include global perspectives, including research conducted in India.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Increased Participation and Awareness

CBCS programs have been effective in increasing cervical cancer screening participation, particularly in underserved communities. For example, mobile clinics and community-based education campaigns, led by nurses, have significantly improved screening rates. A study in rural India demonstrated that mobile health interventions increased cervical cancer screening rates by 30% (Sharma *et al.*, 2021). Nurses are essential in delivering education and providing support, addressing fears about screenings, and raising awareness about the importance of early detection (Smith & Miller, 2020).

Role of Nurses in Overcoming Barriers

Nurses are central to the success of CBCS programs. They not only conduct screenings but also serve as health educators and advocates. In India, nurses play a crucial role in overcoming cultural barriers, particularly in rural areas where traditional beliefs about women's health can discourage participation in screenings (Reddy *et al.*, 2022). Nurses' culturally sensitive approaches have been instrumental in alleviating misconceptions and fears surrounding the screening process (Gupta *et al.*, 2022).

Barriers to Screening

Despite the positive outcomes of CBCS programs, several barriers persist. Cultural misconceptions, fear of the procedure, and logistical challenges, such as transportation, continue to hinder screening participation. In India, women in rural communities often avoid screenings due to discomfort and stigma associated with the procedure (Raghavan *et al.*, 2020). Addressing these barriers through education and logistical support is critical for increasing program success.

Program Sustainability

While CBCS programs have demonstrated success in improving participation and early detection, sustaining these programs remains a significant challenge. Limited funding and resources, particularly in rural areas, have raised concerns about the long-term viability of these initiatives. Studies emphasize the need for sustainable funding models and continued community engagement to ensure the longevity of these programs (Gupta *et al.*, 2022; Williams *et al.*, 2021).

CONCLUSION

Community-based cervical cancer screening programs have proven effective in increasing screening participation, raising awareness, and improving early detection, particularly in underserved communities. Nurses play a critical role in the success of these programs by serving as educators, advocates, and cultural mediators. However, barriers such as cultural misconceptions, logistical challenges, and sustainability concerns must be addressed to ensure the long-term effectiveness of these programs. Future research should focus on strategies to overcome these challenges and enhance the sustainability of CBCS programs to further reduce cervical cancer incidence and mortality.

REFERENCES

1. Anderson, M., *et al.* (2019). Community involvement and cervical cancer screening: A review of strategies and outcomes. *Journal of Community Health Nursing*, 34(2), 98-106.
2. Brown, S., *et al.* (2019). The role of nurses in cervical cancer screening in rural communities. *Nursing Research*, 68(3), 171-179.
3. Gupta, S., *et al.* (2022). Sustainability of community-based cervical cancer screening programs: Challenges and solutions. *Journal of Public Health Nursing*, 39(1), 10-16.
4. Johnson, L., *et al.* (2018). The impact of mobile clinics on cervical cancer screening in rural communities. *American Journal of Public Health*, 108(6), 830-837.
5. Lee, K., *et al.*, (2021). Nurses as health advocates in cervical cancer prevention: A review. *Journal of Nursing Practice*, 55(2), 102-108.
6. Patel, D., *et al.* (2021). Early detection and outcomes of cervical cancer through community-based screening. *Journal of Cancer*

- Prevention, 45(5), 445-453.
7. Raghavan, R., *et al.* (2020). Addressing healthcare challenges in rural India: The role of nurses in cervical cancer screening programs. *Indian Journal of Nursing*, 62(4), 200-207.
 8. Reddy, P., *et al.* (2022). Overcoming cultural barriers in cervical cancer screening in India: The role of nurses. *Journal of Cancer Nursing*, 45(2), 95-102.
 9. Sharma, S., *et al.* (2021). Mobile health interventions in rural India: Increasing cervical cancer screening through nurse-led programs. *Journal of Rural Health*, 37(1), 44-52.
 10. Smith, J., & Miller, L. (2020). Educational interventions in increasing cervical cancer screening rates in low-income communities. *Journal of Nursing Research*, 58(4), 318-325.
 11. Thompson, R., & Parker, T. (2022). Overcoming barriers to cervical cancer screening in rural areas: A nursing approach. *Public Health Nursing*, 29(1), 50-58.
 12. Williams, T., *et al.* (2021). The role of family support in increasing participation in cervical cancer screening programs. *Journal of Family Nursing*, 27(3), 239-248.
-