



Challenges to HPV Immunization among Indigenous Populations in Nepal



NAHUDA



Some Facts on Nepal

- Population of Nepal (2011) - 28,58,4975^{*}
- Total number of women -
- Life expectancy of women at birth - 68^{**}
- Young people (ages 10-24) - 32%^{**}
- Contraceptive Prevalence Rate - 43.56%^{**}
- Number of indigenous/ethnic groups - 102^{***}
- Ever Married females (ages 15-19) - 42%^{**}
- Women (ages 20-24) giving birth by 18 - 23%^{**}
- Populations living below US\$2 per day - 78%^{**}

Source :

^{*} National Planning Commission, Central Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Health & Population

^{**} Population Reference Bureau 2011 World Population Data Sheet

^{***} Nepal Census 2001, Central Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Health & Population

Background on Nepal



Nepal Fertility Care Center

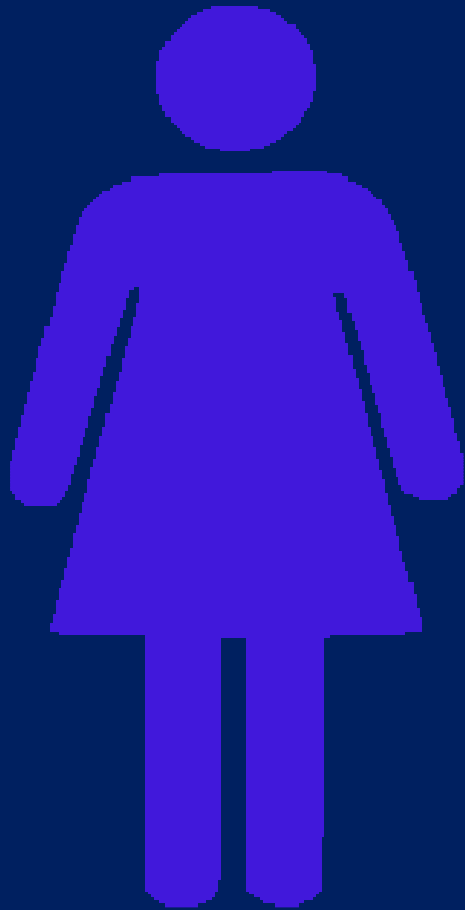
- National NGO established in 1988
- Specializing in the field of sexual and reproductive health
- Pioneering provider of trainings in capacity building of Government staff in SRH for MoHP
- Piloted many medical interventions, many of which are part of the National health program
- Representation in the core team of National Cervical Cancer Screening Guidelines by Executive President
- Strategic Partner with NAHUDA in its HPV screening efforts and planned immunization co-operative model

What makes these girls more vulnerable to HPV?

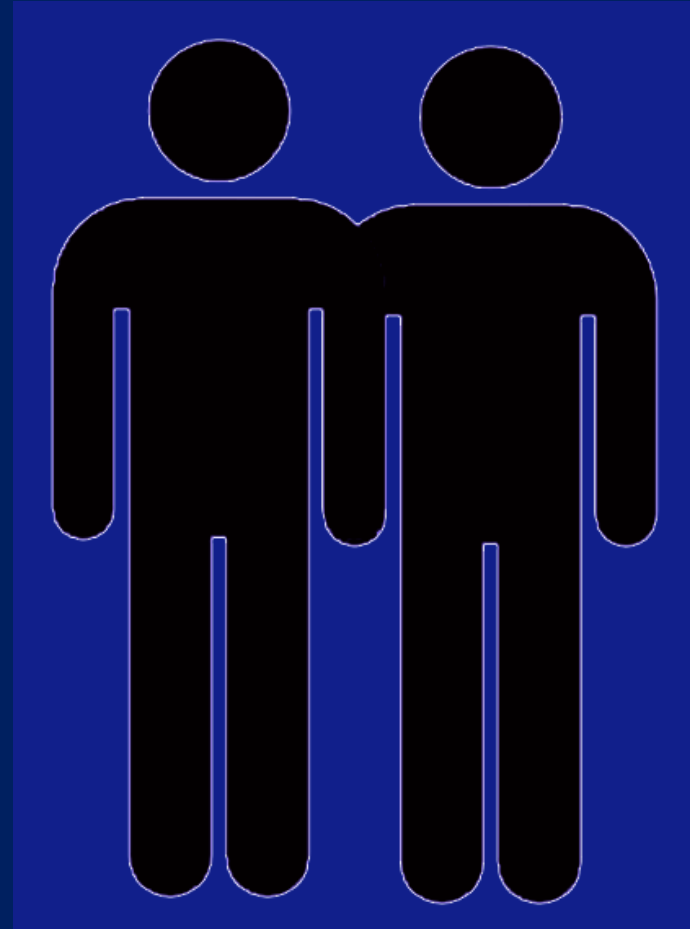
- Low literacy
- Sex trafficking
- Early marriage
- Stagnating CPR
- Economic empowerment
- Social empowerment
- Migration
- Health facilities



Who are the most vulnerable to HPV in Nepal?



Women



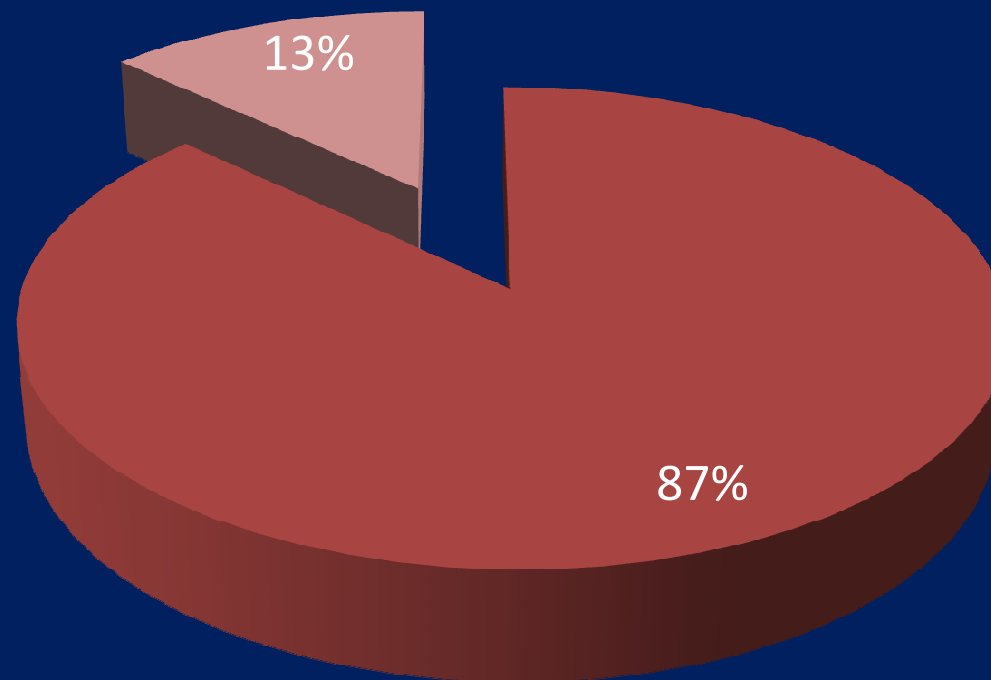
MSM

HPV screening in Nepal

<p align="center"><u>Nepal Natural & Human Resources Development Association (NAHUDA)</u> 2010-2011</p>		<p align="center"><u>Nepal Network for Cancer Treatment & Research (NNCTR)</u> 2011</p>	
Total women screened (Pap smear)	- 1892	Total women screened (VIA)	- 4812
Low grade	- 27	VIA +ve	- 238
High Grade	- 1	VILI +ve	- 300
<p align="center"><u>Bhaktapur Cancer Hospital (BCH)</u> 2010-2011</p>		<p align="center"><u>BP Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital (BPMCH)</u> 2009</p>	
Total women screened (Pap smear)	- 3713	Total women screened General gynecological OPD / (Pap smear)	- 3643
Cervical Cancer	- 122	Cervical Cancer	- 522

Prevalence of genital warts among MSM in Nepal

Nov. 16, 2010 – Aug. 15, 2011



■ Total ■ Genital Warts Cases

N = 1097
Service Sites: 5

Source: Blue Diamond Society, Nepal

Existing HPV Immunization Program

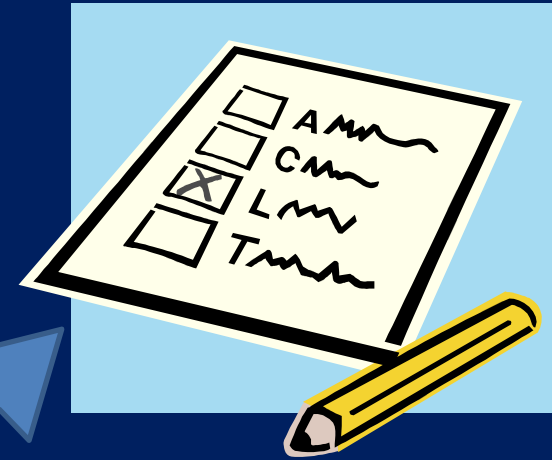
- Implemented by NNCTR and supported by INCTR, Australian Embassy and Australian Himalayan Foundation
- 4206 girls immunized from 2008 to 2010
- Plans to immunize 10000 girls in 6 districts in 2011
- Initiated immunization in Kavre in 2008 and slowly expanded to schools in surrounding districts (Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur)

What efforts has the Government of Nepal initiated?

- National Guideline for Cervical Cancer Screening and Prevention published in 2010
- Target to initiate screening services at Government service sites within next 5 years (by 2016) reaching at least 50% of women in the target age and reduce mortality caused by Cervical Cancer by 10%
- Deliberations on inclusion of HPV Immunization into the National Immunization Schedule

What are the challenges for initiation of immunization?

- Identification of HPV strains prevalent in Nepal
- Lack of awareness and therefore advocacy among policy makers about the role that HPV plays in many sexually transmitted infections and cancers
- HPV related data
- Government prioritization
- Target group unaware about HPV implications
- Expensive vaccination
- Conflicting target coverage and age group
- Poorly functioning health service system



**Actions
Required**



NFCC/NAHUDA Plans ahead

- The NFCC/NAHUDA Co-operative model for HPV immunization
- HPV screening and vaccination piloting for MSMs
- Lobbying and advocacy with Government

Acknowledgements

With thanks to:

George Wurtak, International Center for Infectious Diseases, Canada

Dinesh Raj Sharma, NAHUDA

Dr. Sudeep Shrestha, Bhaktapur Cancer Hospital, Nepal

Basanta Ghimire & Kishore Pradhananga, Bharatpur Cancer Hospital, Nepal

Dr. Aarati Shah, Nepal Academy of Medical Sciences, Bir Hospital, Nepal

Dr. Surendra Shrestha, NNCTR, Nepal

My colleagues at NFCC and NAHUDA