

1. Which agencies are involved other than the state government? Are NGOs also involved? What is their role?

We are not associated with any local NGO on this project, *and we do not have information on this.*

2. How many girls do the study proposes to cover?

The study proposes to cover 16000 girls in 3 blocks of Andhra Pradesh (Bhadrachalam, Kothagudem & Thirumalaipalem) has been selected to reach out to all areas urban, rural and tribal populations

3. How many girls have been vaccinated so far and how many doses of vaccine have they received?

It is a 3-dosage vaccine. 1<sup>st</sup> dose-14,091, second dose 13930 and third dose till date i.e. 7th Feb is 13591 girls have received the vaccine till date.

Is the vaccine only being given in schools or also in bastis/anganwadis, camps?

The vaccination was held in school for the school going girls and in the anganwadi facilities for the non-school going girls.

4. How are the girls being selected?

The girls were selected based on their age. All girls who had completed 10 years of age but less than 15 years of age at the time of the first dose of the HPV vaccine were eligible

5. Are the girls being screened for any health problems before being vaccinated?

The girls were screened by trained Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM) for any severe allergic reaction or high fever. They were supported by the medical officers of the Primary Health Center.

6. How is their age being determined, particularly for non-school going girls?

Age were determined by the birth certificate, subcenter birth records and through the anganwadi records.

7. Who is administering the vaccine to girls?

Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM), who were trained on the project administered the vaccines.

8. Who is assigned for counseling the girls regarding the vaccination?

For school going girls, trained teachers played a key role in providing information promoting the understanding and acceptance of the HPV vaccine by girls and their

parents. Trained teachers along with ANM's and their supervisors conducted interactive group sessions with parents and girls (Parents-Teachers Meeting and Students-Teachers Meeting) in which they inform about cancer of the cervix, the HPV vaccine, and the vaccination process to allay fears or misconceptions about participating in the project with help of information education and communication materials (Booklets and pamphlets).

For non-school going girls, AWW, ASHA and ANMs organized Mahila Mandal meetings for parents and girls by using flip books and also one-to-one meetings. Notification of vaccination day was a regular part of the communication strategy and reminder was sent to girls and parents the day prior to vaccination. Health personnel were available for assistance and facilitation to reinforce the message that this HPV vaccine project intended to.

**9. How many girls have refused to take the injection?**

This cannot be ascertained till a coverage study is completed in the area.

**10. What facilities are available to deal with adverse effects/complications of the vaccine?**

As per the Government guidelines and WHO recommendation prevention, recognition and management of adverse events mechanism were set up. The health authorities have arranged an emergency kit with the ANM's and have informed the 108 ambulance services to be available for any emergency. The 108 staff has been briefed on the HPV project and are capable of handling all types of emergencies.

**11. Has any mechanism been put in place to record the complaints of the vaccinated girls?**

As per the Government guidelines and WHO recommendation prevention, recognition and management of adverse events mechanism were set up

**12. If the girls require booster after 5 years, how are they to be traced?**

As of now, the current evidence does not indicate a reduced performance at eight years or indicate a need for booster doses.

**13. Are there any studies specific to Khammam district which give information about the incidence of various strains of HPV virus.**

Regional Cancer Centre, Hyderabad in its study indicated that 86.1% cases of cervical cancer in Andhra Pradesh are caused by the HPV 16 and HPV 18. (source: Pavani sowjanya et al, BioMedCentral Infectious Diseases 2005)

**14. How many PAP smears were done by the Government in Khammam during the last financial year? What are the findings? Where are the facilities available and what are the plans of upgrading the facilities?**

This is not in our scope of the project

**15. What other vaccines are being administered to this age group? Hep B?**

As a part of PATH-ICMR Post-licensure Observational Study of HPV vaccination in Khammam District, Andhra Pradesh, no other vaccine is being administered to this age group.

**16. How will they know the vaccine has had a beneficial impact. What pre-existing data will they compare it with?**

PATH-ICMR Post-licensure Observational Study of HPV vaccination in Khammam District, Andhra Pradesh is not a clinical trial hence the question is not relevant.

Sd/- Anil Chandra Punetha  
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