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**ROLE OF COMMUNITY HEALTH VOLUNTEERS IN PROMOTING
UPTAKE OF CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING AMONG WOMEN OF
REPRODUCTIVE AGE, NAIROBI CITY COUNTY, KENYA**

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SCIENCES OF KENYATTA UNIVERSITY**

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Role of community health
volunteers in promoting*




MAY, 2023



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DECLARATION

This thesis is my original work and has not been presented for any master's degree in any other university or for any award.

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Date 30/5/2023..

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DEDICATION

To my mother Monika, and my brothers Edward and Felix.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACCP	:	American College of Chest Physicians
CHIP	:	Cervical Health Implementation Project
CHUs	:	Community Health Units
CHVs	:	Community Health Volunteers
DCHS	:	Division of Community Health Services
DNA	:	Deoxyribonucleic acid
HPV	:	human papillomavirus
HR HPV	:	high risk human papillomavirus
NHIF	:	National Hospital Insurance Fund
VIA	:	Visual inspection with acetic acid
VILI	:	Visual Inspection of the Cervix with Lugol's Iodine
WHO	:	World Health Organization

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS

Cancer	a group of diseases characterized by uncontrolled development of cells.
Cervical Cancer	is a type of cancer that develops in the tissue of the cervix.
Cervical Cancer Screening	entails locating and eliminating any precancerous tissue or cells from the cervix.
Community Health Support Systems	are systems set up to address local health concerns and ensure the health and safety of local residents.
Community Health Units	Each Community Health unit is tied to a specific Health institution, and together they form a system for delivering health care to a defined geographic region through the efforts of trained community health volunteers who provide basic curative, preventative, and educational services.
Community Health Volunteers	are respected members of society who have completed the DCHS CHV basic training module and who now serve their communities by primarily, though not exclusively, providing primary healthcare services in the community and bridging the gap between healthcare consumers and providers.
Human Papillomaviruses (HPV)	are basic, non-enveloped, double-stranded DNA viruses that cause a significant worldwide epidemic of genital illness.
Institutionalizing CHVs	refers to committing CHVs to community health units (CHUs) linked health units.

ABSTRACT

The mortality rate from cervical cancer has been rising, especially among young women. This is because women generally believe that getting cancer means dying. As a result, many women avoid health screenings and ignore potential health problems. As a result of women's ignorance, efforts to raise awareness and sensitivity to cervix and breast cancer are failing. This research aimed to learn how community health volunteers in Nairobi City County influence the number of women of childbearing age who get screened for cervical cancer. The research method was a descriptive cross-sectional analysis. Nairobi served as the study's home base. We employed both a simple random sampling and a stratified random sampling strategy. For this study's sample size calculation, we used the Fisher formula. There were 363 community health volunteers used as the sample. Primary data was gathered through the use of a self-administered questionnaire and FGDS. The data was analyzed using both inferential and descriptive statistics. The results were displayed using pie charts and percentages. The findings showed that despite CHVs' potential to play a major role in educating women about the value of cervical-cancer screening, many respondents had not done so. The majority of respondents also did not refer cases of cervical-cancer screening to other CHVs, despite the fact that referrals are a key part of increasing cervical-cancer screening. Conclusions Social and economic barriers (income, transportation costs, daily expenses, and involvement level) were found to be significantly related to encouraging cervical cancer screening among women. Further, the study found that CHV participation in increasing cervical-cancer screening was significantly correlated with social-cultural obstacles (community appreciation, churches' support). A lack of training on promoting cervical cancer screening, CHV training manuals, screening services, easily accessible health system programs, and skilled and competent health workers were also identified as significant health system barriers preventing the effective promotion of cervical cancer screening. Researchers concluded that community health workers (CHVs) should be included in cervical cancer screening programs and that policymakers and health system management should give them the tools they need to succeed. The promotion of cervical-cancer screening can also be realized through the training of community health volunteers by health institutions. More work needs to be done to get the word out about cervical cancer screening, lower the price of screening, and make it more accessible to more people.