

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 SUBJECTS

The population of the study were the female university students in two universities in Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University and Rangsit University. The 1st year to 5th year students aged between 18 – 25 years old at Chulalongkorn University and Rangsit University were used in the study in order to assess the knowledge levels of the participants. The attitudes towards vaccines varied according to family background, financial status, educational background, social environment and personal beliefs.

The period of the study was from December 2008 to March 2009, with two hundreds respondents selected by the non-probability sampling method. Purposive sampling was used to obtain the respondents for the study.

According to the statistics of the Office of the Higher Education Commission, female undergraduate students numbered 253,405 – with Chulalongkorn University (CU) having 2,631 students, and 1,524 students at Rangsit University from 1st to 5th year level. (Student Statistics, 2007)

Five percent of the population at each university was used in order to obtain the sample of the study. Because of the limited time period of the study, only 200 female undergraduate students were included from both universities as shown in the table below.

Table 2. Number of Students and the Sample Size

Description	CU	RU	Total
Female undergraduate students, 1 st – 5 th year	2,631	1,524	4,155
5 percent of the population was drawn	110	90	200

For those who expressed interest and willingness to join the study, the nature of the study was explained and written consent was obtained before the questionnaire was distributed to the respondents.

3.2 INSTRUMENTS

The design of this study was a cross-sectional survey, and the instrument of the study was a self-administered questionnaire developed based on the objectives of the study. The questionnaire contained a 5-point Likert scale, as well as, closed-ended and open-ended questions, and was distributed to participants who studied at Chulalongkorn University and Rangsit University. The questionnaire consisted of 31 questions divided into four sections as follows:

1. Section 1: Personal information

The first part contained 7 closed-ended questions about age, education, monthly allowance, and faculty.

2. Section 2: Knowledge of HPV vaccines as related to cervical cancer

The second part surveyed the participants' personal knowledge of HPV vaccines relating to cervical cancer, consisting of 10 closed-ended questions.

3. Section 3: Attitudes towards HPV vaccines as related to cervical cancer

The third part measured the participants' personal knowledge of HPV vaccines and cervical cancer as well as the factors influencing their attitudes; it contained 13 questions using a Likert scale.

4. Section 4: Comments, Suggestions or Opinions, and one open-ended

question.

At the end, an open-ended question was used to retrieve the comments, suggestions or opinions that affected their knowledge levels, attitudes, and decisions in regard to receiving HPV vaccines.

Prior to sending the questionnaire to the respondents, the questionnaire was pre-tested with a sample group of 25 students who were not selected to participate in the study in order to verify the meaning of the concepts and content validity.

3.3 PROCEDURE

3.3.1 Research Design

This descriptive study was a cross sectional design, in which subjects were assessed at a single time in the study. A cross sectional study can study a large number of participants, and is efficient at describing the characteristics of variables under studied. This study mainly assessed the knowledge levels and attitudes about

HPV vaccines as related to cervical cancer amongst female undergraduate students in two universities in Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University and Rangsit University.

3.3.2 Data Collection

Non-probability sampling method (purposive sampling) was employed with the undergraduate university students, in the study. That is, all students were approached and once a student was willing to participate, the questionnaire with the cover letter stating the objectives of the study was handed to the student at the university. Once the target number was met, data collection stopped.

3.4 DATA ANALYSIS

The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 14 was used to analyze the data. Descriptive statistics in terms of frequency distribution and percentage were used in order to answer the research questions.

- 3.4.1 The data on personal information of respondents was analyzed in terms of frequency and percentage.
- 3.4.2 The data on knowledge of HPV vaccines related to cervical cancer was analyzed for frequency and percentage.
- 3.4.3 The data on attitudes about HPV vaccines as related to cervical cancer was analyzed for frequency and percentage.
- 3.4.4 The data from the open-ended question about other opinions, suggestions, and comments was categorized and analyzed in terms of frequency and percentage.

3.5 STUDY WORK SCHEDULE

The period of this study was four months starting from December 2008 to March 2009. The schedule is presented below:

