

# Barriers for Utilization of Cervical Cancer Screening in Ethiopia, a Systematic Review

Zenebu Begna

JNU, New Delhi

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## Abstract

**Background:** *Despite the fact that cervical cancer rate has significantly diminished in developed regions of the world because of the execution of all inclusive screening programs, it stays a standout amongst the most widely recognized cancer affecting females in developing world and has one of the most noteworthy death rates. Most of deaths associated with cervical cancer are happening among women that have never gone for the screening test.*

**Objective:** *This systematic review aims to summarize reported barriers preventing women from utilizing cervical cancer screening services in Ethiopia.*

**Method:** *Systematic review of all peer-reviewed and grey literature was done in Ethiopia using google scholar data base to identify barriers of cervical cancer screening in Ethiopia. The search strategy was by using “cervical cancer screening”, “barriers”, “utilization”, “uptake”, “KAP”, “determinant” key terms and Ethiopia was additional key terms to include the study conducted in Ethiopia. In order to combine the terms OR” and “AND” Boolean operators were used. All studies conducted in Ethiopia with the key terms were included and those didn’t fit with the research objectives were excluded.*

**Result:** *Totally 10 studies met the pre determined inclusion criteria. These studies were conducted in different region of the country. Majority of the study conducted in referral hospitals. All selected studies were published between 2015- 2019. Barriers like levels were, fear of test result and pain of procedure, Embarrassment, lack of knowledge and positive attitude towards the screening, awareness about availability and place of the test, lack of knowledge of prevention of cervical cancer, financial problem, lack of support from husband, cultural barriers like social exclusions were the main reported factors affecting at the personal to get screening test. The mentioned health service related barriers were, lack of availability of service, lack of training and laboratory supply, distance, cost of the service, lack of recommendation from health professionals.*

**Conclusion:** *majority of barriers can be declined by providing effective education on cervical cancer and its prevention approach emphasizing on importance of screening service at community level. Expansion of screening service and adequate training and supply has to be done importantly from government side in collaboration with all concerned bodies.*