To examine ethical, operational and political factors surrounding HPV vaccine policy decision process in India

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Disclosure

- The study is funded by Wellcome Trust in collaboration with Public Health Foundation of India.

Overview

I. Background
   - Rationale for HPV vaccine in India

II. Objective

III. Methodology
   A. Policy analysis, Qualitative, case study, interviews, location.
   B. Data analysis

IV. Results

V. Summary
   - Acknowledgement

Background

- Cervical cancer is 2nd most frequent cancer in Indian women
- India contribute 25% of global cervical cancer
- Prevalence of HPV infection = 7.9%
- 84.1% of invasive cervical cancers associated with HPV
- Every year 122844 women diagnosed with cervical cancer
- Approximately 67477 die from the disease
- HPV vaccine protects against 70% of all cervical cancers (HPV 16 & 18)

Rationale for the Study

- HPV vaccine demonstration trial
- The HPV vaccine demonstration trial was brought to a halt
- Triggered by three deaths
- India does not have HPV vaccine as part of national immunization schedule
- The policy actors concerns, ....

- There was a loss of control over the HPV vaccine policy making process in India.

Study Objective

To examine ethical, operational and political factors in HPV vaccine decision making process in India
**Methods 2**

**Framework approach of qualitative data analysis**
- Coded using Atlas.TI
- Twice code checking, conducting analysis
- Reviewing and developing results

**RESULTS**

**Study Participants/respondents**

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**Political/Operational factors**
- Lack of communication
- Poor engagement of stakeholders
- Criticality of public sector entities
- Sustainable funding plan
- Alternate options consideration

**Ethical factors**
- Conflict of interest
- Trust
- Power/Hierarchy

**But my conflict of interest**

- ICMR leadership has changed, the new leader of ICMR got nervous when parliament standing committee called him to explain the situation. He said that yes mistakes have been made. So that is where the issue went completely different direction.

- But my conflict of interest is led by political/operational factors.
Summary

- Virtually no formal platforms for transparent communications, conflict resolution options.
- Weak administration of HPV vaccine demonstration trial.
- Hierarchies, power and biases – towards and within actors.
- Lack of trust/transparency in decision process.
- Limited public engagement resulting in miscommunication/misunderstanding.
- Contestations on vaccine evidence from actors.
- Lack of champions, leadership challenges, diverse administrative setups.

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