UTILIZATION OF CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING SERVICES AMONG WOMEN OF AGE 24-49 YEARS ATTENDING POST NATAL CARE AT MATERNAL-CHILD/ FAMILY PLANNING (FP) CLINIC AT MIGORI COUNTY REFERRALHOSPITAL, MIGORI COUNTY, KENYA.

BY

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DECLARATION

1. THE STUDENT

I, ALICE A. MUGA do hereby declare that this thesis is my original work and has not been submitted for the award of a degree or diploma in any other University or college.

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We, the undersigned, confirm that this thesis has been submitted for examination with our approval as University Supervisors:

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Abstract.

Globally, epidemiological transition from communicable to non-communicable diseases is on the increase. Cervical cancer is among the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in women. Cervical cancer is preventable but many women especially in Africa seek healthcare late in advanced stages. Many women in Kenya have never been screened despite free services. Cervical cancer screening for all women aged18-69years in Kenya is at 3.2%~~%~~ and at 13% in Migori County. This is unacceptable low compared to the National Cervical Cancer Prevention program target of 70%. Limited studies have been done in Kenya targeting the priority age cohort of 25-49 years. This study aimed at exploring the factors that influence utilization of cervical cancer screening services among women aged 25-49 years attending Post natal care services at the MCH/FP Clinic at Migori County Referral Hospital by determining the association between individual background factors and utilization, examining the uptake, establishing the association between awareness of screening and utilization, establishing the association between knowledge on cervical cancer disease and determining barriers to utilization. A cross-sectional analytical study design appropriate for fact finding and inquiries was used. A sample size of 272 was determined by Fisher's formula. The Data was collected from the 272 respondents selected through purposive sampling technique using structured questionnaires. Data was cleaned, coded and entered using SPSS version 25.0 and the analysis was done using descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. Data was presented using tables and charts. Results showed that majority of participants were aged between 25-29 years. There was a significant relationship between age and utilization of screening services. P=0.000, Education and utilization p=0.045, Employment p=0.000 but no relationship between marital status and utilization p=0.112. The study established that 37% of the participants had been screened for cervical cancer while 63% had not been screened. The Level of awareness was moderate with a significant relationship between awareness and screening (p=0.000). The correlation between knowledge of cervical cancer disease and utilization was statistically significant (p=0.001). However 73% had poor knowledge on signs and symptoms. Main barriers to utilization were; inadequate information on screening (96%) and Lack of the disease understanding (95%) The study concluded that the uptake of cervical cancer screening was low among the women attending PNC services and this showed that awareness of cervical cancer screening has not translated to an increase in utilization. Utilization of cervical cancer is influenced by individual background factors and knowledge of the cervical cancer disease. The study results will help the county managers in decision making and planning for cervical cancer screening as a priority for strengthening and improving service delivery.