

STRENGTHENING HPV KNOWLEDGE IN INDIGENOUS ADOLESCENTS

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INTRODUCTION

This research evaluated the level of knowledge before and after an educational intervention in the Tenek indigenous language, which is key to ensuring equal access to education and health for indigenous adolescents in San Luis Potosí, where the average age of sexual initiation is 15 years. The lack of information about the human papillomavirus (HPV) increases risky behaviors, so an intervention in their mother tongue can reduce language barriers and promote health.

BACKGROUND

In a cross-sectional, descriptive study conducted in the state of Querétaro, Mexico, it was demonstrated that adolescents have a low level of knowledge about HPV. Aguilar et al. highlight that indigenous languages play a crucial role in health promotion. This implies significant improvements in public health by targeting vulnerable groups that lack access to healthcare services.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Tének population faces inequalities in access to resources and services, such as healthcare, education, and employment, which can affect their health. Misinformation, along with the lack of resources in their native language, limits their ability to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health, increasing the risk of contracting HPV.

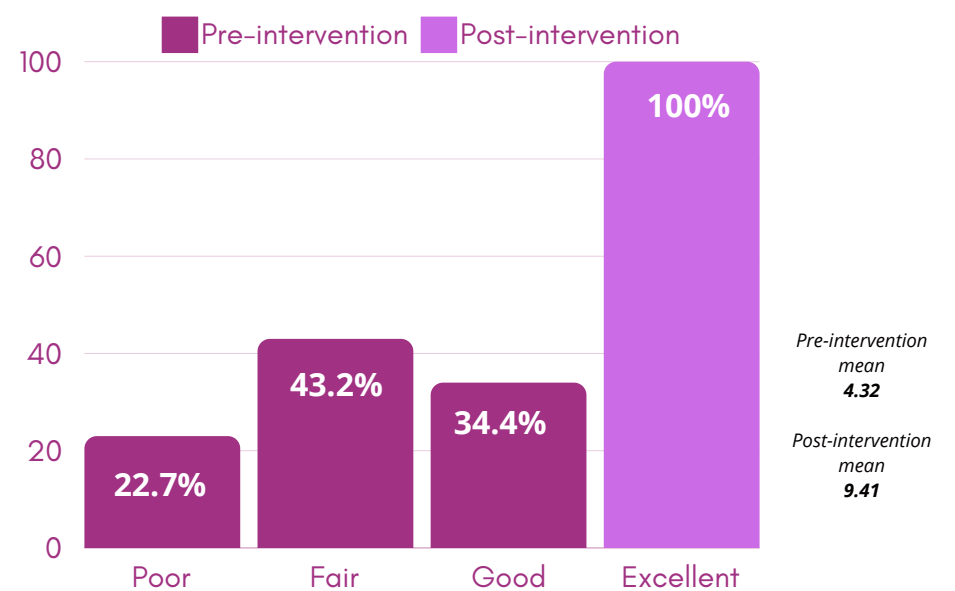
METHODOLOGY

Quantitative, descriptive, pre-experimental, longitudinal, and prospective study. The level of knowledge about HPV was assessed in 44 participants before and after an educational intervention in the Tének language in the municipality of San Antonio, S.L.P. Descriptive statistics were used for sociodemographic data, and the Student's t-test for related samples was applied to evaluate the level of knowledge.

RESULTS

In 15.9% of the indigenous Tenek adolescents who reported having initiated sexual activity, the predominant age range was between 13 and 15 years old. Regarding the level of knowledge among indigenous adolescents in the municipality of San Antonio, S.L.P., as shown in Graph 1, 77.3% (34) had a regular to good level of knowledge in the pre-intervention phase, while in the post-intervention phase, 100% (44) achieved an excellent level of knowledge.

Graph 1. Level of knowledge about HPV among indigenous adolescents before and after the intervention



Source: Own work. Database from the instrument "Evaluation of the Level of Knowledge about HPV"

FINAL THOUGHTS

Modern technology can have a positive impact on increasing knowledge about HPV among indigenous adolescents in their native language. For example, applications and educational platforms can be developed using artificial intelligence (AI) to adapt content to their cultural and linguistic needs. These tools could provide information about HPV, its transmission, and prevention through interactive materials such as educational games, augmented reality simulations, and explanatory videos. Additionally, data analysis algorithms could identify patterns of risky behavior and personalize educational interventions, ensuring that adolescents receive the appropriate information to reduce HPV infections.

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