

Cervical cancer claims 7,000 lives in country annually



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Cervical cancer is the second leading cause of death among women after breast cancer. The main reasons are lack of awareness and social taboos, causing the deaths of around 7,000 women every year in Bangladesh.

Md Minhaj Hossain, SMD manager of Healthcare Pharmaceuticals Ltd, made the remarks as the keynote speakers at a cervical cancer awareness seminar, "Protect Yourself, Protect Your Community with Vaccines," held at North South University (NSU) on Thursday.

Minhaj Hossain further said that cervical cancer is a silent killer, as without screening, no one can detect the cancer in its early stages.

Besides, it becomes visible only after 12 to 13 years, but by then, there is only a 1% chance of survival, he added.

He also said that there are more than 50 colposcopy screening centres in Bangladesh, but due to lack of awareness, people do not take tests, which is why the situation remains alarming.

NSU School of Health and Life Sciences Dean Prof Dr Dipak Kumar Mitra said, "Cervical cancer is one of the few cancers where we know the exact cause, Human Papillomavirus (HPV). The best prevention is vaccination."

NSU Pharmaceutical Sciences department Chairman Prof Dr Mohammad Hossain Shahriare, Superintendent of NSU Model Pharmacy, was also present along with students and staff members.