

Take HPV vaccination now, varsity tells female students

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KOTA SAMARAHAN: Deputy Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) Professor Mohd Fadzil Abdul Rahman urged female students who are 18 years old and above to take the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination in order to prevent cervical cancer.

Speaking at the launch of a HPV vaccination programme at Unimas here yesterday, Fadzil said the programme was focusing on 18-year old female students.

"This programme has been implemented after the student enrollment for the September 2012/2013 session, and is expected to end in May 2013, involving female students born in 1993," said Fadzil.

The free vaccination, he said, aimed to decrease the cervical cancer incidents in Malaysia and at the same time, to reduce the burden of cervical cancer in 20 years time.

The vaccine is able to give maximum protection from HPV infection and avoid 70 per cent of cervical cancer which has been known as the third most common cancer affecting women in the world.

"However, it is only effective when taken in three doses within a six-month period beginning from the first vaccination," he said.

Apart from that, Fadzil also urged the female students to be more concerned of their health by doing regular checkups and going for Pap Smear tests, adding that early detection could save their lives.

The programme, organised in collaboration with the Population and Family Development Board (LPPKN), was participated by some 200 students who were also able to get their second and third doses at the university's health clinic.

Fadzil advised the students to live a healthy lifestyle to avoid getting HPV and other dangerous diseases.

After the launch of HPV programme, some students expressed their joy on the Budget 2013 announcement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak on 28 Sept.

Khaironie Hafiza Auman from Kuching, a 19-year-old first year student of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, said she was grateful for the 1Malaysia Book Voucher for IPT and pre-uni students.

"With this voucher, I can buy a few reference books which are quite expensive. Thank you Prime Minister, for the allocation," she said.

Another student, Nurshafiqah Elias from Johor Bahru, 19, a first year student of the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, was also grateful for the 1Malaysia Book Voucher.

"Not only has the amount increased from RM200 to RM250.

But now I don't have to depend so much on my parents' money or my study loan to buy books," she said.

Source from: Sarawak Tribune