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சுவசிரிபாய
SUWASIRIPAYA

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சுகாதாரம் மற்றும் சுதேசவைத்திய அமைச்சு
Ministry of Health & Indigenous Medicine

All Provincial Directors of Health Services,
All Regional Directors of Health Services,
All Heads of Institutions,
All Medical Officers of Maternal and Child Health,
All Medical Officers of Health

Commemoration Activities of World Cancer Day -2015 / February 4th

Theme - Not Beyond Us

Ensuring the availability of and access to early detection programmes for cancer can significantly reduce the cancer burden in a country.

As you are aware, breast cancer is the most prevalent neoplasm amongst the Sri Lankan females, which accounts to 25% of all cancers in females. It has been estimated that, every year about 1000 – 1200 women die of breast cancer in our country. Even though it is the commonest cancer, it has a very good prognosis, if detected in early stages. Hence, detecting breast cancer at an early stage would result in not only in prolonged survival, but also has a higher chance of cure.

Cervical cancer is the second commonest cancer among females in Sri Lanka and according to estimates about 800 women die of the disease annually in Sri Lanka.

Well Woman Clinic Programme, which is being conducted by MOOH and staff in the field and the MOO and staff in the health institutions, was initiated in 1996.

Clinical breast examination, creation of awareness and skills among clients on self-breast examination, detection and identification of pre-cancerous lesions of cervical carcinoma are vital functions of the Well Woman Clinic Programme.

Since 2007, women of 35 years have been identified as the target age group for the Well Woman Clinic (WWC) programme.

According to public health norms, any public health programme should have at least 80% coverage to yield results and to be successful. As such, for the incidence of the above cancers to be reduced 80% coverage of the target age group should be achieved at national level and maintained for a few years.

As our national coverage for year 2013 was 34%, we need to focus more attention to improve coverage of the target group (The year 2013 coverage at district level is attached herewith for your information and for comparison).