
A descriptive study to assess the level of knowledge on cervical cancer among women admitted in St. Antony's hospital, Madhavaram, TamilNadu.

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Abstract:

Objectives: To assess the level of knowledge on cervical cancer among women with 30 years of age and above. **Methods:** The quantitative approach is used in this study. The research design selected for this study was descriptive research design. The study was conducted in St. Antony's Hospital, Madhavaram. The sample size was 30. Simple random sampling technique was used to select the samples for this study. **Results:** The findings of the study concludes that only 13.3% of samples had adequate knowledge about cervical cancer and there is a strong need for health awareness program to reduce the occurrence of cervical cancer in future.

Key words: Knowledge, Cervical Cancer.

INTRODUCTION

In India , Population Based Cancer Registries (PBCRs) showed cancer breast was the most common followed by the cancer of the cervix (ICMR-2004).¹ Early cervical cancer is often asymptomatic and the first sign of the disease is usually an abnormal pap smear test.² Identification of high risk women at earliest and providing them care, will help in early detection and treatment of cervical cancer. To identify / Screen the cases earlier ,the women need to be educated about cervical cancer. The nurse and health care workers play a key role in screening earlier³.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A descriptive study to assess the level of knowledge on cervical cancer among women admitted in St. Antony's Hospital, Madhavaram, TamilNadu.

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the distribution of demographic variables among women

2. To assess the level of knowledge on cervical cancer among women
3. To find out the association between selected demographic variables and the level of knowledge on cervical cancer among women with 30 years of age and above.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

METHODS

A Quantitative approach and Descriptive Research design was used for this study. Total 30 adults between the age group of above 30 years of age who were selected by using Simple random sampling technique. Data collection was done by door to door survey method using pretested structured interview schedule before and after health education program at Muthialpet, Puducherry. The tool contained demographic profile of participants and structured questionnaire was developed to assess the knowledge on cervical cancer among women. Pre-test was conducted using structured interview schedule followed by teaching program was administered by using flash cards, charts and discussion with them.

After a week (7-days) post-test data was collected. Results were analyzed statistically using percentage, proportions and Chi-square test was applied

Table 1. Frequency and percentage distribution of level of knowledge on cervical cancer.

N=30

Level of Knowledge	No.	%
Poor	5	16.7%
Average	21	70.0%
Good	4	13.3%
Total	30	100.0%

The above table reveals that 16.7% of women had poor knowledge, 70.0% of them had average knowledge, and 13.3% had good knowledge.

Table 2. Mean and Standard Deviation of knowledge on cervical cancer

Maximum score	Mean	SD	% of mean knowledge score
20	8.33	3.24	41.7%

The mean value of knowledge on cervical cancer was 8.33 with standard deviation of 3.24. On the whole the percentage of mean knowledge score was 41.7%.

Major Findings of the Study

This study revealed that,

- 5 (16.7%) of them had poor knowledge.

- 21 (70.0%) of them had average knowledge.
- 4 (13.3%) of them had good knowledge.
- Women those who were in the age group 41-50 years were found to have significant p<0.001

CONCLUSION

The findings of the study concludes that only 13.3% of samples had adequate knowledge about cervical cancer, which in turn indicates that there is a strong need for health awareness program to reduce the occurrence of cervical cancer in future. This study finding serves as a reference material to the Government of India to formulate health awareness programmes with regard to prevention, control and management of cervical cancer.

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