

Table 6: Shows the Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Women in terms of Level of Expressed Practices of Married and Unmarried Women regarding Reproductive Tract Infection

	Maximum Score	Expressed Practices	Range score	off (%)
Married (n=100)	18	Poor ($\leq 50\%$)	0-6	0
		Average (51-65%)	7-12	0
		Good (66-80%)	13-18	45
		Very Good ($\geq 80\%$)	Above 18	55
Unmarried (n=100)	23	Poor ($\leq 50\%$)	0-5	0
		Average (51-65%)	6-10	06
		Good (66-80%)	11-15	78
		Very Good ($\geq 80\%$)	Above 15	16

The data presented in the table 6 reveals that more than half (55%) of married women had very good practices regarding prevention and management of reproductive tract infection where as less than half (45%) had good expressed practices. None of the married women had average and poor practices regarding prevention and management of reproductive tract infection.

The data further revealed that majority (78%) of unmarried women had good Practices regarding prevention and management of reproductive tract infection where as sixteen (16%) had very good practices and only six (6%) had average practices regarding prevention and management of reproductive tract infection. None of the unmarried women had poor practices regarding prevention and management of reproductive tract infection.

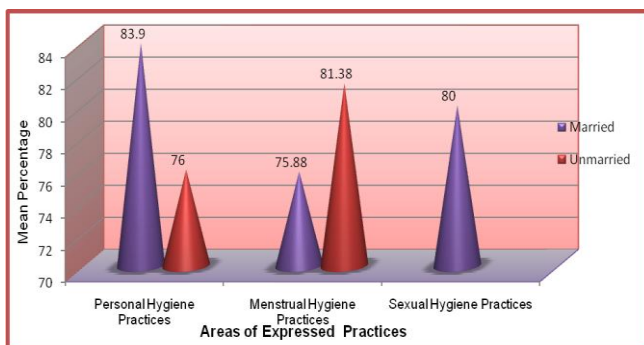


Figure 2: shows area wise Frequency and Percentage of Expressed Practices Score of Married Women regarding Reproductive Tract Infection

Table 7: Shows the Mean , Mean Difference , Standard Error of Mean Difference and 't' Value of Expressed Personal Hygiene Practices Score of Married and Unmarried Women regarding Reproductive Tract Infections

Groups	Mean	Mean Difference	S.E.,MD	S.D.,D	't' Value	p Value
Unmarried (n=100)	7.60	0.79	0.08	1.20	6.74*	0.00
Married (n=100)	8.39					

df(98)=1.97 at 0.05 level of significance

The data presented in table 7 shows that mean expressed personal hygiene practices score of married women was 8.39 and mean expressed personal hygiene practices score of unmarried women was 7.60 with the mean difference of 0.79. The calculated 't' value 6.74 was found to be statistically significant at 0.05 level which revealed that the mean difference between the expressed personal hygiene practices score of married and unmarried women was a true difference and not by chance.

Hence, null hypothesis H_{02} is rejected and research hypotheses H_2 is accepted which suggest that there was a significant difference in expressed practices of married and unmarried women regarding reproductive tract infections.

Table 8: Shows the Mean , Mean Difference , Standard Error of Mean Difference and 't' Value of Expressed Menstrual Hygiene Practices Score of Married and Unmarried Women regarding Reproductive Tract Infection

Groups	Mean	Mean Difference	S.E.,MD	S.D.,D	't' Value	p Value
Unmarried (n=100)	6.51	0.44	0.12	1.55	2.75*	0.00
Married (n=100)	6.07					

df(98)=1.97 at 0.05 level of significance

The data presented in table 8 shows that mean expressed menstrual hygiene practices score of unmarried women was 6.51 and mean expressed menstrual hygiene practices score of married women was 6.07 with the mean difference of 0.44. The calculated 't' value 2.75 was found to be statistically significant at 0.05 level which revealed that the mean difference between the expressed menstrual hygiene practices score of married and unmarried women was a true difference and not by chance.

Hence, null hypothesis H_{02} is rejected and research hypothesis H_2 is accepted which suggest that there was a significant difference in expressed practices of married and unmarried women regarding reproductive tract infections.

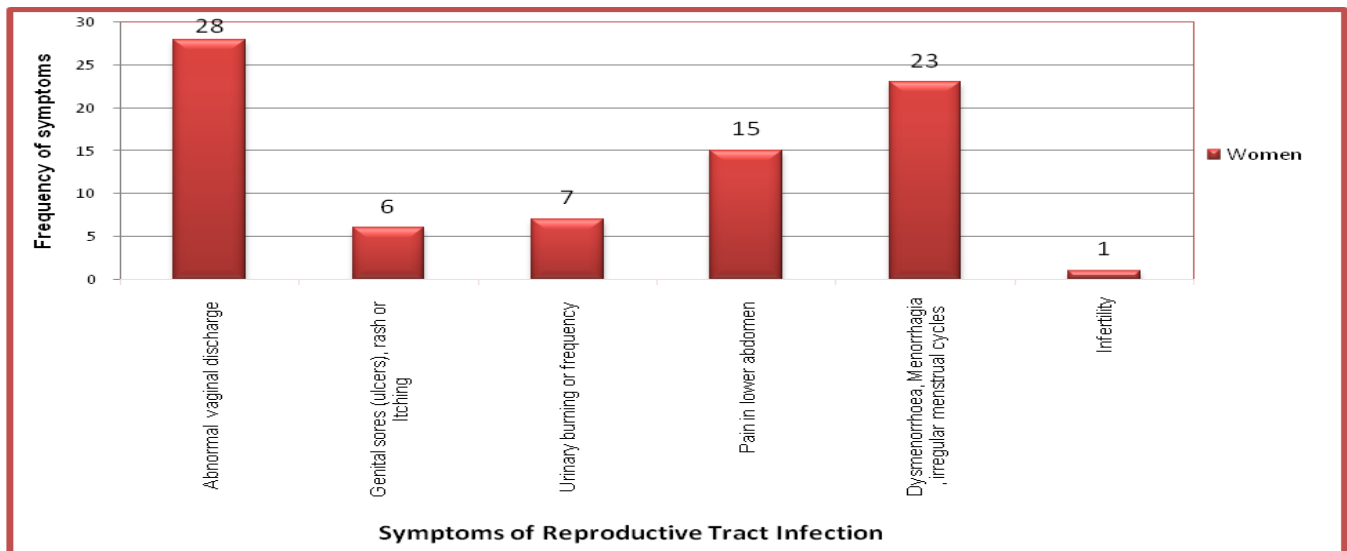


Figure 3: Shows the Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Reproductive Tract Infection Symptoms among Married and Unmarried Women

There was a positively negligible non significant Correlation (+ 0.13) between the knowledge and expressed practices scores of married women regarding reproductive tract infections. Whereas there was low positive significant correlation (+0.22) between the knowledge and expressed practices score of unmarried women regarding reproductive tract infections.

The study showed that level of knowledge of married women were dependent on the educational status and duration of marriage whereas the level of knowledge of married women were independent on age, religion, any previous knowledge about reproductive tract infections, specify sources of information, in the past have you ever had any reproductive tract infections, if yes, then ever had taken treatment for reproductive tract infections, treatment compliance, have your partner also had symptoms of reproductive tract infections .

7. Discussion

In the present study 41% of the women were screened with the symptoms of reproductive tract infection, most common symptom were abnormal vaginal discharge, rash, itching (35%), followed by dysmenorrheal, menorrhoea, irregular menstrual cycle which was seen in 28.8% of the women while that in study conducted by **Sri Devi and Swarnalatha N (2011)**², and **Aparajita D, Mashutandra S(2008)**¹ most commonly observed symptoms were vaginal discharge (21.3 per cent) and lower abdominal pain (4.9 per cent).

The study reflected that 55.5% of the women had good knowledge regarding reproductive tract infection, out of which 64% of unmarried and nearly half (47%) of married had good knowledge which is contradictory to the findings of **Thakur JS, Swami HM (2010)**⁶ women had inadequate knowledge regarding reproductive tract infections.

The findings of the study showed that more than half (55%) of married had very good expressed practices and less than half (45%) of unmarried women had good expressed

practices regarding prevention and management of reproductive tract infections. none of the married and unmarried women had poor expressed practices which is contradictory to the findings of **Pant B, Singh JV**⁵ where women had poor hygienic practices.

8. Conclusion

The main aim of the study was to assess the knowledge and practices of married and unmarried women regarding reproductive tract infection and to screen out the cases for RTIs. On the basis of findings of the present study, the study illuminates that unmarried women had better knowledge than the married women regarding reproductive tract infections. Married women expressed practices were better than the unmarried women expressed practices regarding prevention and management of reproductive tract infections. None of the unmarried and married women had poor practices regarding prevention and management of reproductive tract infections. Abnormal vaginal discharge (increased amount, abnormal odor, abnormal color) was the most commonly founded symptom of reproductive tract infections among the married and unmarried women. Unmarried women need to be updated with knowledge of maintaining good personal hygiene practices which may be the cause of RTIs among them. The findings of the study have several implications for nursing service, education, administration and research.

9. Limitations

1. The study was limited to only one rural area Mullana, Ambala Haryana hence it was difficult to make broad generalization of the findings.
2. The study was limited to only reproductive age group women; hence it was difficult to make broad generalization of the findings.

10. Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were offered for future research:

1. The study can be replicated on large sample with team work to validate the findings and make the generalization.
2. A study can be done to assess and compare the knowledge and practices of rural and urban area women.
3. A study can be done to assess and compare the prevalence of symptoms of reproductive tract infections in rural and urban areas.
4. A study may be conducted to assess the effectiveness of public awareness programme regarding prevention and management of reproductive tract infections in term of knowledge and practices among reproductive age women.
5. A study can be done to assess knowledge and practices among the pregnant mothers regarding reproductive tract infections.

References

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