

# Knowledge Regarding Breast Cancer and its Prevention among Working Women: A Descriptive Study

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**Abstract:** Breast cancer survival rates have increased, and the number of deaths associated with this disease is steadily declining, largely due to factors such as earlier detection, a new personalized approach to treatment and a better understanding of the disease. The investigator has taken up the present study to assess the knowledge and its prevention regarding breast cancer among working women. Descriptive survey design was used for the present study and data was collected from 100 working women by using structured knowledge questionnaire. The result of the study showed 62 women had poor knowledge, while only 06 working women had good knowledge.

**Keywords:** Knowledge; Working women; Breast cancer; Prevention.

## 1. Introduction

Cancer is a group of diseases with similar characteristics, which can occur in all living cells in the body and different cancer types have different natural history. Fifty persons die of various kinds of cancers, and 100 are diagnosed with them in India every hour. Cancer prevalence in India is estimated to be around 2.5 million, with over 8,00,000 new cases and 5,50,000 deaths occurring each year due to this disease. More than 70% of the cases report for diagnostic and treatment services in the advanced stages of the disease, which has led to a poor survival and high mortality rate, whereas the predominant cancer in the female population is breast cancer.

Public health data indicate that the global burden of breast cancer in women, are measured by incidence, mortality, and economic costs, is substantial and on the increase. Worldwide, it is estimated that more than one million women are diagnosed with breast cancer every year, and more than 410,000 will die from the disease. Globally, every three minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer in the world, amounting to one million cases annually. The incidence could go up by 50 per cent to 1.5 million by 2020, said the World Cancer Report.<sup>5</sup>

## 2. Literature Survey

In the present study the literature is taken related to knowledge of women regarding breast cancer and its prevention. These studies have focused to assess knowledge of breast cancer and its prevention and the findings were majority of the women had average knowledge, which indicates that the majors should be taken to improve the knowledge.

## 3. Methods

The objective of the present study was to assess the knowledge regarding breast cancer and its prevention among working women. Evaluative survey approach and

Descriptive survey Design was used to identify the knowledge regarding breast cancer and its prevention among working women. In this present study, six selected attribute variables used they were age in years, education, religion, type of family, income and source of information.

The study was conducted at Shrivardhan Ropvatika at Ichalkaranji, Kolhapur district, Maharashtra. And sample size of 100 working women which were selected by Non probability, purposive sampling technique. The tool consisted of 30 multiple choice questions on knowledge regarding breast cancer and its prevention. The score was categorised as good, average and poor.

## 4. Results

The data collected from the samples were organized and presented under the following sections

**Section I:** Findings related to distribution of selected socio demographic data of samples.

**Section II:** Findings on knowledge regarding breast cancer and its prevention.

Findings related to distribution of selected socio demographic data of samples showed,

- Majority of the samples (38) belonged to 41 to 45 years of age (38%) as well as majority of the samples (38) belonged to 46 to 50 years of age (38%) and only 07 samples belonged to 56 to 60 years of age (07%).
- Out of 100 samples majority (80) were married (80%) and only 6 of them were separated (06%).
- Majority of samples (62) belonged to Hindu religion (62%) and only 9 belonged to Christian (9%) as well as 9 belonged to other religions (9%).
- Majority of samples (60) had primary education (60%) and only 10 were having higher and above education (10%).
- Majority of samples (30) source of information was friends (30%) and only 01 had no source of information (01%)

- Majority of samples (50) had family income above Rs.7000/- and only 10 samples had family income less than Rs.3000/-.

**Frequency and percentage (%) distribution of knowledge scores of samples regarding breast cancer and its prevention, n=100**

Knowledge scores	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Good (21-30)	06	06
Average (11-20)	32	32
Poor (00-10)	62	62

Table indicated that maximum number of samples 62 had poor knowledge (62%), while only 06 samples had good knowledge (06%)

## **5. Discussion**

Breast cancer is most common cancer among women. The causes of breast cancer are not fully known. It is diagnosed during physical examination, self examination, mammography, biopsy, ultrasound. The women should have knowledge regarding signs and symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and also advanced treatment for breast cancer. If one women gets information she can educate others, which will help to prevent or to detect cancer at early stage.

## **6. Conclusion**

The study concluded that working women had average knowledge regarding breast cancer which indicates to prove them update knowledge.

## **References**

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