A Descriptive Study to Assess the Knowledge of Women regarding Cervical Cancer in Selected Area of Kadamwadi, Kolhapur

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Abstract: _Background & Objectives: Cancer of the uterine cervix is one of the leading cancers among women worldwide, with an estimated 520,000 new cases and 274,000 deaths reported annually (WHO/ICO Information Centre on HPV and Cervical Cancer - HPV and cervical cancer statistics in India. 2010). About 86% of the cervical cancer cases occur in developing countries, which represents 13% of all female cancers (WHO/ICO Information Centre on HPV and Cervical Cancer - HPV and cervical cancer statistics in India. OBJECTIVES: To assess the knowledge regarding cervical cancer among women in selected area of Kadamwadi, Kolhapur Methods: Materials & Methods: A Non-Experimental Descriptive design was used. The sample selected for the study includes 50 women at selected urban areas of Kadamwadi, Kolhapur. Simple random sampling was used in this study. The data was collected by using Demographic variables and structured Knowledge questionnaire about knowledge regarding cervical cancer among women. Results: The findings of the study showed that 24 women's had poor knowledge regarding cervical cancer (48 %) and 20 women's had very poor knowledge on cervical cancer (40%). 5 women's had average knowledge on cervical cancer (10%). 1 women had good knowledge on cervical cancer (2%). Interpretation and Conclusion: The findings showed that majority of the Women's had a poor knowledge score comprising of 48.00 % out of total samples whereas 40 % Women had very Poor Knowledge score which was significant 10 % had Average Knowledge score & 2% had Good knowledge score. Related to the demographic variables With regards to their age, majority 29 (58%) of the women's were above the age of 30 years, with reference to their educational status reveals that highest percentage 24 (48%) of women's had completed their secondary education. Majority of women's were 50 (100%) are home maker & Majority of women's 46 (92%) were married, marital age reveals that the highest percentage 42 (84%) having 19-23 years, most women's 44 (88%) are not using oral contraceptive methods. Majority of family income of women's were 37 (74%) between 5000-10000._

1. Introduction

"Be Aware Fight Cancer"

In the early nineties when revolution was occurring in health care system throughout the world, India was facing a lot of deaths due to communicable diseases. However after independence, the Government of India took lot of measures to improve the life expectancy of Indian population, these measures gave fruitful results by showing a massive control in mortality due to communicable diseases. World Health Report (1999) gives the main causes of mortality in India as non-communicable diseases (48 percent), communicable diseases (42 percent) and injuries (10 percent).[1] This revealed the decrease in death rate and the better improvement of quantity and quality health services in India. A report from united nation world population prospects indicated a shift in demographic profile from 45 yrs in 1971 to 64 years in 2005-2010. It is estimated that life expectancy of the Indian population will increase to 70 years by 2021–25. In modern era where urbanization, industrialization, life style changes and population growth etc are influencing the disease pattern, we can see a paradigm shift from communicable disease to non-communicable diseases like cancer, diabetes and hypertension. Recent times have seen an increase in the incidence of cancer.[2]

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.[3] The last fifty years have seen an exploration in our understanding of this most fundamental of diseases, and new discoveries are occurring on an almost weekly basis. A trend analysis of the data on cancer incidence for the period 1975-2008 has demonstrated that the overall occurrence of cancer is increasing among females. The greatest increase among females was for cancer of the cervix and breast.[4]

Cervical cancer is a devastating disease for women around the world. Nearly 500,000 women suffer from the disease and more than 270,000 die each year. Globally, cervical cancer is the second-most-common cancer among women. It is the leading cause of female cancer deaths in developing countries, where 80% of cervical cancer cases and deaths occur. By 2030, cervical cancer is expected to kill over 474,000 women per year and over 95% of these deaths are expected to be in low- and middle-income countries. India has a population of 366.58millions women ages 18 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Current estimates indicate that every year 134420 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 72825 die from the disease.[6]

This outlook provoked me to take a glance in our society's female awareness and attitude regarding cervical cancer and what all measures can be implemented to shake the hands with the experts who are constantly lending their support and encouragement to have a women world without cervical cancer.

2. Need for Study

One out of every five women in the world suffering from this disease belongs to India. It is estimated that there were 112,609 new Cervical Cancers in 2004 and this number is expected to rise to 139,864 in 2015[10.] Cervical cancer ranks as the 1st most frequent cancer among women in India, and the 1st most frequent cancer among women between 18 and

44 years of age. About 7.9% of women in the general population are estimated to harbour cervical HPV infection at a given time, and 82.5% of invasive cervical cancers are attributed to HPVs.[7]

A study conducted by the New England Journal of Medicine reveals that about 1.3 lakh new cases of cervical cancer are reported every year, in India and about a quarter of the five lakh cases globally. Experts point out that women need to be sensitised to curb the growth of this disease. "Even the educated class are not aware of cervical cancer and often link it with the neck, says gynaecologist, Sunita Verma. Cancer Research Foundation of India (CRFI), a recently constituted body is actively involved in spreading awareness. Dr Siddharth Sahni, co-founder, CRFI says, "Awareness, prevention and detection is what we are striving for to deal with cancer. We need to reach out to both grass roots and urban India". Cancer of the cervix has been the most important cancer in women in India over the past two decades. It accounted for 16 per cent of all cancers in women in the urban registries in 2005. Over 70 per cent of the Indian population resides in rural areas; cervical cancer still constitutes the number one cancer among females. In the hospital based cancer registries (HBCRs), the leading site for cervical cancer is Bangalore and Chennai, the second leading site in Mumbai and Thiruvananthapuram and the third leading site in Dibrugarh. The percentage of cervical cancer constitutes 11.4% in Thiruvananthapuram, 30.7% in Chennai, 40% in Bangalore respectively. In spite of having had a diagnosis of cervical cancer in Chennai, Trivandrum and Bangalore it has been reported that they didn't receive active treatment[9]. More than three-fourths of these patients are diagnosed at advanced stages leading to poor prospects of long-term survival and cure, despite of health care institutions efforts in introducing lot of screening programs. Incidences has not decreased especially among poor, rural women, who make up the majority of cervical cancer victims due to lack of awareness, knowledge, inaccessibility to screening and cultural barriers.[8]

Indian government has introduced a variety of a national health programs and screening camps in various states in order to fight against the rising numbers of incidence and mortality among women due to cervical cancer. In spite of all these measures the no of incidences are not coming down rather increasing hence the researcher felt that there is an eminent need to find out, the women, in selected community posses what level of understanding about this dreadful disease and how necessary it is to provide information regarding cancer of cervix and its prevention to women. Hence researcher introduced self-instructional module to evaluate its effectiveness in improving the existing knowledge and bringing up the positive attitude towards it.

Problem Statement
"A study to assess the knowledge regarding cervical cancer among women in selected area of Kadamwadi, Kolhapur"

Objective
To assess the knowledge regarding cervical cancer among women in selected area of Kadamwadi, Kolhapur.

3. Materials and Methods

The approach chosen for this study was descriptive survey approach to assess the knowledge regarding cervical cancer among women in selected area of Kadamwadi, Kolhapur. The research design selected for the study is non-experimental descriptive research design. The present study was conducted in areas at Kadamwadi Kolhapur. The sample selected for the study includes 60 50 women's living in urban area at Kadamwadi, Kolhapur.

To select the samples, probability sampling technique in which simple random sampling method was used for study. The structured questionnaire was designed for collecting relevant information from samples regarding their Demographic variables and Knowledge about Cervical cancer.

4. Results

The obtained data were analysed by using descriptive statistics, presented on tables and diagrams and interpreted.

Part I: Description of demographic variables of women.
In the present study Majority of the women's (29) belonged to above 30 years (58% %), 10 women's belonged to 21-25 years (20%), 8 women's belonged to 25-30 years (16%), and 3 women's belonged to 18-20 years (6%). Majority of women's 46 (92%) were married, 2 (4%) were unmarried, 2 (4%) were widow and 0(0%) are divorced. Distribution of samples with reference to their marital age reveals that the highest percentage 42 (84%) having 19-23 years, 8 (16%) having between 24-28 years, 0(0%) are less than 13 years and 0 (0%) are above 28 years. Out of 50 women's, 09 women's completed their primary school (18%), 24 women's completed their secondary school (48%), 12 women's completed their higher secondary school (24%), and 05 women's were graduated (10%). All the women were housewife 50 (100 %). Majority of family income of women's were 37 (74%) between 5000-10000, 9 (18%) of women's are between 11000-15000, and 4 (8%) of women's family income were above 16000. Majority of women's 44 (88%) are not using oral contraceptive methods and 6 (12%) women's using oral contraceptive methods. The knowledge scores of the 50 women's were that, among the 50 women's, 20 women's had very poor (40%), 24 women's had poor (48%), 05 women's had average (10%), and 1 women had good knowledge on cervical cancer (2%).

Part II: Knowledge regarding Cervical Cancer among the women in selected area of Kadamwadi, Kolhapur.
Result showed that the majority of the women are believed that the most common cancer in women's is cervical cancer (40%). Majority of women's believed that the cervical cancer is curable disease in initial stage (60%). 42% of women believed that the cervical cancer cause is virus (HPV). More percentage of women's believed that cytomegalo virus is definitive cause of cervical cancer (70%). Only 54% of women's know the sign and symptoms of cervical cancer. 75% of women's did not know the Pap smear test is important investigation for cervical cancer. 60% of women know the radical hysterectomy is a surgical management for cervical cancer. More percentage of women

believed that the early detection of cervical cancer is primary prevention of cervical cancer.

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of women in selected areas in Kadamwadi, Kolhapur according to the level of knowledge regarding Cervical Cancer, **(n = 50)**

Level of knowledge	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Good (75-100 %)	1	2%
Average (50 – 74 %)	5	10%
Poor(25 – 49 %)	24	48%
Very poor (0 -24 %)	20	40%

The data represented in table I indicates the knowledge scores of the 50 women's that, among the 50 women's, 24 women's had poor knowledge regarding cervical cancer (48 %) and 20 women's had very poor knowledge on cervical cancer (40%). 5 women's had average knowledge on cervical cancer (10%). 1 women had good knowledge on cervical cancer (2%).
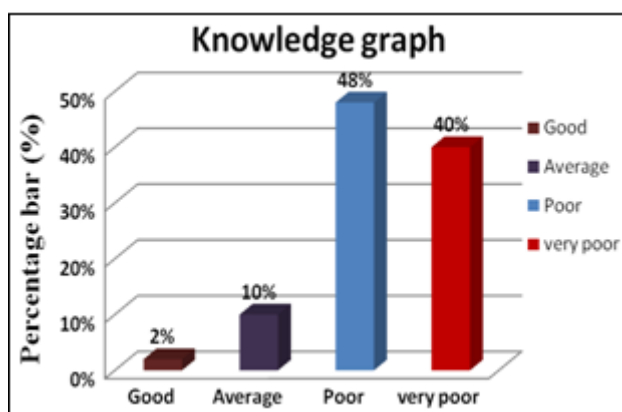

Figure 1: Distribution of women based on the level of knowledge towards Cervical Cancer

5. Discussion

The primarily aim of this study was to assess the knowledge regarding cervical cancer among women's.

Structured Knowledge questionnaire prepared by the researchers after thorough literature search from the Books, Journals, Newspaper articles, Articles from the Internet & Published as well as Un-Published research studies.

The results are discussed in relation to objectives of the study are as follows

Section I: Description of Demographic Variables of the study Samples.

Demographic Variables	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1. Age in years		
a.18-21 years	03	06%
b. 21-25 years	10	20%
c. 25-30 years	08	16%
d. above 30 years	29	58%
2. Marital status		
a. Married	46	92%
b. Unmarried	02	04%
c. Divorced	00	00%
d. Widow	02	04%
3. Age of marriage		
a. < 13 years	00	00%
b. 19-23 years	42	84%
c. 24-28 years	08	16%
d. above 28 years	00	00%
4. Educational status a. Primary	09	18%
b. Secondary	24	48%
c. Higher secondary	12	24%
d. Graduate and above	05	10%
5. Occupation		
a. Employed	00	00%
b. Home maker	50	100%
6. Monthly family income		
a. 5000-10000	37	74%
b. 11000- 15000	09	18%
c. above 16000	04	08%
7. Usage of oral contraceptive methods		
a. Yes	06	12%
b. No	44	88%

Section II: Knowledge regarding Cervical Cancer

Result showed that the majority of the women are believed that the most common cancer in women's is cervical cancer (40%). Majority of women's believed that the cervical cancer is curable disease in initial stage (60%). 42% of women believed that the cervical cancer cause is virus (HPV). More percentage of women's believed that cytomegalo virus is definitive cause of cervical cancer (70%). Only 54% of women's know the sign and symptoms of cervical cancer. 75% of women's did not know the Pap smear test is important investigation for cervical cancer. 60% of women know the radical hysterectomy is a surgical management for cervical cancer. More percentage of women believed that the early detection of cervical cancer is primary prevention of cervical cancer.

6. Conclusion

The findings showed that the study concluded that the majority of the subject 20 women's had very poor (40%), 24 women's had poor (48%), 05 women's had average (10%), and 1 women had good knowledge on cervical cancer (2%).

Related to the demographic variables majority of the women's (29) belonged to above 30 years (58% %), most of women's 46 (92%) were married women, with reference to their marital age reveals that the highest percentage 42 (84%) having 19-23 years

The study was limited to
- The Women only
- The women attending Dr. D. Y. Patil Hospital & research centre, Kadamwadi, Kolhapur.
- On the knowledge aspect only.

7. Implications of the Study

The findings of the study have implications for the nursing profession. The implications have been written under the following headings-nursing practice, nursing administration, nursing education, nursing research and general education in schools and colleges.

Nursing Practice

1) Health educational programs should be initiated at Schools, high schools, colleges, and in community.
2) Applying the current study's conclusion in Health camps to detect Osteoporosis at early.
3) Nurses should motivate to eat healthy diets and use measures to prevent Osteoporosis.

Nursing Education

1) Training of girls at an early age regarding nutrition for women to prevent osteoporosis.

Nursing Administration

1) Adequate information materials regarding Osteoporosis & its prevention should be made available to all women, health personnel and to the public.

Nursing Research

1) The study will be a reference for research scholars.
2) Comparative studies should be initiated

8. Recommendations

1) A similar study needs to be conducted at large samples from different settings.
2) A comparative study can be taken up to assess the knowledge of women regarding Osteoporosis & its prevention
3) A similar study can be conducted to assess the Attitude towards Osteoporosis & its prevention
4) Pre Experimental studies can be conducted to assess the effectiveness of teaching strategies to sensitize the women regarding Osteoporosis & its prevention at a community level.

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