Knowledge on Cervical Cancer and It's Prevention among Women

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Abstract: *Cervical cancer, the third most common cancer among women in the world, was responsible for 275,000 deaths in 2008, 88 per cent of which occurred in developing countries and 159,800 in Asia. One in every five women in the world suffering from cervical cancer belongs to India which has the largest burden of cervical cancer patients in the world.*

Thus in India, the one of preventing cervical cancer is on the women themselves. Therefore, it is the women's knowledge level, motivation for screening and other psychosocial factors that determine her health seeking behaviour. In India, most studies have either addressed compliance rate of attendees of specially arranged screening programmes or have been done in hospital settings. Hence, this study was aimed to ascertain the knowledge of the women on cervical cancer, screening practices and their determinants among women.

A descriptive study was done with self administered questionnaire. The 30 women were selected through convenient sampling technique. The result shows awareness significantly varied with the level of educational attainment and occupation at P=0.05 level. Regarding the knowledge on cervical cancer and its prevention 67% of the women are having inadequate knowledge, 23% of the women are having moderately adequate knowledge, 10% of the women having adequate knowledge. The study showed that there is very poor knowledge on cervical cancer and its prevention among women. Effective female education on cervical cancer and its prevention are necessary for successful cervical cancer screening programme. There is imperative need for exploitation of this knowledge in control and prevention of cervical cancer.

I. Introduction

In most of the developing countries including India, carcinoma of the cervix is the most common malignancy in the female, but it is the earliest female cancer to prevention through screening using pap smear if people are aware of its early prevention .Therefore, a study was conducted to assess the awareness of women regarding cervical cancer and its association with selected variables, in view of the nature of the problem a development approach and non-experimental such design was chosen for the study.

The total cancer burden in Chennai is predicted to increase by 32 per cent in 2012-2016, translating to 55,000 new cancer cases per year in Tamil Nadu. Breast cancer would also dislodge cervical cancer as the top-ranking cancer in the State.National cancer for health statistics found cancer is the second leading cause of death. According to the population based in India, cancer is registry in Chennai for the year 1996 from Adyar cancer Institute showed that 27.8% of female cancers were of cervix and in Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Post graduate Medical Education and Research (JIMPER) Pondicherry the annual gynaecology outpatient attendance was 59093 out of which 525 were suffering from cancer of cervix during 1998.

By acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to educate the community about cancer risk, nurses in all settings play key role in cancer prevention. Assisting patients to avoid known carcinogens is one way to reduce the risk for cancer. Another way involves adopting dietary and various lifestyle changes that epidemiologic and laboratory studies show influence the risk for cancer. Nurses can use their teaching and counselling skills to facilitate patient participation in cancer prevention programme to health full life styles.

Objectives Of The Study

1. To assess the knowledge regarding cervical cancer and its prevention among women.
2. To associate the selected demographic variables with level of knowledge on cervical cancer among women

II. Materials And Methods

A descriptive design was adopted for conducting this study. The present study included 30 women aged 30 -50year old. The sample selected through convenient sampling technique. The tool of this research was a self administered questionnaire which included 40 closed type questions and referred to the knowledge and its prevention on cervical cancer. Every woman gave written consent for the participation in the research and filled

anonymously the questionnaire, in the presence of investigator. The study was conducted during the period of March 2013 in the out patients' department selected tertiary hospital, Chennai.

Ethical Approval

The study has been approved by ethics review committee (ERC) of the Chettinad academy and research education.

Statistical Analysis

Demographic information was acquired in regard to the women's age, marital status, educational status, and occupation, Type of family, income, religion, and number of children, family planning methods and awareness about cervical cancer. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics like percentage, mean, inferential statistics like chi-square test. The significant finding was expressed in the form of tables and figures.

Table: 1 Frequencies And Percentage Distribution Of Knowledge On Cervical Cancer And Its Prevention Among Women

S.NO	KNOWLEDGE ABOUT CERVICAL CANCER AND ITS PREVENTION	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	PERCENTAGE
1.	ADEQUATE KNOWLEDGE	3	10%
2.	MODERATELY ADEQUATE	7	23%
3.	INADEQUATE	20	67%
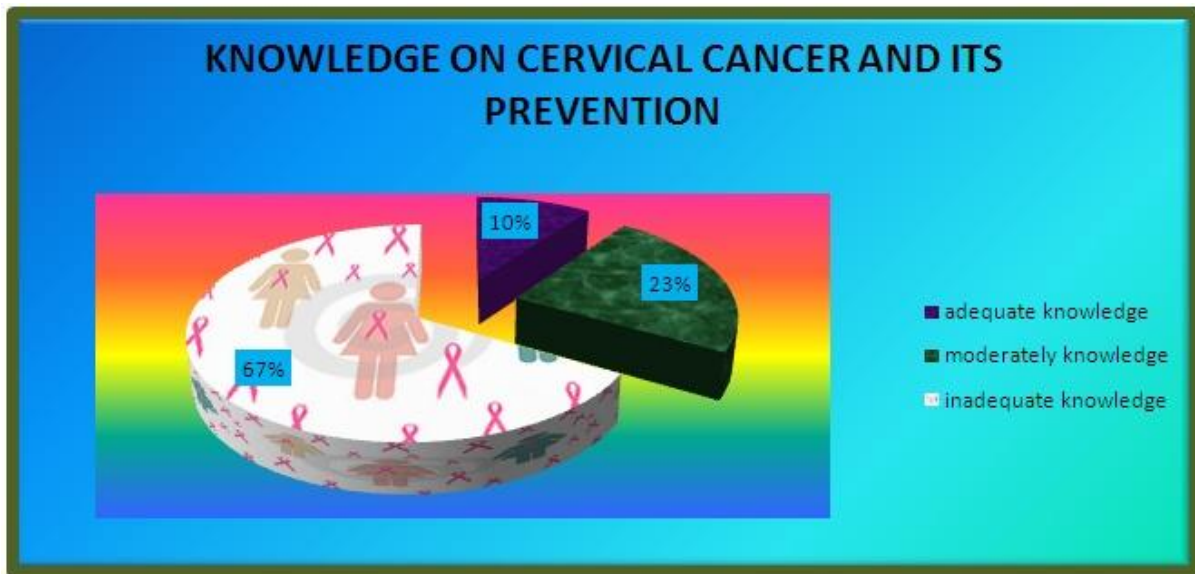
III.   Results

The present study was state that 66.6% of samples were in the age group of 31 to 40 years, 3.33% of samples were between the age group of 21 to 30 years, 30% of samples were between the ages group of 41 to 50 years, 90% of sample were married, 7% of sample were unmarried, 3% of sample were divorced. 57% of sample were studied up to 12th standard, 20% of sample were graduate, 13% of sample were uneducated, 10% of sample were professional, 43.3% of sample were business man, 23.3% of sample were government employee, 13.3% of sample were private employee, and 20% of samples were unemployed, 70% of sample were belongs to nuclear family, 30% of sample were joint family, 53.3% of sample were having one child, 40% of sample were having two children, 7% of sample were having above three children, 86.6% of sample were Hindu, 10% of sample were Christian, 3.3% of sample were Muslim. 50% of sample were yearning below 5000, 20% of sample were earning 5000- 10000, 20% of sample were earning 10000-15000, 10% of sample were earning above 15000, 63% of samples were adopted permanent family planning methods, 37% of samples were adopted permanent family planning methods, 73.3% of samples were unaware about cervical cancer 27% of samples were aware about cervical cancer and its prevention, 67% of samples were having inadequate knowledge, 23% of samples were having moderately knowledge, and 10% of samples were having adequate knowledge.

Clinical Implication

The implementation of routine screening for cervical cancer would be a significant first step toward a national prevention program aiming at the elimination of a deadly but preventable cancer.

IV.   Conclusion

Study showed that the level of knowledge on cervical cancer and its prevention among women. 67% of the women were having inadequate knowledge, 23% of the women were having moderately adequate knowledge, and 10% of the women were having adequate knowledge.

Chi-square test was used to identify the influence of demographic variables on knowledge on cervical cancer among women. It revealed that there is no significant association on cervical cancer and its prevention among women with demographic variables except occupation.

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