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STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE REGARDING CERVICAL CANCER AMONG REPRODUCTIVE AGE GROUP WOMEN WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOP INFORMATION BOOKLET

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Abstract

The cervix is very important part of a women's body that helps her to reproduce. Awareness is the key to good health. The present study is concerned with assessment of knowledge level among reproductive age women regarding cervical cancer in a view to prepare information booklet at SGRD Hospital, Vallah, Sri Amritsar. This study also finds association between the level of knowledge among reproductive age women with selected socio demographic variables. Quantitative research approach with descriptive design was used to collect data. Convenient sampling was used to select 60 reproductive age group women who are admitted in gynecological department of SGRD Hospital, Vllah, Sri Amritsar during morning and evening shift. Tool was consist of two parts: Part 1: consist of information about study subject regarding socio demographic variables and Part 2: consist of 20 questionnaire regarding cervical cancer. Results shows that 33% of reproductive age women had average knowledge, 43.3% had good knowledge and only 23.3% had excellent knowledge regarding cervical cancer which suggest that overall knowledge score is relatively adequate. Socio demographic variables such as residence, occupation and previous knowledge are found to be significant while other variables are non significant with knowledge of cervical cancer. On the basis of the findings of the study, it is recommended that a similar study can be conducted on large sample to generalize the findings. Secondly, a comparative study between different areas like urban and rural can also be carried out for future work.

Keywords *: Knowledge, Cervical Cancer, Reproductive age women, Information Booklet.*

INTRODUCTION:

Cervical cancer is most common women related cancer in India followed by breast cancer. Every yearly, 122,844 Indian women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and out of this, 67,477 are died from this disease[1]. High burden of cervical cancer is due to poor knowledge about disease process and lack of screening among population. Second important risk for cervical cancer is infection with HPV (Human Papilloma Virus). Due to non availability of screening and routine pap smear test, globally more than 2,80,000 deaths occurs due to cervical cancer annually[2]. Every year in India, 122844 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and out of this 67,477 died from this disease[3]. One women dies of cervical cancer every 8 minutes in India. It is the second most common cancer in women aged 15 to 44years. WHO reports that without rigorous control measures cancer will become the leading cause of death and there will be 300 million new cancer cases and 200 million deaths from cancer in coming years[4]. Indian government has introduced a variety of national health programs and screening camps in various states in order to fight against the rising number of incidence and mortality rate among women due to cervical cancer. Inspite of all above measures, incidence and mortality rate are not coming down so the researcher felt that there is an eminent need to find out, the women in selected areas having what level of knowledge and understanding about this dreadful disease and how necessary is it

to provide information regarding cervical cancer and its prevention. In view to this, there is need to assess knowledge regarding cervical cancer among reproductive age group women with a view to develop information booklet that helps to increase knowledge and awareness regarding cervical cancer among reproductive age group women. So, the present study was carried out to fulfill the following objectives;

1. To assess the knowledge regarding cervical cancer among reproductive age women.
2. To find out association between knowledge regarding cervical cancer among reproductive age women with selected socio demographic variables.
3. To prepare and distribute information booklet regarding cervical cancer.

MATERIAL AND METHODS:

Quantitative research approach with descriptive research design was used in the present study to fulfill the objectives. By using convenience sampling technique, 60 reproductive age group women who are admitted in Gynecological ward of Sri Guru Ram Das Charitable Hospital, Vallah, Sri Amritsar enrolled in the study to collect data. For collection of data, the tool was prepared. The tool consists of two sections.

Section 1: constitutes 8 items of socio demographic variables such as age, marital status, place of living, education, occupation, social economic status, family history of cancer and previous knowledge regarding cervical cancer.

Section 2: constitutes self structured close ended questionnaire including 20 items with 4 options based on causes, sign & symptoms, diagnosis, preventions and treatment of cancer. Content validity of research tool, the tool was given to experts in the field of gynecology. After wards, as per suggestions given by experts modifications are made accordingly. The data was collected during the time period from 12 June to 24 June 2017.

Ethical Consideration: Written permission was obtained from Head of gynecological department regarding conduction of research study. Informed written consent was also taken from each study subject. Anonymity and confidentiality of each study subject were assured during research study.

RESULTS:

The analysis and interpretation of data for this study were based on the data collected through cervical cancer knowledge questionnaire for reproductive age group women (60). The results were computed by using descriptive and inferential statistics based on the objectives of the study as given below:-

Presentation of data:- To begin with, data was entered in a master sheet, by using SPSS version 16.0 data was analyzed and interpreted.

Section A:-Analysis of socio demographic variables of the subjects.

Section B:-Analysis of the knowledge of reproductive age group women regarding cervical cancer.

Section C:-Analysis of association between socio demographic variables with level of knowledge of reproductive age group women regarding cervical cancer.

TABLE 1. Frequency and percentage distribution of subjects based on socio-demographic variables. N=60

CHARACTERISTICS		**f (%)**
Age (years)	15-25	24(40.0)
	26-35	30(50.0)
	36-45	06(10.0)
Marital status	Married	54(90.0)
	Unmarried	06(10.0)
Age at marriage (years)	18-22	29(48.3)
	23-27	20(33.3)
	28-32	05(08.3)
Children	0	15(25.0)
	1	19(31.7)
	2	17(28.3)
	>2	03(05.0)
Residence	Rural	37(61.7)
	Urban	21(35.0)
	Town	02(03.3)
Education	Illiterate	03(05.0)
	Primary education	25(41.7)
	Higher education	10(16.7)
	Graduation	22(36.7)
Occupation	Housewife	47(78.3)
	Job	10(16.7)
	Labor	03(05.0)
Income	<10,000	23(38.3)
	10,000-20,000	18(30.0)
	21,000-30,000	12(20.0)

	>30,000	07(11.7)
Family history	Yes	14(23.3)
	No	46(76.7)
Source of knowledge	Mass media	15(25.0)
	Relatives	08(13.3)
	Health professional	08(13.3)
	Books	03(05.0)

Table1: depicts that, majority of the respondents i.e.90% were married and only 10% were unmarried. 50% respondents were in age group 26-35 years and 40% were in age group 15-25 years and only 10% respondents were in age group36-45years. 31.7% study subjects had only one child only. Data also shows that 61.7% respondents were from rural area and 35% from urban area. Most of the respondents i.e.76.7% had no family history of cancer. The data enumerates that majority of them i.e. 56.7% had previous knowledge regarding cervical cancer and the most common source was mass media.

Figure:1 Distribution of frequency and percentage knowledge level on cervical cancer among reproductive women

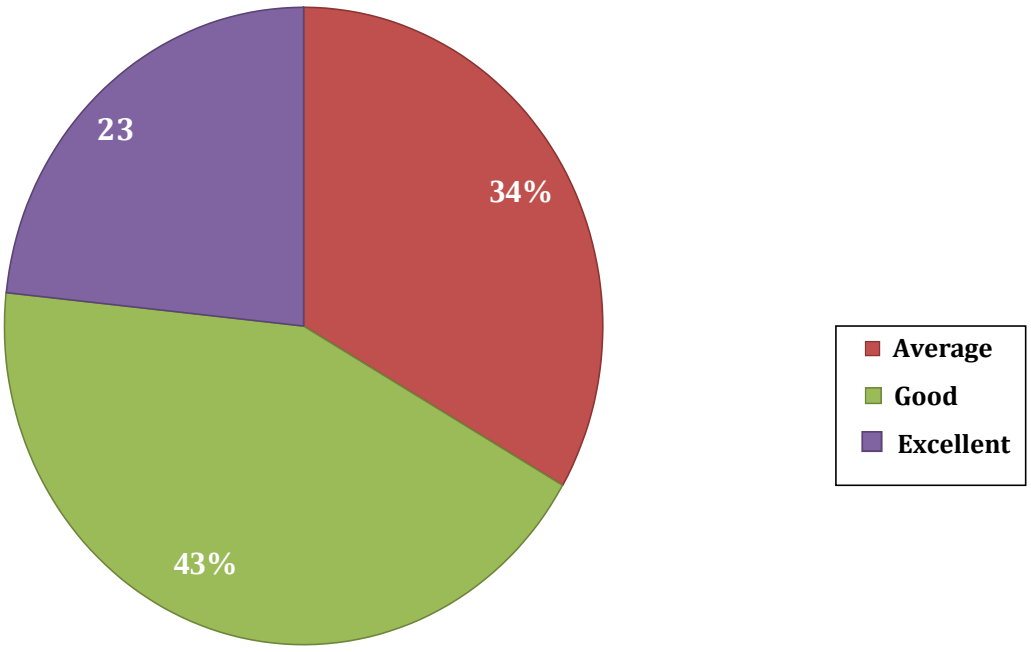

Figure 1: reveals that out of 60 respondents 26 43% had good knowledge, 20 34% had average knowledge and only 14 23% respondents had excellent knowledge regarding cervical cancer which shows that only small portion of respondents had knowledge about cervical cancer.

TABLE 2: Association of socio- demographic variables with knowledge level on cervical cancer among reproductive age group women

Socio demographic variables	Pearson Chi square		
	value	df	p value
Age	3.08	4	0.54^{NS}
Marital status	4.32	2	0.11^{NS}
Marriage age	2.13	4	0.71^{NS}
Children	3.61	6	0.72^{NS}
Residence	11.93	4	0.01**
Education	15.89	6	0.01**
Occupation	11.47	4	0.02*
Income	9.31	6	0.15^{NS}

Table 2: concludes that some of the socio demographic variables such as age, marital status, number of children and income were found to be non- significant with knowledge level on cervical cancer. On the other hand, Residence, Education and Occupation were found to be highly significant with knowledge level on cervical cancer which means that highly educated study subjects had excellent knowledge as compared to less educated study subjects. Reproductive age group women residing in urban area had better knowledge regarding cervical cancer as compared to rural.

DISCUSSION:

The present study was undertaken with the view to assess statistical data for the assessment of knowledge regarding cervical cancer among reproductive age group women. The present study reveals that 43.3% had good knowledge, 33.3% of respondents had average knowledge and 23.3% subjects had excellent knowledge regarding cervical cancer. The study findings were also supported by cross-sectional interview based survey done by **Ayub Samia et. al[5],** in this study 400 respondents were divided between the three tertiary care centers. The results showed that 1.8% respondents did not know about cervical cancer as a disease. Only 23.3% of the

respondents were known about cervical cancer and 78% were aware that infection is only cause of cervical cancer.

Another descriptive questionnaire study was also done by **Mouallif Mustapha et. al[6],** regarding knowledge about cervical cancer. A total of 452 participating invloved in the study. Data showed that 91.6% had only heard about cervical cancer as a disease. Only 22.7% women reported cervical cancer occurs may be due to infection. The participating women acquired information about cervical cancer from either mass media or medical worker.

Kumar HN Harsha et. al[7], conducted a cross-sectional study among reproductive age group women in selected areas in Mangalore city. Result enumerates that 81.9% women had poor knowledge about cervical cancer and its screening(85.5%). Only 6 out of 83 women had undergone screening for cervical cancer.

Another similar cross sectional **study done by Shah V et.al[8]**, on 100 staff nurses regarding knowledge of cervical cancer and pap smear. Data showed that 69% respondents had good knowledge of cervical carcinoma and Pap test.

Mukama Trasias et. al[9], conducted a cross sectional study in eastern Uganda which concluded that most of the respondent (70.2%) had heard about cervical cancer and received information from the mass media. The same findings were also concluded by this study that majority of them i.e. 56.7% had previous knowledge regarding cervical cancer and the most common source was mass media.

The study results also showed that Residence, Education and Occupation were found to be highly significant with knowledge level on cervical cancer while other socio demographic variables age, marital status, number of children and income were found to be non- significant with knowledge level on cervical cancer among reproductive age group women. Same results were also enumerated by **Mutambara Julia et.al[10],** who conducted a study to assess knowledge, attitude and practices of cervical cancer screening among women. The p value on age was 0.996,on level of education 0.002 and on marital status p value is 0.004 that concludes that socio demographic variables such as level of education and marital status has significant relationship with knowledge regarding cervical cancer.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The same study can be done on large sample size to generalize findings.
2. A comparative study can be done in between different locality such as urban and rural on the same topic.
3. A study can be done to find out knowledge, attitude and practice of women regarding prevention of cervical cancer.

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