

## A STUDY TO IDENTIFY THE PSYCHOSOCIAL PROBLEMS FACED BY CANCER PATIENTS ATTENDING ONCOLOGY CLINICS AT SELECTED HOSPITALS

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**DOI No. – 08.2020-25662434**

### *Abstract*

*There are many areas where we can assess the psychological challenges dealt by the cancer patient and its family. Cancer patients experience several stressors and emotional disturbances. Fear of death, interruption of life plans, changes in body image and self-esteem, changes in social role and lifestyle are all self-esteem, changes in social role and lifestyle are all important issues to be faced. Moreover, disorders may impact the course of the disease and compliance.*

**Keywords:** *Psychological Problems, Cancer, Oncology, Clinics*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Cancer is a major problem to deal with and it brings much psychological burden on the patient and the family and people around them. There are many areas where we can assess the psychological challenges dealt by the cancer patient and its family. Cancer patients experience several stressors and emotional disturbances. Fear of death, interruption of life plans, changes in body image and self-esteem, changes in social role and lifestyle are all self-esteem, changes in social role and lifestyle are all important issues to be faced. Moreover, disorders may impact the course of the disease and compliance. The cost and prevalence, the impairment caused, and the diagnostic and therapeutic uncertainty surrounding symptoms among cancer patients make these conditions a priority for research. **(Glynn.,et.al.,1997).**

To the best of the researcher's knowledge, no systematic investigation has been carried out to identify the psychosocial problems faced by cancer patients for providing psychosocial care to cancer patients attending oncology clinics of selected hospital in Raigarh, Chhattisgarh. Therefore, the investigator felt that there is a compelling need to assess psychosocial problems to identify learning needs, based on this, a specific content of leaflet has been developed for the management of psychosocial problems.

### **OBJECTIVE**

To identify various psychosocial problems faced by cancer patients attending oncology clinics of selected hospitals.

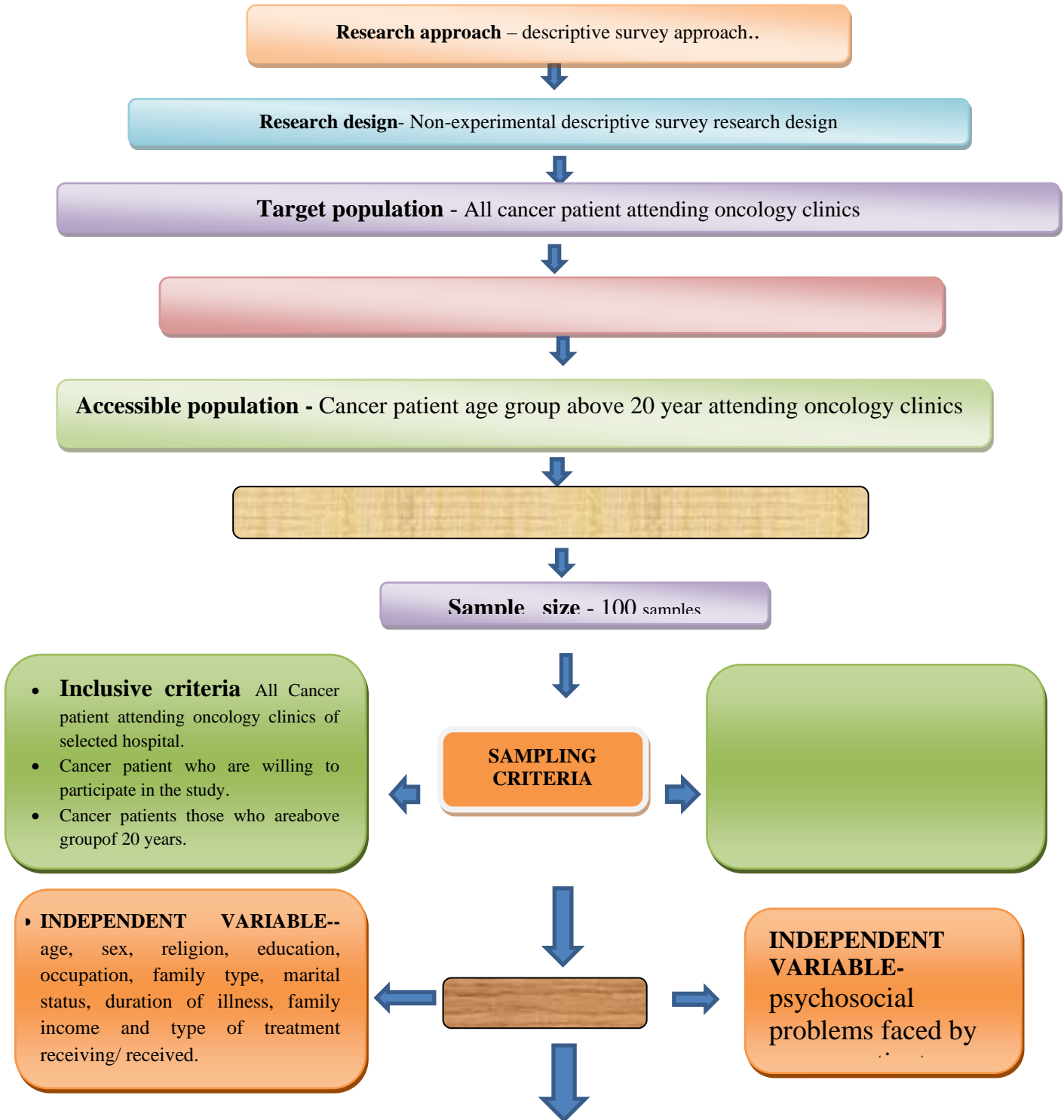
- To find the association of psychosocial problems of cancer patients with selected demographic variables.
- To develop and distribute pamphlet for cancer patients on management of psychosocial problems.

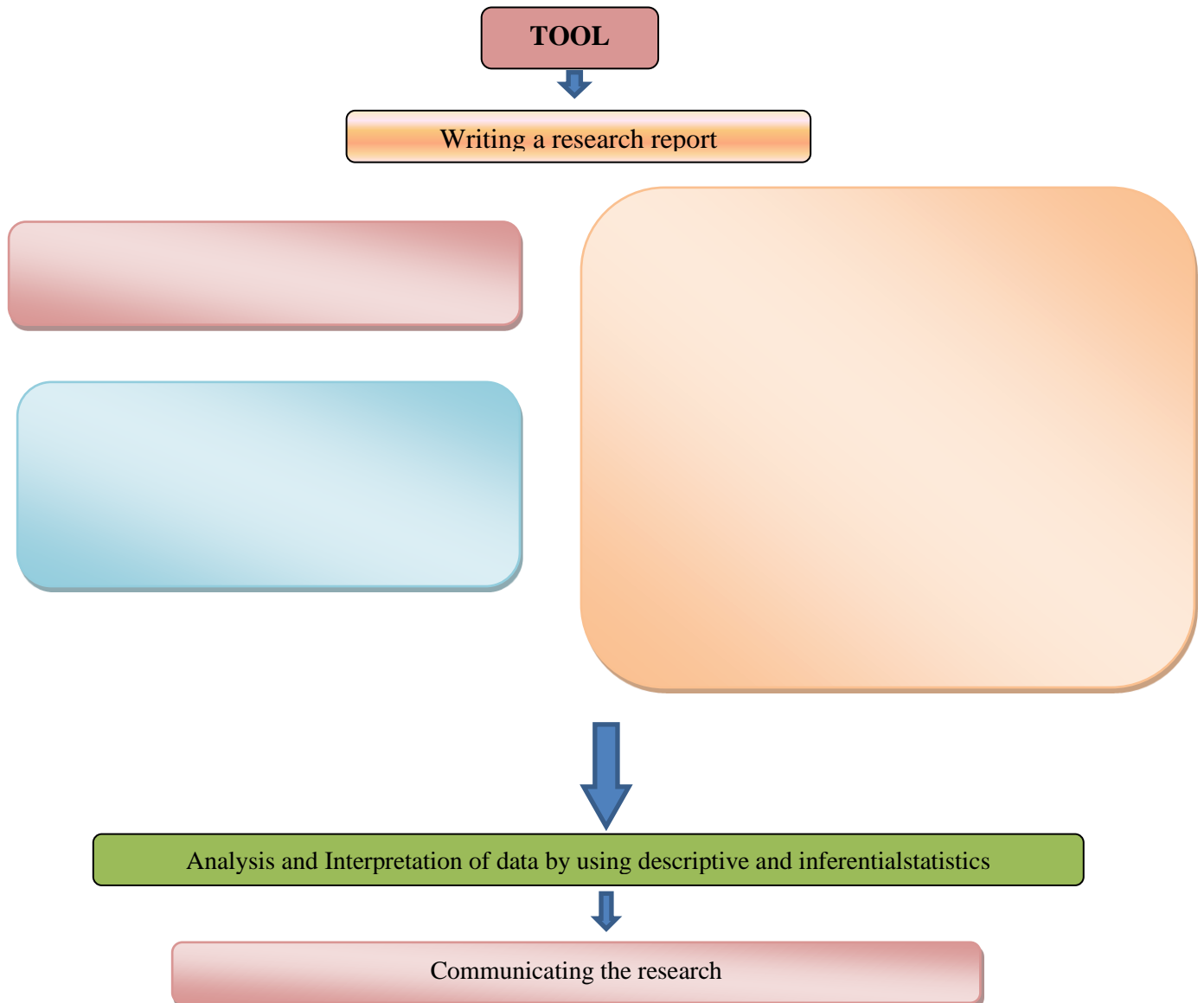
### HYPOTHESIS

**H1**-There will be significant association between psychosocial problems with selected socio demographic variables at 0.05 level of significant.

**H01**-There will be no significant association between psychosocial problems with selected socio demographic variables at 0.05 level of significant.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY





**The first objective** was to identify the psychosocial problems faced by cancer patients with a view to develop leaflet on management of psychosocial problems of cancer patient attending oncology clinics at selected hospital was analyzed and tabulated by frequency. To identify the psychosocial problems of cancer patients attending oncology clinics mean and percentage of the samples were calculated. It was found that about 63.19% having **Anxiety**, 66.16% having **Depression** and 67.5% having **Fear**, about 62.79% having **Social Problems**, 65.9% having **Family Related Problems**, 55.83 having **Marital and Sexual Problems** and 72.5% having **Economical Problems**.

**Second objective** to find the association of psychological problems of cancer patients with selected demographic variables. In this study in order to prove the association between anxiety and selected demographic variables chi square was computed. So it shows that **Anxiety** has significant with family type ( $\chi^2$ -8.06) and type of treatment ( $\chi^2$ -27.63). **Depression** has significant association sex ( $\chi^2$ -9.68) and family type ( $\chi^2$ -8.44). **Fear** has significant association with duration of illness ( $\chi^2$ -16.96). **Social problems have** significant association with age ( $\chi^2$ -18.51). **Family problems have**

significant association with sex ( $\chi^2$ -9.09) and family type ( $\chi^2$ -8.13). **Marital and Sexual problems have** significant association with age ( $\chi^2$ -12.84) and sex ( $\chi^2$ -7.88). **Economic and Support problem** has occupation ( $\chi^2$ -26.33), total income of (family /month) ( $\chi^2$ -39.64) and duration of illness ( $\chi^2$ -20.41) at 0.05 level of significance.

#### **NURSING IMPLICATION**

#### **NURSING EDUCATION**

- Nurses may encounter patient suffering from cancer in many different setting of the health care delivery system. The management of clients with this condition must be emphasized in the course curriculum for various nursing programs giving due importance to the psychosocial aspects of cancer patients.

#### **NURSING PRACTICE**

- This study emphasis to identify psychosocial problems of cancer patient and leaflet given to the cancer patients to reduce the psychological problems.
- It provides an empirical evidence to the health care professionals.

#### **NURSING ADMINISTRATION**

- The present study encourage the nurse administrator to allocate budget and recourses for continuing education program to update their knowledge on psychosocial care

#### **NURSING RESEARCH**

- The findings of the study can be disseminated in the clinical setting in different Hospitals.
- Further studies can be conducted by including all oncology departments with large sample group in different setting.

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