

KNOWLEDGE ON RISK FACTORS OF CERVICAL CANCER AMONG WOMEN IN SELECTED COMMUNITY OF VAZHAYOOR PANCHAYATH, MALAPPURAM

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ABSTRACT

Background: Cervical cancer is the second most common type of cancer for women worldwide. It is also one of the most preventable types of cancer. Knowledge about the risk factors of cervical cancer is helpful to prevent the cervical cancer at an early stage. The present study aimed at assessing the knowledge on risk factors of cervical cancer among women in selected community. **Method:** The study was conducted among 60 women. The non-experimental descriptive approach and convenient sample was chosen for the study. The data for the present study were collected using structured questionnaire. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used for data analysis. **Result:** The results shows that 3.33% of the sample have good knowledge, 65 % of the sample have average knowledge and 31.67 % have poor knowledge on risk factors of cervical cancer. **Conclusion:** There is no significant association between socio demographic variables and knowledge on risk factors of cervical cancer among women in selected community.

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INTRODUCTION

A healthy woman is a nation's pride. Only a healthy woman can give rise to a healthy child. Cervical cancer is a preventable non-communicable disease of public health importance. Invasive cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women worldwide, but 80% of cases occur in developing countries (Sreedevi *et al.*, 2015). Current data from the National Cancer Registry Program (NCRP) indicates that the most common sites of cancer among women are the breasts and the cervix. HPV is estimated to be the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States. In fact, by age 50 approximately 80% of women have been infected with some type of HPV. Half of the women diagnosed with the disease are between 35 and 55 years of age. It rarely affects women under age 20, and approximately 20 percent of diagnoses are made in women older than 65. In India the peak age for cervical cancer incidence is 55–59 years.

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Women become susceptible to developing cervical cancer following HPV infection, but other environmental factors are required for the cancer to develop (Sreedevi, 2015). More than 12,000 women in the United States will be diagnosed with cervical cancer each year, and more than 4,000 of women will die. Cervical cancer is the second most common type of cancer for women worldwide, but because it develops over time, it is also one of the most preventable types of cancer. Deaths from cervical cancer in the United States continue to decline by approximately 2 percent a year. This decline is primarily due to the widespread use of the Pap test to detect cervical abnormalities and allow for early treatment. Cancer of the cervix tends to occur during midlife. For this reason, it is important for women to continue cervical cancer screening until at least the age of 70. Knowledge about the risk factors of cervical cancer is helpful to prevent the cervical cancer at an early stage. Cervical cancer is the most common genital cancer and one of the leading causes of death among female population. Fortunately, this cancer is preventable by screening for premalignant lesions but this is rarely provided and hardly utilized (National cervical cancer coalition). In 2014 a study was conducted on knowledge and screening for

cervical cancer among women in Mangalore city and it showed that majority of the women have poor knowledge about cervical cancer (81.9% [68/83]) and its screening (85.5% [71/83]). There is a need to conduct community based study to know the practices of doctors and assess if they are educating and offering suggestions for screening (Harsha Kumar, 2014).

Objectives

- To find out the knowledge on risk factors of cervical cancer among women in selected community of Vazhayoor Panchayath.
- To find out the association between knowledge on risk factors of cervical cancer among women and selected demographic variables.
- Prepare a leaflet on prevention of cervical cancer.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A non-experimental descriptive design was used to assess the knowledge on risk factor of cervical cancer among women of Vazhayoor Panchayath. 60 women of age group 20-45 years were selected by convenient non-probability sampling technique. The tool used for this study contain 2 parts: Part 1: socio demographic data & Part 2: structured questionnaire to assess the knowledge on risk factor of cervical cancer. The tool was distributed to four experts from various specialties along with the objective of the study for validation of research tool. Modification of tool was made based on expert's suggestion and recommendations were incorporated in the structured questionnaire schedule. Ethical consideration was obtained from the ethical committee after submitting the proposal. Formal administrative permission was taken from the college authority. Confidentiality was assured and informed consent was taken from the participants prior to the data collection. The data were collected using structured questionnaire. The investigator provided information leaflet about the risk factors of cervical cancer after data collection. The data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

RESULTS

Section 1: Analysis of demographic data.

Out of 60 women of Vazhayoor Panchayath, majority of the sample (40%) belongs to age group 36-40y. Among them 78% of the samples were Hindus. Most of the samples (51%) have educational qualification up to 10th standard. Majority of the samples (60%) have a family income of less than 10,000 rupees. Most of the samples (53%) were house wives. Majority of the samples (97%) were married. Among the samples (70%) belongs to nuclear family. Majority of the sample got health related information from TV/radio (78.33%). Most of the samples (67%) have 2 children.

Section 2: Analysis of knowledge of women on risk factors of cervical cancer.

Figure 1 shows that 65% of the samples have average knowledge and 31.67% have poor knowledge on risk factors of cervical cancer.

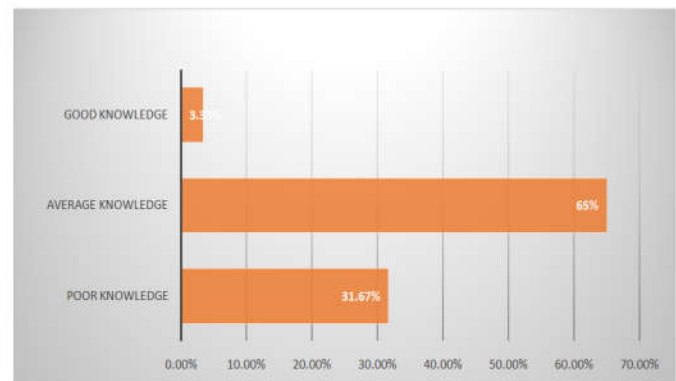


Figure 1. Distribution of women based on knowledge on risk factors of cervical cancer

Section 3: Association between knowledge on risk factors of cervical cancer among women and selected demographic variables.

Data depicted in Table 1 shows that there is no significant association between knowledge on risk factors of cervical cancer among women and selected demographic variable.

Table 1. Association between knowledge on risk factors of cervical cancer among women and selected demographic variables

Demographic factors	Table value	df	Chi-square test
Age	9.49	4	4.277
Religion	9.49	4	0.6030
Education	9.49	4	2.8279
Family income	9.49	4	4.70132
Occupation	9.49	4	1.795
Marital status	9.49	4	2.8075
Area of living	5.99	2	1.8267
Type of family	5.99	2	2.8517
Availability of health related information	9.49	4	0.4846
Number of children	9.49	4	1.1028

Level of significance 0.05.

DISCUSSION

The present study revealed that majority of the women (65%) had average knowledge on risk factors of cervical cancer. The present study findings are inconsistent with findings of a cross sectional study conducted on knowledge and screening for cervical cancer among women in Mangalore city in 2014. The study showed that majority of the women have poor knowledge about cervical cancer (81.9%) and its screening (85.5%) (Harsha Kumar, 2014). Another cross sectional study conducted on awareness of cervical cancer risk factors in 2012 shows that most participants (444/448) had heard about the cervical cancer. Known risk factors including multiple sex partners, HPV infection, and early onset of sexual activity were recognized by 88%, 82%, and 78% of respondents respectively. 70% of the participants believed that cervical cancer is preventable and 92% believed that it could be cured if diagnosed at an early stage (Mwaka, 2016).

Conclusion

The present study shows that majority (65%) of women had average knowledge on risk factors of cervical cancer.

Considering the average knowledge on risk factors of cervical cancer, there is a need for raising awareness among women regarding cervical cancer. Leaflets about the cervical cancer were provided to the women.

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