

A Study to Assess the Knowledge and Attitude Towards Cervical Cancer and its Prevention among Nursing Students Studying in Selected Nursing School and Colleges in Ranchi Jharkhand

Anand Kujur and Dr. Shaveta Sharma

College of Nursing, RIMS, Ranchi, India

Abstract: *Abstract; Cancer is the second leading cause of mortality worldwide. The projected number of patients with cancer in India is 13,92,179 for the year 2020 and the common 5 leading sites are breast, lung, mouth, and cervix uteri and tongue. The majority of the patients with cancer are diagnosed at the locally advanced stage for breast (57.0%), cervix uteri (60.0%), head and neck (66.6%) and stomach (50.8%) cancer, whereas in lung cancer distant metastasis was predominant among males (44.0%) and females (47.6%).*

Objective: The study was conducted among the students to assess the knowledge regarding cervical cancer and its prevention among and to assess the attitude towards cervical cancer and its prevention among nursing students.

Method and Material: A total of 254 students has been selected by non-probability purposive sampling technique data collection tool consisting of knowledge and attitude towards cervical cancer questionnaire to assess the knowledge and practice towards cervical cancer. IEC permission was taken from the committee. Data were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Result: Within this study the the knowledge and practice towards cervical cancer out of 254 nursing students 31 have good, 198 have average and 25 have poor knowledge level regarding cervical cancer and its prevention.

Majority of the participants has opinion that a cervical infection may turn into a cervical cancer. Majority of the participants has opinion that cervical examination is not too painful. Majority of the participants has opinion that cervical cancer may ruin the relationship with their spouses. Majority of the participants has opinion that cervical cancer can be cured completely. Majority of the participants has opinion that eliminating sugar will "starve the cancer cells. Majority of the participants has opinion that if they are not sexually active, they do not need to go for a PAP smear test. Majority of the participants has opinion that if they have taken the HPV vaccine, they are less likely to get cervical cancer. Majority of the participants has opinion that cervical cancer can be transmitted through unprotected sexual intercourse. Majority of the participants has opinion that one should avoid having sexual intercourse while getting treatment for cervical cancer. Majority of the participants has opinion that surgery as a treatment option for cervical cancer is better than radiation therapy.

Keywords: cancer, cervical cancer

I. INTRODUCTION

Cancer is the second leading cause of mortality worldwide. The projected number of patients with cancer in India is 13,92,179 for the year 2020 and the common 5 leading sites are breast, lung, mouth, and cervix uteri and tongue. The majority of the patients with cancer are diagnosed at the locally advanced stage for breast (57.0%), cervix uteri



(60.0%), head and neck (66.6%) and stomach (50.8%) cancer, whereas in lung cancer distance metastasis was predominant among males (44.0%) and females (47.6%). Healthy cells are programmed to "know what to do and when to do it". Cancerous cells do not have this programming and therefore grow and replicate out of control. They also serve no physiological function. Cancer is a disease of the cell in which the normal mechanisms of control of growth and proliferation are disturbed. This result in distinctive morphological alteration of the cells and aberration in tissue pattern. Cancer is a collective term describing a large group of diseases characterized by uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells. These abnormal new growth or formation of tissue is known as neoplasm. Neoplasm can be either benign or malignant. A benign (noncancerous) tumour is composed of cells that will not invade other unrelated tissue organs of the body, although it may continue to grow abnormally. A malignant (cancerous) tumour is composed of cells that invented the basement membrane and invade or split to other part of the body.

Objective of the study

To assess the knowledge regarding cervical cancer and its prevention among nursing students in selected nursing schools and colleges in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

To assess the attitude towards cervical cancer and its prevention among nursing students in selected nursing schools and colleges in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

II. METHODOLOGY

Method: The research approach was quantitative approach and design non experimental descriptive design.

Inclusion criteria

- Nursing Students
- Age more than 18 years

EXCLUSIVE CRITERIA:

- Non nursing students
- Age less than 18 years

Result:

Majority of the participants i'e 69.69% (177 out of 254) are Basic BSc. Nursing students, 2008% 166 out of 254) are GNM and the rest 4.33% (11 out of 254) are Post Basic BSc Nursing students. Out of that. 96.9%(246 out of 254) are female and the rest 3.1% (8 out of 254) are male. In the study, 59.06% (150 out of 254) belongs to the age group 19-21 years, 33.86% (86 out of 254) belongs to age group of 22-24 years, 5.91% (15 out of 254) belongs to age group of 25-27 stars and only 1.18% (3 out of 254) belongs to 28 and above years. Among them, 62.20% (158 out of 254) have some previous knowledge about cervical cancer and it's prevention; 29.13% (74 out of 254) have too little knowledge and only 8.66% (22 out of 254) have about right amount of knowledge regarding the concerned topic. Majority of the participants ie, 67.72% (172 out of 254) have receive information regarding cervical cancer and it's prevention from books; 21.26% (54 out of 254) participants from media and 11.02% (28 out of 254) participants have received information through curriculum.

III. FINDING RELATED TO KNOWLEDGE REGARDING CERVICAL CANCER AND IT'S PREVENTION

After recording and analysing the responses received to the questionnaire it was found that only 9.84% (25 out of 254) of participants have poor knowledge regarding cervical cancer and its prevention; 12.2% (31 out of 254) participants have good knowledge whereas majority of the participants ie, 77.95% (198 out of 254) have average knowledge regarding the concerned topic.

Thus after conducting our research work among selected nursing students in Ranchi, Jharkhand the result of our study shows that the average knowledge level of nursing students regarding cervical cancer and it's prevention is 84.67%.



Demographics variables

Sl. No	Variables	F	%
	Course of study		
	B.sc Nursing	177	69.69%
	GNM	66	25.98%
	Post Basic Nursing	11	4.33%
	Sex		
	Female	246	96.9%
	male	8	3.1%
	Age		
	19-21	150	59%
	22-24	86	33%
	25-27	15	6%
	28 above	3	1%
	Level of previous knowledge		
	Some knowledge	158	62%
	Little	74	29%
	Adequate knowledge	22	9%
	Sources of knowledge		
	Book	172	68%
	Media	54	21%
	curriculum	28	11%

Distribution of sample according to marks obtained in the questionnaire

1.	Score Poor	25	10%
2.	Average	198	78%
3.	Good	31	12%

Distribution of participant according to response to attitude based question in the questionnaire

Sl. No.	Statement number	Yes	No	May be	Don't know
1.	Statement 1	23.78%	36.90%	37.72%	1.23%
2	Statement 2	30.34%	40.18%	20.50%	9.02%
3	Statement 3	30.24%	25.20%	37.38%	7.98%
4	Statement 4	39.36%	25.42%	30.34%	4.10%
5	Statement 5	34.86%	29.82%	18.90%	15.96%
6	Statement 6	25.20%	67.20%	0%	7.80%
7	Statement 7	69.70%	11.48%	14.76%	3.69%
8	Statement 8	52.7%	31.57%	11.89%	4.10%
9	Statement 9	72.16%	11.07%	8.61%	7.79%
10	Statement 10	51.24%	20.58%	20.58%	7.98%



IV. CONCLUSION

The findings of the present study indicate that nursing students have adequate knowledge. Continued nursing education should be given to upgrade their knowledge regarding cervical early diagnosis, prevention and treatment irrespective of their age, course of study, sex, qualifications and workshop attended or not attended.

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