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### An exploratory study to assess the knowledge of women regarding cervical cancer and its prevention in a selected hospital, Ludhiana, Punjab

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#### Abstract

According to WHO/ICO (information centre on) women are at risk of cervical cancer is 366.58 millions, 1.3 lakhs of annual cases and 74 thousand annual deaths. This is an Exploratory Study to Assess the Knowledge of Women Regarding Cervical Cancer and its Prevention in a Selected Hospital, Ludhiana, Punjab. Among 150 women attending Gynae OPD selected by purposive sampling and data were collected and analysed. Results revealed that, majority of women had average knowledge on cervical cancer and its prevention. Education of women was found to be significantly related and other factors were not found to be significantly related to knowledge of women at  $p>0.05$ .

**Keywords:** Cervical cancer and its prevention

#### Introduction

According to WHO/ICO (information centre on) women are at risk of cervical cancer is 366.58 millions, 1.3 lakhs of annual cases and 74 thousand annual deaths. Statistical data revealed that the prevalence rate was highest in Mumbai (3121), Chennai (2550), Pune (1138), Trivandrum and Karunagappally 284 and 93 respectively. Unless there is a dramatic improvement in prevention of cervical cancer and the incidence of the disease falls by 2050, one million new cases of the disease will be diagnosed each year (Santhi S, Bharatha SR & Jebamani A, 2009) [5].

#### Research problem

“An exploratory study to assess the knowledge of women regarding cervical cancer and its prevention in a selected hospital, Ludhiana, Punjab.”

#### Objectives

1. To assess the knowledge of women regarding cervical cancer and its prevention.
2. To find out the relationship of knowledge of women regarding cervical cancer and its prevention with selected variables.
3. To find out the deficits according to knowledge areas and prepare guidelines to create awareness among women regarding cervical cancer and its prevention.

#### Research Methodology

**Research approach:** Quantitative research approach

**Research design:** Non Experimental Exploratory research design

**Setting:** The study was conducted in Gynae OPD

(Outpatient department) of Christian Medical College and Hospital, Ludhiana, Punjab.

**Sample:** sample of 150 women attending Gynae OPD.

**Sampling technique:** Purposive sampling technique.

#### Inclusion criteria

- Women attending Gynae OPD.
- Women between age group 18-60 years.
- Women who are willing to participate.

#### Exclusion criteria

- Women who were not willing to participate.
- Women not attending Gynae OPD.

#### Description of tool

##### Part I: Socio demographic characteristics

This part consisted of items for obtaining personal information of subjects i.e. Age, educational status, marital status, age at marriage, religion, place of residence, family income per month, No. of children, contraceptive methods, history of STI, family history of cervical cancer, sources of information.

##### Part II: Knowledge questionnaire related to cervical cancer and its prevention

This part consisted of 42 multiple choice questions regarding different aspects of knowledge of women regarding cervical cancer and its prevention,

**Level of Knowledge:** The level of knowledge was grouped into items like good (66.6%), average (35.7-66.6%) and below average ( $\leq 33.3\%$ ).

**Results**

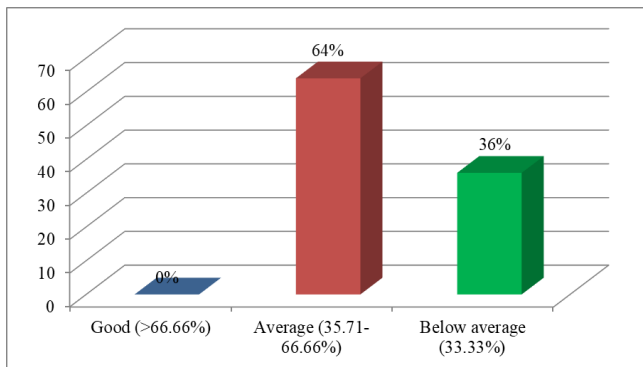
**Objective 1: To assess the knowledge of women regarding cervical cancer and its prevention.**

**Table 1:** Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Women Regarding Cervical Cancer and its Prevention According to Levels of Knowledge N = 150

Levels of knowledge	Knowledge Score	Women	
		n	%
Good (>66.66%)	>28	0	0
Average (35.71-66.66%)	15-28	96	64
Below average (33.33%)	≤14	54	36

Maximum score = 42 Minimum score = 0

Table depict that the majority of the women 96 (64%) had average knowledge, whereas 54 (36%) had below average and none had good knowledge. Majority of the women had average knowledge regarding cervical cancer and its prevention. Hence there is a need to enhance the knowledge of women regarding cervical cancer and its prevention through guidelines.



**Fig 1:** Levels of Knowledge among Women Regarding Cervical Cancer and its Prevention

**Objective 2: To find out the relationship of knowledge of women regarding cervical cancer and its prevention with selected variables.**

**Table 2:** Mean, Standard Deviation and t Test of Knowledge Score of Women Regarding Cervical Cancer and its Prevention According to Educational Status N = 150

Educational Status	Knowledge Score		
	n	Mean	SD
a) Illiterate	8	12.6	3.2
b) Primary to middle	31	15.0	3.4
c) Matric to higher secondary	65	16.6	4.6
d) Graduate and above	46	17.7	4.6

Table depict that the mean knowledge score was highest (17.7) among women who were graduate and above, followed by 16.6 among those in matric to higher secondary, followed by 15.0 among those in primary to middle and least (12.6) among those in illiterate.

**Table 3:** Mean Knowledge Score Regarding Cervical Cancer and its Prevention According to Educational Status

Educational Status	df	t
a) Illiterate	(a & b)	37 3.4*
b) Primary to middle	(a & c)	75 6.3*
c) Matric to higher secondary	(b & c)	94 5.1*
d) Graduate and above	(c & d)	109 3.5*
	(d & a)	52 7.3*
	(b & d)	75 6.7*

Maximum score = 42/ Minimum score = 0 \* = Significant at (p<0.05) level

The significant difference in the mean knowledge score regarding cervical cancer and its prevention was found in all the categories of educational. Thus, it can be inferred that educational status had significant impact on knowledge of women regarding cervical cancer and its prevention.

**Recommendations**

- A comparative study can be conducted to assess the knowledge of married women regarding cervical cancer in rural and urban community.
- The study may be conducted in different nursing institutions.
- An experimental study can be conducted to assess the effect of planned teaching programme on knowledge regarding cervical cancer.

**Conclusion**

In the present study majority of women had average knowledge on cervical cancer and its prevention. In demographic characteristics, education was found to be significantly related and other factors were not found to be significantly related to knowledge of women. The major deficit areas of the study were investigation and treatment of cervical cancer and its prevention.

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