

“A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE REGARDING CERVICAL CANCER AND IT’S PREVENTIVE MEASURES AMONG THE FOURTH CLASS FEMALE WORKERS IN SELECTED HOSPITALS OF LUCKNOW WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOP AN INFORMATION PAMPHLET.”

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ABSTRACT

Cervical cancer, or cancer of the cervix, begins on the surface of the cervix. It happens when the cells on the cervix begin to change to precancerous cells. Not all precancerous cells will turn to cancer, but finding these problematic cells and treating them before they can change is critical to preventing cervical cancer. Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women globally, with an estimated 6,04,000 new cases and 3,42,000 deaths in 2020. About 90% of the new cases and deaths worldwide in 2020 occurred in low- and middle-income countries. Vaccination against HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) and screening and treatment of pre-cancer lesions is a cost-effective way to prevent cervical cancer. Cervical cancer can be cured if diagnosed at an early stage and treated promptly. Effective primary and secondary prevention approaches will prevent most cervical cancer cases. When diagnosed, cervical cancer is one of the most successfully treatable forms of cancer, as long as it is detected early and managed effectively with a comprehensive approach to prevent, screen and treat.

Key Words: Cervical cancer, Human Papilloma Virus, Vaccination, Prevention.

INTRODUCTION

Cervical cancer is a cancer of the cervix, the organ connecting the uterus and the vagina. Despite its preventable nature, globally cervical cancer is regarded as the third most common form of cancer among women after breast and colorectal cancer. Cervical cancer is the most common cancer among women in the world leading to 90% death in low and middle income countries. There is a lack of awareness among females on cervical cancer, its early detection and prevention. Therefore, effective interventions on prevention of HPV infections can prevent cervical cancer. The women of poorer communities are mostly affected by the disease. It is evidenced that, approximately 83% of the world's new cases and 85% of all cervical cancer deaths reported are from developing countries. In contrast to developed countries, cervical cancer is a public health problem in developing countries like India, so much that India alone accounts for one-quarter of the worldwide burden of cervical cancers. It is the one of the leading cause of cancer mortality, accounting for 17% of all cancer deaths among women aged between 30 and 69 years. It is estimated that cervical cancer will occur in approximately 1 in 53 Indian women during their lifetime compared with 1 in 100 women in more developed regions of the world. There is a great need for a nationwide government-sponsored public health policy on the prevention of cervical cancer by early diagnosis or vaccination, or both. Women with low level of knowledge about cervical cancer and its early screening and prevention are less likely to reach screening services.

METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted using quantitative approach at Sahara Hospital, Lucknow, UP. The research design chosen for the study was descriptive research design. In this study the conceptual framework used was "Modified health belief model" by Rosenstock (1966). 50 samples were taken for the data collection. Purposive sample technique was used. Data collection was done using Structured knowledge questionnaires to assess the knowledge regarding cervical cancer and its preventive measures among fourth class female workers. Before conducting the study the consent was obtained from the samples.

RESULT

- The respondents 01 (2%) had adequate knowledge, 26 (52%) had moderate knowledge and 23 (46%) had inadequate knowledge. The mean score was 8.67 and SD was 3.14.
- There was no significant association between the age, previous knowledge, marital status, family income, religion, residential area family type and age at menarche and there was significant association between educational qualification and knowledge score who has undergone the cervical cancer and its preventive measures knowledge score.

DISCUSSION:

The findings of the study are discussed under the following headings:

OBJECTIVE-1:

- **To assess the knowledge level among fourth class female workers of selected hospitals of Lucknow regarding cervical cancer and its preventive measures.**

The overall knowledge level of fourth class female workers regarding cervical cancer and its preventive measures show that 01 (2%) had adequate knowledge, 26 (52%) had moderate knowledge and 23 (46%) had inadequate knowledge. The mean score was 8.67 and SD was 3.14.

OBJECTIVE -2:

- **To find out the association between level of knowledge and their demographic variables.**

Among the demographic variables analyzed in this study, educational qualification has high significant association with knowledge score. There was no significant association between the age, previous knowledge, marital status, family income, religion, residential area family type and age at menarche and there was significant association between educational qualification and knowledge score.

CONCLUSION

The study findings reveal that out of 50 participants; 01 (2%) had adequate knowledge, 26 (52%) had moderate knowledge and 23 (46%) had inadequate knowledge regarding cervical cancer and its preventive measures. The study shows that there was a lack of knowledge regarding cervical cancer and its preventive measures.

The government must conduct more awareness regarding cervical cancer and its preventive measures. Therefore, the study helps in assessing the knowledge level and it further helps in development of an informational pamphlet which in turn would enhance the knowledge of fourth class female workers.

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