



“A STUDY TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTS OF SELF- INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL ON KNOWLEDGE REGARDING CERVICAL CANCER, ITS DETECTION AND CONTROL AMONG SCHOOL TEACHERS IN SELECTED GIRL'S HIGH SCHOOL IN SHILLONG, MEGHALAYA”

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ABSTRACT **Introduction:** Cervical cancer is an important global public health problem of woman. and the second most common cancer among women worldwide. It accounted for an estimated 493, 000 incident cases, 1.4 million prevalent cases and 273 000 deaths in the world in 2002, constituting approximately 8% of the global burden of cancer among women and the second most common cancer among women worldwide. It is a major cause of mortality and premature death among women in their most productive years in low- and medium-resource countries, despite the fact that it is an eminently preventable cancer. Prevention and detection can help reduce the incidence of cervical cancer. Taking care of health needs of the people and preventing the diseases is a major concern for health professionals and Self – Instructional Material is one of the effective information material which can be used for improving the knowledge of the people.

KEYWORDS : Knowledge, Effects of SIM; Cervical cancer, its detection and control

Objectives of the study:

1. Assess the initial knowledge regarding cervical cancer, its detection and control as measured by structured knowledge questionnaire .
2. To determine the effects of Self–Instructional Material regarding cervical cancer in terms of gain in post-test knowledge scores .
3. To find out the association between pretest knowledge level and selected socio-demographic variables like - Age, marital status, education level and monthly income.

Method : Pre-experimental study was conducted among teachers in selected Girl's High Schools of Shillong, Meghalaya. Non-probability convenience technique was used to select 50 samples. A structured questionnaire with multiple choices was used for data collection and data analysis was performed by using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Results: The study revealed that Most 16 (32%) of the school teachers are in the age group above 41years, 32 (64%) are married, 27 54.0(%) are in post graduate level and majority 35 (70%) had a monthly income are above Rs 9000/-.

It also shows that out of 50 school teachers, only 1 (2.0%) of the teachers have adequate knowledge in pre test where as in post test 43(78%) of the school teachers have adequate knowledge regarding cervical cancer.

Table 1 : Mean difference and t value of pre test (K¹) and post test (K²) knowledge scores

N= 50

Knowledge Score	Mean	Mean difference	t-value	d.f	P-value	Inference
Pre- test	15.78	8.7	14.64	49	<0.05	S
Post-test	24.54					

The mean knowledge scores obtained by the school teachers after giving Self-Instructional Material (24.54) is higher than those obtained before (15.78). There is significant difference between the mean post-test and pre-test knowledge scores (t₄₉ = 14.64, p<0.05).

It result also shows that there is association between the pre-test knowledge scores and the age group but no association with other selected variables like marital status, educational status, monthly income .

Conclusion : Findings of the study shows that the knowledge scores of school teachers are not adequate before the introduction of Self – Instructional Material. The SIM facilitated them to learn about cervical cancer, its detection and control, which is evident in post- test knowledge scores. Post-test measures shows significant increase in the knowledge scores of school teachers. Hence Self- instructional Material is an effective teaching method for providing the knowledge

of school teachers, which was well-appreciated and accepted by them.

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