



"A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY TO ASSESS THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE REGARDING CERVICAL CANCER AMONG LATE ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN GOVT. COLLEGE OF WOMEN, PARADE, JAMMU."

Nursing

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: 1. To assess the level of knowledge regarding cervical cancer among late adolescent girls in Govt. College for Women, Parade, Jammu. 2. To find out the association between the level of knowledge regarding cervical cancer among late adolescent girls along with their selected demographic variables in Govt. College for Women, Parade, Jammu. **Methodology:** descriptive research design was utilized and a total of 100 late adolescent girls (17-24 years) were selected by using non probability purposive sampling technique. Data were collected by using a pre-tested self-structured questionnaire knowledge questionnaire. The data was analysed by using descriptive and inferential statistics. **Results:** majority of late adolescent girls of age group 17-24 years had below average knowledge 81 (81%), 17(17%) had average level knowledge and 2(2%) had above average level of knowledge regarding cervical cancer. The result showed that there was no relationship between selected socio-demographic variables and level of knowledge. **Conclusion:** The study findings concludes that, the level of knowledge regarding cervical cancer was inadequate among late adolescent girls of age group 17-24 years.

KEYWORDS

Cervical Cancer, Knowledge, Late Adolescent Girls.

INTRODUCTION

We don't know how strong we are until being strong is the only choice we have

Almost all cervical cancer cases (99%) are linked to infection with high-risk human papillomaviruses (HPV), an extremely common virus transmitted through sexual contact. Although most infections with HPV resolve spontaneously and cause no symptoms, persistent infection can cause cervical cancer in women¹. With an anticipated 6,04,000 new cases in 2020, cervical cancer will rank as the fourth most frequent malignancy in women globally. 90% of the anticipated 3,42,000 cervical cancer deaths in 2020 will take place in low- and middle-income nations. Cervical cancer is the second most commonly diagnosed cancer and the third leading cause of cancer death in women worldwide. Nearly 83% of the world's new cases and 85% of all cervical cancer-related deaths occur in developing countries¹. Compared to women without HIV, women living with HIV have a 6x higher risk of developing cervical cancer, and HIV is thought to be a factor in 5% of occurrences of cervical cancer. Furthermore, in every part of the world, younger women are disproportionately affected by HIV's link to cervical cancer. Most of the cervical cancer cases are diagnosed late leading to poor outcomes².

Programmes are in place in high-income nations so that women may have regular screenings and treatment, and girls can receive the HPV vaccine. Screening allows pre-cancerous lesions to be identified at stages when they can easily be treated. Accordingly, for the first time in history, eliminating a specific cancer from the globe is an attainable objective³.

The high mortality rate from cervical cancer globally could be reduced by effective interventions at different stages of life. Although cervical cancer is entirely avoidable, countries outside of the west have not been able to do so because of a lack of understanding about the vaccination, a lack of availability, and a high cost. Primary prevention measures, such as early detection through increased awareness, HPV prophylactic vaccination among young adolescents (ages 19 to 13) who have not yet been exposed to the infection, organised screening programmes, diagnosis, and treatment are crucial in lowering cervical cancer-related morbidity and mortality. It is the leading cause of female cancer deaths in developing countries, where 80% of cervical cancer cases and deaths occur by 2030 cervical cancer is expected to kill over 4,74,000 women per year and over 95% of these deaths are expected to be in low and middle-income countries. India has a population of 366.58 million women ages 18 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Current estimates indicate that every year 1,34,420 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 72,825 die from the disease. India is home to one of every five women worldwide who have this illness. Cervical cancer incidence is predicted to have increased from 1,12,609 new cases in 2004 to

1,39,864 cases in 2015. The most common cancer among women in India between the ages of 18 and 44 is cervical cancer, which is also the most common cancer overall. A cervical cancer HPV infection is thought to be present in 7.9% of women in the general population at any given moment, and HPVs are responsible for 82.5% of invasive cervical malignancies.

There are 4,68,000 new instances of cervical cancer per year on average, making it one of the most prevalent malignancies among women. Out of these, 80% take place in developing and less-developed nations. According to figures from the World Health Organisation, India accounts for one-fifth of the global disease burden and accounts for 72,600 annual deaths. Women's general knowledge and awareness are essential to the success of cervical cancer screening and prevention. This necessitates the development of information in a younger, impressionable age range. This result reflects the need for health awareness campaigns to the students and community regarding cervical cancer, including the symptoms, causes, risk factors and preventive measures. In January 2019, the Executive Board requested the Director-General to develop a draft global strategy to accelerate cervical cancer elimination, with clear targets for the period 2020–2030. A Global Strategy towards the Elimination of Cervical Cancer as a Public Health Problem was developed in close consultation with Member States, and in collaboration with UN Agencies and other partners and organizations. It outlines key goals and agreed targets to be reached by 2030 and set the world on track to elimination⁵.

OBJECTIVES

- To assess the level of knowledge regarding cervical cancer among late adolescent girls in Govt. College for Women, Parade, Jammu.
- To find out the association between the level of knowledge regarding cervical cancer among late adolescent girls along with their selected demographic variables in Govt. College for Women, Parade, Jammu.

Assumption

The late adolescent girls may have knowledge about cervical cancer.

Operational Definition

Assess

Refers to assess the level of knowledge regarding cervical cancer.

Knowledge

The fact or condition of knowing something with familiarity gained through experience or association.

Cervical Cancer

A malignant tumour of the cervix, the lowermost part of the uterus.

Cancer that forms in tissues of the cervix (the organ connecting the uterus and vagina). It is usually a slow-growing cancer that may not have symptoms but can be found with regular Pap tests (a procedure in which cells are scraped from the cervix and looked at under a microscope). Cervical cancer is almost always caused by Human papilloma virus (HPV).

Adolescent Girls

Adolescence (late) is the phase of life between childhood and adulthood, from ages 17 to 24 years. It is a unique stage of human development and an important time for laying the foundations of good health. Adolescents experience rapid physical, cognitive and psychosocial growth.

Delimitations

- The sample size is delimited to 100.
- This study is delimited to late adolescent girls.

Projected Outcome

This study will help to assess the knowledge on cervical cancer and will help to create awareness among the late adolescent girls.

Research Approach

Research approach is a broad plan to explore a phenomenon under a study. Selection of a research approach enables the researcher to decide certain methodological aspects for the study like design, sample size, data collection strategy and type of statistical application. In view of the nature of the problem selected for the present study and the objectives to be accomplished, the Quantitative research approach is adopted.

Research Design

A research design was the framework or guide used for the planning implementation and analysis of a study. In the present study we selected the design as descriptive research design.

Research setting.

Research setting is the physical location and the condition in which data collection takes place in the study. The study was conducted in Govt. College for Women, Parade, Jammu.

Population

Target Population:

Adolescent girls.

Accessible Popu Lation:

Late adolescent girls between the age group of (17 -24) years studying in Govt.Collegeof Women,Parade,Jammu.

Sample Size

The study was conducted on 100 late adolescent girls (17 -24 years) in Govt. College for Women, Parade, Jammu.

Sampling Technique In this study purposive sampling technique was used.

Criteria For Sampling Technique

Inclusion Criteria

Late Adolescent girls (17-24 years) present on the day of data collection.

Exclusion Criteria

- The girls who were not willing to participate are not being the part of study.
- The girls who were not available during the study.

VARIABLES

Research Variables

Research variables were to assess the level of knowledge regarding cervical cancer among late adolescent girls (17 -24) years

Socio- Demographic Variables

Socio- demographic variables of the study were Age, Religion, monthly income of the family, family history of cervical cancer, marital status, previous knowledge on cervical cancer.

Description Of Tool

In this study the data collection was done by using self – structured

questionnaire method. This was prepared to assess the level of knowledge regarding cervical cancer among late adolescent girls in Govt. College for Women, Parade, Jammu.

The tool consists of two parts:

Part A:

Socio-demographic data which includes 6 variables regarding Age, Religion, monthly income of the family, family history of cervical cancer, marital status, previous knowledge on the cervical cancer.

Part B:

A self - structured questionnaire which consist of 20 multiple choice questions regarding knowledge on cervical cancer.

Scoring Procedure

Each self - structured multiple-choice question has four choices out of which that one correct answer and remaining three are wrong answers.

Score of '1' allotted for each right answer and every wrong is given the score of '0'. The maximum attainable score in the knowledge questionnaire is '20'.

Table. 1 Criteria measure used for scoring the tool

Level of knowledge regarding cervical cancer	Score
Below average	Less than or equal to 10
Average	11-15
Above average	16-20

Ethical Consideration

Written permission was taken from principal, Govt. College for Women, Parade, Jammu and from research ethical clearance committee of the Bee Enn College of Nursing. Written informed consent was taken from each study sample. Confidentiality of the study samples were maintained.

Data Collection Procedure

Data was collected from 100 late adolescent girls. Purposive sampling technique was used to select sample. A written permission was taken from the principal of Govt. College for Women, Parade, Jammu. Data was collected by using self-structured questionnaire.

RESULTS:

TABLE 1:Distribution of late adolescent girls (17-24 years) based on their demographic variables (N=100)

DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
AGE		
17-19 years	74	74%
20-21 years	24	24%
22 and above	2	2%
RELIGION		
Hindu	84	84%
Muslim	14	14%
Sikh	1	1%
Others	1	1%
FAMILY INCOME PER MONTH		
11837-17755	33	33%
7102-11836	18	18%
2391-7101	22	22%
<2390	27	27%
FAMILY HISTORY OF CERVICAL CANCER		
Yes	2	2%
No	98	98%
MARITAL STATUS		
Married	4	4%
Un married	96	96%
PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE ON CERVICAL CANCER		
Yes	33	33%
No	67	67%

Table 1 depicts distribution of late adolescent girls (17-24years) based on the demographic variables.

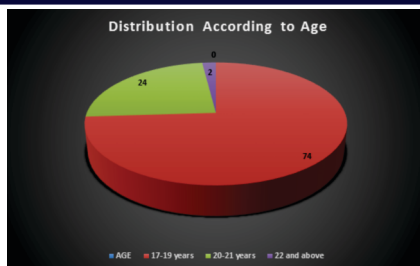


Figure1: Distribution according to age

The above pie diagram shows that according to age, 74(74%) belonged to 17-19 years age group, 24 (24%) belonged to 20-21 years age group, 2 (2%) belonged to 22 and above age group.

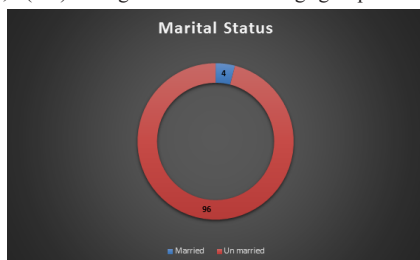


Figure 2: Distribution according to marital status

The above donut diagram shows that 4 (4%) were married, 96 (96%) were unmarried.

Table 2: Distribution Of Selected Late Adolescent Girls Based On The Level Of Knowledge Regarding Cervical Cancer

LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE	PERCENTAGE (%)
BELOW AVERAGE	81 %
AVERAGE	17%
ABOVE AVERAGE	2%

Table 2: reveals that 81 (81%) late adolescent girls had below average level of knowledge, 17 (17%) had average level of knowledge and 2 (2%) had above average level of knowledge regarding cervical cancer.

The first objective of the study was to assess the level of knowledge regarding cervical cancer among late adolescent girls (17-24 years of age) in Govt.Colleges for Women, Parade, Jammu.

Study finding analysis showed that late adolescent girls of age group 17-24 years had below average knowledge 81 (81%), 17(17%) had average level knowledge and 2(2%) had above average level of knowledge regarding cervical cancer.

The same result was shown by the study conducted by HN Harsh Kumar and Shubham Tanya among women in Mangalore City hospital at Kasturba Hospital. Results shows that 78% have poor knowledge, 17 % have satisfactory knowledge and 5 % have good knowledge.

The second objective of the study was to find out the association between the level of knowledge regarding cervical cancer among late adolescent girls along with their selected demographic variables in Govt. College for Women, Parade, Jammu.

None of the socio-demographic variable were associated with the level of knowledge.

The same study was conducted by Shamima Akhtar, Kulsum Akhter. Et al.. (2022) to assess the level of knowledge regarding cervical cancer among adolescent girls of Rajshahi Division, Bangladesh. The result showed that there was no relationship between selected socio-demographic variables and level of knowledge.

Summary Of The Study Findings

The study findings showed that 2 % of the late adolescent girls had above average level of knowledge, 17% had average level of knowledge and 81% had below average level of knowledge.

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that, the level of knowledge regarding cervical cancer was in adequate.

Implications

The findings of the study have several implications in following field it can be discussed under 4 areas namely nursing practices, nursing administration, nursing education and nursing research.

Implications Of Nursing Practice

1. This study findings will encourage the school health nurse to create awareness regarding cervical cancer.
2. Nurse should prepare pamphlets on cervical cancer, cause of cervical cancer and complications of cervical cancer.
3. This study results will also encourage the psychiatric nurses to arrange counselling sessions to educate college going girls regarding cervical cancer and its prevention.
4. This study findings will help community health nurse to educate the parents regarding the prevention of cervical cancer.
5. Nursing educator can conduct the awareness programme regarding immunization of cervical cancer.

Implications Of Nursing Administration

The present study findings shows that the nursing administration authority to recognize the need for developing appropriate formal education program regarding cervical cancer and its prevention to create awareness among them.

Nursing administration should allocate budget for developing educational material which contain information about cervical cancer.

Implications Of Nursing Education

The study emphasis the need for educating the girls through health education to increase and update their knowledge regarding cervical cancer.

The various effective methods of teaching like audio- visual tapes, sharing experience, posters, flash cards, flex should be used to improve the knowledge of students regarding cervical cancer.

The study emphasizes the need for dietary modification in the attempt to prevent cervical cancer.

Implications Of Nursing Research

The findings of the study helped to expand the scientific body of professional knowledge upon which further research can be conducted.

Based on the study, in depth research studies of various variable contributing for awareness regarding cervical cancer can be conducted.

Recommendations

A similar study can be undertaken with large no. of samples which might lead to generalization. A structured teaching program can be administered to assess the pre and post level of knowledge among students.

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