

## A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE AND HEALTH SEEKING BEHAVIOUR REGARDING LEUCORRHOEA AMONG MARRIED WOMEN IN SELECTED RURAL AREA

### Healthcare

**Ms. Aishwarya R. Chaudhary**

M. Sc Nursing, Department of Community Health Nursing, Kasturba Nursing College, Sewagram, Wardha, Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nashik (MUHS), Maharashtra, India.

**Ms. Asha Khobragade**

Professor Cum Vice Principal, Department of Community Health Nursing, Kasturba Nursing College, Sewagram, Wardha, Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nashik (MUHS), Maharashtra, India.

### ABSTRACT

**Background:** leucorrhoea is a common gynecological disorder marked by abnormal vaginal discharge that might indicate a variety of underlying health concerns. It affects women of all ages with major consequences for their reproductive health and quality of life. **Objectives:** To assess the knowledge regarding leucorrhoea and health seeking behaviour among married women in selected rural area, to associate the knowledge regarding leucorrhoea with their demographic variables. **Method:** A descriptive quantitative study was conducted among 60 married women in rural in Maharashtra. Data were collected by using a structured knowledge questionnaire. Statistical analysis was performed using descriptive and inferential tests. **Result:** Majority 41.7% of subjects had good level of knowledge score, 38.3% had average level of knowledge score, 11.7% had very good level of knowledge score, 5% had excellent level of knowledge score and 3.3% had poor level of knowledge score. **Conclusion:** It did not show any association in relation to their selected demographic variables from selected rural area. Hence, based on the above finding it was conducted undoubtedly that the written prepared material by the researcher in the form of the subject to improve their knowledge and health seeking behaviour about leucorrhoea.

### KEYWORDS

Knowledge, Health-seeking behaviour, Leucorrhoea, Married women, Rural area, Women's health.

### INTRODUCTION

Leucorrhoea is the flow of a whitish, yellowish or greenish discharge from a female's vagina that might be normal or indicate an infection. Such discharges might come from the vagina, the ovaries, the fallopian tubes or most commonly, the cervix. Leucorrhoea can occur during pregnancy and is considered typical when the discharge is thin, white and somewhat odorless. Physiologic leucorrhoea is a normal condition that occurs within several months to a year of the onset of menses in adolescent girls and is sometimes present in newborn girls, usually lasting one to two months. In many cases, leucorrhoea is a sign of infection, especially when the discharge is yellow or green has an offensive odour and is accompanied by irritation, itching and pain<sup>1</sup>.

Unfortunately, most women are highly embarrassed by this problem but most of them also avoid discussing the problem with their medical health care providers, which is why the treatment for vaginal discharge caused by leucorrhoea could be a bit of a challenge. There is need for creating community awareness about health care facilities and instills self concern in women for their own health needs for their reproductive health promotion<sup>2</sup>.

### OBJECTIVES

#### Primary Objective:

1. To assess the knowledge regarding leucorrhoea and health seeking behaviour among married women in selected rural area.

#### Secondary Objective:

2. To associate the knowledge score regarding leucorrhoea with their selected demographic variables.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Study Design & Setting:** A descriptive, quantitative study was conducted at a rural area in Maharashtra.

**Sample:** 60 married women selected using Probability Simple random sampling technique.

**Inclusion Criteria:** married women available during data collection and willing to participate.

**Exclusion Criteria:** Women who are unable or unwilling to provide informed consent. Women who are undergoing from educational programme related to leucorrhoea or health care provider.

**Tool:** A structured knowledge questionnaire.

**Data Collection:** Ethical clearance was obtained, and informed

consent was taken. Data were collected through Structured Knowledge Questionnaire for assessment.

**Analysis:** Descriptive statistics (frequency, mean, SD) and inferential tests (Pearson's correlation, chi-square) were applied using SPSS.

### RESULTS

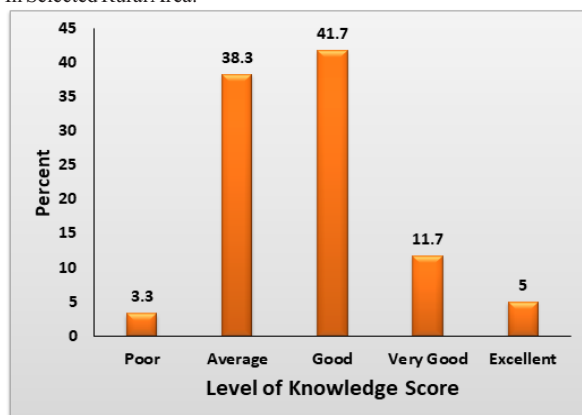
**Section A:** Distribution Of Subjects In Relation To Their Demographic Variables.

| Demographic Variables   | Frequency (f) | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Age                     |               |                |
| 25 – 30 Years           | 25            | 41.7           |
| 31 – 35 Years           | 19            | 31.7           |
| 36 – 40 Years           | 11            | 18.3           |
| 41 – 50 Years           | 05            | 8.3            |
| Duration of Marriage    |               |                |
| 1 Year                  | 09            | 15             |
| 2 Years                 | 26            | 43.3           |
| 3 Years                 | 16            | 26.7           |
| 4 Years and Above       | 09            | 15             |
| Number of Children      |               |                |
| 0                       | 07            | 11.6           |
| 1                       | 21            | 35             |
| 2                       | 28            | 46.7           |
| 3 and above             | 04            | 6.7            |
| Education               |               |                |
| Primary                 | 13            | 21.7           |
| Secondary               | 34            | 56.7           |
| Graduate                | 11            | 18.3           |
| Post Graduate           | 02            | 3.3            |
| Occupation              |               |                |
| Housewife               | 21            | 35             |
| Service                 | 11            | 18.3           |
| Labor                   | 21            | 35             |
| Farmer                  | 07            | 11.7           |
| Monthly Family Income   |               |                |
| 10000 – 15000           | 12            | 20             |
| 15001 – 20000           | 19            | 31.7           |
| 20001 – 25000           | 20            | 33.3           |
| 25001 and Above         | 09            | 15             |
| Type of Family          |               |                |
| Nuclear                 | 32            | 53.3           |
| Joint Family            | 25            | 41.7           |
| Three Generation Family | 03            | 05             |

### Section B: Assessment of Knowledge and Health Seeking Behaviour regarding Leucorrhoea among Married Women in selected rural area.

| Level of knowledge score      | Score Range | Percentage score | Level of Knowledge Score |                |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
|                               |             |                  | Frequency (f)            | Percentage (%) |
| Poor                          | 0 – 5       | 0 – 20%          | 02                       | 3.3            |
| Average                       | 6 – 10      | 21 – 40%         | 23                       | 38.3           |
| Good                          | 11 – 15     | 41 – 60%         | 25                       | 41.7           |
| Very Good                     | 16 – 20     | 61 – 60%         | 07                       | 11.7           |
| Excellent                     | 21 – 25     | 81 – 100%        | 03                       | 05             |
| Mean $\pm$ SD knowledge score |             |                  | 11.95 $\pm$ 4.40         |                |
| Mean % knowledge score        |             |                  | 47.8%                    |                |
| Minimum score                 |             |                  | 05                       |                |
| Maximum score                 |             |                  | 23                       |                |

Distribution Of Subjects In Relation To Their Knowledge And Health Seeking Behaviour Regarding Leucorrhoea Among Married Women In Selected Rural Area.



### Section C: Association Of Knowledge And Health Seeking Behaviour Regarding Leucorrhoea Among Married Women In Selected Rural Area With Selected Demographic Variables.

| Age                                                           | No. of subjects | Poor | Average | Good | Very Good | Excellent | $\chi^2$ -value<br>p-value            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------|---------|------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 25 – 30 Years                                                 | 25              | 0    | 3       | 16   | 3         | 3         | 25.128<br>df=12<br>0.014<br>S, P<0.05 |
| 31 – 35 Years                                                 | 19              | 1    | 11      | 5    | 2         | 0         |                                       |
| 36 – 40 Years                                                 | 11              | 1    | 4       | 4    | 2         | 0         |                                       |
| 41 – 50 Years                                                 | 05              | 0    | 5       | 0    | 0         | 0         |                                       |
| S- Significant    NS- Non-Significant    df-degree of freedom |                 |      |         |      |           |           |                                       |

### DISCUSSION

The findings of the study were discussed with reference to the objectives stated as below. The present study was undertaken as, “Assess the knowledge and health seeking behaviour regarding leucorrhoea among married women in selected rural area”.

1) Majority of the subjects 41.7% were from the age group of 25 – 30 years, majority of the subjects 43.3% having 2 years of marriage, majority of the subjects 46.7% had 2 children, majority of the subjects 56.7% were studied at secondary level, majority of the subjects 35% were doing labor work and housewife, majority of the subjects 33.3% having 20001 – 25000 income and majority of the subjects 53.3% were belongs to nuclear type of family.

2) In level of knowledge score, out of 60 subject's majority 41.7% of subjects had good level of knowledge score, 38.3% had average level of knowledge score, 11.7% had very good level of knowledge score, 5% had excellent level of knowledge score and 3.3% had poor level of knowledge score. Mean knowledge score of the subjects was 11.95 + 4.40. Minimum knowledge score was 05 and Maximum Knowledge score was 23.

### CONCLUSION

The conclusion of the study was after the detailed analysis, this study lead to assess the knowledge and health seeking behaviour regarding leucorrhoea among married women in selected rural area. Found to be effective in improving their knowledge of subjects. It did not show any

association in relation to their selected demographic variables from selected rural area. Hence, based on the above finding it was conducted undoubtedly that the written prepared material by the researcher in the form of the subject to improve their knowledge and health seeking behaviour about leucorrhoea.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Formal education programmes should be conducted in community areas regarding assess the knowledge and health seeking behaviour of leucorrhoea.
- 2) Studies can be replicated on large scale on rural area and on various settings, so that findings can be generalized to a large population.
- 3) Such studies can be carried out using other teaching strategies like video assisted teaching, computer assisted instruction on knowledge leucorrhoea.
- 4) Descriptive studies can be carried on to assess the knowledge and health seeking behaviour of leucorrhoea in selected rural area.

### Acknowledgement

The author thanks the rural community, married women who participate in the study.

### REFERENCES

1. Antony MP, Philip MB. Knowledge regarding leucorrhoea and the hygienic practices among women. [Internet] Asian Journal of Science and Technology;12(06):11733-8.
2. Nurudeen AS, Toyin A. Knowledge of personal hygiene among undergraduates [Internet]. J Health Education;5(2):66-71.
3. Suminar ER, Sari VM, Magasida D, Agustiani AR. Factors associated with the occurrence of vaginal discharge in female students [Internet]. Placemum J Ilm Kesehatan Dan Aplikasinya;10(3):2022
4. Rudri Bai IM, Deepthi M, Dharmavijaya MN. Analysis of leucorrhoea in tertiary care hospital in rural Bangalore. Int J Clin Obstet Gynaecol.;2(4):76-9.