

A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF CERVICAL CANCER AMONG WOMEN'S RESIDING IN KULASEKHARAM TOWN, KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU

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ABSTRACT

Cervical cancer is a form of cancer that affects the cells of the cervix, the lower part of the uterus that connects to the vagina. It is caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV), a virus that is generally transmitted through sexual contact. The body's immune system is known to prevent the HPV virus from causing any severe harm. However, the virus can survive for many years, and in some women, it can cause cells of the cervix to become cancerous. In India, cervical cancer occupies a formidable share of the total cancer cases in women. Cervical cancer forms 16.5% of the total cancer cases in Indian women and is the second most common type of cancer amongst women in the country. It is estimated that about 160 million women between the ages of 30 and 59 years are at risk of developing cervical cancer in India, with 96,922 new cases registered in 2018 alone. Its high time to educate women about the Prevention of Cervical cancer. The aim of this study is to assess the knowledge regarding the prevention of cervical cancer among women's residing in town Panchayat of TamilNadu.

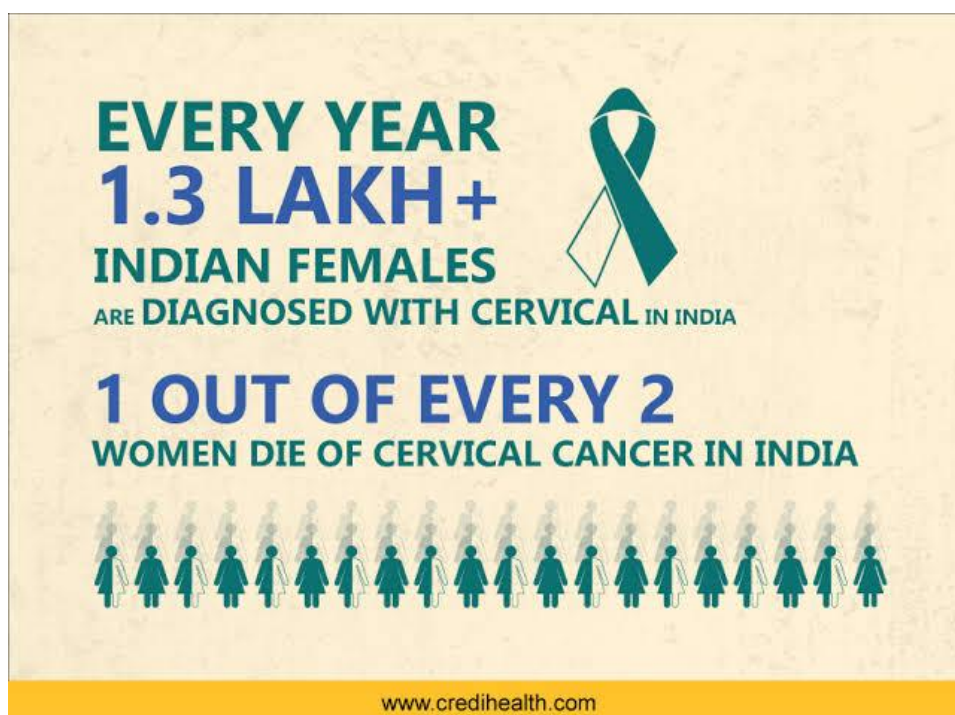
KEYWORDS

Knowledge, Cervical cancer, women's.

INTRODUCTION

Cancer is the uncontrolled growth of body cells and can start almost anywhere in the human body. When cancer develops in the cervix of female it is termed as cervical cancer or cancer cervix. Cervix is the lower part of the uterus and connects the body of the uterus to the vagina (birth canal). The lower part of the cervix (ectocervix) lies within the vagina and the upper two thirds of the cervix (endocervix) lies above the vagina. Most cervical cancers originate in the area where the endocervix and ectocervix join.

Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women worldwide and second most common cancer in women living in less developed regions. World Health Organization (WHO) estimated 530 000 new cases of cervical cancer globally (estimations for 2012), with approximately 270 000 deaths (representing 7.5% of all female cancer deaths). More than 85% of these deaths occurred in low- and middle-income countries.



India has a population of 436.76 million women aged 15 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Every year 122844 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 67477 die from the disease (estimations for 2012). In India cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among women and also the second most common cancer among women between 15 and 44 years of age.

Nearly all cases of cervical cancer can be attributable to Human papillomavirus (HPV) infection. HPV is a group of viruses and one of the causative agents in the sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in men and women with and without clinical lesions. HPV types (16 and 18) cause 70% of cervical cancers and precancerous cervical lesions worldwide. Other epidemiological risk factors for cervical cancer are early age at marriage, multiple sexual partners, multiple pregnancies, poor genital hygiene, malnutrition, use of oral contraceptives, and lack of awareness.

India also has the highest (age standardized) incidence rate as 22 (per 100,000 women per year) of cervical cancer in South Asia (estimations for 2012), compared to 19.2 in Bangladesh, 13 in Sri Lanka, and 2.8 in Iran.

In Tamil Nadu, the leading cancer sites among females were breast (26.1%) and cervical cancer (21.2%) accounting for over 47% of all cancers in the state. The age-standardized cervical cancer mortality rate in Tamil Nadu is 35.7 per 100,000 compared to 16.0 per 100,000 nationally in 2010. Cervical cancer can be prevented by vaccinating all young females against the HPVs and by screening and treating precancerous lesions in women. In addition if cervical cancer is detected early and treated in earlier stages it can be cured.

Nurses can provide health promotion counseling to the patients they serve in their day-to-day practice. They can fulfill a key role in health promotion and disease prevention, and nurses are in an ideal position to provide health education to young girls and women. It is necessary to make the women aware about cervical cancer, who can gain knowledge regarding cervical cancer and its prevention. The present study was carried out among the women above the age group of 30 to 65 years, who are residing in Kulasekharam town, Kanyakumari District.

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the source of information regarding the Prevention of cervical cancer among women's
2. To assess the knowledge regarding the prevention of cervical cancer among women's
3. To develop an information booklet regarding the prevention of cervical cancer among women's.

METHODOLOGY

A descriptive study design adopted for the study, 100 women's included in the study. Convenience sampling was selected to conduct the study. The demographic details consisted of age, sex, marital status, number of children, etc. Data was collected through predesigned and pretested questionnaire after informed consent. The questionnaire contained three sections,

I. Demographic Variables

II. Sources of information regarding the Prevention of cervical cancer among women

III. Knowledge regarding the Prevention of cervical cancer among women

The pilot study was conducted before the main study and it elicited the study was feasible. The tool was found to be highly reliable and valid. During the data collection, the researcher introduced herself to each subject and they were informed about the purpose of the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table. No: 1: Sources of information regarding the Prevention of cervical cancer among women's

Sources of Information	Frequency N= 100	Percentage
Health workers	24	24%
Media	21	21%
Hospitals	22	22%
Friends/ Relatives	31	31%
Others	2	2%

Figure. No: 1: Sources of information regarding the Prevention of cervical cancer among women's

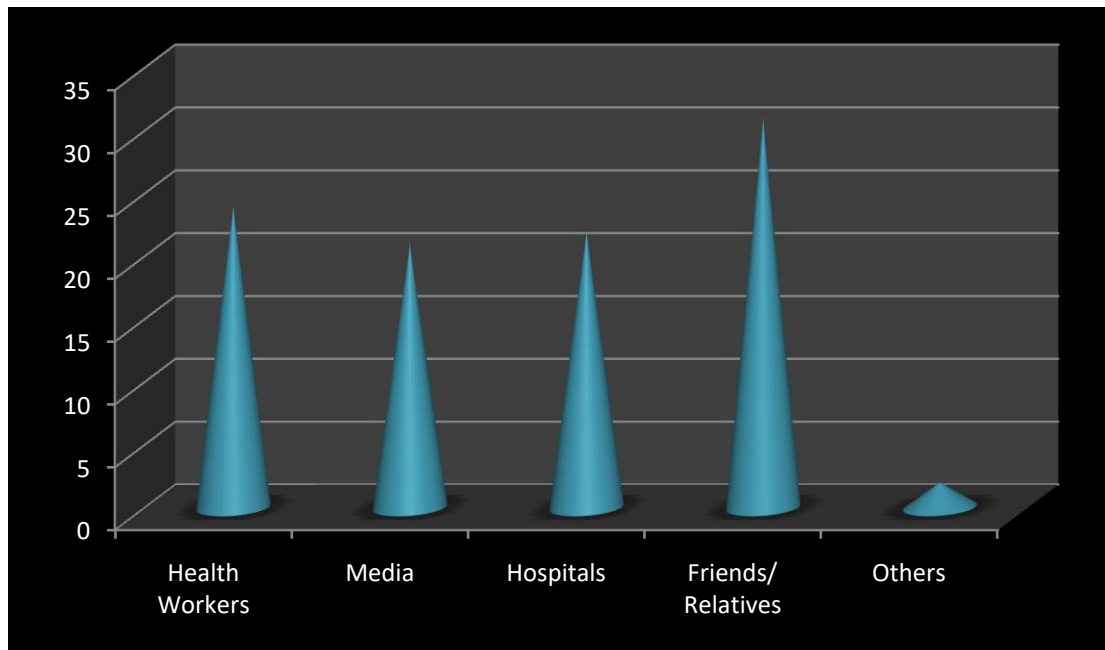
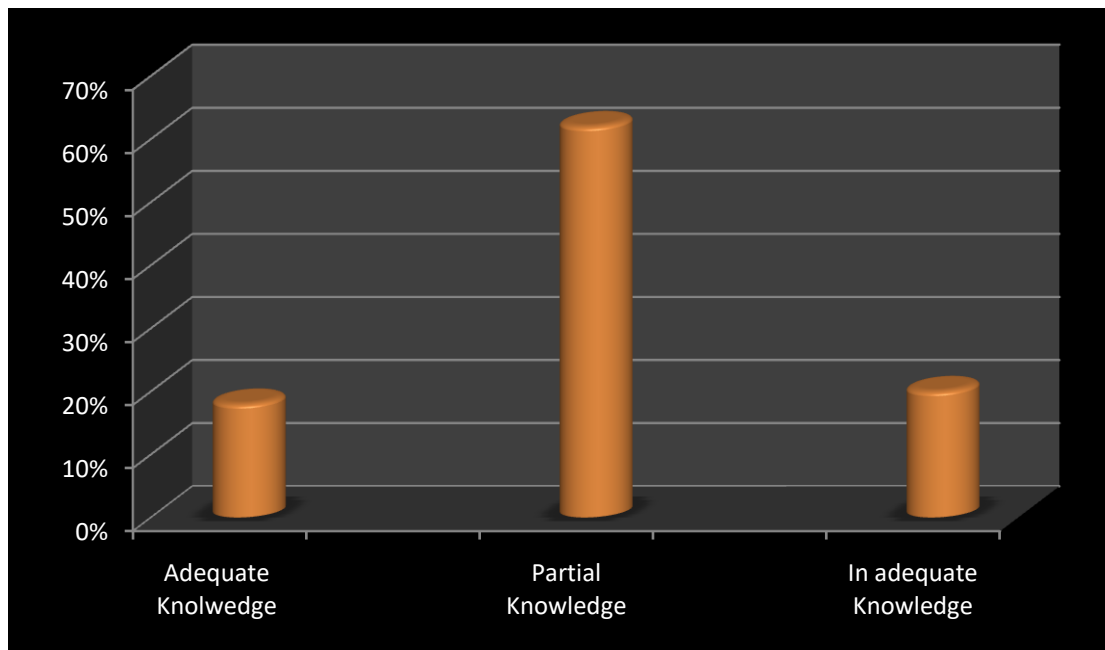


Table. No: 2: knowledge regarding the prevention of cervical cancer among women

Knowledge	Percentage (%)
Adequate Knowledge	18%
Partial Knowledge	62%
Inadequate Knowledge	20%

Figure. No: 2: knowledge regarding the prevention of cervical cancer among women's



DISCUSSION

The Present study revealed that the main source of information for women's regarding prevention of Cervical Cancer is from Health workers. Out of 100 women's 62% of women's have partial knowledge regarding the prevention of cervical cancer, 18% of women's with adequate knowledge respectively. Majority of women lack comprehensive knowledge of Prevention of cervical cancer and only few utilize screening services. Strategies for awareness creation about cervical cancer may help to improve knowledge and utilization of cancer screening practices and its prevention.

CONCLUSION

This study highlighted the importance of prevention of cervical cancer among women. In this study the researcher found that women have Partial knowledge towards prevention of cervical cancer. Complete availability of awareness in public health facilities may increase the knowledge level of women regarding the prevention of cervical Cancer. There is a need for more educational programs to induce awareness among the Community.

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