Awareness Regarding Cervical Cancer among Married Women
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Abstract

Background: Cervical Cancer is a cause of significant disease worldwide. Human papilloma virus (HPV) is the cause of Cancer cervix in 100% cases. Effective intervention to prevent HPV associated diseases can therefore prevent cervical Cancers and genital warts. Cervical Cancer can be achieved by increasing the knowledge of the general population, especially at the rural setup as a cervical Cancer is undiagnosed up to later stage and changing the attitude of women in related to cervical Cancer.

Objective: The present study aimed to assess the existing awareness regarding cervical cancer among married women.

Methods: This was a Descriptive survey method conducted among the married women residing at selected rural areas of Ahmadabad district. A sample size of 200 was calculated. Probability Multi stage sampling technique through systemic random sampling technique was used for selecting 200 samples by Dichotomous structured questionnaire.

Results: Total mean score was 11.40 and mean percentage was 38.01%. Major finding of the study was 115 (57.5%) samples had poor level of awareness, 73 (36.5%) samples had average level of awareness, while 12 (6%) samples had good level of awareness regarding cervical cancer.

Conclusion: The Study concluded that community staff nurse should make the awareness to the rural women regarding cervical cancer and encourage for do pap smear test and for the making of aware to the rural women regarding cervical cancer health education programme were effective.

Keywords: Awareness, Cervical cancer, Women

Introduction

Background

“Be aware fight cancer” World Health Report (1999) gives the main causes of mortality in India as non-communicable diseases (48 percent), communicable diseases (42 percent) and injuries (10 percent). This revealed the decrease in death rate and the better improvement of quantity and quality health services in India.

Cervical Cancer is a cause of significant disease worldwide. Human papilloma virus (HPV) is the cause of Cancer cervix in 100% cases. Effective intervention to prevent HPV associated diseases can therefore prevent cervical Cancers and genital warts. Primordial prevention of cervical Cancer can be achieved by increasing the knowledge of the general population, especially at the rural setup as a cervical Cancer is undiagnosed up to later stage and changing the attitude of women in related to cervical Cancer.

The number of cervical cancer cases diagnosed increasing
day by day. Cervical cancer went up from 10,1938 in 2009 to 10,7690 in 2012. It can affect women of all socio-economic status more so in the rural area. The twin center project (Gujarat and Karnataka) done. After an 18 months intervention, the coverage for clinical examination of cervix was more in Gujarat, If the examination was carried out in the field (28.3% vs 0.8%). A total of 147 dysplasia cases were detected out of total of 2,044 women screened in the area with clinical examination in the field, in Gujarat.

This shows that in spite of lots of effort put by health care sector still there is lack of knowledge and awareness regarding cervical cancer among women in our country.

Need of the Study

“You’ll come to learn a great deal if you study the Insignificant in depth” Cancer of the cervix is a leading cause of deaths among women worldwide. It is estimated that 493,000 new cases and 274,000 deaths occur every year due to this preventable disease. The women of poorer communities are mostly affected with this condition. It is evidenced that approximately 83% of the world’s new cases and 85% of all cervical cancer deaths reported are from developing countries.

Indian government has introduced a variety of a national health programs and screening camps in various states in order to fight against the rising numbers of incidence and mortality among women due to cervical cancer. In spite of all these measures the number of incidences is not coming down rather increasing hence the researcher felt that there is an eminent need to find out, the women, in selected community possess what level of understanding about this dreadful disease and how necessary it is to provide information regarding cancer of cervix and its prevention to women. Hence researcher provide health education programme for awareness regarding cervical cancer.

Statement of the Problem

“A Study to Assess the Awareness Regarding Cervical Cancer among Married Women of Selected Rural Area of Ahmadabad District with a view to Conduct Health Education Programme on Causes and Prevention of Cervical Cancer.”

Objectives of the Study

The objective of this study is:

- To assess the existing awareness regarding cervical cancer among married women in selected rural areas at Ahmadabad District.
- To find out the association between the awareness of married women regarding cervical cancer and the selected socio demographic variables.
- To provide health education that could be crucial to improve the level of awareness.

Assumptions

- There will be inadequate awareness among married women regarding causes and prevention of cervical cancer.
- Health education programme may be useful source to improve the awareness regarding causes and prevention of cervical cancer.

Delimitations of the Study

- Samples who are living in selected rural area of Ahmadabad district.
- Sample who are willing to participate in the study
- Sample who are present during the period of data collection.
- Women who are married.

Methods

A Quantitative non-experimental research approach was selected to collect the data from the married women to evaluate the cervical cancer. Descriptive survey design was selected to evaluate the cervical cancer among married women. The setting for the study is selected rural area of Ahmadabad district. Investigator has selected Ahmadabad district consisting 9 talukas, in 9 talukas 27 PHC are available which was chosen by lottery method. The sample consists of 200 married women of selected rural areas of Ahmadabad district. Probability Multi stage sampling technique for selection of area and systemic random sampling technique was used for selection of sample. Sample who met the criteria were selected.

Exclusion Criteria

- Sample who are not willing to participate in study.
- Sample who are not available at the time of data collection.
- Sample who are not married.

Inclusion Criteria

- Sample whose age between 21- 65 years.
- Sample who are willing to participate in study.
- Sample who are available during the period of data collection.
- Sample who are able to read and communicate in Gujarati.

Development of Tool

Based on the objectives of the study, investigator
developed data collection tool in order to obtain necessary information. Investigator developed a dichotomous structured questionnaire.

**Description of the Tool**

- **Section I**: Socio-demographic data of sample
- **Section II**: Structured dichotomous questionnaire to assess the awareness regarding cervical cancer among married women in selected rural area of Ahmedabad district.

Dichotomous Structured questionnaire contain the married women which require the response of Yes or No. Score 1 is given for ‘correct’ response and 0 is given for response ‘Incorrect’. For Awareness regarding cervical cancer the score divided into 0-10 (poor), 11-20 (Average) and 21-30 (Good).

**Plan for Data Analysis**

- Analysis and interpretation of the demographic variable of the samples such as Age, Educational status, Family income, Source of information, Occupation in terms of frequency and percentage.
- Analysis and interpretation of the data related to level of awareness score of the samples.
- Analysis and interpretation of the data related to association of level of awareness with selected demographic variable of the samples.

### Table 1. Area wise mean, mean percentage of level of awareness score regarding cervical cancer (N=200)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Area of content</th>
<th>Max score</th>
<th>Mean score</th>
<th>Mean percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>General information</td>
<td>09</td>
<td>3.195</td>
<td>35.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Risk factor</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>42.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Causes</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sign and symptoms</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>0.855</td>
<td>42.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Prevention</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5.45</td>
<td>36.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2. Frequencies and percentage distribution of level of awareness score regarding cervical cancer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Awareness</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Poor level of awareness</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>57.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Average level of awareness</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>36.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Good level of awareness</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 3. Distribution and chi-square association of level of awareness score of samples with the selected demographic variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Demographic variables</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Chi square (χ²)</th>
<th>df*</th>
<th>Association</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Age (in years)</td>
<td></td>
<td>6.79</td>
<td>12.59</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) 21-30 years</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) 31-40 years</td>
<td>53</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) 41-50 years</td>
<td>42</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) 51-60 years</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) 61-70 years</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Educational status</td>
<td></td>
<td>12.47</td>
<td>9.49</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Illiterate</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Primary education</td>
<td>55</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Secondary education</td>
<td>34</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Higher secondary education</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Graduate</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) Post-graduate</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Family income</td>
<td></td>
<td>44.58</td>
<td>12.59</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) &lt; 5000 Rs.</td>
<td>51</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) 5001-10,000 Rs</td>
<td>88</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) 10,000 - 15,000 Rs.</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) &gt; 15,000 Rs.</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusion
The study concludes that the total mean score was 11.4 and mean percentage was 38%, the findings indicates that there was less awareness regarding cervical cancer among married women in selected rural areas of Ahmedabad District. There was a significant association with level of awareness and selected demographic variables such as education, family income, and source of information.

Ethics

Nursing Implications

Nursing Practice

- The responsibility of the nurse is expanding to role of the community health nurse on prevention of certain risk factors is very vital. The role of the professional nurse emphasizes those activities which promotes the health and prevent certain risk factors or illness.
- The nurse is the main link between the health care system and the client. It is a professional responsibility of nurse to assess the health of women so that their health-related problems can be addressed at primary level.
- This study will be helpful to community nurses to understand regarding cervical cancer and its importance and the measures taken for prevention, promotion and curative care of married women.
- This will help nursing profession to make the people aware of cervical cancer. It will be helpful to reduce the morbidity and mortality rate of women.

Nursing Education

In order to equip nurses to provide care to the patient and family, the basic nursing education curriculum needs to cover the detailed information on different aspects of cervical cancer especially in promotion of health, risk assessment, prevention.

Nursing Administration

- The administrative departments of nursing at the institutional, local, state and national levels should focus their attention to educate the public regarding commonly faced challenge.
- Nurse administrator should take an initiative at community level to create policies or plans for arranging health education programmes for women regarding cervical cancer. These programmes should be planned and organized based on felt needs of the group.

Nursing Research

- Nursing researchers should be aware about new trends and existing health care system. More emphasis should be laid on research in the area of cervical cancer. The results of the study contribute to the body of knowledge of Nursing.
- More researches could be carried out in this area which provides more scientific knowledge to nursing profession. It will be helpful for the students during their hospital posting as well as during their community posting. Also, the student should be encouraged to do population based exploratory study during their academic period for strengthening the community health services.

Recommendations

- A study can be conducted by using other teaching strategies like self-instructional module, audio visual films by compact disc and teaching guideline on cervical cancer among married women.
- A study can be conducted by using planned teaching programme on cervical cancer among auxiliary nurse
midwife students.

- A comparative study may be conducted on awareness regarding cervical cancer between urban and rural areas of Ahmedabad among married women.
- A comparative study may be conducted by using two different strategies like Self Instruction Teaching Module and video film on cervical cancer among adolescent girls of selected colleges.
- A study may be conducted to find out effectiveness of self-instructional module on knowledge & attitude of married women towards cervical cancer.

**Conflict of Interest:** None

**References**

11. www.mediscape.co.in.