



A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE REGARDING CERVICAL CANCER AMONG MENOPAUSAL WOMEN (45-60 YEARS) ATTENDING TO THE OPD AT SELECTED HOSPITAL, TIRUPATI, CHITTOOR (DT), ANDHRA PRADESH

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Abstract

Cervical cancer remains a major public health concern among Indian women, particularly due to low awareness and inadequate screening uptake despite the availability of preventive measures. This study aimed to assess the knowledge regarding cervical cancer among menopausal women (45–60 years) attending the OPD at SVIMS Hospital, Tirupati, examine its association with selected demographic variables, and develop an informational module. A quantitative approach with a descriptive research design was adopted. A total of 100 menopausal women were selected using a structured questionnaire to assess their knowledge. The findings revealed that 83% of participants had moderate knowledge, 13% had inadequate knowledge, and only 3% demonstrated adequate knowledge regarding cervical cancer. The mean knowledge score was 18.12 ± 2.37 . Demographic analysis showed that most participants were married, from rural areas, with primary education, and belonged to low socioeconomic status. The study concluded that although the majority of menopausal women possessed moderate knowledge, significant gaps still exist. Educational interventions such as structured information modules are essential to improve awareness, promote early screening, and ultimately reduce the burden of cervical cancer among women.

Keywords: Cervical Cancer, Knowledge, Menopausal Women, OPD.

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Cervical cancer remains a significant public health problem worldwide and is one of the leading causes of cancer-related morbidity and mortality among women, particularly in developing countries like India. With the epidemiological transition from communicable to non-communicable diseases, cancer has emerged as a major health concern. Among female cancers,

cervical cancer ranks as one of the most common, contributing substantially to the disease burden.

Globally, cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women, with hundreds of thousands of new cases and deaths reported annually. A disproportionate number of these cases occur in low- and middle-income countries due to limited access to screening, vaccination, and treatment services. In India, cervical cancer continues to be a leading cause of cancer deaths among women, with a large number of cases being



diagnosed at advanced stages, thereby reducing survival outcomes.

Cervical cancer develops in the cells of the cervix, primarily due to persistent infection with high-risk types of human papillomavirus (HPV). Several risk factors such as early marriage, multiple sexual partners, high parity, poor genital hygiene, low socioeconomic status, and lack of awareness contribute to its increased incidence. Despite being preventable and curable when detected early, many women fail to utilize screening services such as Pap smear tests due to lack of knowledge, social stigma, and limited healthcare accessibility.

Menopausal women are particularly at higher risk, as the incidence of cervical cancer increases with age, peaking in women between 40 and 60 years. However, awareness and knowledge regarding cervical cancer, its risk factors, symptoms, and preventive measures remain inadequate among this group, especially in rural and low-resource settings.

Health education plays a vital role in improving knowledge, changing attitudes, and promoting early detection practices. Nurses and healthcare professionals have a crucial responsibility in educating women and encouraging regular screening. Therefore, assessing the level of knowledge regarding cervical cancer among menopausal women is essential to identify gaps and implement effective educational interventions. This forms the basis for the present study aimed at enhancing awareness and reducing the burden of cervical cancer.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: -

A study to Assess the knowledge regarding Cervical Cancer among Menopausal women 45-60 years) attending to the OPD at selected Hospital, Tirupati, Chittoor (Dt).Andhra Pradesh.

Objectives:

- To assess the level of knowledge regarding Cervical Cancer among Menopausal women (45-60yrs) attending OPD at SVIMS Hospital, Tirupati.
- To find out the association between the knowledge regarding Cervical Cancer among Menopausal women with selected demographic variables.
- To develop and distribute an information module regarding Cervical Cancer

Hypothesis

Hypothesis1(H01):

There is no significant difference in the level of knowledge Regarding Cervical Cancer among Menopausal women attending the OPD.

Hypothesis2(H02):

There is no significant association between the level of knowledge Regarding Cervical Cancer

and selected demographic variables among Menopausal women.

Assumptions:

- Menopausal women may not have knowledge on Cervical Cancer.
- An Information module improves the knowledge of Menopausal women. which will help them in future to protect from Cervical Cancer.

Delimitations: The study is delimited to

- Menopausal women attending Gynecology OPD, SVIMS, Tirupati
- A sample is limited to 100 Menopausal women those who are willing to participate

Projected outcome

The result of the study would help to improve the knowledge regarding Cervical Cancer.

Research Methodology

The present study was conducted to assess the knowledge regarding cervical cancer among menopausal women (45–60 years) attending the gynecology outpatient department at a selected hospital in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. A **quantitative descriptive research approach** was adopted, as it was found appropriate for assessing knowledge in real-life settings.

A **descriptive research design** was used for the study. The independent variable included menopausal women attending the OPD, while the dependent variable was the level of knowledge regarding cervical cancer. Selected demographic variables such as age, education, occupation, income, and reproductive history were considered as extraneous variables.

The study was carried out at the gynecology OPD of SVIMS Hospital, Tirupati. The population comprised menopausal women attending the OPD, and the sample included women aged 45–60 years. A total of **100 participants** were selected using a non-probability convenience sampling technique based on inclusion criteria .

Data were collected using a **structured questionnaire** consisting of two sections: demographic variables and 30 multiple-choice questions assessing knowledge on cervical cancer. Knowledge scores were categorized as inadequate (0–50%), moderate (51–75%), and adequate (>75%). Content validity was established through expert review, and reliability was confirmed using the split-half method ($r = 0.82$). A pilot study was conducted among 10 participants to assess feasibility. Data collection was carried out after obtaining ethical clearance and informed consent. Each participant completed the questionnaire within 15–20 minutes.



Data analysis was performed using **descriptive statistics** (frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation) and **inferential statistics** (chi-square test) to determine the association between knowledge levels and selected demographic variables.

Data Analysis and Interpretation:

The demographic analysis of 100 menopausal women revealed that the majority (46%) were aged 45–48 years, with most being married (88%) and belonging to the Hindu religion (78%). A significant proportion had only primary education (64%) and were housewives (75%), with 84% living below the poverty line. Most women attained menarche between 13–15 years (86%) and were married at 18–22 years (76%). Regarding reproductive history, the majority had a marriage duration of 1–5 years (85%), parity of two (76%), and two living children (77%). A large proportion (93%) reported no history of abortion, and among

those who had abortions, most had only one. Additionally, 95% had no family history of cancer, and among those affected, mothers (60%) were the most commonly reported relatives. The majority of participants resided in rural areas (70%), and mass media was the primary source of information (82%), followed by healthcare workers (11%) and friends (7%)

Table: 1 Shows that majority 84 (84%) of women had Moderate knowledge, 13 (13 %) had Inadequate knowledge and only 3 (3%) had adequate knowledge.

Table: 2 shows the Association Between Selected Demographic Variables With Knowledge Regarding Cervical Cancer Among Menopausal Women. The demographic variables like Age in years, Marital Status, Religion, Educational qualification, Duration of Marriage, Parity, no of living Children's and Area of Living of information were significantly associated with level of knowledge.

Data Analysis

Table 1: Frequency And Percentage Distribution of Level of Knowledge on Cervical Cancer Among Menopausal Women. (N=100)

S.NO	Level of Knowledge	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1	Inadequate knowledge	13	13%
2	Moderate knowledge	84	84%
3	Moderate knowledge	03	03%

Table 2: Mean and standard deviation of knowledge on cervical cancer among menopausal women.

GROUP	KNOWLEDGE	
	Mean	SD
Menopausal Women	18.12	2.37

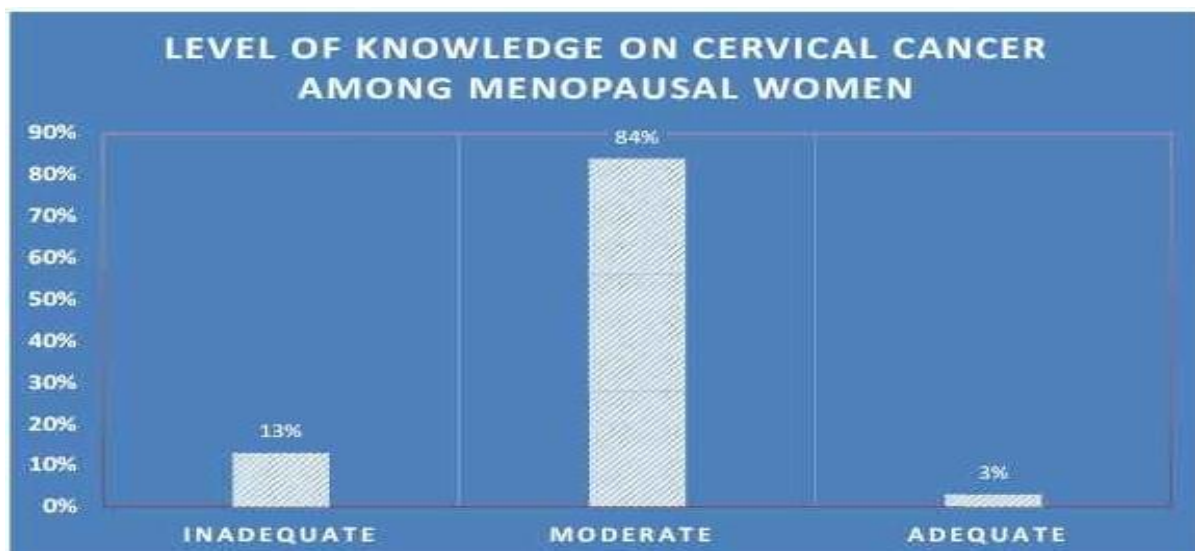


Figure 1: Percentage Distribution of Knowledge Scores on Cervical Cancer Among Menopausal Women.

DISCUSSION

The present study findings were discussed in relation to the stated objectives. With regard to the first objective—assessment of knowledge on cervical cancer among menopausal women—the

results revealed that the majority of participants (66%) had moderate knowledge, while 24% had inadequate knowledge and only 10% demonstrated adequate knowledge. This indicates that although basic awareness exists, comprehensive



understanding of cervical cancer remains insufficient. These findings are consistent with previous studies that report limited knowledge and awareness among women, particularly in low-resource and rural settings.

Regarding the second objective—association between knowledge and demographic variables—the study found that knowledge levels were influenced by factors such as education, occupation, income, and source of information. Women with higher educational status and better access to information sources such as media and healthcare workers demonstrated relatively better knowledge. This aligns with existing literature, which emphasizes the role of socio-demographic factors in shaping awareness and health-seeking behavior.

In relation to the third objective—development and distribution of an information module—the findings support the need for structured educational interventions. The predominance of moderate and inadequate knowledge highlights the importance of targeted health education programs to improve awareness, promote early screening, and reduce the burden of cervical cancer. Thus, the study underscores that improving knowledge through educational strategies can play a significant role in prevention and early detection of cervical cancer among menopausal women.

NURSING IMPLICATIONS:

Nursing Practice:

- In the community, small teaching sessions can be conducted regarding Cervical Cancer.
- Planned health teaching programs are to be scheduled in the community on fixed days for patients as well as their attendants regarding prevention of Cervical Cancer.

Nursing Education

Students and healthcare professionals should be trained to deliver effective education on risk factors, symptoms, screening, and prevention of

cervical cancer using appropriate teaching methods and audio-visual aids

Nursing Administration

Nursing leadership should support the development of health education units and organize regular awareness campaigns and in-service training programmes to enhance knowledge dissemination and preventive care practices.

Nursing Research

Further studies are needed to evaluate innovative and cost-effective teaching strategies and to strengthen evidence-based practice, particularly focusing on lifestyle modification and preventive interventions.

Recommendations

- A quasi-experimental study can be conducted on effectiveness of planned teaching programmed regarding prevention of Cervical Cancer and lifestyle modifications among general population.
- A comparative study can be conducted to assess knowledge regarding lifestyle changes and prevention of Cervical Cancer among selected degree college students.

CONCLUSION:

The study revealed that the majority of menopausal women (84%) had moderate knowledge regarding cervical cancer, while 13% had inadequate knowledge and only 3% demonstrated adequate knowledge. Significant associations were observed between knowledge levels and selected demographic variables, including age, educational qualification, age at marriage, and history of abortion. Overall, the findings indicate that most women possess only a moderate level of awareness. Therefore, the implementation of an information booklet or educational intervention is essential to enhance knowledge and promote early prevention of cervical cancer.

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