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A STUDY TO IDENTIFY THE PREDISPOSING FACTORS AND TO ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NURSE-LED EDUCATION ON KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE REGARDING CANCER CERVIX AMONG EARLY MARRIED WOMEN IN SELECTED RURAL AREA AT MADURAI

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ABSTRACT

Background: Globally cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer that occurs among women. In India, cancer cervix got the second rank of all cancers which causes the highest death rate among women. Incidence and Death due to cancer cervix among early married women is quite high compare to other group of women. Women from rural areas are not aware of the cancer cervix, its prevention and early diagnosis. Therefore it is important to educate early women and impart knowledge regarding cancer cervix and its prevention. **Aims and objectives:** 1. To identify the predisposing factors of cancer cervix among early married women. 2. To determine the effectiveness of Nurse-Led Education on cancer cervix among early married women. 3. To find out the correlation between the knowledge and attitude on cancer cervix among early married women. 4. To find the association between the post-test level of knowledge and attitude on cancer cervix with their selected demographic variables among early married women. **Materials and methods:** One group pre-test post-test design was adopted for the study to collect the data. A total of 60 samples in Kaitheri Nagar at Madurai were selected as samples through the non-probability purposive sampling technique. A check list was used to identify the predisposing factors and structured interview questionnaire, modified attitude scale regarding cancer cervix was used as the tool. Nurse-Led Education was instructed to the early married women and after seven days, the post-test was done by using the same structured interview questionnaire and modified attitude scale. The obtained data were analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistics. **Results:** Frequency and percentage distribution of predisposing factors of cancer cervix shows that 28(46.6%) women are at low risk, 21(35%) are at moderate risk and 11(18.3%) women are at high risk of cancer cervix. There was a positive correlation found between post-test level of knowledge and attitude (Karl Pearson correlation coefficient $r = 0.674$) which is significant at $p < 0.001$ level. The findings conclude that there is a significant association between income and level of attitude of rural early married women. Since the $\chi^2 = 28.59$ which is highly significant at $p < 0.001$ level. And thus it was showed that Nurse-Led education has improved the knowledge and attitude of early married women regarding cancer cervix.

KEYWORDS

Nurse-Led education, Cancer cervix, Early married women, Knowledge and Attitude.

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INTRODUCTION

Globally cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer that occurs among women. In India, cancer cervix got the second rank of all cancers which causes the highest death rate among women. Even though cancer cervix is conceded as a preventable

disease, quite exists as a major health burden for women in many developing countries. India reports nearly one-fourth of the world's cervical cancer deaths and about one woman dies of cancer cervix every 8 minutes in India. It is noted that most of the cases are diagnosed at the last stage because of lack of awareness about cervical cancer. Improving the knowledge and attitude about cancer cervix has a pivotal role in reducing risks and bad prognosis. Women should be equipped with sufficient knowledge regarding the early detection and prevention of cancer cervix.

Statement of the problem

A study to identify the predisposing factors and to assess the effectiveness of Nurse-Led Education on knowledge and attitude regarding cancer cervix among early married women in selected rural area at Madurai.

Objectives

1. To identify the predisposing factors of cancer cervix among early married women.
2. To determine the effectiveness of Nurse-Led Education on cancer cervix among early married women.
3. To find out the correlation between the knowledge and attitude on cancer cervix among early married women.
4. To find the association between the post-test level of knowledge and attitude on cancer cervix with their selected demographic variables among early married women.

Hypotheses

H1: The mean post-test level of knowledge and attitude on cancer cervix is significantly higher than the mean pre-test level of knowledge and attitude among early married women.

H2: There will be a significant correlation between the knowledge and attitude on cancer cervix among early married women.

H3: There will be a significant association between the post-test level of knowledge and attitude on cancer cervix with their selected demographic variables.

METHODOLOGY

Research approach

In this study, a quantitative approach was used to identify the predisposing factors and to assess the effectiveness of Nurse-Led Education on knowledge and attitude regarding cancer cervix among early married women.

Research design

The research design chosen for this study was one group pre-test post-test design.

Setting of the study

The setting of this present study involves kaitheri at Madurai.

Sample

The study samples were early married women who fulfill the inclusion and exclusion criteria were selected.

Sample size

In this study, the sample size was arbitrary decided to be 60 samples. The same sets of samples were taken for both the pre-test and post-test.

CRITERIA FOR SAMPLE SELECTION

Inclusion criteria

The women who are

Married at the age of 18 and below.

Able to understand and speak either English or Tamil.

Those who are residing in rural area

Exclusion criteria

The women who are not

Present at the time of data collection.

Less than 30 years of age.

Willing to participate in the study.

Sampling technique

In this study, the samples were selected by using the non-probability purposive sampling technique.

Description of instrument

Part I

Consists of questions about demographic variables such as Educational status, Occupation, Income, Religion, Family history of cancer, Source of information.

Part II

Consists of checklist to identify the predisposing factors on cancer cervix

Part III

Consists of a Structured interview knowledge questionnaire related to cancer cervix which consists of 22 multiple choice questions in the following areas such as general question-4, definition-1, causes-1, signs and symptoms-1, Diagnosis-3, preventive measures-4, treatment1, complications-1, government schemes-6.

Part IV

Consists of modified attitude scale regarding cancer cervix consists of 10 statements which include 5 positive and 5 negative statement with 3 points scale

Data analysis

The data collected from the subjects were edited, compiled, and analyzed manually. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used for data analysis. Demographic variables were analyzed using frequency distribution, mean and standard deviation. Paired 't' test was used to compare the pre and post – test level of knowledge and attitude on cancer cervix among early married women. A Chi square test was used to find out the association of pre-test level of knowledge and attitude on cancer cervix among early married women.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Section 1

Description of Demographic variables of early married women

The frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables of early married women with respect to educational status, occupation, income, religion, family history of cancer, source of information. With regards to the educational status of the early married women, the majority of them had primary education 28(46.67%). With respect to the occupation, the majority of the early married women are house wives 49(81.67%). With respect to the income, the majority of them had come under the below poverty line category 59(98.3%). With respect to religion, the majority of the samples were Hindu 46(76.67%). Regarding the family history of cancer most of them had no family history of cancer 53(88.3%). With respect to the source of information, most of them were not heard about cancer cervix 59(98.33%).

Section II and III

Determining the effectiveness of Nurse-Led Education on cancer cervix among early married women

The above table discloses that the overall pre-test and post-test mean score of knowledge among early married women. The pre-test mean score of knowledge was (3.82 ± 6.36) . Where the mean post-test score was (56.53 ± 3.58) and the mean difference was 52.7 and the calculated 't' value was 53.90, which is highly significant at $p < 0.001$ level. The results communicate that, the mean post-test level of knowledge is higher than the mean pre-test level of knowledge. Hence the researcher accepts the research hypothesis (H1).

The above table shows that, mean pre-test score was (8.33 ± 2.86) and the mean post-test score was (19.31 ± 1.27) and the mean difference is 10.8. The calculated 't' value was 27.4 which is highly significant at $p < 0.001$ level. The finding reveals that, the mean post-test level of attitude is higher than the mean pre-test level of attitude. Hence the researcher accepts the research hypothesis (H1).

It is inferred that the expose of early married women to Nurse-Led Education had a significant increase in the post-test level of knowledge and attitude. These results suggest that the Nurse-Led Education is highly effective in educating the patients and public.

Section IV

The correlation between the knowledge and attitude on cancer cervix among early married women

The above table shows the post-test level of knowledge and attitude were moderately correlated (Karl Pearson correlation coefficient ($r = 0.674$)) which is significant at $P < 0.001$ level. It shows the positive correlation between the two variables which means after the intervention, knowledge and attitude was increased simultaneously. It might be due to the intervention of the study. Hence the researcher accepts the research hypothesis (H2). It is inferred that there is a significant relationship between post-test knowledge and attitude on cancer cervix among early married women.

Section V

Association between the post-test level of knowledge and attitude on cancer cervix with their selected demographic variables among early married women.

The findings of the study conclude that there was no significant association between knowledge and their selected demographic variables. It shows that the knowledge was not constraints with any of the demographic variables.

And there was a significant association between income and level of attitude of early married women.

Since the $\chi^2= 28.59$ which is highly significant at $p < 0.001$ level.

Table No.1: Identifying the predisposing factors of cancer cervix among early married women

S.No	Knowledge	Pre -test		Post-test		Paired 't' value	p-value
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
1	Overall	3.82	6.39	56.53	3.58	53.90	P<0.001***

*p<0.05 significant, ** p<0.01, ***p<0.001 highly significant

Table No.2: Determining the effectiveness of Nurse-Led Education on cancer cervix among early married women

S.No	Attitude	Pre- test		Post-test		Paired 't' value	p-value
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
1	overall	8.33	2.86	19.31	1.27	27.4	P<0.001***

*p<0.05 significant, ** p<0.01, ***p<0.001 highly Significant

Table No.3: The correlation between the knowledge and attitude on cancer cervix among early married women

S.No		Mean	SD	'r' value	p-value
1	Knowledge	56.53	3.58	0.64	P<0.001***(HS)
2	Attitude	19.31	1.27		

*p<0.05 significant, ** p<0.01, ***p<0.001 highly significant

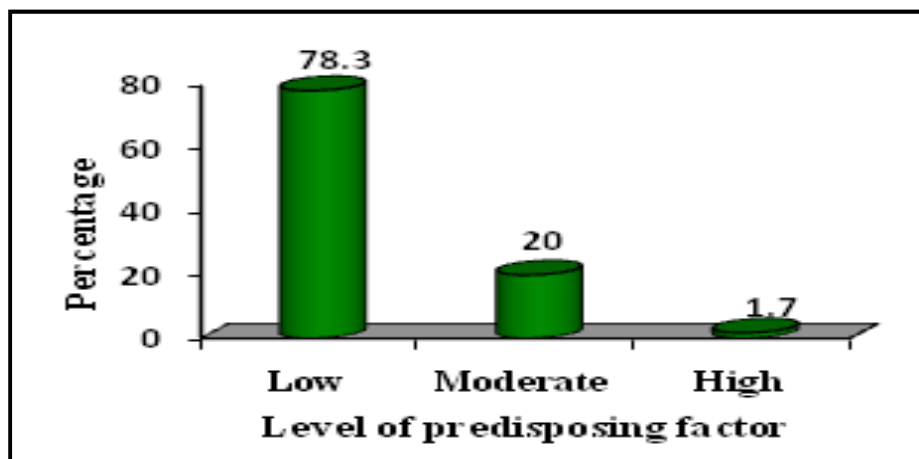


Figure No.1: Identifying the predisposing factors of cancer cervix among early married women

IMPLICATIONS

The researcher has derived the following implications from the study which plays a vital role in the field of nursing service, nursing administration, nursing education, and nursing research.

NURSING PRACTICE

1. As members of the health team, nurses should play a crucial role in preventing health hazards and maintain the health of the society. Nurse should create awareness of cancer cervix among early married women.
2. The study findings can be disseminated to the practicing nurses, which will motivate them to administer these interventions among early married women.
3. Nurse-Led Education can be used as an effective tool not only in educating early married women but also for all the age groups and both the gender about various disease conditions.

NURSING EDUCATION

1. Nursing curriculum should emphasize the importance of preparing teaching modules for managing the various disease conditions.
2. Nursing educator should encourage the nursing students to practice Nurse-Led Education while educating client's in the hospital and in the community area.
3. The findings of the study will help the professional nurses and nursing students to improve their knowledge and assessment techniques.

NURSING ADMINISTRATION

1. The present study helps the nursing authority to recognize the need for conducting an awareness programme among early married women about cancer cervix.
2. Nurse administrator can collaborate with governing bodies and nongovernmental organizations to create policies mobilize resources and create awareness on cervical cancer.

NURSING RESEARCH

Nursing administrators can collaborate with the nursing researchers to conduct further research in utilization of Nurse-Led Education.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of the study, the recommendations offered for future research include the following,

1. A prevalence study can be conducted on a larger scale.
2. A similar study can be replicated on a large sample to generalize the findings.
3. A comparative study can be carried out among married women in rural and urban areas.
4. A similar study can be conducted with an experimental research design having a control group and an experimental group.
5. A similar study can be conducted among school students to give awareness about the hazards of early marriage.
6. Further research can be conducted on the effectiveness of various teaching methods.

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that there is a need to improve the level of knowledge and attitude of cancer cervix among early married women. Therefore to educate, incorporate and to provide realistic learning regarding cancer cervix among early married women. This will promote their knowledge about identification of early signs and symptoms of cancer cervix and to avoid early marriage for their generations. Nurse-Led Education, and other strategies should be used regularly to improve knowledge and attitude of cancer cervix among early married women.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

We declare that we have no conflict of interest.

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