KNOWLEDGE REGARDING CERVICAL CANCER AND ITS PREVENTION AMONG G.N.M STUDENTS IN A SELECTED NURSING INSTITUTE OF PUNJAB: A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Cervical cancer is a major public health problem and one of the most common cancers affecting women worldwide, particularly in developing countries like India. It arises from the cells of the cervix, which is the lower part of the uterus that connects to the vagina. Cervical cancer develops slowly over time, often beginning with precancerous changes known as cervical intraepithelial neoplasia, which, if not detected and treated early, can progress into invasive cancer.

The primary cause of cervical cancer is persistent infection with the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), a common sexually transmitted infection. Certain high-risk strains of HPV, especially types 16 and 18, are responsible for the majority of cervical cancer cases. Other contributing risk factors include early marriage, multiple sexual partners, poor genital hygiene, smoking, long-term use of oral contraceptives, and weakened immune system.

Aim: To assess the knowledge regarding cervical cancer and its prevention among G.N.M students and to determine its association with selected socio-demographic variables.

Material and Methodology: A Descriptive design was adopted for collection and analysis of data in Selected College of Desh Bhagat University, Amloh road, Gobindgarh, Punjab by use of Convenience Sampling technique.

Results: The result reveals that only 1.6 % has poor knowledge, 40% had average knowledge and 58.8% students had good knowledge regarding cervix cancer and its preventions. The frequency and percentage distribution of socio demographic variable of G.N.M. students were in age group 20-25 years (46) and in relation to maximum were females in accordance with residential area maximum were urban, as per source of information maximum students gained knowledge from books and newspaper.

Keywords: Cervical cancer, knowledge, prevention, G.N.M students, HPV, nursing education

INTRODUCTION

The Cervix is the lower portion of the uterus that connect the uterus to the vagina. Cervix Cancer is the type of cancer that occur in the cell of cervix. typically, no symptom is seen later symptoms start appear. Cervix cancer is almost always caused by human papillomavirus (HPV) infection. Cervix cancer occurs when abnormal cells on the cervix grow out of control. Cervix cancer can be successfully treated when it's found early. It is usually found at an early stage through a pap test. The Cervix is the lower portion of the uterus that connect the uterus to the vagina. Cervix Cancer is the type of cancer that occur in the cell of cervix. typically, no symptom is seen later symptoms start appear. Cervix cancer is almost always caused by human papillomavirus (HPV) infection. Cervix cancer occurs when abnormal cells on the cervix grow out of control. Cervix cancer can be successfully treated when it's found early. It is usually found at an early stage through a pap test. In 2010, The World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that yearly about 500,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and over 273, 000 women will die from the disease **(WHO 2010; Ferlay et al. 2008; Parkin 2006).** When compared to industrialized countries, developing world countries carry a disparate portion of disease burden; eighty-six per cent of all cervical cancer cases and 2 88% of all cervical cancer deaths worldwide **(Jemal et al. 2011; Ferlay et al. 2008).** In India the current estimate indicates approximately 132,000 new cases diagnosis. 74,000 annual deaths occur due to cervix cancer. The current estimates indicate approximately 132,000 new cases diagnosis and 74,000 deaths annually in India, accounting to nearly 1/3rd of the global cervix cancer. India women face 2.5% cumulative lifetime risk and 1.4% cumulative death risk from cervix cancer.

Objective

The objectives of the study is to: -

1. To assess the knowledge of G.N.M students regarding cervical cancer and its prevention.
2. To find the association between knowledge of G.N.M students regarding cervical cancer and its prevention with the selected socio-demographic variables.

Operational Definitions

• **Cervical Cancer:** Cervical cancer is a type of cancer that develops in the cells of the cervix, which is the lower, narrow part of the uterus that connects to the vagina. It usually occurs due to the abnormal and uncontrolled growth of cervical cells, most commonly caused by persistent infection with high-risk types of Human Papillomavirus (HPV).

- **Knowledge:** Information and awareness regarding Cervical cancer and its prevention
- **Prevention:** Measures taken to avoid nutritional deficiencies or excess
- **HPV:** Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a group of more than 200 related viruses, some of which are transmitted through sexual contact.
- **Nursing education:** Nursing education is the formal process of training and educating individuals in the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes required to provide effective nursing care.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research design

A Descriptive design was adopted for collection and analysis of data

Research setting

Selected College of Desh Bhagat University, Amloh road, Gobindgarh, Punjab

Target population

G.N.M 2nd yr and G.N.M 3RD students

Sampling techniques

Convenience Sampling

Sample size

Total sample size {N=60}

Tool for data collection

Part-a: -Socio-Demographic characteristics

Part-b: -Self structured knowledge Questionnaire

Analysis and interpretation of data

Descriptive and inferential statistics

SECTION-A

N=60

S. No.	Socio-demographic variables	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1.	Age (in years)		
a.) b.) c.) d.)	15-20 20-25 25-30 Above 30	4 46 10 0	6.6% 76% 16.6% 0%
2.	Gender		
a.) b.)	Male Female	20 40	33.3% 66.6%
3.	Education		
a.) b.) c.) d.)	G.N.M interns G.N.M 1st yr G.N.M 2nd yr G.N.M 3rd yr	0 4 39 17	0% 6.6% 65% 28.3%
4.	Residence		
a.) b.) c.)	Rural Urban Semi-urban	22 24 14	36.6% 40% 23.3%
5.	Source of information		
a.) b. c.)	Newspaper/ books Health personnels Mass Media	39 5 16	65% 8.3% 26.6%

Table 1: Frequency and Percentage distribution of socio demographic characterstics of G.N.M Students regarding Knowledge and prevention of cervix cancer.

Table 1: depicts the frequency and percentage distribution of socio-demographic variables of G.N.M students: In relation to age maximum students (76%) were in age group 20-25 yrs followed by age group from 25-30yrs (16.6%). In relation to gender maximum were female (66.6%) followed by males (33.3%). in accordance to education maximum were students of G.N.M 2nd (65%) and 3rd yr (28.3%). In accordance with residence rural are (36.6%), urban are (40%) and sub-urban are (23.3%). As per source of information student gained knowledge from newspaper /books (65%), health personnels (8.3%) and (26.6%) from mass media.

Hence, it was concluded that most of students were of age group 20-25 years, maximum were Females, maximum was in G.N.M 2rd yr, maximum was residence in urban. As per source of information maximum gain knowledge from books and newspaper.

SECTION-B

N=60

Level of knowledge	Mean	Median	Standard Deviation
Good	0.58	35.5	1.92
Average	0.4	24.5	1.88
Poor	0.01	1.5	1.36
Overall knowledge	0.99	61.5	5.16

Table 2: Knowledge wise Mean Median and Standard deviation of Cervix Cancer and its prevention among G.N.M students

Table-2 and Figure-1: depicted the mean, median, and standard deviation of cervix cancer and its preventions among G.N.M students.

It shows that mean score of cervix cancer and its preventions for good knowledge of G.N.M students was 0.58 followed by median 35.5 and standard deviation was 1.92.the mean score for average knowledge of students was 0.4 followed by median 24.4 and standard deviation was 1.88. the mean score for poor knowledge of G.N.M students as 0.99 followed by median 1.5, and standard deviation was 1.36.

Therefore, mean score for overall was concluded to be 0.99, followed by median 61.5 and standard deviation was 5.16.

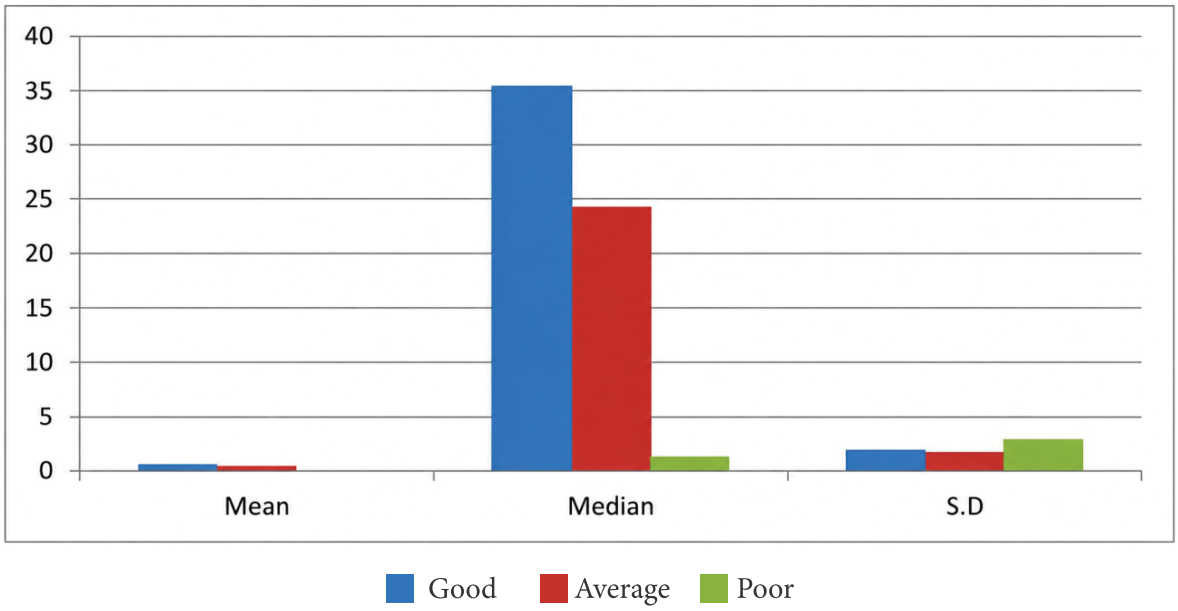

Figure1: A Bar Graph represents knowledge wise Mean, Median and Standard Deviation of cervix cancer and its preventions among G.N.M students

N=60

Level of Knowledge	Frequency	Percentage
Good (14-20)	35	58.3%
Average (7-14)	24	40%
Poor (0-7)	1	1.6%

Table 3: Knowledge and prevention wise Frequency and percentage distribution of the cervix cancer among G.N.M students

Maximum score=20

Minimum score=0

TABLE-3: It shows that student whose scoring was less than 7 has poor knowledge. who has score between 7 to 14 has average students, students who has more than 14 has good level of knowledge regarding cervix cancer. Hence, here are (58.3%) students who had good level of knowledge regarding cervix cancer and its prevention followed by (40%) had average level of, (1.6 %) had poor knowledge regarding cervix cancer and its preventions. Hence it was concluded G.N.M students has good level of knowledge regarding cervix cancer and its preventions.

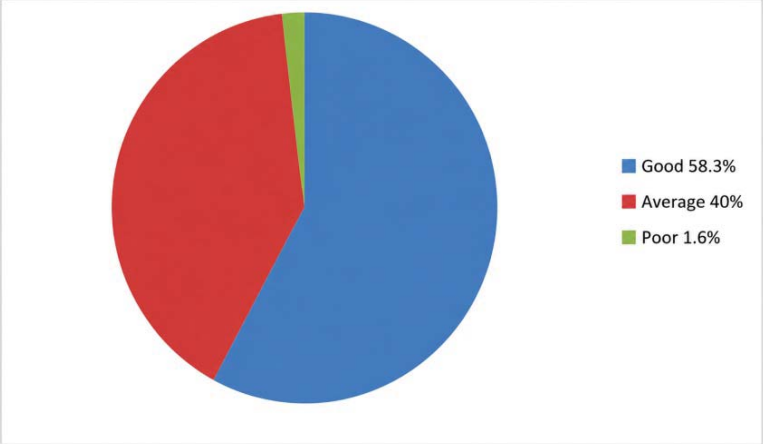

Figure.2: Pie chart depicting percentage distribution for knowledge of G.N.M. Students regarding cervix cancer and its preventions

SECTION-A

N=60

S. No.	Demographic variables	Level of knowledge Good	Average	Poor	Chi test	P value	Df	result
1.	Age (in years)							
a.)	20-25	1	3	0	0.05	90.03	70	S*
b.)	25-30	31	14	1				
c.)	30-35	3	7	0				
d.)	Above 35	0	0	0				
2.	Gender							
a.)	Male	10	9	1	0.05	90.03	70	S*
b.)	Female	25	15	0				

S. No.	Demographic variables	Level of knowledge Good	Average	Poor	Chi test	P value	Df	result
3.	Education							
a.)	G.N.M interns	0	0	0	0.05	90.43	70	S*
b.)	G.N.M 1st yr	1	3	0				
c.)	G.N.M 2nd yr	28	10	1				
d.)	G.N.M 3rd yr	7	10	0				
4.	Residence							
a.)	Rural	15	6	1	0.05	90.03	70	S*
b.)	Urban	12	12	0				
c.)	Semi-urban	8	6	0				
5.	Source of information							
a.)	Newspaper/ books	23	15	1	0.05	90.03	70	S*
b.)	Health personnels	4	1	0				
c.)	Mass Media	12	4	0				

Level of Significance >0.05

Table 4: Chi square (x2) values showing association of knowledge regarding cervix cancer and its prevention with selected socio-demographic variables of G.N.M students

Table-3: depicts the chi square value estimation for association of knowledge regarding cervix cancer and its preventions with selected socio demographic variables of G.N.M students.

Chi square values have shown that there was significant association of knowledge regarding cervix cancer and its preventions with selected socio demographic variables (age, gender, education, residence area and source of information).

RESULTS

The study result shows that only 1.6 % has poor knowledge, 40% had average knowledge and 58.8% students had good knowledge regarding cervix cancer and its preventions. The frequency and percentage distribution of socio demographic variable of G.N.M. students were in age group 20-25 years (46) and in relation to maximum were females in accordance with residential area maximum were urban, as per source of information maximum students gained knowledge from books and newspaper.

CONCLUSION

The present study assessed the knowledge regarding cervical cancer and its prevention among G.N.M students in a selected nursing institute of Punjab. The findings revealed that the majority of students possessed **good knowledge (58.3%), while 40% had average knowledge** and only **1.6% demonstrated poor knowledge** regarding cervical cancer and its preventive measures. This indicates that nursing students have a satisfactory level of awareness about cervical cancer; however, there are still gaps in knowledge that need to be addressed.

The study also found a **significant association between knowledge scores and selected socio-demographic variables,** suggesting that factors such as age, education, residence, gender, and source of information influence students' level of knowledge.

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Ethical clearance: Taken

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