# A Descriptive Study to Assess the Knowledge Regarding Prevention of Cervical Cancer among Women's in Selected Rural Areas, Bhopal (M.P)

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**ABSTRACT**

Cervical cancer is a cancer arising from the cervical canal. It is due to the abnormal growth of cells that have the ability to invade or spread to other parts of the body. Early on typically no symptoms are seen. Later symptoms may include abnormal vaginal bleeding, pelvic pain or pain during sexual intercourse.

**Materials and Methods:** Quantitative research approach with descriptive research design was adopted for this study. The sample of this study comprise of 50 women were selected by purposive sampling technique. The settings of the study was from funda village at Bhopal. **Results**: Data collected by structured questionnaire and analysed by descriptive and Inferential statistics. The findings of the study revealed that 3 (6%) had very poor knowledge, 15 (30%) had poor knowledge, 15 (30%) had average knowledge, 13 (26%) had good knowledge, 4 (8%) had excellent knowledge scores regarding prevention of cervical cancer. The study revealed that there is significant association with age, educational status, religion and source of information whereas occupation and monthly income do not have significant association with their variables.

*KEYWORDS: cervix, cancer, women*

## INTRODUCTION

Cervical cancer is a type of cancer that occurs in the cells of the cervix the lower part of the uterus that connects to the vagina. Various strains of the human papillomavirus (HPV), a sexually transmitted infection, play a role in causing most cervical cancer. When exposed to HPV, the body's immune system typically prevents the virus from doing harm. In a small percentage of people, however, the virus survives for years, contributing to the process that causes some cervical cells to become cancer cells.

Cervical cancer begins when healthy cells in the cervix develop changes (mutations) in their DNA. Healthy cells grow and multiply at a set rate, eventually dying at a set time. The mutations tell the cells to grow and multiply out of control, and they don't die. The accumulating abnormal cells form a mass (tumor). Cancer cells invade nearby tissues and can break off from a tumor to spread (metastasize) elsewhere in the body.[1]

**Need for the study:** Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women globally, with an estimated 604 000 new cases and 342 000 deaths in 2020. About 90% of the new cases and deaths worldwide in 2020 occurred in low- and middle-income countries. Two human papillomavirus (HPV) types (16 and 18) are responsible for nearly 50% of high-grade cervical pre-cancers. HPV is mainly transmitted through sexual contact and most people are infected with HPV shortly after the onset of sexual activity. More than 90% of them clear the infection eventually. Women living with HIV are 6 times more likely to develop cervical cancer compared to women without HIV [2.]

**Problem Statement:** A descriptive study to assess the knowledge regarding prevention of cervical cancer among Women's in selected rural areas, Bhopal (M.P)

**Objectives of the study:**
1. To assess the knowledge regarding prevention of cervical cancer among women in selected rural areas.
2. To find out the association between knowledge score of women with their selected demographic variables.

**Research methodology: The** researcher has selected descriptive research design for this study. The sample of this study comprise of 50 women were selected by non-probability purposive sampling technique. The settings of the study was from funda village at Bhopal.

**In the present study tool consists of 2 parts:**
**Part I**: Demographic Variables

**Part II:** Structured knowledge questionnaire regarding prevention of cervical cancer.

**Data collection procedure:** The investigator had collected data from women's after obtaining formal permission from concerned area authority. The participants were taken informed about the purpose of the study and consent letter was obtained. On an average participants took 30 minutes of time to complete data. The study was conducted in 2023. Subsequent with coding data, study was analysed and interpreted according to the objectives of the study. The confidentiality was maintained throughout the data collection.

**Results:**
**Demographic variables characteristics:**
In this study regarding age the majority of women's are belong to 31- 40 years. In educational status majority were 15 (30%) illiterate. Occupational status reveals that majority 19 (38 %) were house wife. Monthly income results that majority were 19 (38%) receiving 5000- 10000 monthly income. Source of information reveals that 36 (72 %) received information through health workers.

**Score interpretation**

| Knowledge score | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Excellent | 4 | 8 |
| Good | 13 | 26 |
| Average | 15 | 30 |
| Poor | 15 | 30 |
| Very poor | 3 | 6 |

**Table 1: Overall Comparison of Knowledge score on prevention of cervical cancer.**

n=50

| Knowledge score on prevention of cervical cancer | Mean | SD |
|---|---|---|
| | 0.53 | 16.22 |

**Table 2: Association of knowledge score with selected demographic variables**

n=50

| s. n | Demographic variables | Significance |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Age | Significant |
| 2. | Educational status | Non-significant |
| 3. | Occupational status | Significant |
| 4. | Monthly income | Non-significant |
| 5. | Religion | Significant |
| 6. | Source of Information | Significant |

At p < 0.05 level

**Discussion:**
1. **To assess the knowledge regarding prevention of cervical cancer among women in selected rural areas.**
The present study reveals that mean score on knowledge regarding prevention of cervical cancer was 0.53 and SD value was 16.22.

2. **To find out the association between knowledge score of women with their selected demographic variables.**
The study revealed that there is significant association with age, educational status, religion and source of information whereas occupation and monthly income do not have significant association with their variables.

**Conclusion:** Cancer is uncontrolled growth and spread of cells. It can affect almost any part of the body. The growth often invades surrounding tissues and can metastasis to other sites also. Many cancers can be prevented if detected early, 40 % of all cancer deaths can be prevented.

**References:**
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