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## Knowledge regarding cervical cancer among women above 35 years in Chinna Seeragapadi, Salem

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### Abstract

A non-experimental descriptive design with cross sectional survey approach was undertaken to assess the knowledge regarding cervical cancer among women above 35 years in Chinna Seeragapadi village, Salem. 50 women were selected by using convenient sampling technique and data were collected through semi structured questionnaire. Findings revealed that, an average of (44%) women have good knowledge regarding signs and symptoms of cervical cancer and an average of (40%) them had good knowledge on prevention of cervical cancer. Overall analysis shows that highest percentage (50%) of women have average knowledge about management of cervical cancer.

**Keywords:** Assess, knowledge, cervical cancer

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Need for the study

A woman is the first and most person in the family. She does not concentrate and ignoring health of her condition and when any problem arises also she will not express out freely. Hidden in themselves and when she could not be able to tolerate, the problem will be expressed out and she will feel for the absence in the family and unable to take responsibilities on family matters (Women's Health Information, 2010) [6]. In India the incidence rate of cervical cancer in various places per 100,000 is given. Chennai: 236, Delhi: 158, Bangalore: 138, Mumbai: 125(ICMR 2012), four districts in the north eastern region of Tamil Nadu state and Pondicherry have even higher incidence rates than that recorded at Chennai. Average annual number of cancer cervix cases in Tamil Nadu from 2012 is 7136. Nearly 80% of the women in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu are living with surrogate risk factors of cervical cancer such as awareness level, poor socio-economic status, hygiene practice, age at marriage etc... In Salem, the incidence rate of cervical cancer is 19.3 per 100000 populations. The number of deaths due to cervical cancer is estimated to 40% in the year 2010 [10]. The cervical cancer mostly affects middle aged women between 35 to 55 years especially those from the lower economic status who failed to carry out regular health checkups due to financial inadequacy. In urban areas, cancer of the cervix accounts for over 40% of cancers while in rural areas it accounts from 65% of cancers as per the information from the cancer registry (South India Agency for Research on Cancer 2012). Hence, the investigator felt the need to assess the knowledge level of women about cervical cancer as it has high incidence rate.

### 2. Research methodology

**2.1 Research design and approach:** A descriptive design with cross sectional survey approach.

**2.2 Setting of the study:** Chinna Seeragapadi which is near to Vinayaka Missions Annapoorana College of Nursing, Salem. Women in the age group of above 35 years were taken for the study.

**2.3 Population:** the women above 35 years in the selected area, Salem.

**2.4 Sample size:** 50 women in the age group of above 35 years.

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**2.5 Sampling technique:** Convenient sampling technique was used to select subject for the study.

**2.6 Description of the tool:** Demographic data of women in the age of above 35 years such as age, religion, education, occupation, income and residential area and knowledge items related to cervical cancer.

### 3. Findings

The findings of the study shows that, highest percentage (44%) of the women were in the age group of 35-45 years almost (96%) of them belongs to Hindu religion. 53% of the women were educated up to primary school and 44% of them were laborers. Majority of the women belong to nuclear family and 78% have monthly income of about as Rs.5001-7001. Highest percentage (52%) of the women were Primi mothers and 46% got information about cervical cancer from family members. Majority (66%) has regular menstrual cycle. Almost all had 4-7 days of menstruation. Highest percentage (66%) of the women has mild menstrual flow. Area wise analysis shows that highest percentage (50%) of women have average knowledge about management of cervical cancer.

### 4. Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study it can be concluded that, 44% of women were in the age group of 35-45 years, 96% of women belongs to Hindu religion, majority (52%) of women were educated upto primary school, highest percentage (44%) of women were labourers. Highest percentage (78%) of women had a monthly income of Rs.5000-7000. Majority (84%) of women belongs to nuclear family. Majority (62%) of women were Primi mothers, highest percentage (46%) of women got information regarding cervical cancer from family members. Most (90%) of the women doesn't have a family history of cervical cancer. An average of (44%) woman has good knowledge regarding signs and symptoms of cervical cancer and an average of (40%) them had good knowledge on prevention of cervical cancer. Overall area wise analysis shows that highest percentage (50%) of women had average knowledge about management of cervical cancer.

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