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Venila Thoudam
M.Sc. Nursing Student,
Bharati Vidyapeeth (Deemed
to be University), College Of
Nursing, Dhankawadi, Pune,
Maharashtra, India

Dr. Veena Sakhardande
Assistant Professor
Bharati Vidyapeeth, Deemed
to be University, College Of
Nursing, Dhankawadi, Pune,
Maharashtra, India

An exploratory study to assess the knowledge regarding warning signs of cancer among adults residing in selected urban slums of Pune city

Venila Thoudam and Dr. Veena Sakhardande

Abstract

Cancer is a condition where cells in a specific part of the body grow and reproduce uncontrollably. These cancerous cells can invade and destroy surrounding healthy tissue, including the organs. It is a common condition and a serious health problem.

Objectives: To assess the knowledge of adults regarding warning signs of cancer. To associate the knowledge score with demographical variables.

Material and methods: A quantitative research approach using non-experimental exploratory design was adopted for the study. Using Non-Probability Convenient Sampling Technique 1000 adults was selected from urban slums of Pune city. Modified questionnaire was used to collect the data during August 2017 to September 2017 to obtain the knowledge level.

Results: Findings of the study shows that 33.8% of the samples belongs to age group 18-31yrs, 37.8 % belongs to age group 32-44yrs, 19% belongs to age group 45-57yrs and 7.4% belongs to age group 58-70yrs. Distribution of samples according to their gender shows that the 41.3% were male and 58.7% were female and 22.1% samples had education up to primary level, 53% were secondary level 20% were graduate and 4.7% were post graduate. Distribution according to occupation shows that 29% were employed, 27% unemployed and 44% were home maker. Majority of the adults were found to have average knowledge i.e. 515 (51.5%), 33% of them had poor knowledge and only 15.5% had good knowledge regarding warning signs of cancer.

Conclusion: Still, there is the need to create awareness in the community through educational programs on warning signs of cancer which will benefits in early detection and diagnosis of cancer, reducing the economic burden of cancer.

Keywords: knowledge, warning signs of cancer, adults

1. Introduction

Cancer is a condition in which the cells in a particular part of the human body develop and replicate in uncontrolled manner.

2. Materials and Methods

A quantitative approach with Non Experimental Exploratory Design was adopted. The study was conducted in selected slum area of Pune city. 1000 adult were selected using convenient sampling technique. The data were collected using modified knowledge questionnaire the tool includes- Section- I: Selected demographic variables- (a) Personal data (b) General information on cancer. Section -II: Structured questionnaire (Modified tool) consisting of 9 statements covering all seven warning signs of cancer along with Yes or No scale. The scored are given as:-0-3 Poor, 4-6 Average and 7-9 as Good. Ethical approval was obtained from the ethical committee member. Written consent was taken from the participants.

3. Results

The data reveals that 33.8% of the samples belong to age class 18-31yrs, 37.8 % belongs to 32-44yrs, 19% belongs to 45-57yrs and 7.4% belongs to 58-70yrs. 41.3% were male and 58.7% were female. Education showing 22.1% samples up to primary level, 53% had up to secondary level 20% graduate and 4.7% post graduate. 29% were employed, 27% unemployed and 44% were home maker. Majority 66% of samples have no knowledge

Correspondence
Venila Thoudam
Nursing Student,
Bharati Vidyapeeth (Deemed
to be University), College Of
Nursing, Dhankawadi, Pune,
Maharashtra, India

Regarding warning signs of cancer. 36% do not know what is cancer and majority 40% samples responded cancer cannot be cure.

Table 1

n=1000	
Mean	SD
4.367	2.1819

Table no 1 shows that out of the total samples the average knowledge score was **4.367** with standard deviation **2.1819**.

Table 2

n=1000		
Knowledge level	f	f in %
Poor	330	33.0
Average	515	51.5
Good	155	15.5

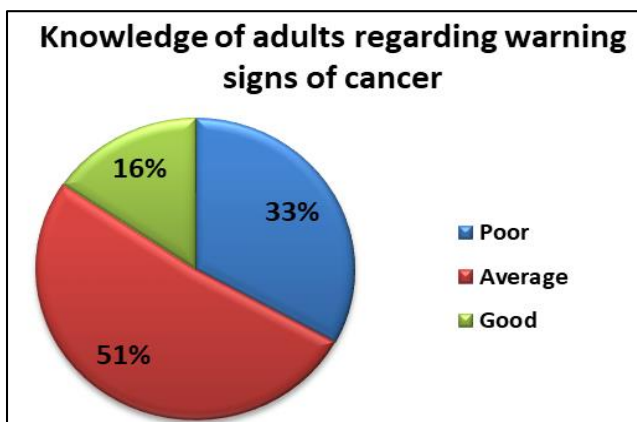


Table no 2 and figure no. 1 shows that 33% of samples had poor knowledge, 51.5% had average knowledge and only 15.5% had good knowledge regarding warning signs of cancer.

Age, gender was found to have no association whereas educational status and occupation was found to have association with the knowledge score.

4. Discussion

The result shows that the samples had average knowledge and good knowledge regarding warning signs of cancer. The people must be aware of warning signs of cancer so that they that precaution get early treatment.

5. Conclusion

The conclusion drawn from the findings of the study is majority of the adults have average knowledge, poor knowledge and good knowledge regarding warning signs of cancer.

6. Recommendation

Similar study can be conducted in different areas and other states. Similar Study can be conducted among Non-medical college student as well to provide more awareness. Similar study can be conducted including risk factor of cancer since lifestyle plays a vital part in development of cancer and for more effective study. Using cancer awareness measure standardized tool study can be conducted for more generalized findings. Similar study can be conducted using a

video assisted teaching. Similar study can be done in view with organizing awareness program for the risk group.

7. Acknowledgement

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