

## Knowledge on Cervical Cancer

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### ABSTRACT

*Background: India is a high risk country for cervical cancer which accounts a quarter (1, 26, 000 new cases, 71,000 death around 2000) of the world burden. Cervical cancer remains one of the leading causes of female cancers. The survival rate has increased from 47% to 58% to 57% to 71% due to Screening Programmes for cervical cancer which has been instituted in developed countries for decades and over a period of time has been shown to be effective in reducing the overall mortality from this disease. A better understanding of the history of cervical cancer is also increasing evidence for the putative roll of the human papilloma virus (HPV) in its causation. However despite the increase in survival rate, the mortality rate from advanced cervical cancer is unchanged at 8% to 10%. It is estimated that more than 50% of sexually active men and women ages 15 to 49 yrs. are infected with one or more of 38 strains of Human papilloma virus [HPV]. The 2 HPV strains together are currently responsible for approximately 70% of all cervical cancers. Up to 25% of female populations do not have annual pap smear screening. "Aim: The main aim of the current study was to assess the knowledge on cervical cancer among staff nurses in MGMC & RI, Puducherry. Materials and Methods: Quantitative research approach was used for this study. The non-experimental design was used for this study. Total 60 samples were selected using purposive random sampling technique. The data pertaining to the level of knowledge of staff nurses regarding the cancer. Results: Regarding the knowledge on cervical cancer 51.7% of staff nurses had inadequate knowledge and 40.3% of staff nurses had adequate knowledge.*

**Keywords:** Cervical cancer, knowledge.

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### INTRODUCTION

Cervical cancer remains one of the leading causes of female cancers until the cancer is in its advanced stages. The survival rate has increased from 47% to 58% to 57% to 71% due to the impact of papanicolaou [pap] smear screening.

However despite the increase in survival rate, the mortality rate from advanced cervical cancer is unchanged at 8% to 10%. It is estimated that more than 50% of sexually active men and women ages 15 to 49yrs are infected with one or more of 38 strains of Human papilloma virus [HPV].

The 2 HPV strains together are currently responsible for approximately 70% of all cervical cancers. Up to 25% of female population do not have annual pap smear screening [1,2].

Udigwe Go conducted a study to assess the knowledge, attitude and practice of cervical cancer screening among female nurses in Nnewi. A self-administered questionnaire survey was conducted for all the female nurses working in Nnamdi Azikiwe University teaching hospital in Nnewi. A total of 144 out of 166 questionnaires were correctly completed

and returned. 122 (87%) were aware of the existence of the screening services. Although 9.3% had lost relations to cancer of the cervix only 5.7% had ever undergone a pap smear. Although 52 (37.1%) had no reason for not screening, 21 (15%) were afraid of the possible outcome of cervical cancers. Up to 25% of female populations do not have annual pap smear screening,

Rangaswami Shankaranarayanan, MD conducted a study to assess the knowledge and practice of HPV screening for cervical cancer among female nurses in rural areas of India, Osmanabad District. In order to assess the knowledge and practice of HPV screening for cervical cancer among the staff nurses in the Osmanabad District a cluster randomized trial of 52 nurses between the age group of 25–50 years were randomly assigned to four groups. The groups were randomly assigned to undergo filling of questionnaire. The results showed that the nurses had adequate knowledge on cervical cancer screening [3–5].

Gichangi et al., conducted a study on Knowledge and practice about cervical cancer and Pap smear testing among staff nurses at Kenyatta National Hospital, Kenya. Cervical cancer is the leading cause of cancer related death among women in developing countries.

The objective of the study was to assess the knowledge and practice about pap smear testing among the staff nurses using a structured questionnaire to obtain information. The result revealed that only 51% of the respondents were aware of Pap smear test.

### Objectives of the Study

- (1) To assess the level of knowledge on cervical cancer among staff nurses in MGMC & RI.
- (2) To associate the level of knowledge with selected demographic variables.

## METHODOLOGY

### Research Approach

Quantitative research approach was adopted for the study as it was intended to assess the knowledge of nurses.

### Research Design

The design used was descriptive research design.

### Study Setting

The study was conducted in Mahatma Gandhi Medical College & Research Institute, Puducherry.

It is a multispeciality hospital equipped with special wards for oncology and bed strength of 1180 situated 15 km away from Puducherry.

### Study Population

The population of the study includes nurses working in different wards of MGMC&RI, who met the inclusion criteria & are available during the time of data collection.

### Sample and Sample Size

Nurses working in different wards of MGMC&RI, who met the inclusion criteria were selected as sample. The sample size was 60.

### Criteria for Sample Selection

Inclusion criteria:

- Nurses who were available during data collection
- Nurses who were willing to participate in the study

Exclusion criteria:

- Nurses who were not willing to participate and those who were in night shifts.

### Sampling Technique

Nonprobability Purposive sampling technique.

### Procedure for Data collection

The data were collected from various wards for a period of one week. Before

starting data collection, researcher obtained permission from nursing superintendent. The samples were selected on basis of selection criteria and oral consent was obtained. Data were collected using questionnaire focusing on different aspects of cervical cancer. Data were detained and scoring was done. Data collected was analysed using inferential statistics (Tables 1–3) [6,7].

**RESULTS**

**Background Variables**

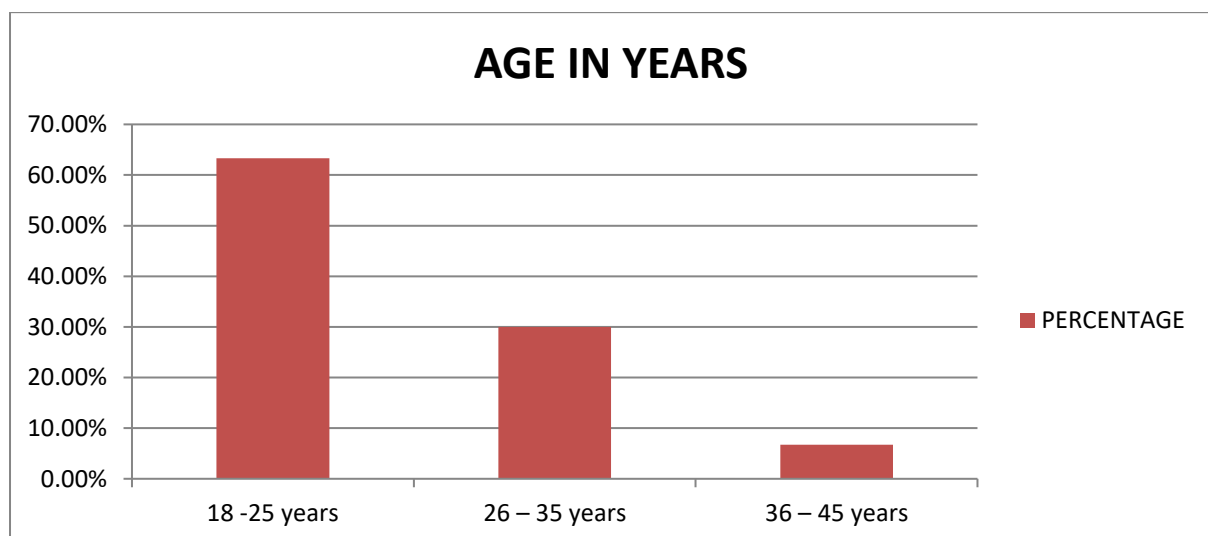
- 38 (63.3%) were between 18 and 25 years, 18(30%) were between 26 and

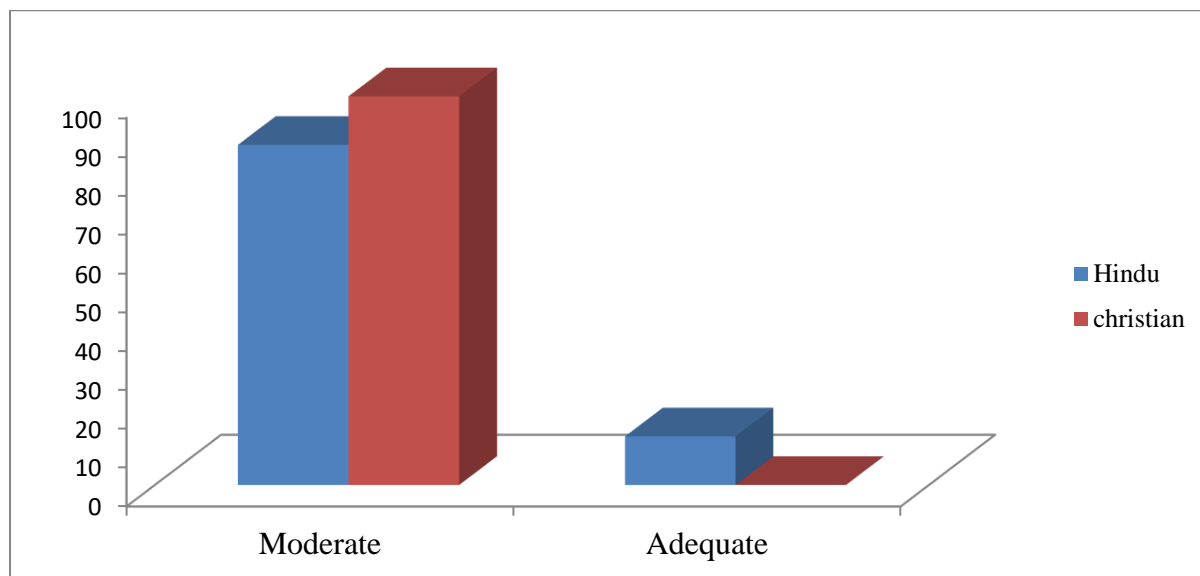
35 years and 4(6.7%) were between 36 and 45 years.

- With regards to educational qualification of staff nurses; 35 (58.3%) were GNM’s and 25(41.7%) were BSc nursing.
- With year of experience of staff nurses 41(68.3%) are having 0–3 years of experience; 14(23.4%) are having 4–6 years of experience; 5(8.3%) having more than 6 years of experience.
- With regards to area of experience of staff nurses 32(53.4%) had experience in medical ward, 28(46.6%) had experience in surgical ward.

*Table 1. Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables of staff nurses, (n=60).*

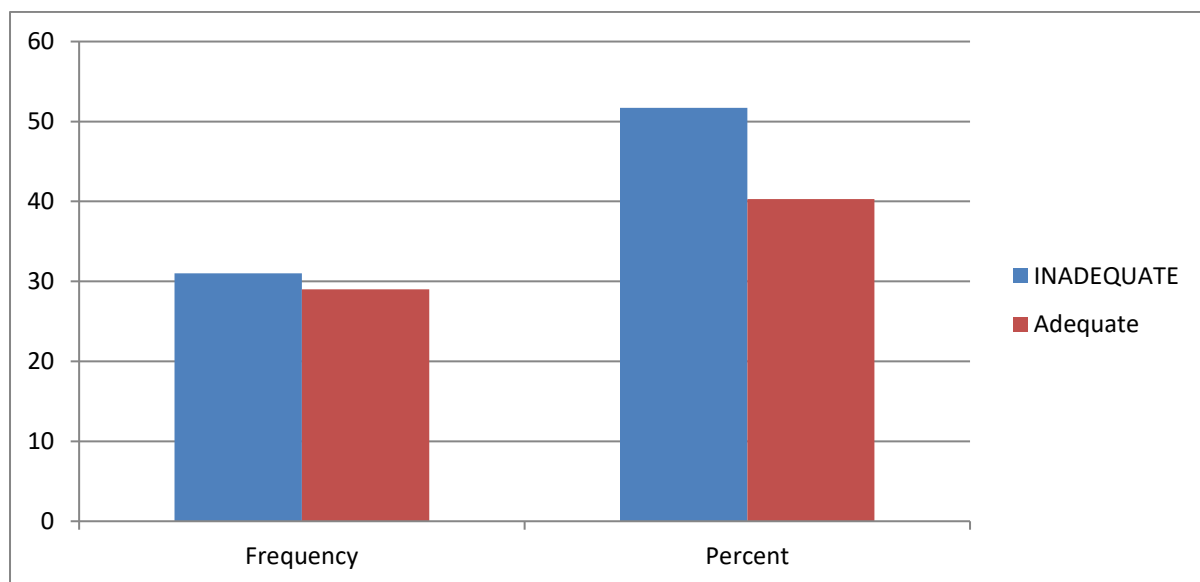
Sl. no.		Frequency	Percentage
1	Age		
	18–25 years	38	63.3%
	26–35 years	18	30%
	36–45 years	4	6.7%
2	Educational qualification		
	GNM	35	58.3%
	B.sc	25	41.7%
3	Years of experience		
	0–3 years	41	68.3%
	4–6 years	14	23.4%
	>6 years	5	8.3%
4.	Area of experience		
	Medical ward	32	53.4%
	Surgical ward	28	46.6%





**Table 2.** Knowledge of staff nurses on cervical cancer.

Aspect of the study	Inadequate knowledge		Adequate knowledge	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Level of knowledge	31	51.7%	29	40.3%



Regarding the knowledge on cervical cancer 51.7% of staff nurses had

inadequate knowledge and 40.3% of staff nurses had adequate knowledge.

**Table 3.** Association of the level of knowledge of staff nurses on cervical cancer screening with demographic variables.

Sl. no.	Demographic variables	inadequate		Adequate		X <sup>2</sup> value	
		F	(%)	f	(%)		
1	Age					X <sup>2</sup> = 1.250 df=4 P=0.8698 P>0.5 NS	
	18–25 years	38	22	57.89	16		42.1
	26–35 years	18	10	55.5	8		44.5
	36–45 years	4	2	50	2	50	
2	Educational qualification					X <sup>2</sup> =13.7616 df= 4	
	GNM	19	19	54.3	16		45.71

	BSc	3	12	22	88	P=0.0081 P>0.5 S
3	Year of experience					
	0-3 Years	11	26.82	30	73.2	X <sup>2</sup> = 3.2610 df=4 P=0.5121 P≥0.5 S
	4-6 Years	10	71.5	4	28.5	
	>6 Years	-	-	5	100	
4	Area of experience					
	Medical ward	22	68.75	10	3125	X <sup>2</sup> = 1.278 df=4 P=0.8543 P>0.5 NS
	Surgical ward	10	35.72	18	64.28	

Table 3 shows that the, educational status, year of experience, are significant at the level of 0.5 and which reveals that and there was a significant association with the level of knowledge on cervical cancer among staff nurses whereas there was no association between the demographic variables like age, area of experience and knowledge of staff nurses [8–12].

**DISCUSSION**

The objective was to assess the nurses knowledge on cervical cancer. Regarding the knowledge on cervical cancer 51.7% of staff nurses had inadequate knowledge and 40.3% of staff nurses had adequate knowledge.

- 38 (63.3%) were between 18 and 25 years, 18(30%) were between 26 and 35 years and 4(6.7%) were between 36 and 45 years.
- With regards to educational qualification of staff nurses; 35 (58.3%) were GNM’s and 25(41.7%) were B.sc nursing.
- Pertaining to year of experience of staff nurses 41(68.3%) were having 0–3 years of experience; 14(23.4%) were having 4–6 years of experience; 5(8.3%) were having more than 6 years of experience.
- With regards to area of experience of staff nurses 32(53.4%) had experience in medical ward, 28(46.6%) had experience in surgical ward.

The second objective was to associate the level of knowledge with selected demographic variables. The, educational status and year of experience, were significant at the level of 0.5 and, which reveals that there is a significant association with the level of knowledge on cervical cancer among staff nurses whereas there was no association between the demographic variables like age, area of experience and knowledge of staff nurses.

**CONCLUSION**

The study concluded that 51.7% of staff nurses had inadequate knowledge and 40.3% of staff nurses had adequate knowledge regarding cervical cancer. This implies that the knowledge among staff nurses in cervical cancer and pap smear test need to be improved in the hospital setting and community for effective nursing services.

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