



## Research Article

Clin Exp Pathol Res  
ISSN (e): 2663-8193  
ISSN (p): 2663-8185  
2019; 2(2): 22-24  
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# Insight and perceived barriers of women on cervical cancer

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## Abstract

Cervical cancer is the fifth most common cause of cancer death in the world and the second commonest disease that affects women's health. **Aim:** The study was aimed to assess the insight and perceived barriers of cervical cancer. **Study approach:** Descriptive survey approach was used. **Sampling:** Non probability convenient sampling was adopted to select 60 women in rural area. **Tool and technique:** Structured insight questionnaire and barrier checklist was used to collect data. **Result:** Majority 65% of women had poor insight. Majority women expressed that they are unaware of cervical cancer screening method. **Conclusion:** Study concluded that there is vital requirement in educating women on cervical cancer.

**Keywords:** Insight, Barriers, Cervical cancer, Women.

## INTRODUCTION

Cervical cancer is the fifth most common cause of cancer death in the world and the second commonest disease that affects women's health. Currently, India alone accounts for 1/4th of the global cervical cancer burden. Current studies estimate that every year 134420 Indian women are diagnosed with cervical cancer. The prevalence rate in India is 6-29% and that in the world is 7.5%. The prevalence rate in Karnataka, in rural is 17% and in urban is 13.7% [1].

Cervical cancer is a disease which is largely asymptomatic in its early stage. So regular screening needs to identify in its early pre-cancerous stage. Cervical cancer screening is needed to identify by using the Papanicolaou test. It prevents the development of the cervical cancer by recognising a pre-cancerous state in the cervix and allows 90% to be identified, treated and cured before it can spread. Pap smear have been shown to detect early cervical cellular abnormalities, thereby reducing morbidity and mortality [2].

Problem statement: Insight and perceived barriers of women on cervical cancer.

## Objectives

- To assess the insight of women on cervical cancer in selected community, Mysuru.
- To assess the perceived barriers of women on cervical cancer in selected community, Mysuru.
- To find the association between insight of women on cervical cancer with their selected personal variables in selected community, Mysuru.

## Hypothesis:

The following hypothesis is tested at the 0.05 level of significance

H1: There will be significant association between insight of women on cervical cancer with their selected personal variables in selected community, Mysuru.

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**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Descriptive survey approach was used to conduct the study. 60 Samples were selected using the non-probability convenience sampling technique. Structured insight questionnaire and perceived barrier checklist was used to collect the data. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyse the data.

Chi-square computed to find the association between level of insight of women on cervical cancer and their selected personal variable like Age, Education, type of family and number of children was found to be significant at 0.05 levels of significance, inferring that insight of women regarding cervical cancer is influenced by their personal variables like Age, Education, Type of Family, Number of children.

The study consists of 60 samples. The selected personal variables are described under subheadings shown in Table 1.

**Table 1:** Frequency and percentage distribution of selected personal variables

Sl no	Sample characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
1	Age in years		
	21-30	25	41.66
	31-40	20	33.3
	41-50	13	21.66
	>50	2	3.33
2	Educational status		
	Upto 5 <sup>th</sup>	23	38.33
	5-10 <sup>th</sup>	15	25
	PUC	16	26.6
	Degree	6	10
3	Type of family		
	Nuclear	27	45
	Joint	33	55
4	Marital status		
	Married	48	80
	Single	12	20
5	Number of children		
	0	15	25
	1	28	46.66
	2	6	10
	>2	11	18.33

**Table 2:** Frequency and percentage distribution of level of insight of women on cervical cancer

LEVEL OF INSIGHT	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Good insight (15-20)	0	0
Average insight(8-14)	18	30
Poor insight (0-7)	42	70

**Table 3:** Mean, median, standard deviation and range of insight scores

	Mean	Median	Range	Standard deviation
Insight score	7.1	7	2-13	±2.47

**Table 4:** Frequency and percentage distribution of barriers of women on cervical cancer screening in selected community of Mysuru

SL NO	ITEMS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Do you know about cervical cancer screening? Yes No	48	80
		12	20
2	Is Pap smear expensive? Yes No	50	83.3
		10	16.6
3	Is there any facility in your locality to screen cervical cancer? Yes No	15	25
		45	75
4	Is there any family pressure which inhibits you from going for screening? Yes No	37	61.6
		23	38.3
5	Do you have any religious beliefs which stops you from screening? Yes No	32	53.3
		28	46.6
6	Do you have any fear regarding pap smear? Yes No	52	86.6
		8	13.3
7	Do you know about the government scheme for pap smear and screening? Yes No	48	80
		12	20
8	Do you think that there are any complication that will occur due to pap smear? Yes No	36	60
		24	40
9	Do you think that pap smear is effective for screening of cervical cancer? Yes No	18	30
		42	70
10	Do you think that pap smear test is painful? Yes No	33	55
		27	45

## DISCUSSION

Findings of the present study revealed that the insight of women on cervical cancer is poor (65%). The study also revealed that there is basic barriers which act as a hindering factor for screening of cervical cancer.

Similar findings were reported in study conducted at Mangalore city to assess the knowledge and screening for cervical cancer among women. The results showed that 81.9% of the samples had poor knowledge about cervical cancer and 85.5% of the samples had poor knowledge about its screening.

WHO recommends a comprehensive approach to cervical cancer prevention and control that includes multi-disciplinary interventions across the life course. Community education, social mobilization, vaccination, screening, treatment and palliative care are needed to improve cervical cancer control. Almost all of cervical cancer deaths could be avoided if known effective interventions were available to all women and implemented, including immunizing adolescent girls against human papilloma virus (HPV) and cervical screening and treatment of pre-cancerous lesions [3,4].

## CONCLUSION

This study presents the level of awareness of cervical cancer and perceived barriers of cervical cancer screening, especially among the rural women. The numbers of women who have undergone cervical cancer screening has increased especially in the urban cities over the last few years. But in rural areas the number of women willing to undergo screening for cervical cancer screening is very less due to their lack of awareness and key barriers of cervical cancer screening. It will be

difficult to sensitise the rural women for the screening if key barriers are not addressed. An understanding of the barriers and facilitators of cervical cancer screening can enable healthcare providers and the public health workers to be sensitive to the needs of these populations as they work towards overcoming these hurdles.

## Conflict of Interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

## Source of Funding

Nil

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