



## A study to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding the regular pap smear examination among women between 35-55 Years of age groups in selected areas of Vidarbha Region

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### Abstract

**Aim of the study:** To assess the knowledge and attitude regarding the regular pap smear examination among women between 35-55 years of age groups.

### Objectives of the study

- To assess the knowledge of the women regarding regular pap smear examination
- To assess the attitude of the women about regular pap smear examination.
- To find out the association between the knowledge with selected demographical variables
- To find out the association between attitude with selected demographic variables
- To find out the correlation between knowledge and attitude of the women about regular pap smear examination.

**Method:** In this research Study, the research approach adopted was quantitative cross sectional survey approach and the research design was simple descriptive correlative design. Setting of the study was selected places at Vidarbha Region, Maharashtra and the population was Women (35-55 age groups) from Vidarbha region. The sample size were 150 women between the age groups of 35-55, selected by non-probability convenient sampling technique. Consent was taken from the sample before data collection. Demographic data were collected by structured questionnaire. The closed ended questionnaire was used to assess the knowledge of women regarding regular pap smear examination. 5-point ended Likert type attitude scale by Interview technique was used to assess the attitude of women.

**Results:** distribution of women knowledge regarding regular pap smear examination Majority (48.5%) of samples were had excellent level of knowledge, where 26.5% had good level of knowledge, 47% of sample were having very good attitude score, 26.5% having good attitude score and 1.5% having average of attitude.

**Conclusion** there was no correlation between knowledge and attitude score among women regarding regular pap smear examination.

**Keywords:** regular PAP smear, women with age groups of 35-55, cervical cancer

### Introduction

Life satisfaction, usually termed as Happiness comes from the fulfillment of a need or a wish. If unpleasant experiences outweigh the pleasant, the individuals will be dissatisfied and consider them unhappy. The prime factor which contributes to happiness in life is Good health”.

*Elizabeth Hurlock*

Cervical Cancer Burden mushroomed in India in these years. Cervical cancer is one of the most common cancers among women worldwide. According to IARC estimates, mortality from cervical cancer is expected to witness a 79% increase from 74,118 deaths in 2002 to 132,745 deaths by 2025 by National Cancer Registry Programme 2009. The aim of the Papanicolauo (pap) smear screening programme is to reduce morbidity and mortality resulting from cervical cancer.

### Need for the study

The knowledge of the women about pap smear important to make vanishing effect of cervical cancer. Even a person got knowledge about regular pap smear she may or may not have an positive attitude towards them. It will varying effect by the

anxiety and the experience of the women about the pap smear. W.H.O. Surveys states that women ‘s knowledge and attitude has got immense effect of impact in pap smear screening programme. In the annual report 2008, in various Govt. hospital, women attended pap smear screening 55.8% as per the study from Health Guide 2009. Hence, the investigator interested to conduct a correlative research on knowledge and attitude on regular pap smear examination among women age group of 35-55

### Hypothesis

**H<sub>0</sub>:** There is no significant difference between the knowledge and attitude regarding the regular pap smear examination among women between 35-55 age groups

**H<sub>1</sub>:** There is a significant difference between the knowledge and attitude regarding the regular pap smear examination among women between 35-55 age groups

### Assumption

1. Women may have knowledge regarding regular pap smear examination.

## Delimitation

This study is delimited to:

- The women between the age group of 35-55
- Selected places of Vidarbha region, Maharashtra
- Who were available at the time of data collection

## Research Methodology

**Research Approach:** Quantitative cross sectional survey approach.

**Research Design:** Simple descriptive research design.

**Setting of the study:** Selected places of Vidarbha Region, Maharashtra.

## Variables

**Research Variable:** Knowledge and attitude of women regarding regular pap smear examination

**Demographic Variable:** age in years, education, occupation, income and marital status.

**Population:** women between the age group of 35-55 years

**Sample:** women between 35-55 age groups in different places of Vidarbha region

**Sample Size:** 150 women between the age group of 35-55

**Sampling Technique:** non probability convenient sampling technique

## Sampling Criteria

### Inclusion criteria

1. Women who can understand or read Hindi
2. Those who are willing to participate in this study

### Exclusion criteria

1. Women who were diagnosed as cervical cancer

## Development and Description of tools used in the study

The tool to assess the knowledge and attitude of women on regular pap smear examination was developed by the investigator. A questionnaire and attitude scale were used in present research study. A questionnaire was formulated after reviewing the literature. There were knowledge questionnaire to assess the knowledge and Likert type 5-pointed attitude scale for description of the tool

### The structured questionnaire consisted of 3 sections.

1. **Demographic data** :It includes the demographic data such as age, educational qualification, occupation, monthly income(Rs) and marital status
2. **Questionnaire** –There are structured closed ended questionnaire to assess the knowledge of women regarding regular pap smear examination.. Total 25 items were selected for the questionnaire. A blue print was prepared.

### Scoring

- Score 1 was given to every correct answer.
- Score 0 was given to every wrong answer. Based on the percentage of scores, level of knowledge was graded as follows.

**Table 1:** The total knowledge score were categorized into

Grade	Score	Marks
Poor	Below 25 %	0 – 6
Average	26 – 50 %	7 – 13
Good	51 – 75 %	14 – 19
Excellent	Above 76 %	20 – 25

## 3. Likert type attitude scale

- Likert-type attitude scale was surveyed from literature and catalogue. The following standardized scales used as references like the fishbein method, likert technique and Guttman scale
- With all this literature and catalogue in mind the researcher formed 1-5 Likert-type attitude scale. The Likert-type attitude scale consists of 10 items
- The items belonged to the attitude towards regular pap smear examination.
- Respondents' responses were marked as 5 for those who strongly agreed, 4 for those who agreed, 3 for uncertain, 2 for those who disagreed and 1 for those who strongly disagree.

## Validity

The content Validity of the tool was established in consultation with guide and nine experts from the field of obstetric and gynecological nursing. Suggestions of the experts were considered and changes were made accordingly.

## Reliability

In this study, the reliability of the tool was determined by administering the questionnaire to five samples. Split half method was used for reliability. The reliability co-efficient was calculated. The Questionnaires is said to be reliable if the co-efficient is more than 0.8. The reliability co-efficient 'r' of the questionnaire was 0.86, which was more than 0.8. Hence the questionnaire was found to be reliable.

The reliability of the attitude scale was determined by Intra class co-relation method. Five women were taken by interview method. The value of reliability co-efficient 'r' ranges from 0.00 to 1.00 with higher values indicating a greater degree of equivalence. The value of 'r' was found to be 0.76 and 0.9; hence the items in the attitude scale were reliable and therefore retained.

- Pilot study was planned and conducted in Sawangi (Meghe), Wardha, with 20 samples by using non-probability convenient sampling

## Data Collection Procedure

The data gathering process began from Feb 21<sup>st</sup> 2011 to March 12<sup>th</sup> 2011, after obtaining the formal permission from the the Sarpunch of villages (salod, and Yawadmal). Samples were selected by non-probability convenient sampling, which were available during the study (total 150 samples of women). After obtaining, informed consent from the samples, the structured questionnaire was administered to collect the data

from the patient. It took 30 minutes from each sample to complete the questionnaire, and attitude scale by interview techniques.

**Results and major findings of the study**

The data analysed based on the objectives

**Section I: Demographic Variables**

- The distribution of samples according to their age depicts that 42.7% of the samples were in the age group of 35-39 years and 25.3% in 50-55 years of age.. 18% of the samples were in the age group of 40-44 years and only 14% in 45-49 years of age group. Hence, it is interpreted that most of the samples under study were between the age group of 35-39 years.
- Distribution of samples according to their general education reveals that the majorities (42%) of the samples were having higher secondary education and 34% had secondary education, 17.3% of the samples were educated with other courses and only 6.7% of samples were having primary education
- Distribution of samples according to their occupation shows that the majority (37.3%) of the samples were house wives, 22.7% of the samples were Government Employee and only 15.3% of the samples were in private job, and 24.7% were in other jobs
- Distribution of samples according to their income, illustrates that the majorities (34%) had the family income below 2500 Rs. and 32% samples were having the income between 2501-4000 Rs., 14% of samples were having the income 4001-5500 Rs. Whereas 20% samples were having more than 5500 Rs.
- Distribution of samples according to their marital status, reveals that highest percentages 82% of samples were married and only 18% samples were widows

**Section II: Distribution of women with regards to knowledge**

- Majority 48,5% of samples were having excellent level of knowledge, where 26.5% of sample having good level of knowledge, no one was having poor or average level of knowledge

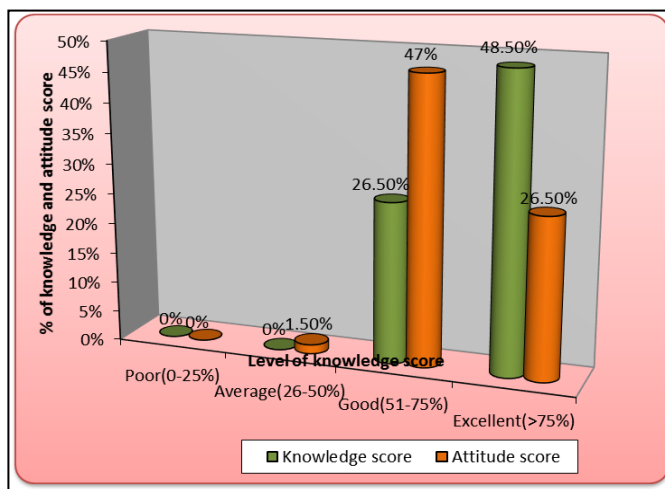
**Section III: Distribution of women with regards to attitude score**

- 47% of sample were having good level of attitude score,

26.5% having the good attitude score and 1.5% having the average attitude score

**Table 1:** Distribution of women with regards to knowledge and attitude score

Level of knowledge and attitude	Knowledge score		Attitude score	
	F	%	F	%
Poor (0-25%)	0	0.0	0	0.00
Average (26-50%)	0	0.00	3	1.50
Good (51-75%)	53	26.5	94	47.00
Excellent (>75%)	97	48.5	53	26.50



**Fig 1:** Distribution of women with regards to knowledge and attitude score

**Section IV: Association of knowledge score in relation to demographic variables**

- There was no significant association between age, education, occupation, income and marital status with knowledge regarding regular pap smear examination

**Section V: Association of attitude score in relation to demographic variables**

- There was no significant association between age, education, occupation, income and marital status with attitude score regarding regular pap smear examination

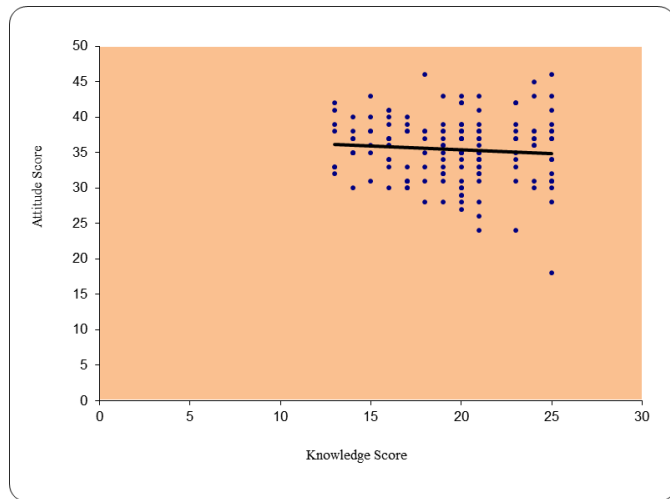
**Section VI: Correlation of knowledge and attitude score of women in relation to regular pap smear examination**

**Table 2:** correlation between knowledge and attitude score of women in relation to regular pap smear examination N=150

Area	Knowledge score	Attitude score	Correlation 'r'	p-value
Overall	19.57±3.50	35.43±4.59	-0.08	0.32 S, p>0.05

The above table shows that the coefficient of correlation between knowledge and attitudes score was found using Pearson's correlation coefficient. The correlation coefficient (r=-0.08) was not significant (p-value=0.32) at 5% level of

significance. The statistical analysis and interpretation of data show that there was no correlation between knowledge and attitude score.



**Fig 2:** Correlation between knowledge and attitude of women regarding regular pap smear examination

### Conclusion

After the detailed analysis, this study leads to the following conclusion: The women do not have 100% knowledge and attitude regarding regular pap smear examination.

Demographic variables did not show a major role in the knowledge and attitude of women regarding regular pap smear examination...and also there was a negative correlation between the knowledge and attitude of women regarding regular pap smear examination ;by r value was -0.08 and p value was 0.32 NS,  $p > 0.05$  at the level of 5% significance

### Recommendations

On the basis of the findings of the study, it is recommended that the following studies can be conducted.

1. A similar study may be conducted on a larger population for generalization of findings.
2. Studies may be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of information booklet versus other method of teaching module to upload the knowledge to the population
3. A study may be conducted to assess the existing knowledge and practice of women regarding regular pap smear examination
4. A structured teaching programme may be used in the hospitals, so that the entire nurses can participate in improving the knowledge regarding regular pap smear examination.

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