



Knowledge and perception towards cervical cancer among females of Kolkata, India

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Abstract

Background: Cervical cancer is a global public health problem with day by day increasing rates. Risky behaviors, lack of knowledge and preventative measures in young women, increase the risks of cervical cancer later in life. Up to date, there is scarcity of study on level of knowledge and perception towards cervical cancer among young women in India. This study was aimed to determine the level of knowledge and perception toward cervical cancer among the women aged between 20 and 30 years living in Metropolitan area of Kolkata, India. **Methods:** The present study has been carried out among the 300 apparently healthy working women of Kolkata. Only the women have been considered for this cross-sectional study aged between 20 and 30 years living in the metropolitan area of Kolkata. Data for the present study has been collected by using specially prepared and pre-tested schedule. Short term interview has been taken on the cervical cancer knowledge and awareness among the participants of the study. **Results:** Among the participants 88% of them reported to have known the name of Cervical Cancer, however, 52.27% of them, knew that HPV is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) and that it can cause cervical cancer. Fifty-nine (59%) of the respondent state the contamination occurs through unsafe sex practices. Furthermore, thirty-eight percent (38%) of interviewees mentioned the preventive character of vaccines. Age and education were the two variables that were statistically associated with the outcome. 84% respondents who are aware about the disease have passed graduation or more. **Conclusions:** The level of knowledge towards cervical cancer and perception of acquiring the disease was poor. Health education interventions are needed to improve the awareness and health seeking behavior in youth women thereby preventing cervical cancer related morbidity and mortality.

Biography

Arup Ratan Bandyopadhyay is Professor and Former Head of the Department of Anthropology, University of Calcutta, India. He did his M Phil and PhD from University of Calcutta, India. He is the recipient of UGC Research Fellowship (for pursuing PhD, qualifying National Eligibility Test), Merit Award and Young Scientist Award. He was the President of Anthropological and Behavioral Sciences section of the Indian Science Congress in its centenary year. He received seven national extra-mural research grants as Principal Investigator, including a grant from the British Council for collaboration with the Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh, UK. He published more than 100 anthropological research articles in national and international journals on evolutionary biology, forensic anthropology, dental anthropology, public health in relation to medical genetics, cytogenetic and anthropometry of non-communicable disease, dermatoglyphics in medical and psychiatric disorders, and population genetics and human rights issues. He has delivered many Invited lectures/keynote addresses and organizing committee members recently (January 5-7, 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand) in International Conference on Gynecology, Obstetrics and Reproductive medicine (GORM2018), World Congress on Gynecology, Obstetrics & Reproductive Health (July 16-17, 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand) and in World Congress on Breast Cancer, Gynecology and Women Health (September 6-7, 2018 - Bangkok, Thailand).



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