



STUDENT NURSE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE BREAST CANCER

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the attitude among the student nurses towards breast cancer in and around dindigul district. A structured questionnaire contains 28 items were distributed among 360 samples in the techniques of simple random sampling. Such the study gathered enough data to examine the attitude among the student nurses on breast cancer that forms in the cells of the breast. Both ANM & GNM students are taken for this present study. The study exposed that the majority of the student nurse especially GNM are highly know ledged and having good attitude about the breast cancer and its risk factors, but the study also revealed that a only rare number of the student nurse are not aware about the problems. The study also helped the investigators to promote awareness, prevalence and prevention of the breast cancer. The student nurses possess adequate knowledge about breast cancer but they need more information on breast cancer and its risk towards women's health. This paper pursues student nurses attitude towards breast cancer awareness in and around dindigul district.

KEY TERMS: Student Nurse, Attitude And Breast Cancer.

INTRODUCTION:

Breast cancer is a malignant tumor (a collection of cancer cells) arising from the cells of the breast. Although breast cancer predominantly occurs in women, it can also affect men. This study deals with student nurses attitude towards breast cancer awareness in and around dindigul district. Breast cancer and its complications can affect nearly every part of the body.

The main purpose of this study is to know whether the student nurses are having any positive attitude towards the breast cancer. This study tries to meet the need to address the knowledge of women health gaps on breast cancer and breast self-examination, how to diagnose it, signs and symptoms of breast cancer, treatments, its side effects, its cautious methods and dietary patterns. The main purpose of this study is that awareness can be developed among on breast cancer, breast self-examination, to assist in early breast cancer detection as well as reducing late breast cancer presentation.

NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

Millions of women are affected by breast cancer each and every year. Breast cancer awareness has become a very common term these days, as more and more women are realizing the importance of getting tested early. Every woman over the age of 18 years old should have an annual mammogram to help detect possible breast cancer. Family history should also be considered, to find out what is ill.

There are many things women can do to help prevent breast cancer, and education is certainly the key helping to prevent it. From the above facts, it is clear that women over the age 18, through breast cancer awareness and education, women can learn about preventive measures, diagnostic tools, and helpful survival tips. It is very important that women of all ages are educated about the different aspects of breast cancer early in life; the investigator felt the need of such information would help them to be health conscious. Thus the investigator had put forth the effort to educate the targeted groups by analysing the importance of health education in this technological era where the women run their life on wheels and do not mind their health and to be considered. So the investigator took over the female nursing students which would easily be reach the society.

RELATED STUDY:

Dina N.K. Boulous., et.al., (2013) conducted a study on "Awareness of Breast cancer among female students at in Shames University- Egypt". This study aimed to determine the knowledge of breast cancer- risk factors, symptoms and early detection methods and to identify knowledge and practise of breast self-examination among Shams University female students. It was a descriptive cross sectional study 66.9% answered that the most widely known risk factors were smoking followed by radiation to the chest 63.7% and genetic factors 63.7% most of the students 81.6% identified breast lump as a symptom for breast cancer. Only 8.8% of students reported and identified correctly the appropriate time to perform breast self- examination and 1.3% reported performing it regularly every month. The findings of this study showed that there is a low level of knowledge on breast cancer risk factors, early warning signs and BSE among female university students and only few students practice.

Naif A. Alharbi., et.al., (2011) conducted a study on "Knowledge, awareness and practices concerning breast cancer among Kuwaiti female school teachers". The objective of this study was to assess the breast cancer knowledge, awareness and

the factors associated with the practise of breast self-examination among female teachers. It was a cross sectional survey study of which twenty schools were selected randomly by the stratified sampling method. A self-administered questionnaire was designed to investigate their knowledge. Data was collected from 421 female teachers with 87.5% response rate. This study pointed out the insufficient knowledge of female teachers about breast cancer and identified the negative influence of low knowledge on the practise of breast self-examination.

Shadia A. Yousuf., et.al., (2010) conducted a study on "Breast Cancer Awareness among Saudi Nursing Student". This study was conducted to assess the effect of breast cancer of a group of 33 Saudi Nursing students. A set of questionnaires were designed for the study. Workshops were also conducted which involved the Quasi Experimental study to assess the effect of breast cancer workshop. The data showed the participant's knowledge of breast cancer increased significantly after the workshop. Based on the findings of the study, the researcher believes that nursing schools in Saudi Arabia need to provide workshops on a regular basis for nursing students on breast cancer and breast self- examination in order to increase their knowledge and enhance their confidence and skills to teach women about breast cancer and its early detection.

S. Ahija.N. Chakrabarthe., et.al., (2009) conducted a study on "To Determine The Level Of Knowledge Regarding Breast Cancer And To Increase Awareness About Breast Cancer Screening Practices Among A Group Of Women In A Testing Care Hospital In Mumbai, India". This study emphasised to determine the level of knowledge regarding breast cancer and to measure breast self-examination. A cross sectional study was conducted over a period of two months in a group of 80 women aged 40 years and above, with the means of a structured questionnaire. Breast cancer awareness was found to be 52% in this group of women even through 95% women claimed to have heard of the disease, while majority 60% stated their source of information to be family and friends, 38% of women had never heard of BSE and among those that had heard of it 15% were regular while 23% were irregular. Thus performance of BSE was found to be in adequate in this group. Not know of the connect method was the most frequently reported reason for non-performance.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The objectives of this study is

- To identify what does the student nurse know about the breast cancer?
- To assess the level of attitude towards of breast cancer among student nurses.
- To assess the knowledge and attitude regarding breast cancer.
- To find out the attitude level of breast cancer among some demographical variable.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY:

- The student nurses attitude towards the breast cancer is high
- The both ANM and GNM student nurses are having high attitude towards the breast cancer.

- The married student nurses are having high attitude towards the breast cancer rather than the unmarried student nurses.
- The urban student nurses are having better attitude towards the breast cancer rather than the rural student nurses.

Methodology used:

The survey was used to investigate the attitude towards the breast cancer and the target population is student nurses of both ANM and GNM in and around dindigul district. The total size of the samples of the present study is 360 student teachers.

Tool Construction:

The self-made questionnaire was used to find out whether there is awareness of breast cancer among the student nurses. The questionnaire had totally 28 items, in that all items were closed ended types. In this questionnaire is of 4 point scale.

Administration of the Tool:

The photocopies of the questionnaire were distributed to the student nurses with the official permission. The filled questionnaires were corrected analysed and interpreted.

Statistical Technique Used:

In this present study the investigator used percentage analyses to compare means for the statistical techniques.

Analyse and interpretation:

Hypothesis-1

The student nurses attitude towards the breast cancer is high.

Table 1: Student nurses respondents about the breast cancer attitudes.

Attitude levels	Student nurses overall respondents (N=360)
	%
High	84 (302)
Low	16 (58)

N=360

Interpretation:

From the above table it is understood that the maximum number of the student nurses are having high attitude towards the breast cancer at 84% from the overall respondents. Only few 16% are not having good attitude in the breast cancer.

Hypothesis-2

The both ANM and GNM program student nurses are having high attitude towards the breast cancer.

Table 2: Student nurses respondents about the breast cancer attitudes among ANM and GNM program.

Attitude levels	PROGRAM	
	ANM (N=152)	GNM (N=208)
	%	%
High	79.81 (121)	86.44 (180)
Low	20.20 (30)	13.56 (28)

N=360

Interpretation:

From the above table it is understood that the GNM student nurses are having high knowledge and attitudes at 86.44% towards the breast cancer comparing with ANM student nurses at 79.81%. this table also shows that only few numbers of student nurse are having low level of attitude about the breast cancer and its risk factors.

Hypothesis-3

The married student nurses are having high attitude towards the breast cancer rather than the unmarried student nurses.

Table 3: Student nurses respondents about the breast cancer attitudes among their marital status.

Attitude levels	MARITAL STATUS	
	Married (N=123)	Unmarried (N=237)
	%	%
High	81 (100)	82 (194)
Low	19 (23)	18 (43)

N=360

Interpretation:

From the above table it is understood that the both married and non-married student nurses are equally having high attitude towards the breast cancer at 81% and 82%. Likewise only rare number of student nurses only having low level of attitude about the breast cancer.

Hypothesis-4

The urban student nurses are having better attitude towards the breast cancer rather than the rural student nurses.

Table 4: Student nurses respondents about the breast cancer attitudes among their marital status.

Attitude levels	LOCALITY OF THE SAMPLE	
	Rural (N=132)	Urban (N=228)
	%	%
High	85 (112)	80 (182)
Low	15 (20)	20 (46)

N=360

Interpretation:

Surprisingly the above table shows that the rural area student nurses are having high attitude than the urban area student nurses towards the breast cancer. It reveals that the rural area student nurses are not bad in aware of knowledge.

DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY:

The samples are taken only from the student nurses those who were studying both GNM and ANM nursing in and around dindigul district. In this study the Investigator use only mean and percentage analysis to find out the attitude level of the breast cancer.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

- The maximum number of the student nurses are having high attitude towards the breast cancer at 84% from the overall respondents. Only few 16% are not having good attitude in the breast cancer.
- The GNM student nurses are having high knowledge and attitudes at 86.44% towards the breast cancer comparing with ANM student nurses at 79.81%. this table also shows that only few numbers of student nurse are having low level of attitude about the breast cancer and its risk factors.
- The both married and non-married student nurses are equally having high attitude towards the breast cancer at 81% and 82%. Likewise only rare number of student nurses only having low level of attitude about the breast cancer.
- The rural area student nurses are having high attitude than the urban area student nurses towards the breast cancer. It reveals that the rural area student nurses are not bad in aware of knowledge.

Educational Implications:

- Health awareness must be given to student nurses who are highly targeted groups and can easily reach the society.
- The importance of health education through awareness programs must be given to all the women and there by changing the misconceptions about breast cancer.
- Women should be made to know the prevailing health issues in women.
- The importance of mammogram and its benefit should be highly introduced to women.
- Women must be given the freedom to express their queries related to the health issues on any extent.
- The family doctors must ensure motivation to take steps to rule out the existing health issues in women.
- The government must further take initiative measures in sorting out the health related issues for women above 40 years and to give special attention about health issues through awareness programs that reaches the society.

CONCLUSION:

The present study involved about 360 of student nurses in and around dindigul district. The overall performance of the study participants is commendable, as 90% of them performed satisfactorily. We conclude that though there are gaps in their knowledge, the nurses in this study are well informed about breast cancer and can play an expanded role in breast cancer care. This expanded role will be similar to that currently being undertaken in the developed world. This study also concluded all the student nurses are high level of attitude towards in the breast

cancer. Surprisingly, the GNM student nurses and rural area student nurses having high attitude about the breast cancer threat. Nurses should emphasize the importance of self- breast examination and clinical breast examination to all women.

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