



**Research Article**

**KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE PRACTICE IN PAP SCREENING AMONG THE WOMEN  
ATTENDING THE GYNAECOLOGICAL OUT PATIENT DEPARTMENT AND  
FEMALE ATTENDANT ACCOMPANYING THEM**

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Knowledge, Attitude, Practice, Pap Screening

**ABSTRACT**

Worldwide, cervical cancer is both the fourth-most common cause of cancer and the fourth-most common cause of death from cancer in women. It is due to the abnormal growth of (cells that have the ability to invade or spread to other parts of the body. Human papillomavirus infection (HPV) causes more than 90% of cases. Cervical cancer typically develops from precancerous changes over 10 to 20 years. About 90% of cervical cancer cases are squamous cell carcinomas, 10% are adenocarcinoma, and a small number are other types. Diagnosis is typically by cervical screening followed by a biopsy. Medical imaging is then done to determine whether or not the cancer has spread. The aim is to assess Knowledge, attitude and practice in PAP screening among the women attending gynaecological outpatient department and female attendant accompanying them. 80% of women do not have access to screening, treatment, and prevention programs related to cervical cancer as a result of which cervical cancer is the third largest cause of Cancer mortality in India. The primary reason for late stage diagnosis of disease lack of awareness about screening and preventive methods of cervical cancer. The various obstacles to screen cervical cancer includes lack of awareness and misconception about female cancers, socio-economic limitations and lack of information regarding knowledge attitude and practice towards cervical cancer screening and hence this study was conducted with a aim to assess knowledge attitude and practice in Pap screening among women attending gynaecological outpatient department in Saveetha Medical College and Hospital the objective of this study is to provide information regarding current awareness about cervical cancer which is helpful to decide educational program and to overcome barriers associated for knowledge enhancement about cervical cancer and its screening.

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**INTRODUCTION**

World wide, cervical cancer is both the fourth-most common cause of cancer and the fourth-most common cause of death from cancer in women. It is due to the abnormal growth of cells that have the ability to invade or spread to other parts of the body.

Human papillomavirus infection (HPV) causes more than 90% of cases. Cervical cancer typically develops from precancerous changes over 10 to 20 years. About 90% of cervical cancer cases are squamous cell carcinomas, 10% are adenocarcinoma, and a small number are other types. Diagnosis is typically by cervical screening followed by a biopsy. Medical imaging is then done to determine whether or not the cancer has spread.

**Prevention**

HPV vaccines protect against between two and seven high-risk strains of this family of viruses and may prevent up to 90% of cervical cancers. As a risk of cancer still exists, guidelines recommend continuing regular Pap tests.

Other methods of prevention include: having few or no sexual partners and the use of condoms. Cervical cancer screening using the Pap test or acetic acid can identify precancerous changes which when treated can prevent the development of cancer.

In 2012, an estimated 528,000 cases of cervical cancer occurred, with 266,000 deaths. This is about 8% of the total cases and total deaths from cancer.<sup>1</sup> About 70% of cervical cancers occur in developing countries and 90% of the deaths. In low-income countries, it is one of the most common causes of cancer death. In developed countries, the widespread use of cervical screening programs has dramatically reduced rates of cervical cancer.

**Aim and objective of the project**

To assess Knowledge, attitude and practice in PAP screening among the women attending gynaecological outpatient department and female attendant accompanying them

**METHODOLOGY**

**Study design:** observational study

**Study area:** saveetha medical college and hospital, thandalam, Chennai

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*Knowledge, Attitude Practice In Pap Screening Among The Women Attending the Gynaecological Out Patient Department and Female Attendant Accompanying Them*

**Study population:** among women attending gynaecological outpatient them and female attendant accompanying them

**Duration:** 4 months

**Inclusion criteria**

among women attending gynaecological outpatient department and female attendant accompanying them

**Exclusion Criteria**

Among women who are not willing to take part in the study

**Sampling technique:** simple random sampling

**Data collection:** structured questionnaire

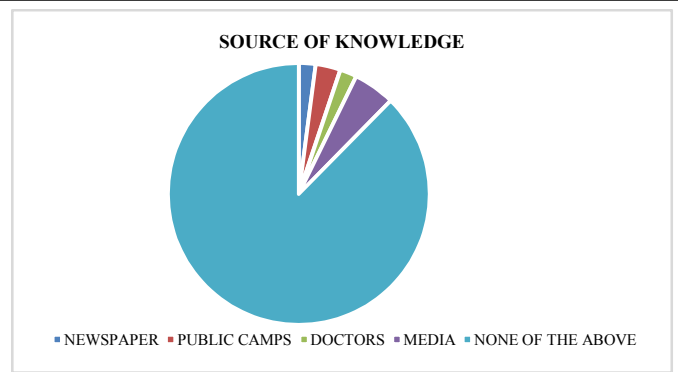
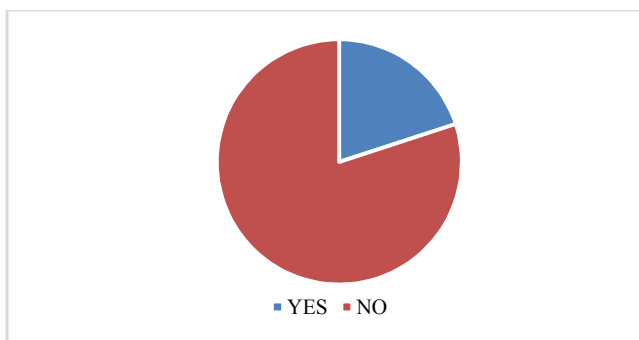
**Data collection technique:** question method

**Data entry and analysis:** was done using Microsoft office Xcel

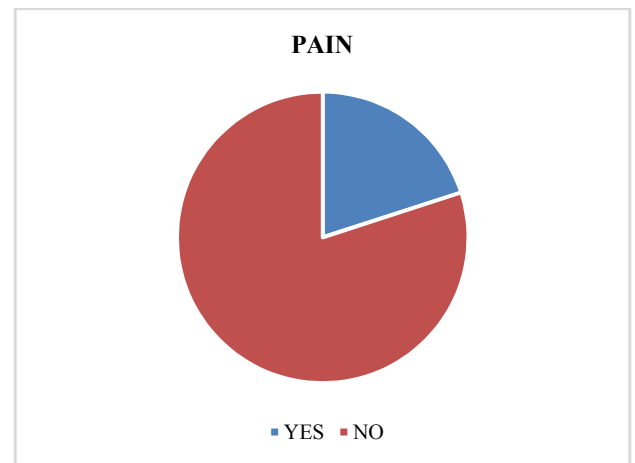
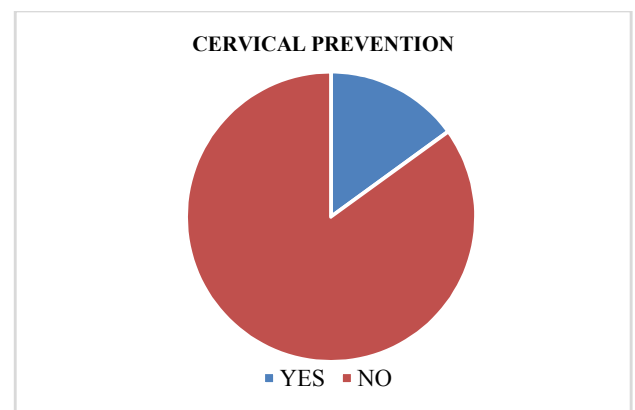
**RESULTS**

Based on knowledge in PAP screening among the women attending gynaecological outpatient department and female attendant accompanying them

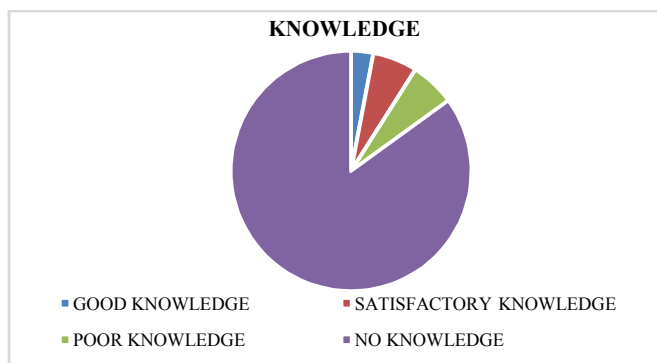
QUESTION	YES	NO
Have you heard about cervical cancer?	20	80
Have you heard about cervical screening?	20	80



QUESTION	YES	NO
Do you know that there is prevention for cervical cancer?	15	85
Do you think that the test for screening is painful?	20	80

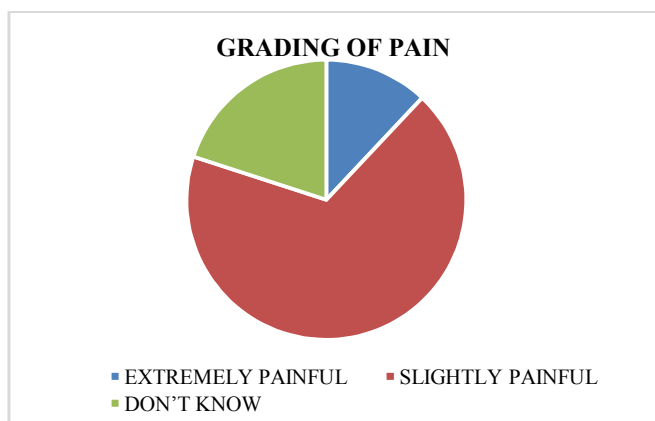


Question	Good Knowledge	Satisfactory Knowledge	Poor Knowledge	No Knowledge
How far you know about screening?	3	6	6	85

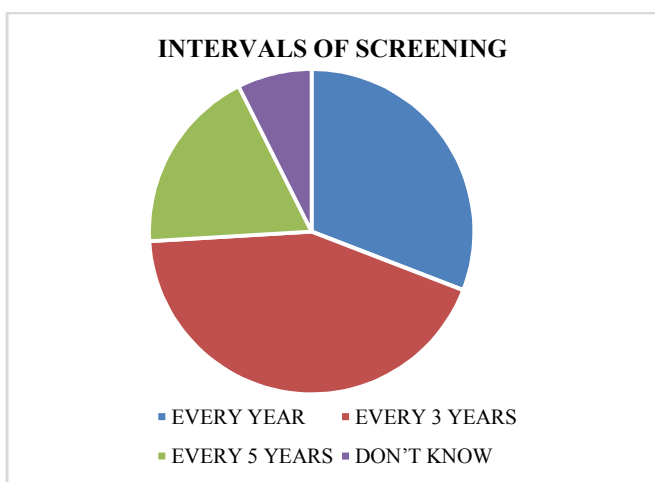


Question	Newspaper	Public camps	Doctors	Public	Media	None of the above
How did you come to know about PAP screening?	2	3	2	3	5	85

Question	Extremely Painful	Slightly Painful	Not Painful	Don't Know
How painful is it?	10	7	3	80

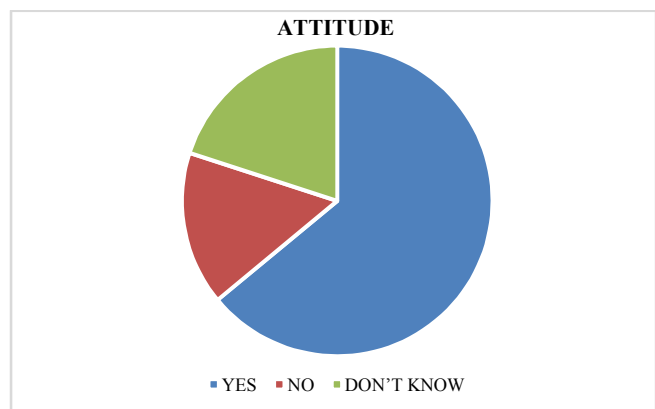


Question	Every Year	Every 3 Years	Every 5 years	Don't know
Do you know at what intervals the screening is done?	5	7	3	85



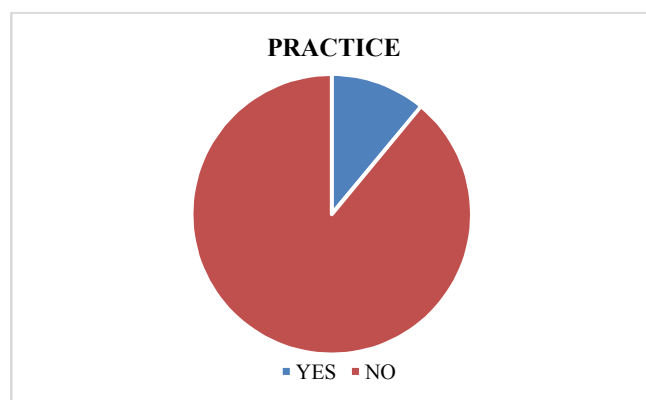
Based on attitude in PAP screening among the women attending gynaecological outpatient department and female attendant accompanying them

QUESTION	YES	NO	NONE OF THE ABOVE
Do you feel PAP screening is expensive?	64	20	16
Is it difficult to get to pap smear clinic?	64	20	16
Are you feeling uncomfortable or embarrassed in having PAP smear?	64	20	16
Are you feeling afraid that something will go wrong if you go for pap smear test?	64	20	16
Do you feel PAP screening is unnecessary if there is no signs and symptoms	64	20	16



Based On Practice in Pap Screening Among Women Attending Gynaecological Outpatient Department and Female Attendant Accompanying Them

QUESTION	YES	NO
Have you done PAP smear test?	11	89



### DISCUSSION

The study was conducted among 100 participants amongst which only 20% of the people have heard about Cervical cancer and Cervical screening. In a study conducted among 400 women in All India Institute of Medical Science, only 65.5% have heard about Cervical cancer and its screening. Similarly in a study among 200 participants in Bahrain about 64% of the people have never heard about cervical cancer and its screening. In this study among 100 participants, only 20% of the people who have knowledge about Pap screening, only about 3% of the people have good knowledge, while 6% of them have satisfactory knowledge. Remaining people have very poor knowledge or no knowledge about Pap screening. In this study two percent of them have gained knowledge through newspaper, three percent through public camp, two percent through doctors, three percent through public, five percent through media, comparatively in the study conducted in Saudi Arabia among 281 participants majority of them have gained knowledge through doctors and media. Among the hundred participants in this study only 15% of the people know that there is prevention for cervical cancer. 20% of the people feel the test is painful. Five percent of the people feel that the test should be done every year, 7% of the people feel it should be done every 3 years and three percent of the people feel it should be done every 5 years. In a study done at the Bahrain among 194 participants, 44.3 percent of the people feel that the test should be done every 3 years. In this study, 64% of the people feel embarrassed in undergoing the screening test, While in a study conducted in Saudi Arabia among 281 participants, 12.1 percent people feel embarrassed in undergoing this test. Among the 100 participants in this study only 36% of the people have favourable attitude towards cervical screening while the study among 400 participants in All India Institute of Medical Science shows 75% of the people have favourable attitude towards the screening method. According to this study only 11% of the people have undergone this test while the study conducted in All India Institute of Medical Science among 400 participants only 9.5% people have undergone the test.

## CONCLUSION

80% of women do not have access to screening, treatment, and prevention programs related to cervical cancer as a result of which cervical cancer is the third largest cause of Cancer mortality in India. The primary reason for late stage diagnosis of disease lack of awareness about screening and preventive methods of cervical cancer. The various obstacles to screen cervical cancer includes lack of awareness and misconception about female cancers ,socio-economic limitations and lack of information regarding knowledge attitude and practice towards cervical cancer screening and hence this study was conducted with a aim to assess knowledge attitude and practice in Pap screening among women attending gynaecological outpatient department in Saveetha Medical College and Hospital the objective of this study is to provide information regarding current awareness about cervical cancer which is helpful to decide educational program and to overcome barriers associated for knowledge enhancement about cervical cancer and its screening.

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