

# Psycho-economic conditions of Cervical Cancer patients and impact of Social Work Intervention

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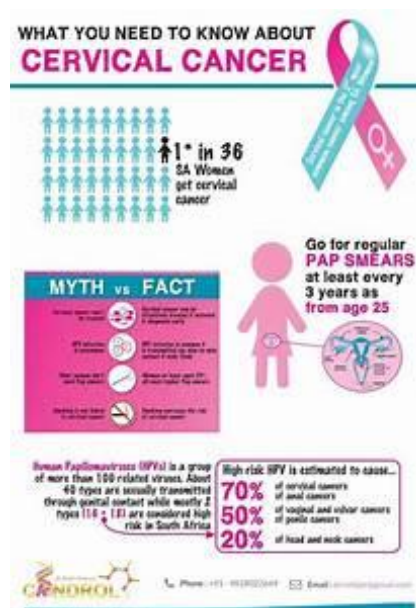


Fig: 1

## ABSTRACT:

In today's world women mortality rate is high because of cervical cancer. It is observed among many types of cancer in women, cervical cancer is the main cause for women mortality rate. In developing countries like India, either screening for cervical cancer is not available for all, or it is out of reach for many due to lack of awareness as and access to health services is limited in many developing countries.

It is observed women with low socio- economic conditions have more incidence of cervical cancer. And mortality rate is higher as treatment of cervical cancer is very expensive.

It is observed women undergoing cervical cancer treatment have psychological problems like low self-esteem, depression, insulted or abused by family members, feeling sensation.

In this paper the psychological conditions of the patient during treatment and impact of social work intervention to help patient to cope better with very distressing situations is studied. Multi prolonged approach of the cervical cancer patient. It is observed that social work intervention has a positive impact on the psychological health of the cervical cancer patients.

#### **KEY WORDS:**

Social work intervention, psychological problems, cervical cancer, depression, isolation.

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

Cervical cancer is the most common cancer in India among the women aged 16 year or older. The world statistics quote that in 100 women across the advanced countries will face the cervical cancer. While in India it occurs in 1 in 53 women. The HPV infection is a sexually transmitted disease. There are more than 100 different types of HPV strains minimum fifteen types are known to cause cervical cancer. In the year 2015, nearly 86,000 new cases of cervical cancer were reported in India. The incidence of cervical cancer is high during reproductive age between 14 to 51 years. It was found that the socio-economic conditions of India. Women will have a significant impact on the diagnosis and treatment of cervical cancer. As and psychological support will have a better outcome and quality of life cervical cancer patient.

Reasons for the higher incidence of cervical cancer and higher mortality rate in developing countries are lack of awareness of cervical cancer among the people, health care providers and policy makers. Absence of quality screening program for precursor lesions and early stage cancer. In many women who have never been screened, cancer is diagnosed in advanced stages where cure is not possible. Limited access to health care services, Lack of functional referral systems.

The differences between developed and developing countries reflect the bitter inequalities in the social and economic status, health status and represent a challenge for health care delivery services. India has a disproportionately higher burden of cervical cancer (Shanta et al as 2000) Although its age standardized death rate of 9.5 deaths per 1,00,000 population is representative of global rate, it accounts for nearly one third of global cervical cancer deaths (WHO 2009, GLOBOCAN 2002, IARC 2009). There is considerable excess mortality from cervical cancer in India compared to the rest of the world and south Asia region (National cancer registry program 2009, WHO 2004).

Figure 2- Differences in origin of cancer cervix and uterus

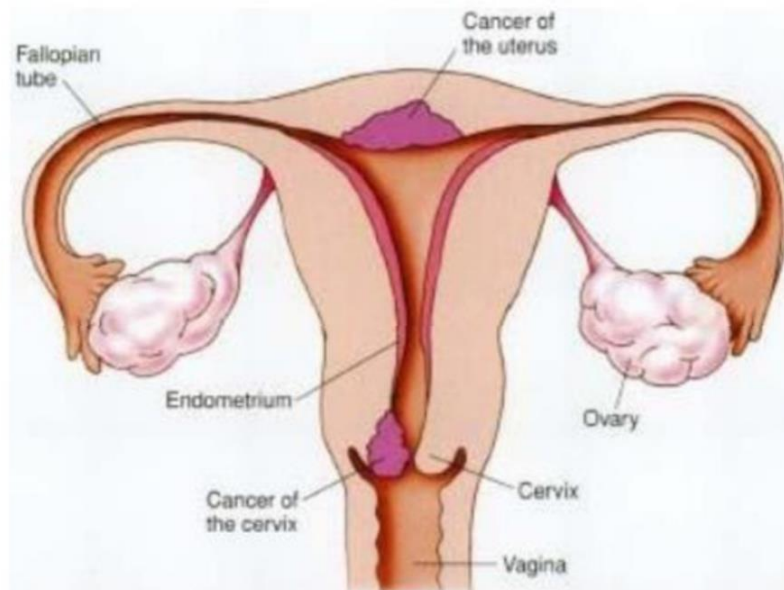
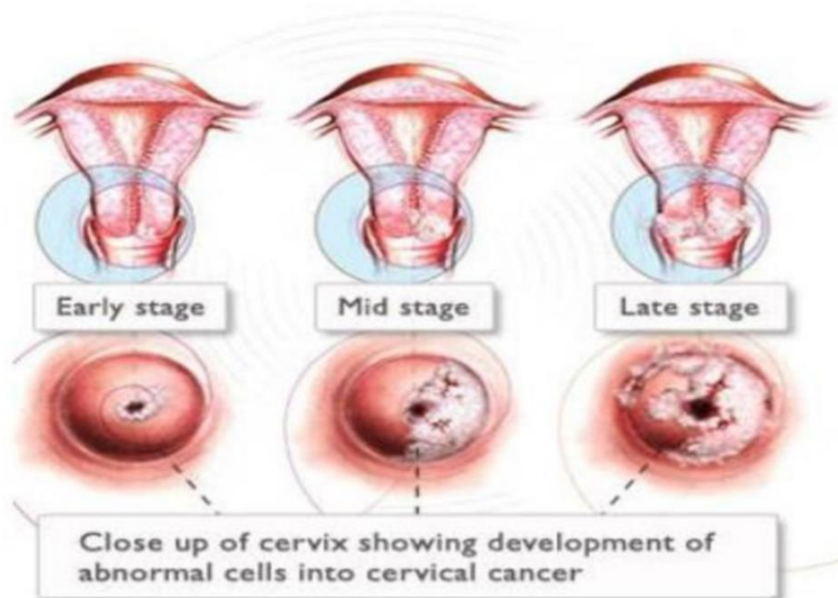


Figure 3- Stages of development of cancer cervix



**SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS:**

Socio-economic conditions play an important role in the family as well as society. Low socio-economic conditions can lead to poor treatment options as cervical cancer treatment is very expensive. In low socio-economic conditions, average annual income is less than 1lakh and poor educational qualifications with single hand earnings cannot afford the treatment cost.

Majority of the cervical cancer cases are from the under developed rural regions with low socio-economic back ward areas. India lacks the massive cervical cancer screening programs which help to detect the cervical cancer at on earlier stage. Which will reduce the economic burden on the poor families? It was found that the socio-economic conditions of Indian women will have a significant impact on the diagnosis and treatment of cervical cancer.

Table No .1

Annual Income (in Rs.)	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 25000	58	18.1
25000-50000	106	33.2
50001-75000	125	39.1
75001-100000	21	6.5
Above 100000	10	3.1
Total	320	100

Source : Primary data

Fig. No. 4.12

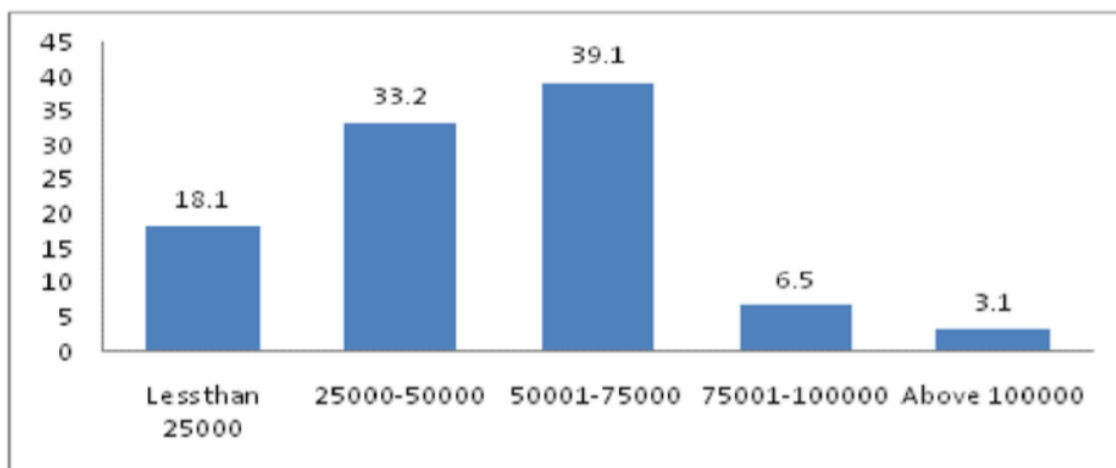
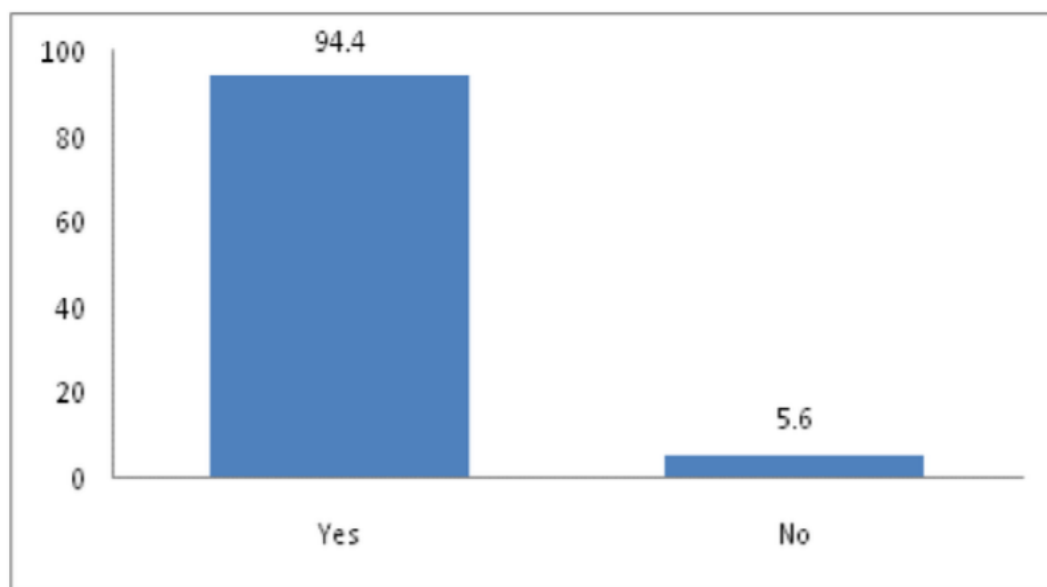
The Annual Income of the Family

Generally the cancer patients with high monthly income can spend more amounts for curing cervical cancer by way of paying the medical bills for advanced medical treatment procedures.

**PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS:**

Patients undergoing cancer treatment are under severe psychological stress, very distressing situations like isolation, abusing from relatives (or) family members, financial burden can lead to depression among many cancer patients. Lack of psychological support from husband, and other family members can make them depressed and affect the quality of life. Many of the family members behavior with the patient has changed after knowing the severity of the disease, few of the family members are not interested in providing proper medical care to the patients. All these situations of low self-esteem, anxiety, feeling isolated from the family, friends and relatives leads to negative impact on the treatment and recovery process after cancer patients.

Feeling of Self Guiltiness



**SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTION:**

Psychological interventions also have a range of pleasing effect. They can help patients to cope better with very distressing situations, they can positively improve affective state, and they certainly help to reduce the physical side effects of the disease or its treatment. In addition, just as the sight ,the scent and the touch of a rose provide an overall positive effect on its beholder, so too can psychological interventions provide on overall positive effect on the quality of life of patients with cancer.

According to United Nations organization(1958:35)social work helps individual grown and community to reach high level of social, mental and physical well-being.

According to Witmer, there are two major objectives of social work (1) to removethose difficulties of people which are felt by them in proper utilization of services, and (2)toexplain the community resources available for people’s welfare. Intervention is an

undividable part of social work practices because it is a professional service, which is based on complete scientific knowledge and skills. This knowledge and skill program relies on human relation to assist individuals alone or in group to obtain social and personal satisfaction and independence. Multipronged Approach is a five point strategy which aims at solving the psycho-social problems of the cervical cancer patients who are undergoing the process of cervical cancer treatment.

### **PREVENTIVE MEASURES:**

The cancer prevention programs in India need to analyze the individual and community level barriers to the aspect of cancer prevention and treatment. The program needs to be design optimally with regard to outcomes and cost of the cancer treatment. The cancer prevention programs must be designed in such a way by keeping in view of the socio-economic conditions, available resources, cost effectiveness and psychological aspect of the cervical cancer patients in India. Having one-fourth of the world's total cancer patients. India at the cross roads totackle and prevent the aspect of cervical cancer by effective implementation of its cancer prevention program at all levels world health organization(WHO), observed that health education and promotion should been an integral part of any national cervical cancer control program and by incorporating this cervical cancer awareness can be created among women and proper medical care at an early stage will make them survive.

### **CONCLUSION:**

In India, cervical cancer is the main cause of cancer mortality in women accounts to 17 percent of total cancer deaths. The findings of the earlier research studies made globally suggest that women who are having less socio-economic resources are less likely to undergo the treatment process of cervical cancer and they fail to have proper outcomes. Hence, it is the need of the hour to study the socio-economic conditions of cervical cancer patients and to analyze their awareness levels towards the cervical cancer and the psychological problems they encounter in the process of cervical cancer treatment. So, the cancer prevention program must be designed in such away by keeping in view of the socio-economic conditions, available resources, cost effectiveness and psychological aspect of the cervical cancer patients in India.

The disease has cure with different treatments. The cure is possible if the disease is identified at early stages. Preventive measures would be better than treating later. This is possible with early screening tests. WHO is focusing on the preventive measures with the association of local government bodies of the developing countries?

The social work intervention strategy deals in five phases helps to rapport building, counselling, awareness and guidance to respondent, awareness and guidance to family and work at hospital level. The post intervention assessment result further depicts that there is a decrease in the depression levels, anxiety levels and stress conditions of the respondents in the study.

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