

# “A study to assess the knowledge regarding warning signs of cancer among home-maker women in the selected areas of Pune city”

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## Abstract

**Introduction:** When aberrant cells proliferate uncontrolled, cross their normal borders to infiltrate other body parts and/or move to other organs, the result is cancer, a broad category of disorders that may begin in almost any function or muscle. The latter phase, known as metastasizing, is a significant contributor to cancer-related mortality. Other synonyms for cancer include neoplasm and malignant tumour. Approximately 9.6 million fatalities, or one in every six deaths, were attributed to cancer in 2018, making it the second largest cause of death worldwide. **Methodology:** In the present study Descriptive Survey research design was used. Data collected on 500 samples. Tool was constructed to identify the demographic variables, and a set of self-structured questionnaires on knowledge regarding warning signs of cancer in home- maker women. **Result:** The main results about the degree of awareness of cancer warning signals among Home-Maker women are that 497 (99.4%) of the women have average knowledge, 3 (0.6%) have poor knowledge, and 0 (0%), have high knowledge. The mean awareness of cancer warning signals amongst Home-Maker women is 9.37, with a standard deviation of 0.74. **Conclusion:** The research was carried out to see how well Home-Maker women in certain parts of Pune city were informed about cancer warning indicators. The analysis was conducted to evaluate Home-Maker women’s awareness of cancer warning indicators. It demonstrates the average knowledge score of most married women. The level of understanding and their demographics did not significantly correlate with one another. **Recommendation:** A similar study can be done on urban population.

**Keywords:** Assess, Knowledge, Warning signs, Cancer, Home- maker.

## INTRODUCTION

When aberrant cells proliferate uncontrolled, cross their normal borders to infiltrate other body parts and/or move to other organs, the result is cancer, a broad category of disorders that may begin in almost any function or muscle. The latter phase, known as metastasizing, is a significant contributor to cancer-related mortality. Other synonyms for cancer include neoplasm and malignant tumor. Approximately 9.6 million fatalities, or one in every six deaths, were attributed to cancer in 2018, making it the second largest cause of death worldwide. Compared to women, who are more likely to acquire breast, colorectal, lung, cervical, and thyroid cancer, males are more likely to develop lung, prostate, colorectal, stomach, and liver cancer. The burden of cancer continues to rise globally, putting great physical, mental, and financial strain on individuals, families, communities, and health systems.

Numerous health institutions in low- and middle-income countries are least prepared to manage this burden, leaving a large proportion of cancer patients without access to quick, high-quality diagnosis and treatment. The availability of early identification, high-quality treatment, and survivorship care in nations with robust health systems has improved the survival rates of several cancer forms. With a projected 570 000 new cases in 2018, which accounted for 7.5% of all female global disease burden, cancer - related deaths most common malignancy in women. More than 85% of the projected 311 000 deaths from uterine cancer each year take place in less developed areas. In affluent nations, there are programmes in place that allow women to undergo routine screenings and girls to get the HPV vaccine. A malignancy may spread to surrounding organs, blood vessels, or nerves or start to press on them. Some of the symptoms and indications of cancer are brought on by this pressure

## NEED OF THE STUDY-

Both men and women may get a variety of cancers. Regardless of a person's sex, these cancers often present with comparable symptoms. However, certain cancers, such as those of the uterus, ovaries, and cervix, exclusively afflict those who have female reproductive organs. Additionally, certain cancers affect women more often than they do men. Social influences on their lives, biological variations between the sexes, or a mix of both may be to blame for this.

Some cancer symptoms, such as an uncomfortable lump with in breast, appear early in the disease's progression and should be investigated by a specialist. Only when the cancer has advanced can other symptoms, including fever or weight loss, appear. Other signals of cancer in certain body areas include changes in bowel movement, chronic diarrhoea, and trouble swallowing.

In 2020, there will be 18.1 million new cases of cancer worldwide. 9.3 million of these instances included males, while 8.8 million involved women. According to a recent study, cancer diagnoses and fatalities have increased in Maharashtra by 11,306 and 5,727, respectively, during the previous three years, an increase of almost 8% overall. Ashwini Kumar Choubey, state minister for social welfare, recently presented the statistics from the National Centre for Disease Diagnostics and Research- National Disease Surveillance Program (NCDIR-NCRP) before the Lok Sabha. Majority of the population in India fall under the lower socio economic section of the society and face great burden for the treatment cost leading to ignorance of the disease conditions increasing the mortality rate. This comes the role of health care providers in creating awareness and education among the population for early detection of various types of cancer through screening and self-examination.

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

“A study to assess the knowledge regarding warning signs of cancer among home-maker women in the selected areas of Pune city”.

## OBJECTIVES-

- To assess the knowledge regarding warning signs of cancer among home- maker women.
- To associate the findings with the selected demographic variables

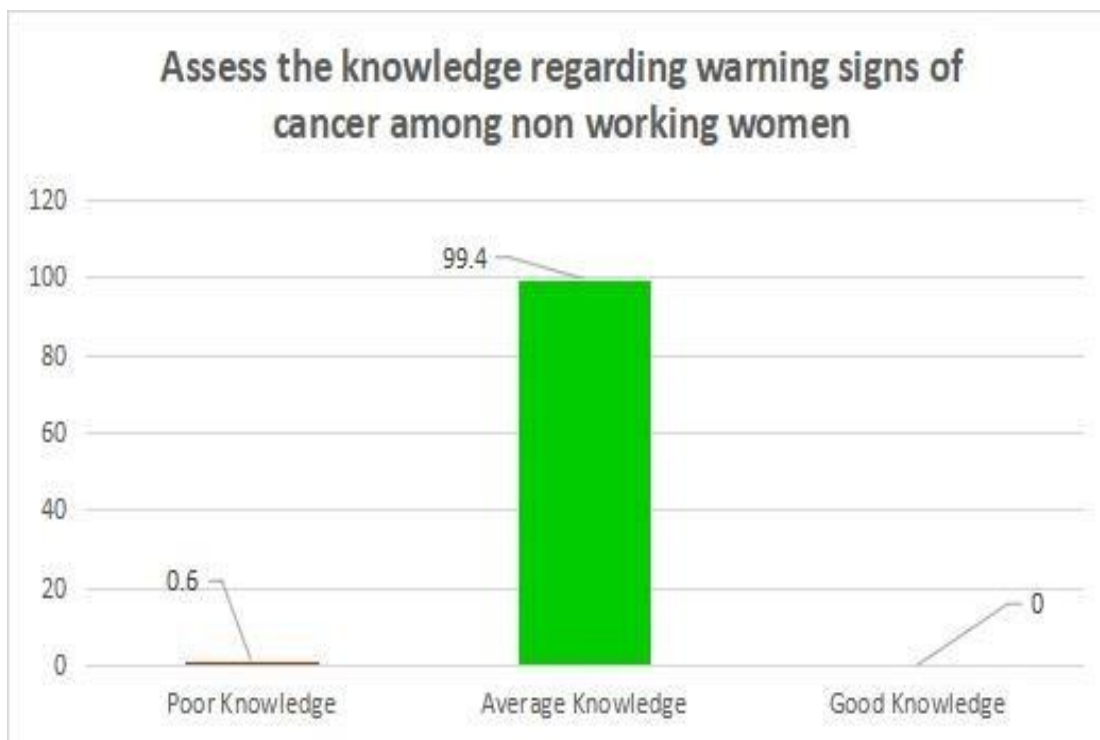
## METHODS AND MATERIALS USED-

In the present study Descriptive Survey research design was used. Data collected on 500 samples. Tool was constructed to identify the demographic variables, and a set of self-structured questionnaires on knowledge regarding warning signs of cancer in home- maker women. Section A included Demographic data: Age, educational status, general information on cancer etc. SECTION- II included modified cancer awareness measure toolkit: 18 questions are prepared on knowledge regarding warning signs of cancer.

## RESULTS-

FINDING RELATED TO ASSESS THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE REGARDING WARNING SIGNS OF CANCER AMONG HOME- MAKER WOMEN.

Assess the knowledge regarding warning signs of cancer among home maker women



Data presented in Table shows that level of knowledge regarding warning signs of cancer among home-maker women, the major findings are 497(99.4%) of women having average knowledge, the 3(0.6%) having poor knowledge and 0(0%) having good knowledge regarding warning signs of cancer. The mean of the level of knowledge regarding warning signs of cancer among home-maker women is 9.37 with SD is  $\pm 0.74$ .

#### ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE KNOWLEDGE REGARDING WARNING SIGNS OF CANCER AMONG HOME-MAKER WOMEN WITH SELECTED SOCIO DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES.

Table 1: association between the knowledge regarding warning signs of cancer among home-maker women with selected socio demographic variables

A. Personal information	Average	Poor	Df	table Value	Calculated value	P value	Remark
<b>1. Age (in years)-</b>							
a) 18-31	168	2	3	7.815	0.97	0.8	NS
b) 32-44	145	1					
c) 45-57	162	0					
d) 58-70	22	0					
<b>2. Educational status-</b>							
a) Primary level	238	0	4	9.488	2.85	0.58	NS
b) Secondary level	200	2					
c) Graduate	40	1					
d) Post graduate	19	0					
e) Any other specify—	0	0					

<b>B. General information on cancer</b>							
<b>1) Do you have any information regarding warning signs of cancer---</b>							
a) Yes	207	1	1	3.841	0.08	0.77	NS
b) No	290	2					
<b>2) If yes specify the source of information-</b>							
a) Newspaper	290	1	6	12.592	1.67	0.94	NS
b) Magazine	148	2					
c) Television	9	0					
d) Radio	50	0					
e) Internet	0	0					
f) Relative/friends	0	0					
g) Any other	0	0					
<b>3) What is cancer-</b>							
a) It is a communicable disease	196	1	3	7.815	0.25	0.96	NS
b) Disease of heart	64	0					
c) Abnormal growth of cells	122	1					
d) Do not know	115	1					
<b>4) Is cancer curable-</b>							
a) Yes	480	2	3	7.815	7.68	0.05	NS
b) No	17	1					
c) May be	0	0					
d) Don't know	0	0					

The data presented in Table-3 shows there was no significant association found between knowledge regarding warning signs of cancer among home-maker women with selected socio demographic variables like Age (in years), Educational status, Do you have any information regarding warning signs of cancer, If yes specify the source of information, What is cancer, Is cancer curable.

## DISCUSSION-

With the aforementioned goals and hypothesis, the study's results were examined. The goal of the current research was to evaluate home-maker women's understanding of cancer warning indicators.

An exploratory research was conducted by Venila Thoudam and Dr. Veena Sakhardande in the year 2021 to gauge the level of awareness of cancer warning symptoms among people dwelling in certain urban slums in Pune. According to the study's findings, 33.8% of the samples belong to the 18–31-year age group, 37.8% to the 32–44-year age group, 19% to the 45–57-year age group, and 7.4% to the 58–70-year age group. A breakdown of the samples' gender reveals that 41.3 percent of the samples were male and 58.7 percent were female. Additionally, 22.1 percent of the samples had only completed primary school, while 53 percent had completed secondary school, 20 percent had graduated, and 4.7 percent had completed a postgraduate programme. 29 percent of people were working, 27 percent were jobless, and 44 percent were homemakers, according to the distribution by occupation. 515 individuals (51.5%) were found to have average understanding of the warning symptoms of cancer, while 33 percent had poor knowledge and just 15.5 percent had strong knowledge. It is clear from the data analysis in the current research that home-maker women are aware of the indications of cancer. The main conclusions are that 497 (99.4%) of women have average understanding of cancer warning signals, 3 (0.6%) have bad knowledge, and 0 (0%), have high knowledge. The mean awareness of cancer warning signals amongst home-maker women is 9.37 with a standard deviation of 0.74. The level of understanding and their sociodemographic characteristics did not significantly correlate with one another.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors certify that they have no involvement in any organization or entity with any financial or non-financial interest in the subject matter or materials discussed in this paper.

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There is no funding Source for this study

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## LIMITATIONS: -

- The following study was limited to 500 women of Pune city.
- Limited period of time for study.
- The study is limited to the experience level of the researcher.

## RECOMMENDATIONS: -

- A study can be done to find out the effectiveness of planned teaching program on the rural and urban people to improve the knowledge regarding cancer and its prevention.
- A similar study can be done in larger depth.
- A similar study can be replicated in different setting to strengthen the findings.
- Various other intervention modalities, which may vary in content and method, can be used to assess the effectiveness of STP among women in community

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