

ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE ON VAGINAL INFECTION AMONG WOMEN

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Abstract

Vaginitis is an inflammation of the vaginal wall. The vagina is lined by stratified squamous epithelium. Vaginal infection can cause vaginal discharge, discomfort and vaginal odour. A discharge can result from certain sexually transmitted disease such as Chlamydia infection or gonorrhoea. **Objective:** To assess the knowledge on vaginal infection among women. **Methodology:** The research approach was Quantitative in nature. A descriptive research design was selected for the study. The study population included women at reproductive age group between the age group of 25 to 45 years at Taramani, Chennai. From the general population, 30 women were chosen using non-Probability convenient sampling technique. A structured questionnaire was used to assess the demographic variables and knowledge of vaginal infection. Data was analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistics. **Result:** Majority (73.3%) of the samples had inadequate knowledge of vaginal infection and 26.7% of the samples had moderate knowledge on vaginal infection. **Conclusion:** Vaginitis is an inflammation of the vaginal wall, the lining of the vagina is the stratified squamous epithelium, and vaginal infections can cause vaginal discomfort and vaginal secretions. The study emphasized the need for effective community education on women's reproductive health.

Key words: Premenstrual Symptoms, physiological, psychological & behavioural symptoms, Coping Strategies, Adolescent Girls.

Introduction

Vaginitis is an inflammation of the vaginal wall. The vagina is lined with stratified squamous epithelium. Vaginal infection can cause vaginal discharge, discomfort, and vaginal odour. Discharge can result from certain sexually transmitted diseases such as chlamydial infections or gonorrhoea. These diseases can spread from the vagina to the cervix. The narrow lower part of the uterus opens into the vagina and uterus, causing pelvic inflammatory disease.

The prevalence of bacterial vaginitis varied, ranging from 8% to 75%. The Vulvovaginal candidiasis was 2.2 - 30% and the trichomoniasis 34%. Infection of the female genital tract can lead to vaginitis, cervicitis, and urethritis, and trichomoniasis has been linked to poor pregnancy outcomes.

The American Social Health Association (ASHA, 2013) reported that 70% of women are self-medicated for vaginal infections before seeking a doctor. They generally mistakenly thought they had a yeast infection and it was

actually bacterial vaginitis. Therefore, it is important to confirm the diagnosis using microbiological tests and a comprehensive sexual health examination to rule out concomitant infection (Mitchell, 2004; Schnatz and Miranda, 2011).

The primary role of the nurse in treating vaginal infections is to provide health education to change health behaviour and prevent the occurrence and recurrence of vaginal infections. Behavioural factors such as showering or menstrual hygiene practices have been suggested as important factors that could affect the makeup of the vaginal flora. Therefore, the present study was conducted to determine the prevalence of bacterial vaginitis, vulvar candidiasis, vaginal and trichomoniasis, and the association of bacterial vaginitis with sociodemographic features, as well as sexual and hygienic variables in women. During its posting to the community, it found that many women complained about in addition, they will receive prophylactic treatment for vaginal infections as

part of reproductive health and child health programs strategies that inspired the researcher to conduct a study to assess knowledge of vaginal infections in 25-year-old women. -45 years in a select area, Chennai.

Statement of the Problem

A study to assess the knowledge on vaginal infection among women at the age group of 25-45 years at selected setting, Chennai.

Objectives

- To assess the knowledge on vaginal infection among women.
- To associate the knowledge with demographic variables.
- To create awareness regarding the knowledge on vaginal infection at selected setting Chennai.

Materials and Methods

The research approach was Quantitative in nature. A descriptive research design was selected for the study. The study population included women at reproductive age group between the age group of 25 to 45 years at Taramani, Chennai. From the general population, 30 women were chosen using non-Probability convenient sampling technique. A structured questionnaire was used to assess the demographic variables and knowledge of vaginal infection.

Result and Discussion

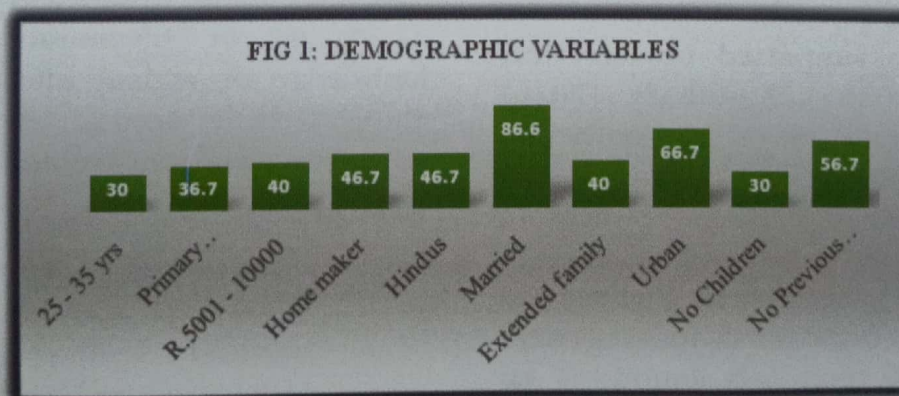
Tool for data collection

The tool consisted of structured questionnaire. The tool consisted two parts. Part I included structured inquiries to elicit the demographic information like age, education, monthly family income, occupation, religion, marital status, type of family, residence, number of children, previous knowledge on vaginal infection and source of information. Part II consists of structured questionnaire like definition, risk factors, types, signs & symptoms, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of vaginal infection. Total 20 items each statement was scored as correct answer "1" marks & wrong answer "0" marks. The evaluation was done as inadequate (<50%), moderate (50 -75%) and adequate (>75%) knowledge.

Method of data collection and data analysis

Data was collected through Self-report interview methodology. The study was approved by the ethical committee constituted by the college. Consent was obtained from the participants and therefore confidentiality and privacy of the samples were maintained throughout the study. Data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Frequency and percentage distribution was used to describe the demographic information and knowledge on vaginal infection. Chi-square test applied to associate the knowledge on vaginal infection with selected demographic variables.

Demographic Variables



The Majority (30%) of the women were in the age group of 25-35 years, equal 36.7% of the women had no formal education and primary education and 40% of the women family income was Rs 5001-10000, 46.7% of the women were home maker and belong to Hindu religion, 86.6% of the women were married and 40% of the women were from extended family, 66.7% of the women were residing in the urban community, 30% of the women had no children and 56.7% of the women were not aware about the vaginal infection.

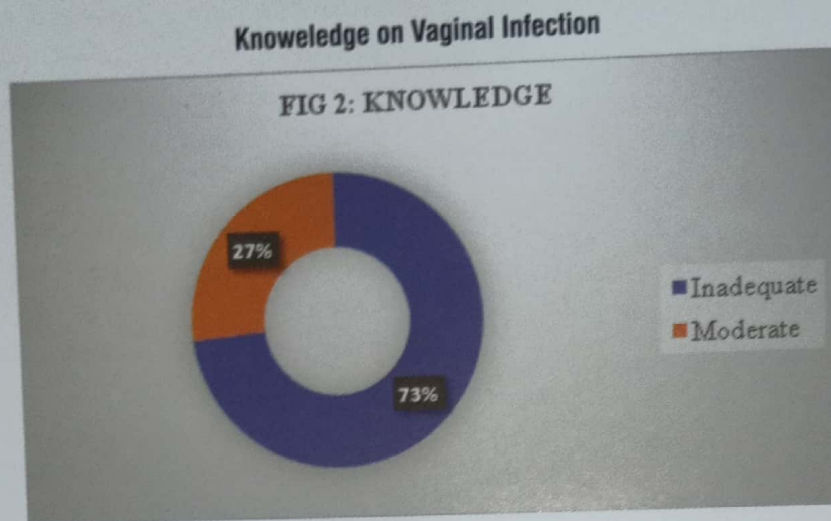


Fig 2: shows that, 73.3% of the samples had inadequate knowledge of vaginal infection and 26.7% of the samples had moderate knowledge on vaginal infection.

The study was supported by the study conducted by Ebtisam hashew (2017), to identify the awareness of women regarding vaginal infection and determine the association of the knowledge with selected sample characteristics. This showed 71.33% of women had no knowledge on vaginal infection and 27.7 % of the women had good knowledge on vaginal infection.

Association of knowledge with demographic variables

There was a statistically significant association between the level of knowledge with age, education and family income, occupation, religion, marital status, type of family, education, residence and number of children at $p < 0.05$ level. There was no statistically significant association between the level of knowledge with previous knowledge.

The study was supported by the study conducted by Varsha chaudhary (2016) conducted a research study on prevalence and determinants of vaginal discharge among women. 100 samples were taken. Structured questionnaire was used to collect the data. They stated that internal gynecological problem was perceived as a main cause for vaginal infection. 73.3% vaginal infection was found to be

significantly associated with other gynecological problems and demographic variables like age and education.

Conclusion

Vaginitis is an inflammation of the vaginal wall, the lining of the vagina is the stratified squamous epithelium, and vaginal infections can cause vaginal discomfort and vaginal secretions. In this study, 73.33% of the specimens have insufficient knowledge, and 27.7% of the specimens have moderate knowledge of vaginal infections. The study emphasized the need for effective community education on women's reproductive health.

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