

MODELLING THE FACTORS AFFECTING WOMEN TO UPTAKE PAP TEST

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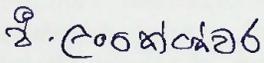
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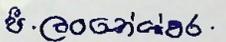
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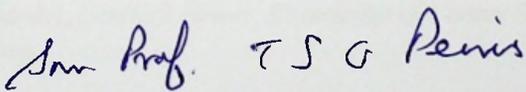
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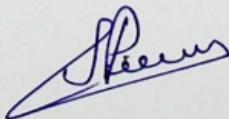
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Abstract

Cervical cancer is a leading cause of deaths among women worldwide. But the condition is preventable and can be detected prior to the symptoms appear through regular screening of pap test. Although screening facilities are available freely, the non-uptake of pap test by the women in vulnerable ages remains very high. Purpose of the study is to determine the level of knowledge and practice on cancer of cervix and screening and the influential factors for uptake of pap test amongst women (> 35 years) in Jaffna. A random sample of size 225 from Tamil community was selected and a structural questionnaire was used to obtain the necessary data. Irrespective of different variables only 64% were aware of the pap test and 87% of women in Jaffna district have never uptaken the pap test. Furthermore, 47% were unaware of any one of the signs and symptoms while 29% were unaware of the risk factors. The χ^2 analysis found that age category, income category, educational level, the knowledge on signs and symptoms, heard of cervical cancer screening, knowledge on signs and symptoms, heard of cervical cancer screening, knowing the possibility of detection, awareness of health facilities for screening services, and knowledge of cervical cancer screening, status of use of contraceptives, and family engagement are significant on uptake of pap test. When all factors are considered simultaneously, it was found that, education level, total monthly income, knowledge of detection before symptoms, participation of awareness program, knowledge of cancer screening, use of contraceptives are significantly positively influence on the odd ratio of not being up taking the pap test. The predictive power of the fitted model is 88%. The odds of not up taking the pap test by women is 254 times higher for those who have primary education compared to those who have tertiary education and above. The corresponding figure for those have secondary education is 76. The odds of not up taking the pap test is 6 times higher for women whose total family income lesser 25, 000/= compared to the women whose family income is higher than 50, 000/= . The odds of not up taking the pap test by those who are not using contraceptives is 5.7 times higher than that of who are taking oral contraceptives. The inferences derived in this study need to be used effectively for the benefit of women in Jaffna district.

Keywords: *Binary Logistic Model, Cervical cancer, Knowledge of Cancer Screening, Odd Ratio, Pap Test, Uptake, Women*

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Declaration	I
Abstract.....	II
Acknowledgements	III
Table of Contents	IV
List of Figures.....	IX
List of Tables.....	X
List of Annexures.....	XII
List of Abbeviations	XIII

CHAPTER 01 - INTRODUCTION

1.1	Background of the Study	1
1.2	Cervical Cancer	2
1.3	Types of Cervical Cancer	2
1.4	Impact of Cervical Cancer	3
1.5	Situation of Cervical Cancer in Sri Lanka	4
1.6	Annual Trend in Cervix Cancer	4
1.7	Screening of Cancer Persons	6
1.8	Distribution of Awareness about Pap Test in Sri Lanka	7
1.9	Research Problem	9
1.10	Research Objectives	10
1.11	Significance of the Study	10
1.12	Outline of Dissertation	10

CHAPTER 02 - LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1	Cervical Cancer	11
2.2	Importance of Early Detection and Prevention of Cervical Cancer	12

2.3	Causes of Cervical Cancer	12
2.4	Influence of Knowledge and Awareness	15
2.5	Influence of Attitude and Practices	17
2.6	Influence of Socioeconomic & Demographic Factors	20
2.7	Studies in Sri Lanka	22
2.8	Summary of Chapter 02.....	23

CHAPTER 03 – MATERIALS AND METHODS

3.1	Study Design	24
3.2	Population and Sample Size	24
3.3	Sampling Procedure	25
3.4	Data Collection	25
3.5	Conceptual Frame Work	27
3.6	Statistical Analysis	29
3.6.1	Independent Samples T Test	29
3.6.2	Chi Square Test Statistic	30
3.6.3	Binary Logistic Regression Model	30
3.6.3.1	Log - Likelihood Statistic	31
3.6.3.2	Cox & Snell Pseudo R ² and Nagelkerke Pseudo R ² ...	32
3.6.3.3	Hosmer Lemeshow Test	32
3.6.3.4	Wald Statistic	32
3.6.3.5	Odds Ratio (OR)	33

CHAPTER 04 – EXPLORATORY DATA ANALYSIS

4.1	Distribution of Social and Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents.	34
4.1.1	Age Category.....	35
4.1.2	Religion	35
4.1.3	Level of Education	36
4.1.4	Employment Status	36
4.1.5	Marital Status	36
4.1.6	Total Monthly Income	36

4.1.7	Number of Deliveries	36
4.2	Knowledge in Cervical Cancer	37
4.2.1	Source of Information	37
4.2.2	Knowledge on Signs and Symptoms of Cervical Cancer	38
4.3	Knowledge on Causes of Cervical Cancer	39
4.4	Knowledge on Curability of Cervical Cancer	40
4.5	Knowledge on Cervical Cancer Screening	41
4.5.1	Information Sources	41
4.6	Knowledge on Screening Services and Health Facility	42
4.6.1	Sources of Health Facilities	43
4.7	Knowledge on the Pap Smear Test	44
4.8	Association between Knowledge Level on the Cancer of Cervix and Screening (CCS) with Other Common Factors	45
4.8.1	Association between CCS and Age	45
4.8.2	Association between CCS and Education Level	45
4.8.3	Association between CCS and Employment Status	46
4.9	Women's Attitude and Practice on Cervical Cancer Screening	47
4.9.1	Willingness to Consult for Cervical Cancer Screening	47
4.9.2	Who Should Be Screened for Cervical Cancer	47
4.9.3	Level of CCS Uptake and Underlying Reasons	48
4.9.4	Knowledge on Cancer of Cervix and Screening among Women Up taken the Pap Test and Not.....	49
4.9.5	Hindrances to Uptake the Screening Services	50
4.9.6	Knowledge on the Transmission of Cervical Cancer	51
4.10	Summary of Chapter 04	52

CHAPTER 05 - ASSOCIATION BETWEEN FACTORS AND PAP TEST

5.1	Description of the Explanatory Variables	53
5.2	Association between Socio and demographic characteristics and Screening Uptake	54
5.2.1	Influence of Age	54

5.2.2	Influence of Religion	55
5.2.3	Influence of Education Level	55
5.2.4	Influence of Employment Status	56
5.2.5	Influence of Marital Status	56
5.2.6	Influence of Total Monthly Family Income	57
5.2.7	Influence of Number of Deliveries	57
5.3	Association between Knowledge Characteristics and Screening Uptake.....	58
5.3.1	Influence of Knowledge on Signs and Symptoms.....	58
5.3.2	Influence of Knowledge on Causes	59
5.3.3	Influence of Heard of Cervical Cancer Screening	59
5.3.4	Influence of Thought on Possibility of Detection Before the Symptoms Appear	60
5.3.5	Screening Uptake by Thought on Treatability if detected early	60
5.3.6	Influence of Awareness on Health Facilities Offering Screening Services	61
5.3.7	Screening Uptake by Knowledge Level on Cervical Cancer and Screening.....	61
5.4	Association between Other Characteristics and Screening Uptake	62
5.4.1	Influence of Breast Feeding	62
5.4.2	Influence of Use of Contraceptives	62
5.4.3	Influence of Having a Health Insurance	63
5.4.4	Influence of Family encouragement	63
5.4.5	Influence of Family History of Cervical Cancer	64
5.4.6	Influence on Attendance of Awareness Programs	64
5.5	Modelling the Uptake of Pap Test via Binary Logistics	65
5.5.1	Identification of Variables Simultaneously.....	65
5.5.2	Final Model.....	67
5.5.3	Interpretation Based on Odds Ratios.....	68
5.6	Summary of Chapter 06	69

CHAPTER 06 - CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

6.1 Conclusions.....70
6.2 Recommendations71
6.3 Suggestions.....72

List of References XIV
Annexure 01 – Questionnaire (English)XXJII
Annexure 01 – Questionnaire (Tamil)XXVII

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1:	Leading cancer sites of Females, 2018	4
Figure 1.2:	Distribution of cervix cancer, 1985 – 2015	5
Figure 1.3:	Age wise distribution of cervix cancer, 1985 – 2015	5
Figure 1.4:	Percentage of 35-year age cohort screened with pap, 2007 – 2016	9
Figure 2.1:	Age-standardized incidence and mortality rates for cervical cancer in different world regions	13
Figure 3.1:	Conceptual Framework of the Study.....	28
Figure 4.1:	Source of Information of Cervical Cancer.....	37
Figure 4.2:	Level of knowledge on Sign and Symptoms	38
Figure 4.3:	Awareness on Sign and Symptoms	39
Figure 4.4:	Knowledge on Causes of Cervical Cancer	39
Figure 4.5:	Knowledge on Access to Cancer Screening Services in the Study Area	43
Figure 4.6:	Awareness on Health Facilities Offering Cervical Cancer Screening Services in the Study Area	43
Figure 4.7:	Women’s Willingness to consult a health care provider	47
Figure 4.8:	Women’s Knowledge of who should be screened	48

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1:	District wise distribution of women on knowledge of well-women clinical services and cervical cancer screening	7
Table 4.1:	Background Characteristics	35
Table 4.2:	Distribution of Knowing About Cervical Cancer	37
Table 4.3:	Recognition of Causes of Cervical Cancer	40
Table 4.4:	Knowledge on Curability of Cervical Cancer	40
Table 4.5:	Women's knowledge on availability of Cervical Cancer Screening	41
Table 4.6:	Sources of Information Regarding Cervical Cancer	41
Table 4.7:	Knowledge on Cervical Cancer Screening Services	42
Table 4.8:	Knowledge on the Pap Smear Test	44
Table 4.9:	Knowledge on the CCS by Age.....	45
Table 4.10:	Knowledge on the CCS by Education Level	45
Table 4.11:	Knowledge on the CCS by Employment Status	46
Table 4.12:	Level of Cervical Cancer Screening Uptake among Women	48
Table 4.13:	Results of the Independent Samples T test for Pap up taken and non-up taken	50
Table 4.14:	Hindrances to the Women's Uptake of the Screening Services.....	50
Table 4.15:	Women's Knowledge on the Transmission of Cervical Cancer	51
Table 5.1:	Independent Variables	53
Table 5.2:	Screening Uptake and Age	54
Table 5.3:	Screening Uptake and Religion	55

Table 5.4:	Screening Uptake and Education Level	55
Table 5.5:	Screening Uptake and Employment Status	56
Table 5.6:	Screening Uptake and Marital Status	57
Table 5.7:	Screening Uptake and Total Monthly Family Income	57
Table 5.8:	Screening Uptake and Number of Deliveries	58
Table 5.9:	Screening Uptake and Knowledge on Signs and Symptoms	58
Table 5.10:	Screening Uptake and Knowledge on Causes	59
Table 5.11:	Screening Uptake and Heard of Cervical Cancer Screening	59
Table 5.12:	Screening Uptake and Thought on Possibility of Detection Before the Symptoms Appear	60
Table 5.13:	Screening Uptake and Thought on Treatability if detected early	60
Table 5.14:	Screening Uptake and Awareness of Health Facilities Offering Screening Services	61
Table 5.15:	Screening Uptake and Knowledge Level on Cervical Cancer and Screening	61
Table 5.16:	Screening Uptake and Breast Feeding	62
Table 5.17:	Screening Uptake and Use of Contraceptives	63
Table 5.18:	Screening Uptake and Health Insurance	63
Table 5.19:	Screening Uptake and Family Encouragement	63
Table 5.20:	Screening Uptake and Family history of Cervical Cancer	64
Table 5.21:	Screening Uptake and Attendance of Awareness Programs	64
Table 5.22:	Variables in the Equation of the Best Fit Model.....	66
Table 5.23:	Classification of the Model.....	66
Table 5.24:	Model Summary.....	67

LIST OF ANNEXURES

Annexure I – Questionnaire (English)	XXIII
Annexure II – Questionnaire (Tamil)	XXVII

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACOG	- American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology
ANOVA	- Analysis of Variance
ASR	- Age standardized rate
CCS	- Cancer of Cervix and Screening
DES	- Di Ethyl Stilbestrol
FHB	- Family Health Bureau
HPV	- Human Papilloma Virus
MOH	- Medical officer of health
OR	- Odds Ratio
STIs	- Sexually Transmitted Infections
UK	- United Kingdom
USA	- United States of America
WHO	- World Health Organization
W – WC	- Well Women Clinic