ORIGINAL ARTICLE

STUDY OF SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF CANCER PATIENTS ATTENDING GOVERNMENT GENERAL HOSPITAL, GULBARGA.

Meenakshi M. Dhadave¹, Shahnaz Shaheen², Rajashekhar Kapate³

HOW TO CITE THIS ARTICLE:

Meenakshi M. Dhadave, Shahnaz Shaheen, Rajashekhar Kapate. "Study of Sociodemographic characteristics of Cancer Patients Attending Government General Hospital, Gulbarga." *Journal of Evolution of Medical and Dental Sciences* 2015; Vol. 4, Issue 03 January 08; Page: 389-392, DOI: 10.14260/jemds/2015/59

ABSTRACT: BACKGROUND: Cancer is a major health problem worldwide and one of the most important cause of both morbidity and mortality in both children's and adults. In the developed world cancer is the second leading cause of death accounting 21percent of all mortality. In India in males most frequent cancer is oral cancer and in females cancer cervix. **AIM:** To determine the sociodemographic characteristics of cancer patients. **Materials and Methods:** The material of the study includes all the cancer patients attending government general hospital Gulbarga. Pretested pre designed porforma is used to collect the data. **Results:** It was noticed that out of 550 cancer patients 60.55% were females and 39.54% were males. Majority patients were Hindus (85.27%) and maximum (64.36%) were illiterates and 72.55% were agriculturist. Most of the cancer patients belonged to social class 5. **Conclusion:** This study gives very important information to say that education and occupation are the fundamental factor among the sociodemographic determinants of cancer patients. Public awareness through education and improvements in living standards can play an important role in reducing the high incidence of cancer in India.

KEYWORDS: cancer patients, illiterates, socio demographic factors.

INTRODUCTION: Cancer, one of the most dreaded non-communicable diseases has become an important contributor to the global burden of diseases. The burden of cancer is growing, and cancer is one of the leading causes of death worldwide.¹

Cancer is a public health problem and has been ranked among the most frequent diseases associated with workday losses and work-related disabilities.²

Globally, cancers in all forms are causing about 12% of all deaths. In developed countries cancer is the second leading cause of death(21%) and in developing countries it ranks third(9.5%).³

Epidemiological data indicate that ethnic and racial groups differ significantly in terms of cancer incidence and mortality rate. These geographic differences relate to the incidence rates of these cancers, with demographic, socio-educational and occupational differences.⁴

Socioeconomic inequalities are consistently reported for total mortality and for many causes of death. This includes higher cancer mortality rates among men of lower socioeconomic status. This study is an effort to determine the socio-demographic patterns of cancer patients.

METHODOLOGY: The present study is a cross sectional study which was carried out in a government general hospital Gulbarga, Karnataka.

SAMPLE SIZE: The sample size consisted of 550 individuals.

STUDY POPULATION: All the cancer patients attending VTSM peripheral cancer Centre and government general hospital Gulbarga.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

TIME PERIOD: Duration of study is for a period of 18 months.

STUDY SETTING: Hospital Based Study.

Pretested and predesigned performa was used to collect the data of cancer patients. Data was collected by interviewing the patients with relevant questions and with the help of hospital registers.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS: The data was collected, compiled and analysed using percentages, proportions and chi square and SPSS software (version 11).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION: All the cancer patients attending VTSM peripheral cancer Centre and government general hospital Gulbarga were included in the study. The study sample consisted of 550 study subjects with cancer. Table-1 shows age and sex wise distribution of carcinoma patients.

Sex group	Male		Female		Total	
Age group in years	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
≤ to 30	20	3.63	30	5.46	50	9.09
31-40	30	5.45	58	10.52	88	15.97
41-50	55	10.00	129	23.46	184	33.46
51-60	65	11.82	81	14.74	146	26.56
61 & above	47	8.55	35	6.37	82	14.92
Total	217	39.45	333	60.55	550	100

Table 1: Age and sex wise distribution of carcinoma patients under study

$\chi^2_4=20.64$ $p<0.001$ Highly significant.

From table-1 it was noticed that there were totally 550 patients in the present study among them 333 (60.55%) were females and 217 (39.45%) were males. Maximum number of patients were in the age group of 41-50 years i.e. 184 (33.46%) and minimum 50 (9.09%) were in the group of less than or equal to 30 years. The relation between sex and age wise distribution of cancer patients was statistically significant ($p<0.001$).

R. Kapoor et al (1993) observed in their study out of 2681 cases, maximum number of cases were seen 41-50 years (25.6%), followed by 51-60 years (24.8%) and 31-40 years age group (17.3%).⁵

Religion	Number	Percentage
Hindu	469	85.27
Muslim	79	14.36
Christians	2	0.37
Total	550	100.00

Table 2: Religion wise distribution of cancer patients under study

From table-2 it was observed that majority i.e. 469 (85.27%) were Hindus, followed by 79 (14.36%) and 2 (0.37%) were Muslims and Christians respectively.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Similar study by A .A. Redkar et al (1991) observed, out of 643 breast cancer patients 508 (79.00%) were Hindus, 53 (8.24%) were Muslims, 66 (10.27%) were Christians, 16 (2.49%) were parsis.⁶

Education	Number	Percentage
Illiterate	354	64.36
Primary and middle school	120	21.82
High school	43	7.82
Pre-university & graduation	33	6.00
Total	550	100.00

Table 3: Distribution of cancer patients according to literacy status

Table-3 shows that in the present study, out of 550 cancer patients 354 (64.36%) were illiterates and 196 (35.64%) were literates. It was also observed that among literates 21.82% were having primary/middle school level of education, 7.82% were having high school level of education and 6% were having pre-university and graduation level of education.

V. V. Gawande et al (1998) observed in their study out of 230 cases majority 177 (76.9%) were illiterates.⁷

Another study by A. P. Kulkarni et al (1998 and 1999) observed out of 204 cancer cases 172 (84.3%) were illiterates.⁸

This shows that as education level increases the prevalence of disease decreases. There is a negative association between education status and prevalence of cancer. The increased prevalence of cancer among illiterates requires further research.

Social class	Number	Percentage
I	4	0.73
II	22	4.00
III	77	14.00
IV	165	30.00
V	282	51.27
Total	550	100.00

Table 4: Relation between social class and cancer patients

Table-4 shows that out of 550 cancer patients maximum 282 (51.27%) patients were belonging to social class V and minimum 4 (0.73%) were belonging to social class-I.

Similar study conducted by A. P. Kulkarni et al (1998-1999) shows that majority 137 (67.16%) were belong to social class IV, 18 (8.82%) were of social class III, 8 (3.92%) were of social class II, 4 (1.96%) were of social class I.⁸

CONCLUSION: Results of the present study revealed the different socio-demographic characteristics of the cancer patients suggest that socio-demographic factors do play an important role in determining various factors leading to increase in the incidence of cancer. The social awareness

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

through the education programs about the risk of cancer in is highly warranted. The findings of our study further stress the importance of formulating public health policies for increasing public awareness and implementation of various cancer screening programmes for reduction in the incidence of cancer.

REFERENCES:

1. Jemal A, Center MM, DeSantis C, Ward EM. Global patterns of cancer incidence and mortality rates and trends. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev*. 2010; 19 (8): 1893-907.
2. Puri Sonia, Singh Amarjit, Ashat Munish, Goel Naveen, Pandey Avadesh. Sociodemographic Characteristics of Cancer Patients: Hospital Based Cancer Registry in a Tertiary Care Hospital of India. *Austral - Asian Journal of Cancer* ISSN-0972-2556,, April 2013; Vol. 12 (2): 107-113.
3. Ganesh R, John J, Saravanan S. *Indian Journal of Cancer*. January-March 2013; (50): 1.
4. Raval N Gira, Patel D Devendra, Sainger N Rachana, Shah H Manisha, Shah S Jigna, Patel M Mintoo, Dutta J Sohini, Patel P Beena, Patel S Prabhudas. A Study of Various Sociodemographic Factors and PlasmaVitamin Levels in Oral and Pharyngeal Cancer in Gujarat, India. *Asian Pacific J Cancer Prev*, 2, 215-224.
5. Kapoor R, Goswami KC, Kapoor B, Dubey VK. Pattern of cancer in Jammu region hospital based study 1978-1987; *Indian journal of cancer* 1993; 30: 67-71.
6. Redkar AA, Sampat MB, Chinoy RI, KabreSS, Mittra I, Differences in oestrogen receptor status and histological grade breast cancer in different religious communities in bombay. *Indian journal of cancer* 1991; 28: 124-130.
7. Gawande VV, Wahab SN, Zodpey SP, Vasudeo ND. Risk factors for cancer cervix. A case control study. *Indian journal of cancer* 1998; 35: 164-170.
8. Kulkarni AP, Suryavanshi SL, Nimale NE Cancer cervix. A case control study. *Indian journal of community health* 1998-99; 4 (2) and 5 (1): 44-52.

AUTHORS:

1. Meenakshi M. Dhadave
2. Shahnaz Shaheen
3. Rajashekhar Kapate

PARTICULARS OF CONTRIBUTORS:

1. Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine, M. R. Medical College, Gulbarga.
2. Post Graduate, Department of Community Medicine, M. R. Medical College, Gulbarga.
3. Professor & HOD, Department of Community Medicine, M. R. Medical College, Gulbarga.

NAME ADDRESS EMAIL ID OF THE CORRESPONDING AUTHOR:

Dr. Meenakshi M. Dhadave,
C/o M. P. Biradar,
Plot No. 310,
Associate Professor,
GDA Veerendra Patil Colony,
Sedam Road, Gulbarga.
E-mail: msdmrmc@gmail.com

Date of Submission: 05/12/2014.
Date of Peer Review: 16/12/2014.
Date of Acceptance: 31/12/2014.
Date of Publishing: 06/01/2015.