Female Workers' Socio-Demographic Characteristics and Their Total Knowledge about Breast Cancer: Effect of an Educational Program at Beni-Suef University

Abstract

Background: Breast cancer is the most prevalent cancer worldwide, causing 2.1 million cases per year. It is the leading cause of death for female patients and is rising globally, particularly in Ethiopia. Global estimates show inequities in the burden, with high Human Development Index countries having 1 in 12 women diagnosed and 1 in 71 dying, compared to low Human Development Index countries having 1 in 27. **Aim:** The current study was conducted to evaluate effect of an educational program at Beni-Suef University and relationship between female workers' socio-demographic characteristics and their total knowledge about breast cancer. **Subjects and Methods:** *Design*: A quasi-experimental design was utilized. *Sample and Settings*: 323 working women at Beni-Suef University, ages 18 to 60, were chosen as a purposive sample based on their lack of cancer, chemotherapy, radiation, and psychological illnesses. *Tools:* Tool I: A Structured Interviewing Questionnaire Sheet; It was concerned with the personal and socio-demographic details of the studied females (6 Questions). Tool II: women's knowledge about breast cancer, breast self-examination, and breast cancer preventive measures sheet; to assess women's knowledge about breast cancer, self-examination, and preventive measures, focusing on 55 questions across three domains: general information, early detection screening, and preventive measures. Tool III: Supportive material (Arabic booklet). **Results:** It clarifies that the mean age was 35.91±7.122 years. There was a highly statistically significant improvement as p≤ 0.01 in the female workers' total knowledge level about breast cancer (p= 0.009). The pretest values were 71.80%, 24.2%, and 4% for poor, average, & good level of knowledge, respectively that improved to 8%, 26.3%, and 65.7% during the posttest. **Conclusion:** Based on the findings of the present study, it can be concluded that the high improvement of studied women's knowledge for all sub items of socio-demographic data is affected by studied female workers' educational level and place of residence, and their marital status. **Recommendations:** With ongoing breast cancer and breast self-examination, preventive efforts for women in all facets of society should be applied to increase awareness.

Keywords: Female Workers, Socio-demographic characteristics, Knowledge, Breast Cancer, Educational program