

A Study on Social Background of the Cancer Patients in Coimbatore District

OPEN ACCESS

Manuscript ID:
ASH-2022-10014986

Volume: 10

Issue: 1

Month: July

Year: 2022

P-ISSN: 2321-788X

E-ISSN: 2582-0397

Received: 02.05.2022

Accepted: 11.06.2022

Published: 01.07.2022

Citation:

Sangamithra, A., P. S. Janaki, et al. "A Study on Social Background of the Cancer Patients in Coimbatore District." *Shanlax International Journal of Arts, Science and Humanities*, vol. 10, no. 1, 2022, pp. 32–35.


DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.34293/sijash.v10i1.4986>



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Abstract

Cancer is a serious threat not just to the victim's health, but also to the victim's entire family. It not only disrupts the family's socio-economic fabric but also lowers the country's overall development status since; in order to cover the costs and repay the financial debt, cancer-stricken households must reduce their own basic necessities. The study was conducted to know the socio-economic impact of cancer and treatment-seeking behaviour of cancer patients, the data was collected through an interview conducted among 20 out-patients in Coimbatore. The study explored the result of gender, age, religion, language, nativity, employment, and bank account are socioeconomic backgrounds of cancer patients in Coimbatore.

Keywords: Cancer, Social Background, Cancer Patients, Financial Burden, Cancer Cells

Introduction

Cancer is a serious threat not just to the victim's health, but also to the victim's entire family. It not only disrupts the family's socio-economic fabric but also lowers the country's overall development status since, in order to cover the costs and repay the financial debt, cancer-stricken households must reduce their own basic necessities. Cancer can begin practically anywhere in the trillions of cells that make up the human body. Human cells normally expand and multiply (via a process known as cell division) to generate new cells as needed by the body. Cells die as they become old or injured, and new cells replace them. Cancer is a genetic disease, meaning it is caused by mutations in genes that control how our cells work, particularly how they divide and grow. Cancer can be of various types and of various intensities.

Reviews

Jyothi Chakrabarty et al (2017): has made the study on the economic burden faced by cancer patients and their families from the perspectives of both direct and indirect costs through a narrative analysis. The study was able to prove the huge burden that cancer imparts on the patients and their families. The burden was found heavier in patients with severe diseases, those living in rural areas, and those with poor socioeconomic conditions. Dharmappa Basavarajappa et.al (2018): Their study was laid to focus on the Patterns of cancer among

patients attending a tertiary care cancer hospital in Karnataka, India. Data were collected using the National Cancer Registry Program core form from 1227 samples which. Swapna Banerjee et al (2020) has studied the information-seeking behaviour of cancer patients attending Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata. The study was conducted using both quantitative research method and a descriptive cross-sectional survey.

The conclusion of the study was that the patients with high income or an employment had high information requirements while cancer patients at the palliative care stage appeared to require less information than those in the starting stages of treatment. Jyotsna Negi and Devaki Nambiar (2021) studied the inequalities related to education, nativity, religion, caste and tribal status age, employment status and marital status in self-reported breast examination among different wealth groups. Using a descriptive mode of analysis, they found the concentration of breast examination coverage among the wealthier class irrespective of other intersecting population subgroups. Chetna Malhotra et al (2022): have assessed the inequalities in multiple domains of EOL suffering among advanced cancer patients with the help of cross-sectional data and multivariate regression models. The study was conducted among 1378 samples. According to the study, people who come from low-income families or have fewer years of education suffer more in various ways. They also found significant interaction effects between household economic status and years of education for all end-of-life suffering outcomes.

Objectives

- To know the social background of the respondent of cancer patients in Coimbatore district.

Methodology

The study was conducted to know the socio-economic impact of cancer and treatment-seeking behaviour of cancer patients in Coimbatore, the data was collected through an interview conducted among 20 out-patients at the Government Medical College Hospital, Coimbatore in June 2022. Collected data were analysed in a spreadsheet using frequency tables. The sample design is convenient sampling.

Social Background of the Cancer Patients

The general information of sample respondents in the study explored the result of gender, age, religion, language, nativity, employment, and bank account are socioeconomic backgrounds of cancer patients in the Coimbatore district.

Table 1 Social Background of the Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	6	30
Female	14	70
Age		
Below 25	2	10
25 – 50	6	30
50 – 75	12	60
Religion & Language		
Hindu & Tamil	20	100
Nativity		
Rural	9	45
Urban	11	55
Employment Status		
Employed	8	40
Unemployed	12	60
Bank Account		
Yes	19	95
No	1	5
Total	20	100

Source: Primary data

The result shows the number of males and females in the sample respondents who are affected by cancer. Among 20 samples collected, 70 per cent (14 samples) were females and 30 per cent (6 samples) were males.. Among the majority of the sample i.e., 60 per cent were found in the age group between 50 and 75. Only 10 per cent (2 samples) are found below 25 and the remaining 30 per cent (6 samples) came under the age between 25 and 50. All of the respondents falls under the category of Tamil –Hindu. Result indicates the nativity of the samples. 45 per cent (9 samples) were rural and 55 per cent (11 samples) were urban, and In that 40 per cent (8 samples) are employees and 60 per cent (12 samples) were found unemployed. Among that majority, 95 per cent (19 samples) are having a bank account and

the remaining 5 per cent (8 samples) doesn't have an account in banks.

Findings and Conclusion

In the research work was based on the mini summer project and the result revealed that cancer is highly affecting the women respondent at present. The samples are close to cent per cent of Hindus and speak Tamil. The patients were unemployed at most but have bank accounts. The patient's nativity is close to equal between rural and urban.

Acknowledgement

The work was based on a mini-project and the work was supported by RUSA 2.0 BCTRC. Special thanks to the Department of Economics Bharathiar University faculties, Research scholars, and students.

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