RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES AND DEATH ANXIETY AMONG CANCER PATIENT

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Abstract:-

The present investigation is to study the relationship between demographic variables and Death anxiety among cancer patient. Eighty (80) cancer patients were selected on the basis of purposive sampling. Kubler (1969) Death Anxiety scale was used to find the severity of death anxiety among the cancer patient. Correlation analysis was used to find out the relationship between demographic variables and Death anxiety. Result found that there is a positive and significant relationship between stages of cancer, follow-up, and death anxiety, but negative correlation with age, gender, employment, family illness, education, income and marital status.

Keywords:

Death anxiety, Cancer, Demographic variables .

INTRODUCTION

In general, death is mysterious concept and it is also an inevitable part of all living organism and death anxiety comes from being aware of our mortality. Death anxiety contributes most important emotional and behavioural contributes. Studies have explored the associations of death anxiety to various variables to detect possible correlation and predictor of death anxiety. Death anxiety was defined as a negative feeling person experience about death and dying. According to Firestone (1994) death anxiety is defined as fear of death due to separation from the love object or the feeling of dread anxiety, fear, and has explored death anxiety among patients. Within Freudian model, death anxiety is a phenomenon originating in castration anxiety. Death anxiety is actually a projection of fear surrounding annihilation of the ego and the self (Kasten Baum and Aisenberg, 1972). In accordance with Rasmussen and Johnson (1994), death anxiety stems from the belief that one has committed transgressions for which retribution is the consequence. Neimay (1997) conceptualized it as "a shorthand designation for a cluster of death attitudes characterized by fear, threat, unease, discomfort and negative emotional reaction, as well as anxiety in the psychodynamic sense as a kind of diffuse fear that has no clear object".

Cancer is disease multi- step process involving a series of genetic mutation that affect regulatory pathway in the cell. The body is made up from millions of tiny cells. Different parts of the body such as organs, bones, muscles, skin and blood are made up from different specialised cells. All cell have a centre called nucleus which contains genes made from DNA the gene controls the function of the cells.

There are many different types of cells in the body and many different types of cancer which arise from different types of cells. All types of cancer have common that the cancer cells are abnormal and multiply out of control. The term stages of cancer mean that the stage of cancer was at when it was first diagnosed. Being sure about the stages is very important because it is critical factor in deciding the best way to treat the cancer. The stages are 1.localised cancer 2. Stages 2 also include spreads to the nearest lymph nodes.3. Usually indicates more extensive lymph nodes involvement and 4. Always indicates distant spread. Stages are also very important to prognosis.

NEED OF THE STUDY

In the present scenario cancer diseases is most prevailing disease universe. According to statistical report (2013,Dec, 23rd Hindu paper) it reveals that 10 lacks in population diagnosed as cancer, and 7 lacks people were died, in India when the individual heard the cancer immediately thought entering into the mind is death and dying. Even though thought is same among cancer patient attitude of the individual varies. These variations depend up on the stages of cancer; follow up, education, employment. Psychology well-being is very important and psychological approach

enhance the individual to reduce death anxiety and improve the self-confidence and self-concept. From this they able to achieve their mental health and positive recovery of their illness. Present researcher made an attempt to identify the relationship between demographic variables and death anxiety among cancer patient.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1.To find out the death anxiety of cancer patient in relation to their demographic variable

HYOTHESES: The following hypotheses were formulated based on the objective

Ho1: There is positive and significant relationship between death anxiety and stages of cancer.
Ho2: There is positive and significant relationship between death anxiety and follow-up
Ho3: There is no significant relationship between death anxiety in the demographic variables like, employments, gender, age, education, rehabtitation, marital status, income and family illness.

METHOD AND PROCEDURE:

Research Method

In the present study data regarding the death anxiety among cancer was gathered in order to make a relationship between demographic variables and death anxiety hence descriptive method of research used in present study.

Sample size: cancer patient were selected from Chennai. All eligible sample had diagnosis of stages 1st and 2nd. Among eighty samples 40 were male, 40 were female. Subject were included hospitalized, who are under clinical process. All subject provided consent were interviewed relevant demographic information. Convenient sampling method was adapted.

Inclusion criteria: Individuals who lies between 30 to 50 years were taken as sample. Both male and

female who has been diagnosed has cancer patient (1st and 2nd stages of cancer)

Exclusion Criteria: Individuals age below 30, and stages of cancer 3rd and 4th, and divorcees, widower, are come under exclusion criteria. According to geographical extend selection of sampling refer researcher where limited only in Chennai.

TOOL USED:

Death anxiety scales (DAS) by Kubler (1969) were used to measure the death anxiety. It consists of 10 statements with yes or no response. This scale used for screening out individuals who suffer from alarmingly high degree of death anxiety which has a disruptive, inhibiting or influence on the day to day life and performance. The split half –reliability coefficient was =0.87. Norms for the interpretation, the raw score for normal range 3.80 to 7.04, high score 7.05 and above , low score 3.79 and above.

Procedure for data collection:. Personal Performa, Death Anxiety Scale, questionnaire handed over to the patients. Guide lines were given to the patients to fill the personal information. They were instructed to feel free to provide answer by reading each statement carefully and make appropriate response which will be suitable for them. They were requested also not to omit any statement. Once every patients return to this booklet after filling the information, these data was statically correlated and Research was drawn.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

The product moment correlation was used to find out the relationship between Death anxiety and Demographic variables among cancer patients. Demographic variables are Age, Gender, Education, Stages of Cancer, Follow-up, Employment, and Rehabilitation. From the Table-1 the coefficients obtained with each of the variables are Age -.170; Gender .199, Education .065, Rehabilitation .061 is not significant, hence the stated null hypothesis is accepted, and alternative hypothesis is rejected. Whereas Stage of Cancer -.289, and Follow-up .221 is positive correlate thus alternative hypothesis accepted, and null hypothesis rejected.

Table 1
Product movement correlation (r) was computed between DAS and Demographic variables

Variables	DAS
AGE	-.170
GENDER	.199
SGS of can	-.289**
FLW_UP	.221**
EMPLOY	.041
EDN	.065
REHAB	.061
Marital Status	.119
INCOME	.047
Family illness	-.162

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).
* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

CONCLUSIONS:

In this study researcher investigate about death Anxiety among cancer patients in relation to demographic variables.80 Samples was Selected on the basics of purposive sampling .Individuals who were diagnose as cancer patients (stage 1 and stage 2) and who lies in between 30 to 50 years wear taken as Sample.Kubler Death Anxiety Scale (1969) was used measure the severity of Death Anxiety and Statistical correlation method was used to   analysis the data.Resaults reveals that among demographic variables stages of cancer and follow up were positively correlated with the death anxiety among cancer patients

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