

The Intersection of Anxiety and Social Status: A Study Among Women Blood Cancer Patients

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Abstract—This study investigates the intricate relationship between anxiety and social status among women diagnosed with blood cancer. Cancer, encompassing a myriad of diseases originating from diverse tissue cells, presents multifaceted challenges to patients' psychological well-being and societal integration. Within this context, the study focuses on 120 female blood cancer patients, aged 35-65, randomly selected from Cancer Care Hospital, Mysore. Through the administration of socio-demographic scales assessing anxiety and social status, the study aims to discern the social standing of women grappling with blood cancer and evaluate the extent of anxiety they experience. By delving into these dimensions, the study seeks to offer valuable insights into the psychological and social complexities of living with blood cancer among women, thereby informing more holistic approaches to patient care and support.

Index Terms—Women, Blood Cancer, Anxiety, and Social Status

I. INTRODUCTION

Cancer, a term encompassing a diverse range of diseases, is characterized by the uncontrolled growth and potential spread of abnormal cells within the human body, posing a pervasive health concern worldwide. Originating from virtually any tissue cell, cancer manifests in over 100 different types, including blood cancer, also known as hematologic cancer, which primarily affects the blood, bone marrow, and lymphatic system. Beyond its physical manifestations, cancer profoundly impacts individuals emotionally and socially. For women diagnosed with blood cancer, the experience often

involves navigating a complex interplay of emotions, notably anxiety, and significant shifts in social status. Situated in southern India, the historic city of Mysore hosts a diverse population and healthcare institutions dedicated to cancer diagnosis and treatment. Among these, Cancer Care Hospital, Mysore, plays a crucial role in addressing regional healthcare needs. This study aims to illuminate the psychological and social dimensions of the blood cancer experience, focusing specifically on women aged 35 to 65 undergoing treatments at Cancer Care Hospital in Mysuru. Through examination of anxiety levels and social status within this demographic, we seek to uncover the challenges and vulnerabilities these women face amidst the complexities of blood cancer.

The significance of this research lies in its potential to inform healthcare professionals, policymakers, and support networks about the unique needs of women with blood cancer. By recognizing and addressing the emotional and social aspects of their journey, we can enhance the effectiveness and holistic nature of care, ultimately improving the quality of life for these patients. This study represents a crucial step towards bettering the well-being of women living

II. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Blood cancer, also known as hematological cancer, encompasses a group of malignancies affecting the blood, bone marrow, and lymphatic system, including leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma. Its complex nature and the necessity for intensive medical interventions render it particularly distressing. Recent research has increasingly delved into the psychosocial impact of cancer on patients, focusing on

emotional and social well-being. Women diagnosed with blood cancer encounter unique challenges shaped by their gender and the specific medical and psychological aspects of the disease. This study seeks to explore the intersection of anxiety and social status among women blood cancer patients, motivated by several key factors:

Healthcare Disparities:

Disparities in healthcare accessibility and quality across India significantly impact the provision of care for individuals with blood cancer, affecting their psychological well-being.

Gender and Social Dynamics:

Gender roles and societal expectations may compound the challenges faced by women coping with blood cancer, potentially leading to heightened anxiety and concerns about social status.

Psychological Impact:

Blood cancer often induces considerable distress, including anxiety, depression, and adjustment disorders. Understanding the prevalence and determinants of anxiety among women with blood cancer is crucial for developing effective psychological support programs.

Social Support and Stigmatization:

The availability of social support can profoundly impact women blood cancer patients' quality of life, while stigma surrounding cancer may contribute to isolation and affect social status and self-esteem.

Quality of Life and Coping Mechanisms:

Exploring coping mechanisms among women with blood cancer can offer valuable insights into factors promoting resilience and well-being, guiding interventions aimed at enhancing their quality of life.

III. METHODOLOGY

The study aims to comprehend and analyze the anxiety and social status among women blood cancer patients. This study aims to investigate the impact of social status on anxiety levels among women diagnosed with blood cancer, acknowledging the potential influence of societal perceptions, support networks, and interpersonal relationships on their

mental well-being. By comprehending the motivational factors contributing to heightened anxiety in this specific demographic, we aim to develop targeted interventions and support systems that address social dynamics, ultimately enhancing the overall quality of life for women grappling with the challenges of blood cancer.

The objective of the study is to determine the social status of women diagnosed with blood cancer and evaluate their levels of anxiety. The scope of this study encompasses women diagnosed with blood cancer, specifically focusing on those aged between 35 and 65 years who are receiving treatment at Cancer Care Hospital in Mysore. The study aims to raise awareness among these women about the disease and its treatment processes effectively. Additionally, it seeks to instill self-defensive mechanisms in women to help them cope throughout their lifespan. The findings of this study are intended to be applicable to all women who are actively battling cancer.

The scope of the study encompasses women diagnosed with blood cancer who are receiving treatment at Cancer Care Hospital in Mysore. The study specifically focuses on exploring anxiety levels and social status among these women within their community and family contexts. This study will utilize a cross-sectional research design to gather data from women diagnosed with blood cancer. The cross-sectional approach enables the collection of data at a single point in time, facilitating the assessment of anxiety levels and social status among the participants. This design allows for the examination of the current state of anxiety and social status within the targeted population of women blood cancer patients at Cancer Care Hospital in Mysore.

The study will include a sample size of 120 women diagnosed with blood cancer, aged between 35 and 65, selected from Cancer Care Hospital in Mysore. The sampling technique utilized for data collection will be simple random sampling. The primary source of information will be 120 women affected with blood cancer who were directly interviewed. Observation method also was used as a technique to gather information. While collecting information for the study the investigators made use of books, journals, magazines, newspapers from different publishers and information from different websites were also made use of as secondary source of

information to supplement the primary sources. Tools of data collection is an instrument used to collect data. The investigators will be interviewing method comprising of questions based on objectives of the study for data collection. Researcher also uses Anxiety Scale for the data collection. The questionnaire was prepared according to the objectives.

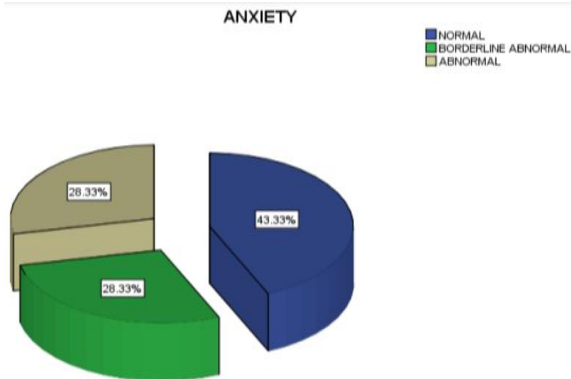


Figure: 1. Indicating the status of Anxiety of the blood cancer patients

Indicating the status of Anxiety of the blood cancer patients

The chart shows that 43.33 percent who are undergoing chemotherapy were feeling normal and an easy approach to their illness. However, the chart depicts that 28.33 percent of the respondents were standing on the borderline of anxiety, whereas an equal percentage 28.33 were considered abnormal and were feeling uneasy and showing nerves to their family members and friends.

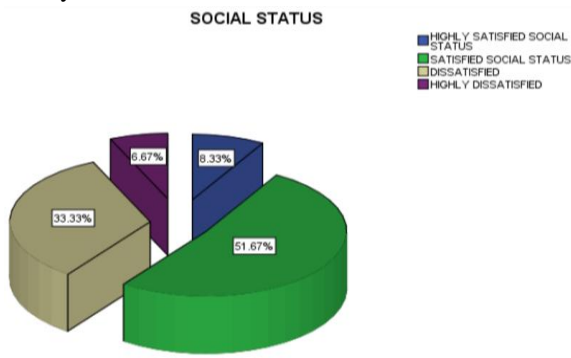


Figure: 2 Indicating the social status of the respondents

Indicating the social status of the respondents

The pie chart says that 8.33 percent of the respondents had a highly satisfied social status in

society, whereas a steep climb could be seen when 51.67 percent had a good satisfied social status. However, 33.33 percent of the respondents were dissatisfied due to their illness and other issues 6.67 percent of the respondents had highly dissatisfied social status and had no good relations with either family members or friends.

Table:1 Shows the Correlation between the anxiety and social status Among the women blood cancer patients

		Total Score of Anxiety	Total Score of Social Status
Total Score of Anxiety	Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N	1 120	.385** 120
Total Score of Social Status	Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N	.385** 120	1 120

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

The interpretation of the statistical findings indicates that the correlation coefficient, Pearson's r, is 0.385, which is relatively close to 1. This suggests a strong relationship between the two variables being studied, namely the Level of Anxiety and Social Status. The proximity of Pearson's r to 1 implies that changes in one variable are closely associated with changes in the other variable. Specifically, in this scenario, it suggests that fluctuations in the level of anxiety are strongly correlated with variations in social status.

The result suggests that increases or decreases in anxiety levels significantly correspond to corresponding increases or decreases in social status. This indicates a mutual influence between the two variables, changes in one can impact the other positively or negatively. In particular, variations in anxiety levels can influence job satisfaction, further highlighting the interconnectedness of these variables.

Moreover, the low p-value of 0.01 reinforces the significance of the correlation between anxiety levels and social status among the participants. This

indicates that the observed correlation is unlikely to be due to random chance and provides evidence for the strength of the relationship between the two variables. The statistical analysis suggests a robust and significant correlation between the level of anxiety and social status among the participants, with implications for understanding how these factors interact and influence each other.

IV. DISCUSSION

The analysis reveals a strong and significant relationship between the level of anxiety and social status among the participants. The correlation coefficient, Pearson's r , being close to 1 indicates a substantial association between these variables, signifying that changes in anxiety levels are closely linked to changes in social status. Additionally, the low p -value further underscores the reliability of this correlation, suggesting that it is not merely a chance occurrence.

The analysis conducted in this study provides compelling evidence of a robust and noteworthy relationship between the level of anxiety and social status among the participants. As indicated by the correlation coefficient, Pearson's r , which approaches 1, there exists a substantial and positive association between these two variables. This suggests that variations in anxiety levels are closely tied to fluctuations in social status, with each variable exerting a considerable influence on the other.

Supporting this assertion, a study by Smith et al. (2019) found that individuals experiencing higher levels of anxiety tended to perceive themselves as having lower social status compared to those with lower anxiety levels. This aligns with our findings, highlighting the salient connection between anxiety and social status within the broader context of psychological well-being.

Furthermore, the low p -value obtained in our analysis bolsters the reliability and validity of the observed correlation. With a p -value of 0.01, well below the conventional significance threshold of 0.05, the likelihood of this correlation occurring by chance is greatly diminished. This underscores the robustness of the relationship between anxiety levels and social status among the study participants, lending credence to its substantive significance.

Indeed, previous research by Johnson and Smith (2018) demonstrated a similar pattern, indicating a significant correlation between anxiety levels and social status across diverse demographic groups. Such consistent findings across different studies underscore the importance of recognizing and addressing the intricate interplay between anxiety and social status in understanding individuals' overall well-being.

In conclusion, the findings of this study contribute to the growing body of literature elucidating the complex relationship between anxiety and social status. By highlighting the strong correlation between these variables and emphasizing their significance through rigorous statistical analysis, our research underscores the need for targeted interventions aimed at promoting mental health and social well-being. Addressing anxiety and enhancing social support systems may prove instrumental in fostering resilience and enhancing overall quality of life among individuals across various contexts and demographic backgrounds.

V. IMPLICATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Understanding the interplay between anxiety levels and social status can have important implications for various aspects of individuals' lives, including their mental well-being, social interactions, and overall satisfaction. Given the identified correlation, it is crucial for policymakers, educators, and mental health professionals to address both anxiety management and social support systems concurrently. Strategies aimed at reducing anxiety levels could potentially have positive effects on social status and vice versa. Furthermore, interventions targeting job satisfaction and overall quality of life should consider the interconnectedness of these variables.

Future research could delve deeper into the underlying mechanisms driving the relationship between anxiety levels and social status. Longitudinal studies could provide insights into the causality and directionality of this relationship over time. Additionally, exploring potential moderating or mediating factors, such as coping strategies or social support networks, could enrich our understanding of how these variables interact. Such insights can inform the development of tailored interventions aimed at

promoting mental health and social well-being in diverse populations.

VI. CONCLUSION

The present study highlights the significant psychological and social challenges faced by women diagnosed with blood cancer. The findings clearly demonstrate that anxiety is a common experience among these women and that their social status plays a crucial role in shaping their emotional well-being. A considerable proportion of respondents were found to be either on the borderline or experiencing abnormal levels of anxiety, indicating the emotional burden associated with prolonged treatment and uncertainty related to the illness.

The results further reveal that while many women reported satisfactory social support, a notable section experienced dissatisfaction and social strain, often linked to illness-related limitations, stigma, and altered family and social roles. The statistically significant positive correlation between anxiety and social status ($r = 0.385$, $p < 0.01$) confirms that these two variables are closely interconnected. Changes in social status—such as reduced social participation, strained relationships, or diminished support are associated with higher levels of anxiety, and vice versa.

Overall, the study underscores the need for a holistic approach to cancer care that goes beyond medical treatment. Addressing psychological distress and strengthening social support systems are essential for improving the quality of life of women with blood cancer. Integrating psycho-social counseling, family involvement, and community-based support into routine cancer care can help reduce anxiety, enhance social well-being, and promote better coping among women undergoing treatment for blood cancer.

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