UTERINE CERVICAL CANCER: REPORTING THE EXPERIENCE OF WORK WITH SEX WORKERS

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ABSTRACT

The uterine cervical cancer is second cancer most frequent between the Brazilian women. The Papanicolau Test and the health education are measured of fundamental importance for prevention and precocious detection of this pathology. The sex workers are susceptible to situations of greater vulnerability to develop this type of cancer for the multiplicity of sexual partners. The objective of this study is to report the experience of develop educative actions with sex workers in the perspective of prevention of the uterine cervical cancer about the realization of the Papanicolau Test. It is a descriptive study of the type experience report of educative activities developed with the sex workers registered in the Woman Pastoral in Juazeiro/BA. The results subsidized the knowledge of the factors of risks that the sex workers are exposed. The development of the educative actions contributed to enlarge the adhesion to the Papanicolau Test strengthening to health education as strategy for the primary attention to this population.

Descriptors: Health Education; Prostitution; Uterine Cervical Neoplasms; Nursing.

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RESUMO

O câncer do colo do útero é o segundo câncer mais frequente entre as mulheres brasileiras. O exame Papanicolau e a educação em saúde são medidas de suma importância para prevenção e detecção precoce desta patologia. As profissionais do sexo estão susceptíveis a situações de maior vulnerabilidade para desenvolver este tipo de câncer devido à multiplicidade de parceiros sexuais. O objetivo deste estudo é relatar a experiência de desenvolver ações educativas com profissionais do sexo na perspectiva de prevenção do câncer do colo do útero acerca da realização do Exame Papanicolau. Trata-se de um estudo descritivo, do tipo relato de experiência de atividades educativas desenvolvidas com as profissionais do sexo cadastradas na Pastoral da Mulher em Juazeiro/BA. Os resultados subsidiaram o conhecimento dos fatores de riscos a que as profissionais do sexo estão expostas. O desenvolvimento das ações educativas contribuiu para ampliar a adesão ao Exame Papanicolau fortalecendo a educação em saúde como estratégia para a atenção primária a essa população.

Descritores: Educação em Saúde; Prostituição; Neoplasias do Colo do Útero; Enfermagem.

1. INTRODUCTION

The uterine cervical cancer (UCC) occupies the third position as cause of death for cancer in Brazilian women, it is the neoplasm with bigger potential of prevention and cures when precociously diagnosed. The infection for the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) constitutes the principal factor of risk for the unchaining of intra-epitelial injuries and the UCC intensely influenced by the frequent exchange of partners, behavior that enlarges the probability of exposition to the HPV. The Papanicolau Test is a important method for precocious detection and investigation of this pathology. It is considered a highly reliable method and of low cost to detect the cervical injuries.

Considering the bigger exposition of sex workers to this type of cancer, the realization of their Papanicolau Test could be performed in a periodicity more regular for this population. The understanding of common sense of this clientele about the strategies for prevention of uterine cervical cancer may auxiliary to the development of educational practice, in this
sense, contributing to enlarge the accession to Papanicolau Test in the units of the Family Health Strategy (FHS). The health education aims to develop in women a sense of responsibility with your self-care for the health individually and collectively. The nursing is an area of knowledge that involves activities of care, manage and education. Among the various forms of the nurse's actions in the present time, the educational practice has been considered as the principal strategy to the promotion health.

2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this study is to report the experience of to develop educational actions with sex workers in the perspective of prevention of the uterine cervical cancer about the realization of the Papanicolau Test.

3. METHODOLOGY

It is a descriptive study, of the type experience report of educational activities performed with the sex workers registered in the Woman Pastoral in Juazeiro/Bahia/Brazil. The activities were performed in the period of 2009 August to 2010 July bound to an extension project approved for the Institutional Program of Bursary for Integration at the Universidade Federal do Vale do São Francisco (PIBIN/UNIVASF).

The Women Pastoral has as aims to develop actions that promote greater humanization of the reality of woman that made prostitution. Among the services offered for the institution to the sex workers are the psychological care and social, routing in the area of health, informative lectures, training courses, field work, incentive to the training and education, among others.

The educative activities were performed for two nursing academics, being one the scholar and the other voluntary. The meetings were monthly according to the calendar of activities of the Women Pastoral and they were composed for group of approximately 15 sex workers and with duration of one hour because they were in working hours.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Our foothold for the work occurred of an interactive way trying to understand the real needs of the clientele, constructing an educational process and knowing the main topics of
interest to be worked in the meetings. After, it was started the realization of educational activities with the sex workers as informative lectures and field work (at home), both included in the calendar of activities of the Women Pastoral.

The educational activities at the headquarters of the institution and in the home of participants were performed for nursing academics and in some times with the participation of psychologist of the Woman Pastoral for the bond with the sex workers and because this facilitated the contact, the participation and adherence to the meetings.

It is highlight that the homes visited were chosen for the coordinator and for professionals in the Women Pastoral evaluating the need of the realization of the activities in places where there were major points of prostitution. The majority of households visited were distant from the institution, being that the cause of little frequency of the woman in place. Then, the home activities were performed with the intention to encourage these women "defaulting" to participate of the programming of the calendar of activities developed in the institution and also to favor a better intervention for the formation of bond.

The educational activities with the sex workers were worked with the aim to sensitize them about the importance to perform the Papanicolau Test as way to prevent and detect the precociously UCC, promoting a better quality of life for this population of risk. The educative actions were directed to an expanded concept of health, taking into account the determinant factors and constraints of the situation of life where them are located.

The activities developed with this population allowed to know the reality lived for these women in terms of the difficult access to the health services and adherence to preventive measures such as the realization of their Papanicolau Test in primary healthcare unit. As primordial factor limiting of that self-care was identified the timetable that the sex workers perform their activities, which does not have day and time specified.

The problematic in question come up against in the fact of these women are exposed to multiple partners and, often, the sexual relations unprotected, being that these factors are associated with the development of cervical cancer. Thus, the realization of Papanicolau Test done in regular intervals between the women in prostitution can represent an important measure to identify signs of risk for the development of uterine cervical cancer.

5. CONCLUSION
The development of an extension project directed to an educational process points challenges related to the approximation with the participants because when there is presence of external people to Woman Pastoral the sex workers reported constrained to participate in the activities proposed in function of little bond or for the feeling of shame in to be recognized as prostitutes.

The experience with sex workers allowed to understanding the universe of social exclusion belonging to the life of these women and the fight for their rights to be respected, revealing the complex universe of prostitution which we need as health professionals bigger understanding. Developing this type of work allows to deconstruct many personal values that are almost never questioned.

The extension activity allowed to verify the need of monitoring and constant incentive for that this women continue participating regularly of the proposed actions. The university extension of a way associated with the teaching and research represents an important role in the academic life of graduate students in nursing, allowing the coexistence with different realities and allowing the establishment of the communication between the academic knowledge and popular, for that this can have new meaning of the needs presented for the society.

This study can auxiliary the prevention programs focused on this specific group as well as to contribute to the planning of actions to control of the UCC more effective and consistent with the needs of this population. The study can serve as inspiration for the development of more efficient alternative in the overcoming of the various processes faced for these women as well as in the development of public policies through actions that promote discussions about sexuality and prevention of diseases related.

REFERENCES


