

The influence of psycho-social factors on participation levels in community-based breast cancer prevention programs in Tehran, Iran

ABSTRACT

Background: Although significant consideration has been devoted to women participation in breast cancer prevention programs, our understanding about the psychosocial factors which influence participation remains incomplete. Method: The study applied a quantitative approach based on the cross-sectional survey design and multistage cluster random sampling. A total of 400 women aged 35-69 years, were surveyed at 4 obstetric and gynecologic clinics affiliated to Tehran University of Medical Sciences in Tehran: the participation levels of 86 women who have had a mammogram were analyzed based on their self-efficacy, belief, social influence, and barriers concerning mammography utilization. Results: Consistent with the study framework, in bivariate analysis, the higher level of women's participation in breast cancer prevention programs was significantly related to more positive belief about mammography ($p < .05$), greater social influence on mammography ($p < .01$) and fewer barriers to mammography ($p < .01$). Self efficacy ($p = .114$) was not significantly related to the higher level of participation. Conclusion: Results suggest that women's participation levels in breast cancer prevention programs might be associated with the specific psychosocial factors on breast cancer preventive behavior such as mammography screening.

Keyword: Psycho-social factors; Community participation; Participation levels; Community-based programs