How Group Education Impacts Female Factory Workers' Behavior and Readiness to Receive Mammography and Pap Smears

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Abstract : Background: The workplace has been deemed a suitable location for educating many women at once about cancer screening. Objective: To determine how group education about early diagnostic methods for breast and cervical cancer affects women's behavior and readiness to receive mammography and Pap smears. Methods: This semi-interventional study was conducted at a textile factory in Istanbul, Turkey. Female workers (n = 125) were included in the study. A participant identification form and knowledge evaluation form developed for this study, along with the trans-theoretical model, were used to collect data. A 45-min interactive group education was given to the participants. Results: Upon contacting participants 3 months after group education, 15.4% (n = 11) stated that they had since received a mammogram and 9.8% (n = 7) a Pap smear. As suggested by the trans-theoretical model, group education increased participants' readiness to receive cancer screening, along with their knowledge of breast and cervical cancer. Conclusions: Group education can therefore potentially create awareness of cancer screening tests among women and improve their readiness to receive such tests. **Keywords :** cancer screening, educational intervention, participation, women

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1