

**PP 68**

**Knowledge, attitudes, and practices towards breast self-examination among final year female students in University of Sri Jayewardenepura**

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**Background:** Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women worldwide. It is one of the leading causes for cancer related deaths among women in Sri Lanka. Early detection is the most important factor for preventing breast cancer related deaths. Breast Self-Examination (BSE) is a simple, cost effective method which can be used for early detection of breast cancer that everyone can practice.

**Objective:** This study aimed to assess the knowledge, attitudes and practices towards BSE among final year female students in selected faculties in University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJ).

**Method:** A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted by using a random cluster sampling method among final year students in selected faculties in USJ. A self-administered questionnaire that has designed based on an extensive literature survey of similar studies was used for data collection. The study was conducted among 213 female undergraduates after obtaining informed written consent. Data analysis was carried out using SPSS version 26.0. Chi - square was performed to analyze the data. Ethical clearance was obtained from the Ethics Review Committee of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, USJ.

**Results:** Of the participants, 21.6% (n=46) were from Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, 28.2% (n=60) from Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, 23.5% (n=50) from Faculty of Applied Sciences, and 26.8% (n=57) from Faculty of Allied Health Sciences. Among the total participants, only 36.6% (n=78) students had a good knowledge on BSE. About 77.9% (n=166) had heard about BSE. Among participants, 52.6% (113) were aware about what should be examined for while performing BSE. More than 50% had positive attitudes towards BSE. Only 28.2% (n=54) of the total participants have ever performed BSE, while 3.8% (n=8) had performed it regularly.

**Conclusion:** Overall knowledge on BSE and the practices on BSE among study participants were poor. Half of the participants had positive attitudes towards BSE.