One of the most common gynaecological cancers worldwide that results in cancer deaths among females is cervical cancer. (1) The majority of these cases (70%) are experienced in developing countries. (2) Every year in India 122,844 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 67,477 die from the disease. (3) In 2015 there were 266,000 deaths worldwide due to cervical cancer. (2)

INTRODUCTION:
Cervical cancer ranks among the fourth most common cancers among females worldwide with 528,000 cases every year and 266,000 die from cervical cancer, worldwide. The majority of these cases (70%) are experienced in developing countries. (1).

One in every five women in the world suffering from cervical cancer belongs to India which has the largest burden of cervical cancer patients in the world. (2)

There have been decreases in cervical cancer incidences, and its mortality due to cervical cancer screening programmes conducted in many developed countries.

However there have not been major changes in the incidences in developing countries due to improper implication of screening programmes.

Every year in India 122,844 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 67,477 die from the disease. (3) According to ACOG (American College of Obstetrician and Gynaecologists) and ACS (American Cancer Society) cervical cancer screening should be done at age 21 or 3 years after vaginal sex at an interval every 2-3 years after age 30 with 3 consecutive intervals.

Screening for cervical cancer precursors using exfoliative cervico vaginal cytology, the PAP test was successful in reducing the incidence of cervical cancer and the mortality since 1950.

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It has been worked out in the Indian situation that ‘once in a lifetime’ screening would result in reduction of 20-30% in the lifetime risk of cervical cancer, (5)

RESULTS:
In this study the average age of pregnant women was 26 and the average age of those not pregnant was 37 years. Seventy percent of pregnant women were in first trimester, 30 % were in second trimester and none were in third trimester. All pregnant females and 88% of non pregnant females were primary/ secondary graduates. Twelve percent of non pregnant were illiterates.

Seventy six percent of pregnant females were housewives and 24% were working. Seventy percent of non pregnant females were housewives and 28 % were working females. The average PAP smear grading was done according to Bethesda classification 2001. (6) Statistical evaluation was done using T Test .P value less than 0.05 was regarded as significant.

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age of marriage for pregnant patients was 21 and that of non pregnant patients was 21.

None of the studied patients had heard about PAP smear in past. Twenty eight percent of pregnant patients knew about cervical cancer as against 32 % of non pregnant patients.

In this study 44 pregnant patients reported normal smear, and 41 non pregnant patients had normal smear. Inflammatory smear was noted in 4 pregnant females and 5 non pregnant females. ASCUS was reported in 1 pregnant and 2 non pregnant female. One pregnant patient and 2 non pregnant patients reported LSIL.

DISCUSSION:
We found in our study that none of the patients had neither previously heard of PAP smear test nor underwent the smear test in the past. This indicates that there is poor awareness among females regarding the test and its benefits.

In our study there is no significant difference regarding PAP smear reports in both the groups proving that the test is as reliable irrespective of the pregnancy of the patient.

Therefore if PAP smear tests are made a routine during pregnancy the efficacy of the screening methods will improve drastically since the possibility of patients coming for follow up during pregnancy is more than non pregnant state.

A similar study conducted in Turkey showed 18.2% of pregnant cases had an infection ,54.5% had reactive cellular change, and 0.9% had atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance(ASCUS).16.3% of non pregnant cases had an infection,58.1% had reactive cellular change,3.5% had atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance(ASCUS),and 1.2% had low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions(LSIL).(8)

In their study conducted on 11,906 pregnant women Fan et al.(2010)identified 9.52% of cases with ASCUS,0.94% of cases with AGUS, 1.92% of cases with LSIL, and 0.62% of cases with HSIL.(7)

Our study proves that there is no significant difference between PAP smear report between pregnant and non pregnant females. In our country, under RCH programme, minimum three antenatal visits are made mandatory. If PAP smear is made a part of routine antenatal tests then the follow up of patients become easy as they will come for their advised antenatal checkups without failure hence improving the efficacy of the test.

As our study results show that none of the females in the study group knew about the test so the inclusion of PAP test among antenatal tests will also create awareness among women as large number of females will be covered under the screening programme.

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