

Summary

Adolescents face a variety of reproductive health risks, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV infection, too-early pregnancy and childbearing with an increased risk of injury, illness and death for mother and infant, and unintended pregnancy, often leading to unsafe abortion and its complications. Adolescents may know little about reproductive health and may have incorrect or misleading information about fertility and contraception. Many have negative attitudes about reproductive health. Thus, meeting the reproductive health needs of adolescents requires not only providing services, but also changing attitudes, overcoming community opposition, building understanding and educating adults about young people's reproductive health needs.

The present study was aimed at assessing knowledge and attitude of late adolescent girls regarding reproductive health.

The study was conducted at Benha University girl's hostel, and included 302 girls in late adolescent period, from first and second academic year.

The tool used for data collection was a structured questionnaire sheet, it was designed, adjusted and prepared in Arabic language by the researcher after reviewing a related literatures. The sheet comprised the following data items:

- Socio-demographic data as age, parent education and occupation... etc.
 - Items to assess late adolescent girls' knowledge about reproductive health issues.
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- Modified likert scale to assess attitude of the late adolescent girls regarding reproductive health issues.

The findings of this study can be summarized as follows:

- The present study showed that, 51.3% of late adolescent girls had poor knowledge in total score about reproductive health.
- 60.9% of late adolescent girls under the study had negative attitude about reproductive health.
- There were highly significant relation between girls' total knowledge score and total attitude scores
- There were highly significant relation between girls' total knowledge score and their type of colleges
- There were highly significant relation between girls' total knowledge score and their mothers' level of education
- The present study showed also statistical significant relation between girls' total attitude score and their socio-demographic characteristics.

The study recommended the following:

- 1) Develop reproductive health awareness programs targeted to adolescents.
 - 2) Involve adolescents in the design of reproductive health programs to ensure it's validity in satisfying their needs and to motivate them to active role regarding reproductive health.
 - 3) Provide the contacting adolescents with enough knowledge as well as booklets related to adolescents reproductive health aspects
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- 4) Provide the adolescents with health care services appropriate to them and a youth-friendly approach.