

CONSCIOUSNESS OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AMONG RURAL AND URBAN ADOLESCENT GIRLS

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ABSTRACT

Reproductive health is a crucial part of general health and a central feature of human development. It is a reflection of health during childhood and crucial during adolescence adulthood , sets and stage for health beyond the reproductive years for both women and men ,and affects the health of the next generation. Hence the present study was undertaken to know awareness of reproductive health among rural and urban adolescent girls of Varanasi city. The results of the study revealed that majority of both rural girls and urban girls scored well in the identification of reproductive system. The areas where both rural and urban girls scored low were female reproductive organs, clinical symptoms and biological symptoms of AIDS and the relationship between AIDS/HIV .Knowledge of teenage pregnancy and mode of pregnancy was lower in urban girls than rural girls. The Results of the study revealed that the urban girls had more scientific information than the rural girls.

KEYWORDS: Consciousness, adolescent girls, rural, urban, reproductive health

Adolescents represents a major potential human resources for the overall development of a nation. Reproductive health is an important component of a general health, it is a prerequisite for social and economic imperative because human energy and creativity are the driving forces of the development. Adolescence is a period of increased risk- taking and therefore susceptibility to behavioral problem at the time of puberty and new concern about reproductive health (UNEP 1998). Majority of adolescents still does not access to information and education on sexuality, reproduction and sexual and reproductive health and rights, nor do they have access to preventive and curative service. Providing adolescents with access to seek information education and services is thus the main challenges for future programmes.

Mahajan and Sharma (2004) conducted a study to assess the knowledge level of adolescents towards reproductive system and reproductive organs . the study was conducted on adolescent girls (200 adolescent girls) were taken from rural areas and 200 adolescent girls were taken from urban areas of Varanasi urban adolescent girls had comparatively better knowledge regarding these issue than rural adolescent girls . Bhan et al. ,(2004), in a study on awareness regarding sex knowledge on adolescent girls (16-20 years) found that awareness regarding HIV/AIDS among adolescent girls is very low adolescent girls also lack adequate knowledge about sexual matter and contraception

which result in early pregnancy , increased risk of STD infections , maternal morbidity and mortality and unsafe abortion. A preliminary survey of the previous studies, discussion and experience relating to reproductive health among adolescent girls revealed various NGO'S and international agencies are working on reproductive health issues . The present study was thus undertaken with the objective to the study reproductive knowledge rural and urban girls (12-17-years) in Varanasi region.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present investigation was carried out to study reproductive knowledge rural and urban girls (12-17-years) in Varanasi region. the data was collected in the month of April-May-2011. majority of the people in the Varanasi region are employed in government service and working as laborers. The sample comprised of 100 rural & urban adolescent girls in the group of 12-17 years. 50 adolescent rural girls and 50 adolescent urban girls were selected family a sample of 100 respondent was prepared .An interview schedule was used of data collection .it include questions related to reproductive health.

a- Reproductive Anatomy

b- Knowledge regarding AIDS/HIV

To analyze the data ,collected information was classified in the light of objectives set for the study .the classified data was coded ,tabulated and was analyzed by using appropriate

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statistical(t-test) test.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Majority of urban girl (80%) were studying in 10-12th class. Most of the rural girls (58%) had education up to 7-9th standard and rest of the rural girls (42%) had education up to 10-12th class. It is clear from table-1 that urban girl had more knowledge of reproductive system as compared to the rural girls but this difference to the knowledge related to reproductive system was not sufficient. Knowledge of reproductive system focused on

1-Identification of reproductive organs.

2- Knowledge of female reproductive organs.

3-Knowledge of male reproductive organs.

4-Conceivable age of woman.

5- Reproductive age of men.

Percentage scores obtained by respondent had variations for different aspect of reproductive system. The highly scored aspect of reproductive system was identification of

reproductive organ (74%) of rural girls (68%) of urban girls could identify the reproductive system. The areas where both rural girls and urban girls scored low were knowledge of female reproductive organ. Rural girls (30%) and urban girls (20%). Knowledge of male reproductive organs. Urban girls (24%) and rural girls (16%). Knowledge about conceivable age of women, urban girls (34%) and rural girls (38%). Knowledge about reproductive age of men, urban girls (34%) and rural girls (46%). Chohan et al., (1998), in study on adolescents perception related to the reproductive system found that there was more awareness among the school going participants than among dropouts. The table-2 reveals that the knowledge of urban and rural about AIDS among the girls, there is significant difference in the knowledge level related to AIDS in these two group knowledge of AIDS focused on

a- Abbreviation of the terms AIDS.

b- Transmission of AIDS.

c- Protection of AIDS.

Table 1: Knowledge of reproductive systems

Respondents	Identification of reproductive system	Knowledge of female reproductive organs	Knowledge of male reproductive organs	Conceivable age of women	Reproductive age of men	Total Average scores	Mean scores	Standard deviation	t-value
Urban Girls	68%	20%	24%	34%	34%	36	1.8	1.56	0.98
Rural Girls	74%	30%	16%	38%	46%	40.8	2	1.3	

Reproductive System % Avg. Score
df= 98; Tabulated value of t at 5% = 1.99, at 1%= 1.66

Table 2: Knowledge of adolescent girls about AIDS

Respondents	Abbreviation	Transmission	Protection	Clinical symptoms	Biological symptoms	Total Average scores	Mean scores	Standard deviation	t-value
Urban Girls	76%	94%	86%	24%	84%	72.8	3.54	1.34	2.22
Rural Girls	96%	94%	90%	14%	90%	76.8	3.86	0.85	

Knowledge of students about AIDS % Average Scores
df= 98; Tabulated value of t at 5% = 1.99, at 1%= 1.66

d: clinical symptoms

Majority of both of rural girls (76%) and urban girls (96%) knew the full form of AIDS majority of both of rural and urban girls (94%) knew the transmission of AIDS. Majority of urban girls (90%) and rural girls (86%) knew the protection of AIDS. Majority of urban girls (90%) and rural girls (84%) had knowledge of biological symptoms. The areas where both rural and urban scored low were clinical symptoms of AIDS. The result indicated high level of knowledge of AIDS, but misconception of, of transmission and prevention were also present. Biological symptoms of HIV, (38%) AND (28%) some result were found from the study conducted by Bhan et al., (2004). The results of the study revealed that Knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS among rural adolescents girl was very low.

CONCLUSION

Majority of both urban girls and rural girls scored well in identification of reproductive system. The areas where both urban girls and rural girls scored low were female reproductive organs, conceivable age and reproductive age of men. Clinical symptoms and biological symptoms of AIDS and the relationship between AIDS/HIV. The result of the study revealed that there existed difference among urban and rural girls in respect that urban girls had more scientific information, whereas the rural girls had various misconceptions about it. It was due to the fact that teachers hesitated to discuss such topics in school. Sexuality is a

natural and intrinsic part of an individual's personality and need to be nurtured and developed like all other facts of life. This fact is completely ignored by parents in our society, because they themselves do not feel comfortable in discussing their issues with the youngsters and more over they are not much knowledgeable on this subject.

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