



A Comparative Study to Assess the Knowledge Regarding Reproductive Health among Adolescent Girls of Rural and Urban Schools, Golapar, Haldwani

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Abstract

Adolescence is a time of dynamic change, filled with new feelings, physical and emotional changes, excitement, questions, and difficult decisions. The objective was to assess the knowledge regarding reproductive health and compare & association the selected demographic variables and knowledge regarding reproductive health among adolescent girls. A total 200 adolescent girls was selected via convenience sampling technique. The Result showed that, the mean knowledge of urban girls was 9.79 where rural girl knowledge was found 10.29. while comparison between rural and urban majority of girls had knowledge about pregnancy (68.77% & 67.33). The study concluded that reproductive health care services need to be available, accessible and comprehensive, and to provide education, counseling and be adolescent-friendly, allowing the secondary school girls to be mature and responsible persons

Introduction

Adolescence is a time of dynamic change, filled with new feelings, physical and emotional changes, excitement, questions, and difficult decisions. During this time, young people need information about their own sexuality and skills to help them plan for a happy future.

Need For The Study

In India adolescent girls accounts for a little more than 1/5th of the population (21.4%) out of an estimated 200 million adolescent girls for slightly less than 100 million due to disproportional sex ratio.⁵

Objectives

To assess the knowledge regarding reproductive health among adolescent girls of rural and urban schools

To compare the knowledge regarding reproductive health among adolescent girls of rural and urban schools

To associate between the selected demographic variables and knowledge regarding reproductive health among adolescent girls of rural and urban schools

Hypothesis

There will be significant difference in knowledge score regarding reproductive health between rural and urban adolescent girls.

Research Methodology

In the present study mixed approach and a Comparative descriptive design was used. Study was conducted in selected community area of Golapar Haldwani Uttarakhand. 200 (13-18) year adolescents were selected via Convenience Sampling Technique and data was collected by Self- administered knowledge questionnaire.

Variables

Research variable: knowledge regarding reproductive health of the adolescent girls.

Demographic variables: Age , educational status of mother, occupational status of the mother, place of living, type of family, monthly income, source of information ,family member in health professional.

Result

Section I:

Comparison of frequency and percentage of socio-demographic variables between urban and rural adolescent girls

Majority of the adolescent girls were in the age group of 15-19 years, most of them were Hindu, most of their mother was employed, majority of them were living in the nuclear family. Many of them were having family income between <1743-13028. Half of them were not having any knowledge earlier regarding reproductive health, very few of their family members were in the health profession and most of the adolescent girls were living in the urban area.

Section II

Table1: Comparison of knowledge score between urban & rural adolescent girls

Knowledge score total	Mean	Standard deviation	Mean difference	T' value	P value
Urban	9.79	3.023	0.500	1.149	0.252
Rural	10.29	3.131			

compares knowledge scores of rural & urban school girls. Independent t- test was used to compare the mean knowledge scores. Test revealed that there was no significant difference in knowledge score between rural (10.29 ± 3.13) & urban (9.79 ± 3.023) school girls ($p= 0.252$).

Area wise comparison of knowledge score between rural and urban- with respect to specific area

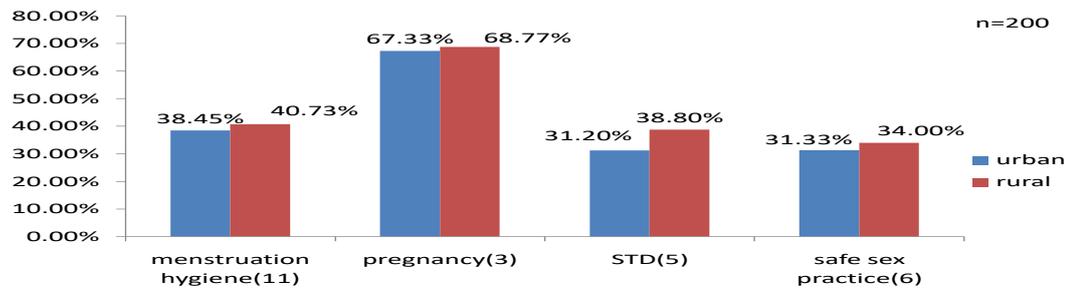


FIG 1: comparison of knowledge score between urban and rural

The knowledge score is categorized into four domains, i.e. menstruation and its hygiene, pregnancy, STDs, safe sex practices. Knowledge score of participants on each domain was converted into mean percentage by using the formula $X/N \times 100$, where X is number of items and N is number of participants.

There is slight difference in the knowledge score in each area among rural and urban school adolescent girls i.e rural adolescent girls have some more knowledge as compared to urban adolescent girls.

Section III

Table 2: Association between selected socio-demographic variables and knowledge on reproductive health of rural & urban adolescent girls

Variables	Rural				Urban			
	Mean ± sd	Mean difference	t' value	P value	Mean ± sd	Mean Difference	t' value	P value
Age								
• 11-14 yrs	10.38 ± 0.155		0.2	0.	9.73 ± 0.139		0.	0
• 15-19yrs	3.258		40	81	3.182		22	.
	10.23 ± 3.074			0	9.87 ± .849		8	8
								20
Religion								
• Hindu	10.14	2.528	1.9	0.	9.70 ± 1.301		1.	0
• Others	±3.134		44	05	3.060		09	.

	12.67 ± 2.066			5	11.00 ± 2.309		9	2 7 4
Education status of mother	10.22 ± 3.218	0.677	0.8	0.	10.09 ± 2.933	2.093	2.	0 .
• literate	10.89 ±			5	8.00 ±		0	0
• illiterate	2.923				3.109			1 9
Occupational status of mother	11.18 ± ±2.583	1.753	2.9	.0	9.25 ± 3.029	1.889	3.	0 .
• employed	9.45 ±		18	04	11.14		0	0
• unemployed	3.336				±2.631			0 3
Place of living	10.12 ± 2.795	0.162	0.2	0.	9.80 ± 3.148	0.068	0.	0 .
• urban			60	79			07	
• rural	10.28 ± 3.245			6	9.73 ± 2.054		0	9 4 4
Family income	10.57± 2.800	0.227	0.3	0.	10.39 ± 2.621	0.765	1.	0 .
• 13029-34830 & above	10.34 ±			9	9.63 ±		6	2
• 1743-13028	3.224				2.960			1 6
Type of family	10.55 ± 3.174	0.631	0.9	0.	9.24 ± 2.528	0.932	1.	0 .
• Nuclear			50	34			49	
• Joint	9.92 ± 3.199			5	10.18 ± 3.349		9	1 3 7
Any member								

in health									
profession	9.54 ±	0.684	0.9	0.	8.80 ±	1.248	1.	0	
• yes	3.526		27	35	2.808		48	.	
• no	10.40 ±			6	10.05 ±		5	1	
	3.075				3.02			4	
								1	

On association the knowledge on reproductive health with selected socio demographic variables of rural and urban adolescent girls it was found that socio demographic variable like educational status of mother and occupational status of mother of rural girls were found to be significant, whereas none of socio demographic variables belonging to urban school girls were found significant at a value of 5% significance.

Limitations

The reproductive health is important for all age groups but this study is limited to age group 13-18 yrs.

Those who are available at the time of study

Implications

Through the findings the nurse can select the weakest area of knowledge regarding reproductive health and can organize educational programs further.

In- service education program or training can be conducted among school girls in both urban and rural schools to bring awareness regarding reproductive health.

- Nursing education should give more emphasis on spreading awareness regarding reproductive health among students and community
- Undergraduate nurse researchers can conduct research and projects to assess the effectiveness of various teaching methods on educating adolescent girls regarding reproductive health and other health related issues
- The nurse administrator should organize specialization program regarding reproductive health issues to enhance more competent practice of nurses.

Conclusions

Failure to help young people deal with sexuality and contraception leads to high incidences of pregnancy, STIs and HIV and AIDS, as well as high maternal and infant mortality. Reproductive health care services need to be available, accessible and comprehensive, and to provide education, counseling and be adolescent-friendly, allowing the secondary school girls to be mature and responsible persons.

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