

KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF CONTRACEPTIVES AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN OYE COMMUNITY, EKITI STATE, NIGERIA

ALAO KAFILAT TEMITOPE

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MR.FASORANTI TEMITAYO

SUPERVISOR

ABSTRACT

Knowledge and use of contraceptives among adolescents is a major global reproductive health issue today due its crucial relationship with maternal, fetal, and neonatal adverse outcomes. The general aim of this study is to explore the knowledge and use of contraceptives among adolescents in Oye community of Ekiti State, Nigeria. However, the study specifically examined the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the respondents, discovered the level of awareness of contraceptives use in the study area, investigated the sources of information about contraceptives use and identified the factors influencing the use of contraceptives. The total sample size for the study was one hundred and ninety-five (195) comprising of one hundred and eighty-seven for the quantitative method and eight participants for In-Depth Interviews (IDI). Descriptive statistics of frequencies and percentages in tabulation format; Pearson's chi-square with critical value approach and cross-tabulations were techniques used to analyzed the quantitative data gathered, while the qualitative data were transcribed, discussed and analyzed to complement and substantiate the quantitative data. The research findings revealed that religion was not the major factor influencing contraceptive practices and that sources of information on contraceptives have little or no significant effect on their use in the study area. The study also revealed that the major factor influencing contraceptives practice in the study area was misconception about their side effects and low awareness, especially on other types of contraceptives than condom which may be safer and more efficient and effective. Thus, the study recommends that Government and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working in the area of health as well as health workers should formulate policies and programs aimed at creating awareness on contraceptives use.