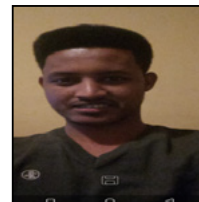


# Knowledge, attitude and practice about contraceptive use among female high school students in Southern Ethiopia, 2015



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## Abstract

**Background:** Unwanted pregnancy is associated with high rate of school drop outs, unsafe abortions and related complications. Contraceptive helps tackling these challenges. National data showed that between 8% and 65% of sexually active high school students use at least one contraceptive method during sexual intercourse.

**Objectives:** Assess knowledge, attitude and practice towards contraceptive use in female high school students in Southern Ethiopia.

**Methods and materials:** This study was conducted at Yirgacheffe high school among female high school students from April 8-18, 2015 as a descriptive cross-sectional study with total sample size of 204. Data were collected using a pre-tested structured questionnaire and analyzed using SPSS-20. Frequency calculation and tabulation was done and presented in tables, figures and statements.

**Result and discussion:** The age range from 14 to 24 years ( $\mu$ -16.4 years, SD-1.3). About 171(83.8%) of them have heard about contraceptives of which two fifth got the information from health institutions and 39.7% from mass-media. Slightly more than half (52.5%) of the respondents know about injectable type of contraceptives. Only 27(13.2%) individuals have knowledge about emergency contraceptives. About 153(75%) think as contraceptives are important while the rest 51(25%) reported the opposite.

The mean age at first sexual intercourse was 15.4 years with standard. Thirty nine (17.6%) of respondents had sexual intercourse in the last one year. However, only 23/39(59.0%) of them use at least one method of contraception. The most commonly used contraceptives were condom 56.5%, followed by pills. The most common reasons of nonuse were lack of interest in 47.1%, friend disapproval, inaccessibility of contraceptive and religious reasons.

**Conclusion and recommendation:** Despite good knowledge and the high rate of sexual activity, the contraceptive usage rate is low and significant percentage of students have bad attitude towards the importance of contraceptives. This urges a need for advocacy about contraceptives before initiation of sexual activity.

## Biography

Megbar Dessaegn has completed Doctor of Medicine at the age of 24 years from Hawassa University, Ethiopia. I am a final year Resident in General Surgery at St. Paul's Hospital Medical College. He is interested in family based health care, health care financing and medical law and ethics.



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