

“A study to assess the knowledge and attitude towards use of emergency contraceptive pills as a method of contraception among female students from selected colleges of Pune city.”

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Introduction

In an ideal world every pregnancy should be planned and every baby should be wanted. Emergency contraception is a therapy for women who experience an act of unprotected sexual intercourse. A woman may prefer to prevent unwanted pregnancy instead of landing up into complications of abortions. One way to prevent such situations is use of emergency contraceptives. Emergency contraceptive pills (ECPs) are hormonal contraceptives that can be used to prevent pregnancy following ‘an’ unprotected act of sexual intercourse within 72 hours. But the easy availability of emergency contraceptive pills has given rise to a new problem of its misuse by the youth.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

“A study to assess the knowledge and attitude towards use of emergency contraceptive pills as a method of contraception among female students from selected colleges of Pune city.”

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To assess the knowledge of students regarding use of emergency contraceptive pills.
2. To determine the attitudes of students towards use of emergency contraceptive pills.
3. To determine the relation between the demographic variables and knowledge and attitudes regarding use of emergency contraceptive pills.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Approach: A Descriptive approach and an Exploratory Survey Research design was chosen for the research study.

Setting of the study: Selected colleges of Pune city

Population: Female students studying in selected colleges of Pune city

Sampling Technique: Convenient Sampling technique

Samples: Students in the age group of 16- 25 years from selected colleges of Pune city.

Sample Size: 100 samples

Development of Tool

SECTION I- Demographic data

SECTION II- Knowledge based questionnaire regarding ECP.

SECTION III- Attitude scale regarding use of ECP.

The tool was validated by 14 experts from different specialties. A pilot study was done to assess the validity, reliability and feasibility of the tool. Correlation coefficient was calculated by using Cronbach's alpha formula and the value was equal to 0.7 which shows that the tool was found to be valid and reliable.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

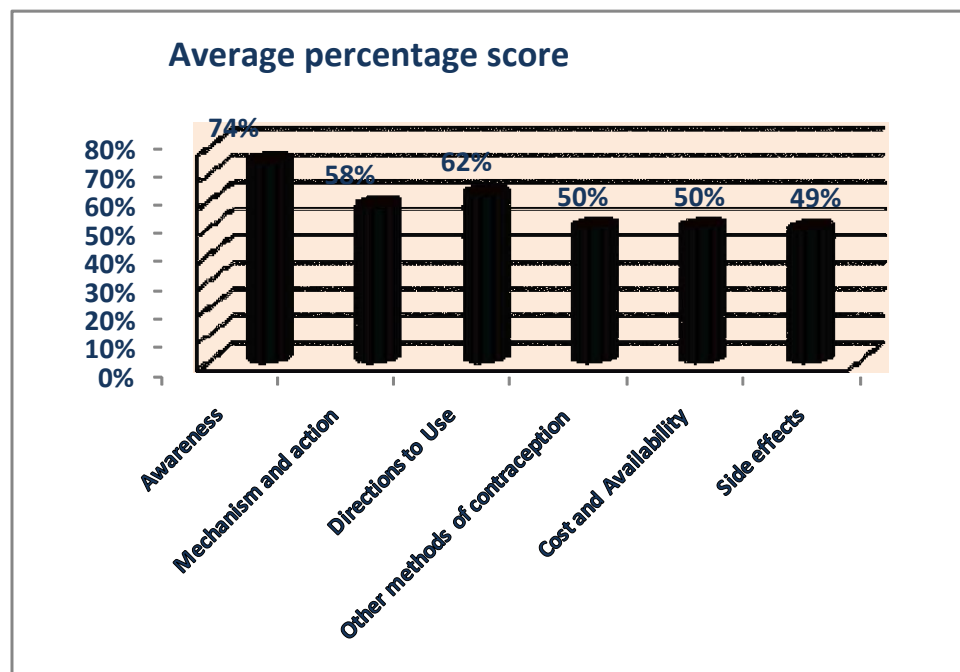
Findings related to demographic data

64% of samples were in the age group of 19-21 years age group, 89% of the samples were Hindu by religion. There were 50% students having monthly income of the family of Rs.30, 000. 71% students belonged to nuclear family and 45% of samples had graduate parents. 62% of the samples' parents were engaged in service and 63% of samples said that television was the source of information regarding ECP

Findings related to Knowledge:

The findings revealed that the knowledge score in percentage regarding the awareness of ECP is 74%. The score for Directions to use ECP is 62 %. 58% is the knowledge score for Mechanism of action and percentage score for other methods of contraception is 50%. Knowledge score of the samples about the cost and availability of ECP is 50% and knowledge score regarding the side effects of ECP is 49%

Figure no. 1 shows the distribution of knowledge scores



Findings related to Attitude:

The findings revealed that 45% of the samples had a positive attitude towards emergency contraceptive pills and 55% of the samples had a negative attitude towards use of emergency contraceptive pills as a method of contraception.

Findings related to relation of demographic variables with Knowledge and Attitude:

ANOVA was used and the findings revealed that the knowledge of the students is significantly associated with the age of the students, type of family and their source of information regarding emergency contraceptive pills and that the attitude of the students is significantly associated with the age of the students. As the age decreases the attitude becomes more positive.

CONCLUSION

The findings of the study reveal that the students have average knowledge about emergency contraceptive pills and around 45% of them have a positive attitude towards use of emergency contraceptive pills as a method of contraception. Age, type of family and source of information are associated with the knowledge and age is a demographic variable that is associated with the attitude as well.

As use of emergency contraceptive pill has increased over a period years it becomes very essential to guide the youth towards the use of appropriate methods of contraception