
Knowledge, attitude, and practice on
Emergency Contraceptives among female
students at higher educations in Addis
Ababa, Ethiopia

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Introduction

- ❑ Emergency contraception used to avoid unwanted pregnancy.
 - ❑ Not regular methods of contraception taken before sexual contact.
 - ❑ Especially significant for young females that opt not to use a long-term regular contraceptive
 - ❑ A desirable goal especially when abortion is illegal.
 - ❑ OCP and IUCD main ECP methods
 - ❑ When used within 72 hours after sexual contact
 - OCP prevent pregnancy by 75-85%
 - IUCD prevent as 99%.
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Introduction...

- ❑ The practice of ECP is almost inexistent in Ethiopia.
 - ❑ ECP not included in the FP service.
 - ❑ Studies have shown that the knowledge & practice on ECP is limited among women.
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Objective

- The aim of this study to assess the level of knowledge, attitude and practice of ECP among young students at higher institutes.
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Methods

- Design: descriptive cross-sectional
 - Setting: Addis Ababa University (AAU) and Unity University College (UUC).
 - Study Population: Female students.

 - AAU
 - 17 faculties with about 60 departments.
 - colleges, schools and institutes.
 - 38,000 students (26% females).
 - students live within campus.

 - UUC
 - 10 departments
 - 3373 students (42% females).
 - students at UUC live out of campus.
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Methods...

- Sample size required was 850.
 - 680 students from AAU and 170 from UUC were needed in the study
 - At the first stage 26 departments were selected using PPS method from a total of 60 departments at AAU.
 - At the second stage, individual students were selected randomly from the selected departments.
 - At UUC a random selection method was used from all the female students.
 - Data was collected using self-administered questionnaire adapted from the nation wide survey conducted by FGAE.
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Results

- Response was obtained from a total of 774 students (614 from AAU and 160 from UUC) making the response rate **91%**.
 - The age of study participants ranged **17-41 years**
 - The mean age was **21±2.7** years.
 - Most of the respondents, **66.1%**, were followers of the religion of orthodox Christianity followed by Protestants who account for 18.6%.
 - Majority (**92.7%**) of students were not married.
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Results...

Table 1. Age at first sex and contraceptive use

Characteristics	Freq	%
Age at first sex (n=151)		
<15	9	6.0
15-19	24	15.9
20+	114	75.5
No response	4	2.6
Ever used contraceptives		
Yes	78	10.1
No	668	86.3
No response	28	3.6
Type of contraceptives used (n=78)		
OCP	36	43.9
Injectable	17	20.7
Implant	14	17.1
Loop	7	8.5
Others	8	9.6

Results...

Table 2. Pregnancy and related characteristics)

Characteristics	Freq	%
Ever been pregnant		
Yes	53	35.1
No	91	60.3
Age at first pregnancy (n=53)		
<15	2	3.8
15-19	24	45.3
20+	24	45.3
Unwanted pregnancy (n=53)		
Yes	36	73.5
No	13	26.5
No response	4	7.5
Induced abortion (n=53)		
Yes	38	71.7
No	14	26.4
Number of abortions (n=38)		
One	18	47.4
Two	13	34.2
3 & above	4	10.5

Results...

Table 4. Knowledge, attitude and practice on ECPTs

Characteristics	Freq	%
Ever heard of EC		43.5 (95% CI 40.0 - 47.0)
Yes	337	54.8
No	424	1.7
No response	13	
Type of EC ever heard (n=337)		
Pills	279	82.8
Loops	115	34.1
Positive attitude towards EC		52.6 (95% CI 49.1-56.1)
Yes	407	17.3
No	134	26.9
Don't Know	208	3.2
No response	25	
Ever used EC		4.9 (95% CI 3.4-6.4)
Yes	38	90.3
No	699	4.8
No response	37	

Results...

- Knowledge of ECP associated
 - senior students (graduating class)
 - increases with increasing age.

 - Positive attitude towards ECP higher
 - among followers of Orthodox and Muslim religions compared to Catholic and Protestants
 - among senior students compared to their juniors.
 - among older age groups,
 - who have one or more child
 - among UUC students compared to AAU

 - Ever use of ECP associated
 - with increasing age,
 - among married students,
 - who have one or more child and
 - among students of UUC,
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Conclusion

- ❑ Almost a fifth of the total number study subjects reported that they are sexually active.
 - ❑ Among unmarried students who were sexually active, about 27% gave history of pregnancy at least once of whom, 73.5% were unwanted pregnancies.
 - ❑ On the other hand of the total study participants, the prevalence of unwanted pregnancy was 4.7% (Lower than reported by some studies conducted in the country, ranged between 15-50%).
 - ❑ The prevalence of induced abortion in this study was 4.9%.
 - ❑ Unwanted pregnancy was the main reason given for undergoing induced abortion (about 95%).
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Conclusion ...

- Our findings showed that contraceptives prevalence rate of about 10%.
 - The pills and injectables are the most common methods used.

 - KAP on Emergency contraceptive is low
 - Knowledge=44%
 - Attitude=53%
 - Practice < 5%.

 - The study has shown that in the face of significant risk of unwanted pregnancy & induced abortion among the sexually active students, the knowledge and practice on emergency contraceptive is very low.

 - There is a need in raising awareness in emergency contraceptives as options with other contraception methods.
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