

I. Abstract

This was a cross sectional descriptive study done in the medical officer of health area Meerigama to assess knowledge and attitudes on some aspect of reproductive health among garment factory workers in the medical officer of health area Meerigama

The sample consist of 408 workers from eight garment factories selected out of twelve garment factories in the area .A self administered questionnaire was used as study instrument.

Majority of respondents demonstrated good knowledge on conception (scored 6-8) for the three statements out of five regarding the contraception knowledge is statistically significant for oral contraception, IUCD and Depo-Provera. Knowledge regarding emergency contraceptive, pills, LRT and vasectomy of the sample is fair.

Knowledge on STD/HIV/AIDS taken together, majority has good knowledge .Regarding pre-marital counseling majority have good knowledge and positive attitude.

Ever married participants have significantly higher scores for favorable attitudes towards premarital counseling than never married participants (Mann-Whitney U, p-value = 0.001). Likewise, ever married participants have significantly higher scores than never married participants for knowledge on oral contraceptive pills (Mann-Whitney U, p-value = 0.001), Depot Provera Injections (Mann-Whitney U, p-value = 0.001) and IUCD (Mann-Whitney U, p-value = 0.001). Anyhow, never married have significantly higher scores than ever married for knowledge on conception (Mann-Whitney U, p-value = 0.009) and STIs (Mann-Whitney U, p-value = 0.001). There is no evidence for difference in the scores between ever married and never married regarding knowledge on general aspects of contraception, emergency contraception, condoms, LRT operations, vasectomy, abortions, sub-fertility and overall knowledge on reproductive health. There is a possibility for the ever married to have higher score than never married for overall knowledge on contraception if the sample size is increased.

Males have significantly higher composite scores of knowledge on premarital counseling when compared with females (Mann-Whitney U, p-value = 0.001). Likewise males have significantly higher score for knowledge on condoms than females (Mann-Whitney U, p-value = 0.001). But, females have significantly higher scores than males for knowledge on safe delivery (Mann-

Whitney U, p-value = 0.001), general aspects of contraception (Mann-Whitney U, p-value = 0.007), oral contraceptive pills (Mann-Whitney U, p-value = 0.001), LRT operations and overall knowledge on contraception (Mann-Whitney U, p-value = 0.009). There were no evidence for a difference in the scores between males and females on the knowledge of emergency contraceptive pills, Depot provera injections, IUCD, STI and overall knowledge on reproductive health. Males had a higher score for knowledge on conception than females (Mann-Whitney U, p-value = 0.051). Although this p value is not significant with a larger sample there is a possibility to obtain a significant difference.