

Awareness of Reproductive Health among Rural Adolescent Girls (A Comparative Study of School Going Girls and Dropout Girls of Jammu)

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ABSTRACT Reproductive health is a crucial part of general health and a central feature of human development. It is a reflection of health during childhood and crucial during adolescence and adulthood, sets and stage for health beyond the reproductive years for both women and men, and affects the health of the next generation. The extent and severity of the problems that adolescents encounter during this phase of their life include many reproductive health issues. Hence the present study was undertaken to know awareness of Reproductive Health among school going and school dropout adolescent girls of Jammu City. The results of the study revealed that majority of both school going girls and school drop out girls scored well in the identification of reproductive system. The areas where both school going girls and school dropout girls scored low were-Female reproductive organs, conceivable age and reproductive age of men, Unsafe abortion, legal and illegal abortion and its harmful effects, Clinical symptoms and biological symptoms of AIDS and the relationship between AIDS/HIV/STD's. Knowledge of teenage pregnancy and mode of pregnancy was lower in school going girls than dropout girls. The difference in the knowledge level of reproductive system, teenage pregnancy STD's, HIV in the two groups were insignificant but the knowledge level related to mode of pregnancy AIDS/HIV in the two settings was significant. The Results of the study revealed that the School Dropout Girls had more scientific information, than the School Going Girls. It was due to the fact that teachers hesitated to discuss such topics in the school.