KNOWLEDGE LEVELS AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION AMONG FEMALE STUDENTS AGED 18 TO 30 YEARS AT BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION.

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to assess the knowledge levels and attitudes towards emergency contraception among female students aged 18 to 30 years at Bindura University of Science Education in Bindura town Zimbabwe. The study employed a descriptive design with a random sampling technique utilised to identify a sample of 200 female first year students aged 18 to 30 years. The questionnaire return rate was 60.5%. The first year students’ admission register was used as the sampling frame. Data were collected by the researcher who distributed self administered questionnaires to the female students available in the HIV and AIDS Education and the Communication Skills classes via the respective lecturers. The respondents gave their written consent. The questionnaire covered demographic characteristics, knowledge on emergency contraceptives and attitude towards emergency contraceptives questions. This study was guided by the objectives: To assess the knowledge levels regarding emergency contraception among female students aged 18 to 30 years at Bindura University of Science education and to assess the attitudes of female students aged 18 to 30 years at Bindura University of Science education regarding emergency contraception.

The majority of the respondents which is 95.9% had heard of emergency contraception. However, the study’s findings indicate a mean knowledge score of 27.3% which is indicative of very low levels of knowledge of emergency contraception. The mean attitude score was 48.9% which is indicative of a negative attitude towards emergency contraception. The researcher recommends the introduction of peer-led education on emergency contraception by health science department students in the university to correct the misconceptions on emergency contraception that the students have thereby increasing knowledge and changing the attitude of students towards emergency contraception as well as strengthening of life skills, to include the subject of emergency contraception to empower female students to prevent unwanted pregnancies and associated complications among other recommendations.