

Poster 21

Trend and Influencing Factors on Reproductive Health Knowledge and Family Planning Usage Among Teenage Pregnant Mothers at A Tertiary Care Center in Northern Sri Lanka

T Serujan^a, S Rajeevan^b, R Surenthirakumaran^c, K Guruparan^d

^a Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

^b Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

^c Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

^d Teaching Hospital, Jaffna, Sri Lanka

Introduction: Teenage pregnancy is defined as a teenage girl, usually within the ages of 13-19, becoming pregnant. The risk of death due to pregnancy-related causes is double among women aged 15-19 compared to women in their twenties.

Objective: The objective is to describe the trend of teenage pregnancy and influence of media and available health services on knowledge of reproductive health and usage of family planning among teenage pregnant mothers admitted to Teaching hospital, Jaffna (THJ) in Northern part of Sri Lanka.

Methodology and materials: The delivery registers of Obstetric wards and admission registers of gynaecology ward and interviewer administered questionnaire to interview 100 teenage mothers admitted to obstetric units at THJ were used. Collected data were analysed by using Statistical Package for Social Sciences. Those with the p value < 0.05 were considered statistically significant.

Results: Number of the admissions of teenage pregnancies was higher in 2010 (329) than previous years (293 in 2008 and 284 in 2009). Level of reproductive health knowledge of teenage mothers was well below average. Although 31% had poor knowledge on practicing contraceptive methods, 82% of participants did not practise any contraceptive methods. Only 29% of them had taken pre-conceptional folic acid. Most of teenage mothers (63%) accepted that both her and her partner's decisions are important to practice contraceptive methods. Influence of media and registration with health services in promoting the reproductive health knowledge of teenage mothers was not significant at p value 0.05 levels.

Conclusions: There was an increased trend in admission of teenage mothers admitted to THJ and contraceptive knowledge and usage was not adequate. But study failed show the influence of media and provision of health services on knowledge of contraceptive usage. Studies are needed to explore factors further.