Need for Family Planning Education among high-school girls in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia

A.Kapamadzijab J.Vukelic, M.Pavlov-Mirkovic, Lj.Milasinovic, S.Milosevic, A.Bjelica

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Clinical Center Novi Sad, Novi Sad, Yugoslavia

Objective: To investigate and analyse the level of knowledge and need for more education on sexuality, methods of contraception and sexually transmitted diseases among high-school girls from our town, Novi Sad, according to their opinion. Study design: The research was done on 371 high-school girls, aged 15-19 years, and data were obtained by self-administered questionnaire in September, 2000. Results: Only 50% of girls want to learn more about sexual life, methods of contraception and STD, and 19,3% estimate their knowledge completely satisfactory with no further needs for education. Answers show different picture- lack of knowledge in all fields. Those who want to learn more, consider physicians-gynecologists the most proper source of education (77%), parents (13%), and others (8,5%), teachers only in 1,6%. The most suitable places for contraception supply, on their opinion, are pharmacies (82%). Where and how to learn more about FP? Most of the opinions fit into the suggested answers: counseling cervices for Family Planning and TV. Girls had no suggestions about organization of counseling services and other possibilities for sexual education. Conclusions: High-school girls in Novi Sad lack sufficient knowledge in Family Planning matters. There is a great need for organising adolescent-friendly reproductive health services in our town as a preventive measure for preserving women's health and future possibility for reproduction.