

ABSTRACT

Emergency contraception is contraception administered after unprotected sexual intercourse within 72 hours or within 120 hours. An emergency contraceptive (EC) pill is used to reduce unwanted pregnancy and unsafe abortion. The aim of the present study is to determine the knowledge and attitude towards emergency contraception among the students attending University of Distance Education and staying in the private hostels. A cross-sectional study was conducted in Patheingyi Township, Myanmar from October to December, 2014. Data about sociodemographic factors, knowledge and attitude regarding emergency contraception were gathered using anonymous, self-administered, pretest questionnaires. Altogether (295) students were requested to participate by using simple random sampling method. Respondents were age between 16 to 30 years, majority were Bamar. Among them, 239(81%) of the respondents have ever heard about EC. The forty-three point five percent of the respondents got the general information about emergency contraception from medical sources. Forty six point four percent could mention the trade name of emergency contraception. The one point six percent of the (239) respondents could describe the different method of emergency contraception apart from the emergency contraceptive pills. Among the (239) subjects, (42.7%) of the respondents had high knowledge about the emergency contraception. The forty-six percent of the respondents had a positive attitude towards emergency contraception. The levels of knowledge were associated with the respondents' race. And also, the attitude towards emergency contraception was associated with the respondents' race and educational level. It was concluded that there had more positive attitudes if there had high knowledge among the respondents. But there was still knowledge gap among the respondents i.e, the indication of emergency contraception, dosage, mechanism of action, advantages and side effects of EC pills. The more collaboration between the educational and health sector especially in reproductive health should be strengthened to reduce incorrect knowledge.