

**ADULT PERSPECTIVES ON  
ADOLESCENT REPRODUCTIVE  
BEHAVIOURS**

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## ABSTRACT

A community-based cross-sectional comparative study was conducted in 2008 to explore gender differences in adult perspectives on adolescent reproductive behaviours among 140 male and 140 female adults in South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Division. The adults were chosen by multistage sampling to participate in face to face interviews by using semi-structured questionnaire. The internal consistencies of the attitudinal responses were measured by reliability analyse. To fulfill the study objectives, summated score analysis, single item analysis and stratified analysis were done.

This study revealed that both males and females had negative attitudes towards adolescent reproductive behaviours. Of the maximum total attitudinal score of 56, males in this study were significantly more likely to attain higher mean attitudinal score than females ( $24.34 \pm 6.12$  vs.  $22.82 \pm 5.99$ ;  $P=0.037^*$ ). On single item analysis, mean attitude score of males were also significantly higher than females in the acceptance of having boyfriend/girlfriend in adolescents and getting married by female adolescents and condom use in unmarried male adolescents. Moreover, age and occupation influenced on attitudes of males while education level influenced on that of females.

Most of the study adults agreed to impart reproductive health topics regarding sexuality, contraceptive use and HIV/STDs to adolescents. In addition, both males and females believed that it was suitable to impart only after the age of 14. Males were significantly more willing than females to respond to sexual questions and to teach reproductive health matters. Females were significantly more willing to teach about menstruation, pregnancy and abortion. Both men and women were more likely to discuss reproductive health matters with adolescents of same gender than to opposite gender.

Gender differences in adult perspectives on adolescent reproductive behaviors can influence the adolescents in reproductive decision making by obtaining informed choices and in adopting the healthy reproductive behaviours. Therefore, findings of this study could assist in further planning of reproductive health programmes for both adolescents and adults.