

Increasing Awareness Regarding Emergency Contraception as a Solution to Unsafe Abortion Following Unwanted Pregnancies

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Background

Unwanted pregnancy followed by unsafe abortion is one of the major worldwide health problems, which has many negative consequences on the health and well being of women. Information about women's knowledge, attitude and practice of emergency contraceptives plays a major role in the reduction of unwanted pregnancy. Many misconceptions and misunderstandings abound regarding emergency contraception.

Aims & Objectives

To assess the knowledge, attitude and practice of emergency contraception and to further elucidate the relationship between these factors and socioeconomic and demographic characteristics.

Material & Methods

The study was carried out among the female population of Aliganj, New Delhi using questionnaire

based methods.

Results

More than three fourth (89.6%) of the study population were sexually active of which 27.3% had experienced unintended pregnancies. Almost three fourth (71.5%) had heard of emergency contraception. Only 10.4% had used emergency contraceptives of which 30.4% had experienced adverse effects.

Conclusions

Interventions like improving knowledge and bringing attitudinal change on use of emergency contraception, as well as education of masses by health facilitators about emergency contraception, emphasizing available methods, are necessary to tackle the aforementioned problem.