

## **AWARENESS AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS UTILIZATION OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN CALABAR MUNICIPALITY**

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**ABSTRACT:** ***Purpose:** The main focus of this study was awareness and attitude towards utilization of Reproductive health services among adolescents in Calabar Municipality. **Objectives:** In order to successfully carry out the study, the following objectives were formulated to guide the study. To determine the level of awareness of adolescents towards utilization of reproductive health services in Calabar municipality. To assess the attitudes of adolescents towards utilization of reproductive health services in Calabar municipality. To identify the barriers of adolescents towards utilization of reproductive health services in Calabar municipality. **Literature:** Literature, was reviewed based on the research variables, **Methods:** the research instrument used in collecting data for analysis was a questionnaire which was administered on one hundred and fifty (150) adolescents in Calabar Municipality who served as sample for the study. Their responses were analyzed using frequencies, percentage and Pearson product moment correlation analysis and the following results were obtained. **Results:** in table 3 indicate that 50(33.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that they did not like reproductive health services because of its complications to health while 3(2%) agreed, 84(56%) of the respondents strongly disagreed while 13 (8.6%) of the respondents disagreed. 40(26.6%) of the respondents strongly agreed, that they like reproductive health services because it prevents unwanted pregnancy, 44(29.3) disagreed, 60(40) of the respondents strongly disagreed while 6(4%) disagreed. 8(26.6%) strongly agreed that they love going to hospital because the nurses there will explain different methods of reproductive health services to them 90(60%) agreed, while 2(1.3%) strongly disagreed, 50(33.3%) disagreed. 80(53.5%) of the respondents strongly agreed that they love reproductive health services because they do not want to be pregnant, 8(5.3%) agreed, 60(40%) strongly disagreed and 2(1.3%) disagreed. 30(20%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that most adolescent choose the wrong method because it offers an appropriate method to each adolescent 30(20%) disagreed while 45(30%) agreed, 45(30%) strongly agreed. 45(30%) of the respondents strongly agreed that most women choose the wrong method because of improper counseling based on culture religion and ignorance 30(20) agreed while 30(20%) strongly disagreed and 45(30%) disagreed. **Conclusion:** Reproductive health services were*

*accessible to adolescents in Calabar Municipality. And most adolescents were aware of the reproductive health services but fail to utilize it. There is no significant relationship between attitude of reproductive health services and adolescents utilization of reproductive health; Reproductive health services were available to the public for use. There is no significant relationship between barriers of reproductive health services and adolescents utilization of reproductive health services. Nevertheless, it was concluded that Local Government authorities should organize enlightenment campaigns, to educate adolescents in the area on the importance of reproductive health services.*

**KEYWORDS:** reproductive health, utilization, awareness, attitude, adolescence

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## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Background to the study**

Around the world, young people are growing up in an environment of dynamic change. For some, this complexity provides opportunity and choice; for others, it means a struggle for survival. The period of adolescence is, however, a life phase in which young people are particularly vulnerable to health risks, especially in Calabar municipality Cross River States-Nigeria for those related to sexuality and reproduction. Therefore, the most common youth problems related to sexuality and reproductive health include: HIV/AIDS, unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion, early marriage, teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and poor nutrition (Yohannes (2016). This indicate that adolescent parents should be able to educate their children about the dangers especially in early sexual practices, this will go a long way to help them in their decision based on interpersonal relationship especially with males adolescent.

Reproductive health services refers to a situation where men and women ought to be informed of and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of birth control also access to appropriate health care services of sexual, reproductive medicine and implementation of health education (Nsubufa, 2016). Seventy-eight percent (78%) of the 1.5 billion young people in the world live in the developing world. Ethiopia has over 21 million young people and they account for approximately 22% of the total population. In Nigeria, youth tend to be less informed, less experienced, and less comfortable in accessing reproductive health services than adults. Youth often lack basic reproductive health knowledge and access to affordable and confidential health services. (Adamchak, Katerine, MacLaren, Magnani & Nelson, 2000). Also, most youth do not feel comfortable in discussing reproductive health issues with their parents and as such cannot also use or utilized the reproductive services in Calabar Municipality (Motuma 2012). However, studies have shown that, parents, teachers and health personnel indicated that they are unprepared to discuss sexuality with adolescents, often because they feel uncomfortable or overworked, or because they disapprove of young people who express an interest in sexuality. In the past, much reproductive health programs and services are focused on married couples and adults, ignoring the needs of sexually active and sexually non-active adolescents. (UNESCO. PROAP Regional, 1998)

Despite many combined partnership efforts, most African countries especially in Nigeria are still facing significant lack of awareness towards utilization of reproductive health service as a result of long queues, unfavorable working hours, mixing out of school youth and the school going youth and lack of Money negatively affects utilization of youth friendly reproductive health services (Tegegn, Yazachew,& Gelaw 2008) .

### **Purpose of the study**

The purpose of this study is to determine the level of awareness, and attitude towards utilization of reproductive health services among adolescents in Calabar municipality, Cross River State - Nigeria.

### **Objectives of the study**

The objectives of the study are as follows to:

- Determine the level of awareness of adolescents towards utilization of reproductive health services in Calabar municipality
- Assess the attitudes of adolescents towards utilization of reproductive health services in Calabar municipality
- Identify the barriers of adolescents towards utilization of reproductive health services in Calabar municipality

### **Research hypotheses**

#### **Hypothesis 1**

There is no significant relationship between awareness of reproductive health services and adolescent's utilization of reproductive health services?

#### **Hypothesis 2**

There is no significant relationship between barriers of reproductive health services and adolescents utilization of reproductive health services.

### **Importance**

- i. It may create awareness to the community, families and individuals in handling adolescents' cases.
- ii. It might generate literature for future researchers in the area of family health nursing and midwifery.
- iii. It may help government formulate policies which would promote adolescent health services.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Empirical Studies**

#### **Awareness of adolescents' utilization of reproductive health services**

A study in Nigeria indicated that about a quarter of adolescent experience sexual intercourse but only 10.7% of them had ever tested for HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, of 25.5% who admitted to have experienced sexual intercourse, only about two-thirds used condom in their last sexual intercourse. The same study showed that about a third of study population did not see anything wrong with

pre-marital sex because they perceived it as normal, simply fun or that it does not matter (Omobuwa, Asekun-Olarinmoye &, Olajide 2012) .

The limited capacity of health sectors to provide youth friendly service with inconvenient hours or location, unfriendly staff, and lack of privacy are among the main reasons many adolescents and young adults give up for not using reproductive health services. Moreover, parents, care givers, and community members have limited knowledge to discuss about reproductive health services with adolescents. It is believed that a limited access and utilization of adolescent and youth friendly reproductive health services contribute to high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity due to abortion, fistula and other pregnancy-related complications (Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Ministry of Health, National Adolescent and Youth Reproductive Health Strategy 2007-2015) Addis Ababa.

A school-based study conducted in East Gojam, Ethiopia, showed that among sexually active youths, only 21% and 13% of them have ever used contraceptives and condoms, respectively. On the other hand, among the sexually active female adolescents, 43% of them had ever been pregnant, and of which about 15% had a history of abortion. In another study conducted in Asebe Teferi, Ethiopia, the reason why youths do not use adolescents and youth friendly reproductive health services was prolonged waiting for the service (73.4%), and service inconsistency (58.3%), respectively (Abubeker 2004).

It is important to create a supportive environment that would positively influence the knowledge, attitude, perceptions, skills and behavior of adolescents towards the utilization of reproductive health services. Therefore, the major contribution of this study is to examine and indicate the awareness and attitude that determine adolescents and youth friendly reproductive health services among adolescents in Calabar municipality (Okon, 2017).

#### **Attitude toward adolescents' utilization of reproductive health service**

The result indicated that 676 (80.1%) respondent were willing to fee for the services and preferred medical doctor/health officer, Nurse, and health extension workers. Majority of adolescent females had positive attitude toward RHS utilization, which comprised 603 (72.5%). Respondents strongly agree about the importance of Reproductive health services for youth. 158 (42.1%) of the students strongly agree about the importance of reproductive health services for youth. Students strongly disagree the inclination that only females should use reproductive health service. 156 (41.6%) of the students strongly disagree That only female should use reproductive health service Whereas 103 (27.5%) agreed on only females should use RH service. one hundred forty respondents 140 (37.3%) Agree about discussing on [contraceptive](#) with young people Lenjisa , Ulfin, Tamme, (2014) Nsubufa, (2016), Korra, (1999), while 85 (22.7%) strongly agree, 87 (23.2%) Disagree about it. Out of the total students, 187 (49.9) agree about screening for HIV and other T is good, 108 (28.8%) Strongly agree, 43 (11.5), whereas 11 (2.9%) strongly disagree, not sure about it 26 (6.9%)

**Barriers towards adolescents' utilization of reproductive health services**

In this study, it was found that one of the most reported reasons by the students for the missed opportunity to utilize the service was the inconvenience of the service delivery time (30.1%). This findings was supported with the study conducted in Addis Ababa, Awabel, Gondar & Bahir that the most important barrier in utilizing reproductive health services was inconvenient hours, so this needs an improvement by the service providers Atitegeb , Kassaw, Hailu (2016), Yohannes, (2016), Meskerem, Worku (2014), Ajike, Mbegbu, (2016), Feleke , Koye, Demssie, Mengesha (2013) Youths who know a type of AYFRH services were 1.68 times more likely to utilize the AYFRH service than their counterparts (Federal Decocratic Republic of Ethiopia Ministry of Health, 2015). This finding was supported by many other studies conducted in Harar town, Addis Ababa, Mekelle & Kenya, except the study conducted in Asela town, which was in opposite with this study finding Motum , Syre, Egata, Kenay (2016) Yohannes (2016) Kalayu, Berhe, Alemayehu, (2016) Ontiri , (2015) Bedho, (2014) . Those youths who had information about the availability of adolescents and youth friendly reproductive health service facility out of their school were five times more likely to utilize the service than those who didn't know and this finding was in line with a study conducted in Kenya. Perez (2013), (Youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services (2013). From this it can be predicted that as youths become more familiar with the service settings as well as a type of services offered, they will freely decide to what type of the service they have to use and why, when and where to use.

In this study, it was found that those respondents who never had sexual intercourse were 86.2% less likely to utilize reproductive health services than those who ever had sexual intercourse and this finding was supported by a study done at Awabel district Atitegeb, Kassaw, Hailu (2016). On the other hand, youths who never encountered any sexual and reproductive health problems were 84.4% less likely to utilize AYFRH services than those who ever encountered any sexual and reproductive health problems and this was supported by the study conducted in Bahir Dar town Meskerem, & Worku (2014). This might be because those students who ever had sexual intercourse might need further relevant service to avoid the risk and consequences of sexual vulnerability. In this study, it was found that those respondents who had ever visited the facility, but missed the service required were 42% less likely to utilize AYFRH services than their counterparts. However, this study is institution based and didn't consider adolescents and youths out of school. Consequently, it is difficult to generalize the findings to similar population out of school. (Seifu, 2001).

**Summary of literature review**

This study review literature based on previous studies carried out by researchers. It took the format of conceptual framework, empirical studies and theoretical framework. Awareness of adolescents' utilization of reproductive health services. A study in Nigeria indicated that about a quarter of adolescent experience sexual intercourse but only 10.7% of them had ever tested for HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, of 25.5% who admitted to have experienced sexual intercourse, only about two-thirds used condom in their last sexual intercourse. This implies that, most adolescents are aware of reproductive health services and also utilized the services (Cherie, Tura & Trklrhymanot, 2014).

The same study showed that about a third of study population did not see anything wrong with pre-marital sex because they perceived it as normal, simply fun or that it does not matter (Omobuwa, Asekun-Olarinmoye &, Olajide 2012) .

### **Theoretical Frame Work**

The theoretical model of the study applied is the AIDS risk reduction model.

The AIDS risk reduction model developed in 1990 by Catania, Kegles & Coates specifically for AIDS prevention is used for this study; the model uses constructs from health belief model to describe the process individuals go through while changing behaviour regarding HIV risk. The model identifies three stages involved in reducing risk for HIV transmission and perceived susceptibility to HIV/AIDS influence how adolescent perceive using reproductive health services. The second stage talks about commitment to change is shaped by perceptions to self-efficacy and social norms. In the last stage of talking, help seeking behaviour and social factors affecting adolescents' decision-making process (Catania, Kegeles & Coates, 1990).

### **Application to the study**

This model applies to study as it helps the adolescents' girls and pregnant women to perceive the susceptibility to their unborn babies to having HIV, implement procedure such as visiting or utilizing the reproductive health services such as health centers, clinics, hospitals and school health clinics for proper assessment and diagnosis of related complicated pregnancy that could have led to abortion and other cases of HIV reduce risk of transmission. And also helps in decision making of mother on what to do to assist adolescents during this trying period.

## **METHODS**

In this chapter, the focus was on the research methodology, it is set forth under the following sub-headings:

### **Research design**

The research design adopted in this study is survey design, the researcher attempted to obtain a picture of the present conditions of particular phenomena. It is directed toward determining the nature of a situation, as it exists at the time of the investigation and it depends basically on questionnaire and interview as means of data collection.

This particular research design is to be adopted because the variables under study are to be examined as they are as at when the study is carried out. In this study, the independent variables awareness, was a measure of differences of what has already taken place; while dependent variables already exist in attitude towards utilization of reproductive health services among adolescents.

### **Research setting**

The study area is Calabar Municipality in Cross River State, Nigeria. This setting is chosen for this study to determine the awareness, and attitude towards utilization of reproductive health services among adolescents in Calabar Municipality. Calabar Municipality is one of the eighteen Local Government Areas of Cross River State that serves as a Metropolis. The area is made up of

two indigenous ethnic groups (The Quas and the Efiks) while the language spoken is Ejagham and Efik, Pigeon, with English as the lingual Franca. The area is bounded in north by Akampkpa local government area, east by Akpabuyo local government area and on the west by Odukpani local government area. The University of Calabar, the teaching Hospital, General Hospital, Technical College and many other health institution and schools are located within the Municipality.

The Municipal council is governed by the chairman called the Mayor Assisted by his councilors representing each council ward. It has typical maritime climate with adequate rainfall all year round, two important rivers are found have the great Kwa River and Calabar River. Major occupation is farming, fishing and trading. The people are mostly Christians; few are Moslems while minute numbers still practice African traditional religion. The people believe in matrilineage and female fattening. Their cultural heritage is quite rich and is held in high esteem, such culture include their ceremonial outfits like the onyoyo and ntop-kpon for the female and usobo and okpokpon with beaded shoes and a white shirt for the males. They have indigenous dance like the Ekpe, Ekombi etc. Their sources for water supply are pipe borne water by the state water board, private boreholes, streams and rainfall. Electricity supply is provided by power holding PLC while waste disposal is being taken care of by the state government through the Calabar Urban City Development Agency (CUCDA).

### **Research population**

The population of this study is made up 450 adolescents in Calabar Municipality who have their names registered as adolescents into the state voters' registration in Calabar municipality 2017-2018.

### **Sample and sampling technique**

The sample size for this study was 150 respondents, the sampling technique adopted for this study was the simple random sampling technique. Ten out of the eleven wards in the Municipality represented a simple random sampling was done and 15 subjects were selected in each ward making a total of 150 subject from the municipality using balloting system of Yes or No. adolescent who picked yes were used for the study.

### **Ethical Consideration**

Before conduction of this research certain ethical issues were considered and respected. These include taking permission from the hospital authority in Calabar Municipality with the use of letter from the department of nursing science requesting that the researcher be permitted to interview some of the adolescent girls for the purpose of collecting data for this study. The respondents were informed about the scope of the research and their consents were duly obtained. The benefits to be derived from the study, the study and the issue of confidentiality on obtained information were well committed to them. The design was also devoid of harm to the respondents psychologically and physically.

### **Procedure for data collection**

Collection of data was done by the use of questionnaire consisting of 24 close ended questions. The respondents were informed of the exercise during ward meetings days and the essence of giving objective responses to the items. They were also told to be honest in their responses to the items as the information obtained would be treated with all amount of confidentiality and be used

as data for the research only. Questionnaire given to respondent were collected back after they finished answering the questions.

### Procedure for data analysis

Statistical package for social sciences(SPSS) was used for this study, different statistical tools where employed, first, simple frequencies tables, and percentages was used in the descriptive statistics of the data Pearson Product Moment Correlation procedure was used to test hypothesis because it is able to show the relationship between two variables.

## RESULTS

### Socio-demographic data

The socio-demographic data of respondents is presented as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1**

**Socio-demographic data of respondents**

	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Age: Below 15 years</b>	21	14
1 6-17 years	36	24
18- 19 years	55	36.7
20-24 years	38	25.3
	150	100
<b>No. of children:</b>		
1-4 children	64	42.7
5-7 children	52	34.7
8- above	34	22.6
	150	100
<b>No. of Children alive:</b>		
1-2 children	34	22.7
3-4 children	56	37.3
5-8 children	38	25.3
9-12 children	22	14.7
	150	100
<b>Marital status:</b>		
Married	88	58.7
Single	34	22.7
Widow	28	18.6
	150	100
<b>Highest level of education:</b>		
Never been to school	13	8.7
Primary school	37	24.7
Secondary school	46	30.6
Tertiary	50	36.0
	150	100
<b>No. of Children delivered in:</b>		
Government Hospital/Health centres	114	76
Traditional delivery home	36	24
	150	100



The Socio demographic data of respondent as presented in table 1 indicate that 21(14%) of the respondents were below 15 years by age, 36(24%) were 16-17 years of age, 55(36.7%) were 18-19 years old, and 38(25.3%) were 20-24 years old. 64(42.7%) had 1-4 children, 52(34.7%) had 5-7 children and 34(22.6%) had 8-above children. On the number of children alive, 34(22.7%) had 1-2 children, 56(37.3%) had 3-4 children, 38(25.3%) had 5-8 children, and 22(14.7%) had 9-12 children. On their marital status, 88(58.7%) were married, 34(22.7%) were single and 28(18.6%) were widows. 13(8.7%) had not been to school before, 37(24.7%) had primary school education. 46(30.6%) had secondary school education while 50(36%) had tertiary education. On their place of delivery services, 114(76%) delivered in a government hospital/health center while 36(24%) delivered at a traditional delivery home.

### Research question I

What is the relationship between awareness of reproductive health services and adolescents utilization of reproductive health services in Calabar municipality?

This research question is answered using frequencies and percentages as presented in table 2.

**Table 2: Awareness of reproductive health services and adolescents utilization of reproductive health services.**

Statement	Yes	No
Reproductive health services are common in your area	97 (64.7)	53 (35.3)
You have access to reproductive health services at any time.	89 (59.3)	61 (40.7)
Reproductive health services are only an exclusive right of the rich	27 (18)	123 (82)
Only young girls are allowed to know about reproductive health services in your community	36 (24)	114 (76)
The nurses in your health Centre are very strict when it comes to Reproductive health issues	47 (31.3)	103 (68.7)
During antenatal clinic nurses allow you to know about different methods of reproductive health services to choose if you want to do so.	106 (70.7)	44 (29.3)

Note: numbers in parentheses are percentages

Results in table 2 indicate that 97(64.7%) of the respondents agreed that reproductive health services are common in their community while 53(35.3%) disagreed. 89(59.3%) agreed that they have access to reproductive health services at any time while 61(40.7%) disagreed. 27(18%) agreed that reproductive health services are only an exclusive right of the rich while 123(82%) disagreed. 36(24%) agreed that only young girls are allowed to know about reproductive health services in their community while 114(76%) disagreed. 47(31.3%) agreed that the nurses in their health center were very strict when it comes to reproductive health issues while 103(68.7%) disagreed. 106(70.7%) agreed that during antenatal nurses allowed to different methods of reproductive health services to choose from if they want to do so while 44(29.3%) disagreed. From the above results, it can be said that reproductive health services are utilized to adolescents' awareness in Calabar Municipality.

### Research question 2

How does adolescents' attitude of reproductive health services relate to their utilization of reproductive health services?

This research question is answered using frequencies and percentages as presented in table 3.

**Table 3: Adolescent's reproductive health services and their attitude towards its use**

Statement	SA	A	SD	D
I do not like reproductive health services because of its complications to health.	50 (33.3)	3 (2)	84 (56)	13 (8.6)
I like reproductive health services because it prevent unwanted pregnancy	40 (26.6)	44 (29.3)	60 (40)	6 (4)
I love going to hospital because the nurses there will explain different methods of reproductive health services to me	8 (5.3)	90 (60)	2 (1.3)	50 (33.3)
I love reproductive health services because I do not want to be pregnant	80 (53.3)	8 (5.3)	60 (40)	2 (1.3)
Most adolescent <b>love</b> reproductive health services because it offers an appropriate method to each adolescent.	45 (30)	45 (30)	30 (20)	30 (20)
Most adolescent choose the wrong method of reproductive services because of <i>improper</i> counseling based on culture, religion and ignorance	45 (30)	30 (20)	30 (20)	45 (30)

Note: numbers in parentheses are percentages

Results in table 3 indicate that 50(33.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that they did not like reproductive health services because of its complications to health while 3(2%) agreed, 84(56%) of the respondents strongly disagreed while 13 (8.6%) of the respondents disagreed. 40(26.6%) of the respondents strongly agreed, that they like reproductive health services because it prevents

unwanted pregnancy, 44(29.3) disagreed, 60(40) of the respondents strongly disagreed while 6(4%) disagreed. 8(26.6%) strongly agreed that they love going to hospital because the nurses there will explain different methods of reproductive health services to them 90(60%) agreed, while 2(1.3%) strongly disagreed, 50(33.3%) disagreed. 80(53.5%) of the respondents strongly agreed that they love reproductive health services because they do not want to be pregnant, 8(5.3%) agreed, 60(40%) strongly disagreed and 2(1.3%) disagreed. 30(20%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that most adolescent choose the wrong method because it offers an appropriate method to each adolescent 30(20%) disagreed while 45(30%) agreed, 45(30%) strongly agreed. 45(30%) of the respondents strongly agreed that most women choose the wrong method because of improper counseling based on culture religion and ignorance 30(20) agreed while 30(20%) strongly disagreed and 45(30%) disagreed.

The result presented above therefore shows that adolescent in Calabar municipality have a positive attitude of reproductive health services and are ready to utilize its different methods.

### Research question 3

What is the relationship between barriers of reproductive health services and adolescent's utilization of reproductive health services?

This research question is answered using frequencies and percentages as presented in table 4.

**Table 4: Barriers of reproductive health services and adolescent utilization's of reproductive health services.**

	Yes	No
Reproductive health services are made available at all times in your health centre.	98 (65.3)	52 (34.7)
No body discusses reproductive health services during antenatal clinic	38 (52.3)	112 (74.7)
Health staff in your area do organize enlightenment campaign on reproductive health services	89 (59.3)	61 (40.7)
The staff in your health centre are always ready to attend to your reproductive health services needs	94 (62.7)	56 (37.3)
Whenever you visit the health centre with reproductive health problems, nobody attends to you	43 (28.3)	107 (71.3)

Note: numbers in parentheses are percentages

Result in table 4 indicates that 98(65.3%) of the respondents said reproductive health services are made available at all times in their health centres while 52(34.7%) said they are not. 38(25.3%) said no body discusses reproductive health services during antenatal clinic while 112(74.7%) said they do discuss it. 89(59.3%) said health staff in your area do organize enlightenment campaign on reproductive health services while 61(40.7%) said they do not. 94(62.7%) said the staff in your health centre are always ready to attend to your reproductive health services needs while 56(37.3%) said they do not. 43(28.7%) agreed that whenever you visit the health centre with reproductive health problems, nobody attends to them while 107(71.3%) said they were always attended to them. The above result therefore shows that reproductive health services are *made* available to the public for use and there is no much barriers.

### Results for research hypotheses Hypothesis 1

There is no significant relationship between awareness of reproductive health services and adolescent's utilization of reproductive health services?

This hypothesis is tested using Pearson product moment correlation analysis as presented in table 5.

**Table 5**

**Pearson product moment correlation analysis of the relationship between awareness of reproductive health services and adolescent's utilization of reproductive health services?**

Variables	$\sum x$	$\sum x^2$	$\sum xy$	R
Awareness of reproductive health	431325671			
108288	0.277			
Adolescent's utilization of reproductive health	3744	96634		

Significant at .05, df 148, critical r = 0.178

Result in table 5 indicates that a calculated r-value of 0.277 was obtained. This value when compared to the critical r-value of 0.178 at .05 probability level and 148 degrees of freedom was found to be higher. On the basis of this observation, the null hypothesis is rejected, meaning that there is a significant relationship between awareness of reproductive health services and adolescents utilization of reproductive health services.

### Hypothesis 2

There is no significant relationship between barriers of reproductive health services and adolescents utilization of reproductive health services. This hypothesis is tested using Pearson product moment correlation analysis as presented in table 6.

**Table 6****Pearson product moment correlation analysis of the relationship between barriers of reproductive health services and adolescent's utilization of reproductive health services**

Variables	$\sum x$ $\sum y$	$\sum x^2$ $\sum y^2$	$\sum xy$	r
Barriers of reproductive health services	1461	15233		
Adolescents' utilization of reproductive health services.	3744	96634	36906	0.246

Significant at .05, df 148, critical r = 0.178

Result in table 6 indicates that a calculated r-value of 0.246 was obtained. This value when compared to the critical r-value of 0.178 at .05 probability level and 148 degrees of freedom was found to be higher. On the basis of this observation, the null hypothesis is rejected, meaning that there is a significant relationship between barriers of reproductive health services and adolescents utilization of reproductive health services.

## DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The result of findings showed that reproductive health services were accessible to adolescents in Calabar Municipality. This result showed that most of the respondents agreed that they had reproductive health services available to them at any time. The result equally revealed that there is a significant relationship between awareness of reproductive health services and adolescent utilization of reproductive health services. A study in Nigeria indicates that about a quarter of adolescent experience sexual intercourse but only 10.7% of them had ever tested for HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, of 25.5% who admitted to have experienced sexual intercourse, only about two-thirds used condom in their last sexual intercourse. The same study showed that about a third of study population did not see anything wrong with pre-marital sex because they perceived it as normal, simply fun or that it does not matter (Omobuwa, Asekun-Olarinmoye &, Olajide 2012) .

A school-based study conducted in East Gojam, Ethiopia, showed that among sexually active youths, only 21% and 13% of them have ever used contraceptives and condoms, respectively. On the other hand, among the sexually active female adolescents, 43% of them had ever been pregnant, and of which about 15% had a history of abortion. The result of the findings therefore shows that adolescent in Calabar municipality have a positive attitude of reproductive health services and are ready to utilize its different methods. This is also supported by this findings that, result indicated that 676 (80.1%) respondents were willing to fee for the services and preferred medical doctor/health officer, Nurse, and health extension workers. Majority of adolescent females had positive attitude toward RHS utilization, which comprised of 603 (72.5%). Respondents strongly agree about the importance of Reproductive health services for youth. 158 (42.1%) of the students strongly agree about the importance of reproductive health services for youth

The result of findings also revealed that reproductive health services were available to the public for use. The result also showed that there was a significant relationship between barriers of reproductive health services and adolescents' utilization of reproductive health services.

In this study, it was found that one of the most reported reasons by the students for the missed opportunity to utilize the service was the inconvenience of the service delivery time (30.1%). This findings was supported with the study conducted in Addis Ababa, Awabel, Gondar & Bahir Dar that the most important barrier in utilizing reproductive health services was inconvenient hours, so this needs an improvement by the service providers Atitegeb , Kassaw , Hailu (2016), Yohannes, (2016), Meskerem, Worku (2014), Ajike, Mbegbu, (2016), Feleke , Koye , Demssie, Mengesha (2013) Youths who know a type of AYFRH services were 1.68 times more likely to utilize the AYFRH service than their counterparts. This finding was supported by many other studies conducted in Harar town, Addis Ababa, Mekelle & Kenya, except the study conducted in Asela town, which was in opposite with this study finding Motum , Syre, Egata, Kenay (2016) Yohannes (2016) Kalayu, Berhe, Alemayehu, (2016) Ontiri, (2015) Bedho, (2014) . Those youths who had information about the availability of adolescents and youth friendly reproductive health service facility out of their school were five times more likely to utilize the service than those who didn't know and this finding was in line with a study conducted in Kenya Perez (2013), (Youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services (2013). From this it can be predicted that as youths become more familiar with the service settings as well as a type of services offered, they will freely decide to what type of the service they have to use and why, when and where to use.

Another study by Okon (2017) revealed that the limited capacity of health sectors to provide youth friendly service with inconvenient hours or location, unfriendly staff, and lack of privacy are among the main reasons many adolescents and young adults give up for not using reproductive health. This also means that, sensitization of the adolescents should be ongoing.

### **IMPLICATION TO NURSING**

Nurses in the area should also include reproductive health services in their health talks during antenatal clinic to prevent the negative attitude towards utilization of reproductive health services. Adolescent who are at the age of child bearing age should utilize the reproductive health center for proper education this would go a long way to prevent unwanted pregnancy, abortion and negligence from parent.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that reproductive health services were accessible, available and adolescent's attitude in-Calabar Municipality had a positive reproductive health services and are ready to utilize them.

1. The Local Government authorities should organize enlightenment campaigns, to educate adolescents in the area on the importance of reproductive health services.

2. Nurses in the area should also include reproductive health services in their health talks during antenatal clinic to prevent the negative attitude towards utilization of reproductive health services.

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