

ABSTRACT

A Comparison of the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of High School and Secondary School Students with Regard to Contraception

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This study compared students from a secondary school and a high school in Kingston and St Andrew. The study was conducted during February and March 1991 by means of a questionnaire. Findings were analysed from 132 students from each school.

Both groups of students were aware of contraceptive methods and were knowledgeable to a certain extent. Both groups of students thought that the male and the female were responsible for a method of contraception regardless of their religious affiliation.

The 'teacher' was the answer that received the greatest number of replies as the main informant on contraceptives to the students. Forty-two percent of the high school students made this reply compared to 34.1% of the secondary school students. Of the secondary school students, 0.3% gave mother as their second choice, while the reply 'peers' received very low scores. Thirty seven percent of the secondary school students were practising contraceptive use and 41.6% said that they would attend a family planning unit for contraceptives.

Seventeen percent of the high school students were practising a method of contraception and 43.2% said they would attend the pharmacy for it.

It is important that family planning information be made an integral part of the school syllabus and should start from an early age.