ABSTRACT

Adolescents comprise a major part of reproductive group. Girls in the stage of adolescence need special care particularly in shaping their health and wellbeing because they face significant risks related to sexual, reproductive health.

The present study on Reproductive health of adolescent girls in Chittoor district aimed to assess Common Health Problems (CHP), Chronic Health Problems (ChHP) and Reproductive Health Problems (RHP) of adolescent girls. In addition, Knowledge of Adolescent Girls on Reproductive Health and Family Welfare Services was examined. The study focused on the role of demographic variables such as locality, age, residence, Socio Economic Status (SES) of the family etc on Reproductive health of Adolescent girls and their Knowledge on Reproductive health issues and Family welfare services. Three stage stratified random sampling method was used in selecting adolescent girls of 12-17 years consisting of equal number from Rural and Urban areas. Interview Schedule on Reproductive Health of Adolescent Girls (ISRHA) was developed and administered to collect relevant data. A Pre test was conducted on a sample of 50 subjects. Later data was collected from the final sample of One thousand Adolescent Girls individually. The collected data was pooled and tabulated and subjected to appropriate statistical techniques.

Major findings of the study indicated that 70% of the Adolescent Girls were diagnosed as Anaemic. Common Health Problems (CHP) like constipation, dandruff and hairfall, and oral health problems were reported by majority of the subjects in the age group of 12-14 years from rural areas residing in the Hostels. Reproductive Health Problems such as back pain, lower abdominal pain, white discharge, breast pain etc were reported by majority of the subjects. Regarding Knowledge on Reproductive Health Issues it was found that rural adolescent girls had more knowledge than urban girls. Finally majority of the rural adolescent girls hailed from Low Socio Economic Status. Other findings along with appropriate developmental programs were discussed in order to improve Reproductive Health of adolescent girls.