Sexual and reproductive health knowledge, informationseeking behaviour and attitudes among female students in a private Medical University in Malaysia

Nurin Syazwani MS, Anis Adlena ASN, Ahmad Faris AA, Batrisyia R, Muhammad Shiraz Izzudin MS, Yvonne Lew EL, Vignesh R, Pradeep P

Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Kuala Lumpur Royal College of Medicine Perak (UniKL RCMP), Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) significantly impacts overall health and quality of life. This study examines SRH knowledge, information-seeking behaviour, and attitudes among female students at UniKL RCMP in Malaysia. The focus is on addressing risky sexual behaviour, which contributes to unwanted pregnancies, STIs, and pregnancy-related complications, particularly among females. Materials and Method: This is a cross-sectional study, comprising observational based research. It was conducted by distributing the online questionnaire to the female students of UniKL RCMP. All the questions in the questionnaire were then computed as the variables of this study. Analysis was done in SPSS 29 using appropriate statistical tests, p<0.05 was considered as significant. Results: Of 156 students, most are knowledgeable about SRH, with medical students being more informed. While socializing with the opposite sex is widely accepted, physical intimacy is not and most believe females should remain virgins until marriage. Religiousness significantly influences sexual norms. Students prefer seeking SRH advice from doctors, avoiding the internet due to misinformation concerns. Conclusion: This study underscores the significance of SRH education among female university students. Targeted educational interventions can empower young women to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health.