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RESEARCH ARTICLE

**KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES OF QASSIM UNIVERSITY STUDENTS REGARDING
 REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH.**

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Manuscript Info

Abstract

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Introduction:-

Knowledge and attitudes surrounding reproductive health carry profound meanings for women and men in every society and affect the quality of life in fundamental ways. Knowledge of sexual attitudes and behaviors is important to family planning researches, policy makers, and service provider.

In our country and many other countries the parents, teachers, Health care workers are unable to provide education about sexual and reproductive health, either because they have no enough information or they feel discomfort about the subject or due to the false belief that providing such information will encourage sexual behavior

The purpose of this study is to explore reproductive health knowledge and attitude among AlQassim University students.

Methods:-

A cross sectional study, data was collected through Self administrated structured questioners to a random sample of male students from 3 randomly selected colleges, from which about 300 students will be involved, and data regarding their knowledge and attitude of reproductive health was collected

Results:-

288 respondents with a mean age of 21.5 years were enrolled, all of them were male, and 65.5% were from Buraydah, 16.5 from Unizah.44% were from College of English, 55.6 from Pharmacy and Engineering colleges. Regarding the appropriate time of marriage 44% choose to marry after 25 of age, 42.7% between 21 to 25 of age, and 13.2% before the age of 20. About premarriage test 98.3 have good knowledge about its importance, 90% of them think it should be mandatory and 60% of them know it's important in the prevention of Inherited diseases. Asking about contraceptive methods 46.9% think physician consultation is important before the use of any contraceptive methods, 19.1% will use contraceptive pills, 19.6% will use condom and 14.6% don't want to use any contraception.

About Appropriate Number of Children to have 20.5% wish to have 1-3 children, 52.4% to have 3-5 children, and 27 % more than 5 children. 61.5 % think that children care will be affected by increasing number of children, 71.5% by marrying multiple wives and 63 % by wife work.

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About 39% of the students would like to have their first child after one year one marriage, 51.4% after 2 years and 9% after more than 2 years. The space between children 60% chose 2 years as appropriate 25% more than 2 years and 14% one year.

Conclusion:-

Reproductive health knowledge and attitudes were different from students to student but in general there were areas of agreement and areas of disagreement. The students have good knowledge regarding reproductive health with some areas which need improvement.