

ABSTRACT

Background: Reproductive health services that are adolescent-friendly have been found to be effective in addressing adolescent sexual and reproductive health needs. Notwithstanding the numerous sensitization campaigns conducted there have been no previous reported studies to understand why patronage remains low in Ghana. This study aimed to explore the knowledge, attitude and perception of adolescents about adolescent friendly health services at the adolescent unit of the Kpone Health Centre.

Methods: A descriptive qualitative design was used in the study. A total of 10 adolescents at the Kpone Health Centre were purposively selected for the study. They were 3 males and 7 females from 17 to 19 years of age. Face-to-face in-depth interviews were conducted using semi-structured interview guide and transcribed verbatim. Thematic content analysis of data was done.

Results: Most of the adolescents knew that sexual and reproductive health services are provided at the adolescent corner and considered the adolescent corner as useful. However, patronage of the adolescent corner was poor because of previous bad experience, lack of time and unawareness of the existence of adolescent corners. General perception of services provided at the adolescent corner was good. Staffs at the unit were perceived to be nice and friendly. However, stigmatizing views of others made them uncomfortable accessing health care services at the adolescent corners.

Conclusion: Previous bad experience at the clinic, lack of time and unawareness of the existence of adolescent corners contributed in poor patronage of the adolescent friendly health services at the Kpone Health Centre. High intentionality to visit the

unit and clear recognition of the importance of adolescent health corners and the need to maintain them are some positives for future interventions to increase patronage of adolescent corners in Kpone. It is recommended that the Ghana Health Service in collaboration with the media should make concerted efforts to address stigma associated with adolescent friendly health services to ensure better public understanding about the services provided.