

ABSTRACT

In an ever-growing world, knowledge and utilization of emergency contraceptives among female students are essential to ensuring their quality of reproductive growth. It is widely acknowledged that knowledge on contraceptives is widespread but this has not largely culminated in the usage of emergency contraception among females.

This study assessed the knowledge and utilization of emergency contraceptive methods among female students in the public universities in the Ho Municipality using quantitative research tools. A simple random sampling strategy was employed in recruiting 260 female students aged <math><20-40</math> years. Data from administered questionnaire was analysed using STATA version 13.

Findings reveal low patronage of emergency contraceptives which has remained persistently low. Participants in the study revealed their fear of major side effects in relation to the usage of emergency contraceptives citing nausea and vomiting, weight gain, bleeding, irregular menstruation and infertility. Also, most respondents mentioned that it was ethically or morally wrong to use Emergency Contraception (EC) which might be partly influenced by socio-cultural patterns such as religion and misconceptions. However, majority of the respondents indicated their willingness to recommend emergency contraceptives (EC) to others.

The study recommends that policy making should address the barriers to emergency contraceptives in relation to access and availability and the promotion of health educational programs among the various public universities in the country.

Keywords: Knowledge, Attitude, Availability, Modern, Contraceptives, Religious, Beliefs.