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PERCEPTIONS ON CONTRACEPTIVE USE AMONG TEENAGE MOTHER
ADMITTED IN POST NATAL CARE WARDS AT CHITUNGWIZA AND HARARE
CENTRAL HOSPITALS IN ZIMBABWE IN 2016.

A RESEARCH PROJECT

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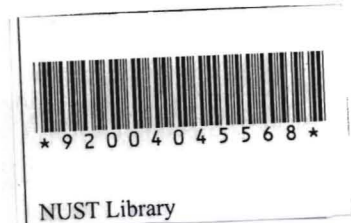
A Research project submitted in Partial Fulfillment Of the requirements for Msc in
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Abstract

Project Title: *Perceptions on contraceptive use among teenage mothers admitted in post natal wards at Chitungwiza and Harare central Hospitals in Zimbabwe in 2016.*

This study aimed to explore perceptions and barriers on contraceptive use among teenage mothers who were admitted in post natal wards at Chitungwiza and Harare Central Hospitals. The qualitative phenomenological method was used to explore the phenomenon under study, because it can yield unquantifiable data. The study population was teenage mothers admitted in post natal care wards at Chitungwiza and Harare Central Hospitals. Purposive sampling was used to select 20 participants for face to face in-depth interviews and 10 for the focus group discussion (FGD). The interviews and the focus group discussion were conducted in private rooms. The researcher used interview guides to collect qualitative data from the participants. Audio-taping and note taking were used to collect data Face to face interviews lasted between 35 and 60 minutes while the focus group discussion lasted 1 hour and 15 minutes. Discourse data analysis was used to categorize and organize data into themes and thematic analysis was used. Demographic data was analysed using descriptive analysis. Ethical principles were observed throughout the study. Permission was sought from hospital ethics committees to access the study sites and from MRCZ to carry out the study. Participants signed a written consent. The study findings revealed that teenagers knew contraceptive methods, importance of using them and sources of supply but demonstrated negative perceptions towards their use. Schools and the media were the primary sources of participants' sexual health information but they preferred nurses and doctors to teach them. Participants support contraceptive use for its benefits to their social life. Barriers to contraceptives use included socio-cultural norms, stigmatization, values and misconceptions, fear of side effects from contraceptives, lack of knowledge on youth friendly units formed. Use of WHO (2011) Guidelines on prevention of teenage pregnancy and awareness campaigns against teenage pregnancy were recommended. The same study should be carried out on teenagers those from different parts of Zimbabwe to achieve transferability as results of this study are confined to Chitungwiza and Harare Central Hospitals only.