



Seventh paper

*Reproductive health
knowledge and
attitudes of secondary
school girls in EL-
Beheira Governorate*



Reproductive health is one of the cornerstones of an individual's health and well-being. In many parts of the world, adolescents are poorly informed about their health, bodies, sexuality and physical well-being. Adolescent girls are often kept from learning about sexuality and reproductive health issues because of cultural and religious sensitivities. Limited access to RH information among female adolescents can increase their vulnerability to health problems. Therefore, it is important to provide them with accurate and age-appropriate information.

Aim of the study



*to assess the knowledge and
attitudes of reproductive health
among secondary school girl
students at El- Beheira
Governorate*

Material and Methods

Research design

An exploratory descriptive study

setting

The study was conducted in five secondary schools for girls in El- Beheira Governorate there were selected using multistage random sample technique. El- Beheira contains eighteen educational districts and from them five districts were chosen. Then, five Educational Administration were chosen (one from each district), then from each Educational Administration one school were chosen.

subject

- The study subjects were selected through probability sampling technique. Random sample of 600 girl students was recruited; the sample was distributed among chosen secondary schools proportionate to the number of students. Within the school, girl students were chosen randomly from the list representing the three grades of secondary education.

Tool for data collection

Two tools were designed and used to collect data.

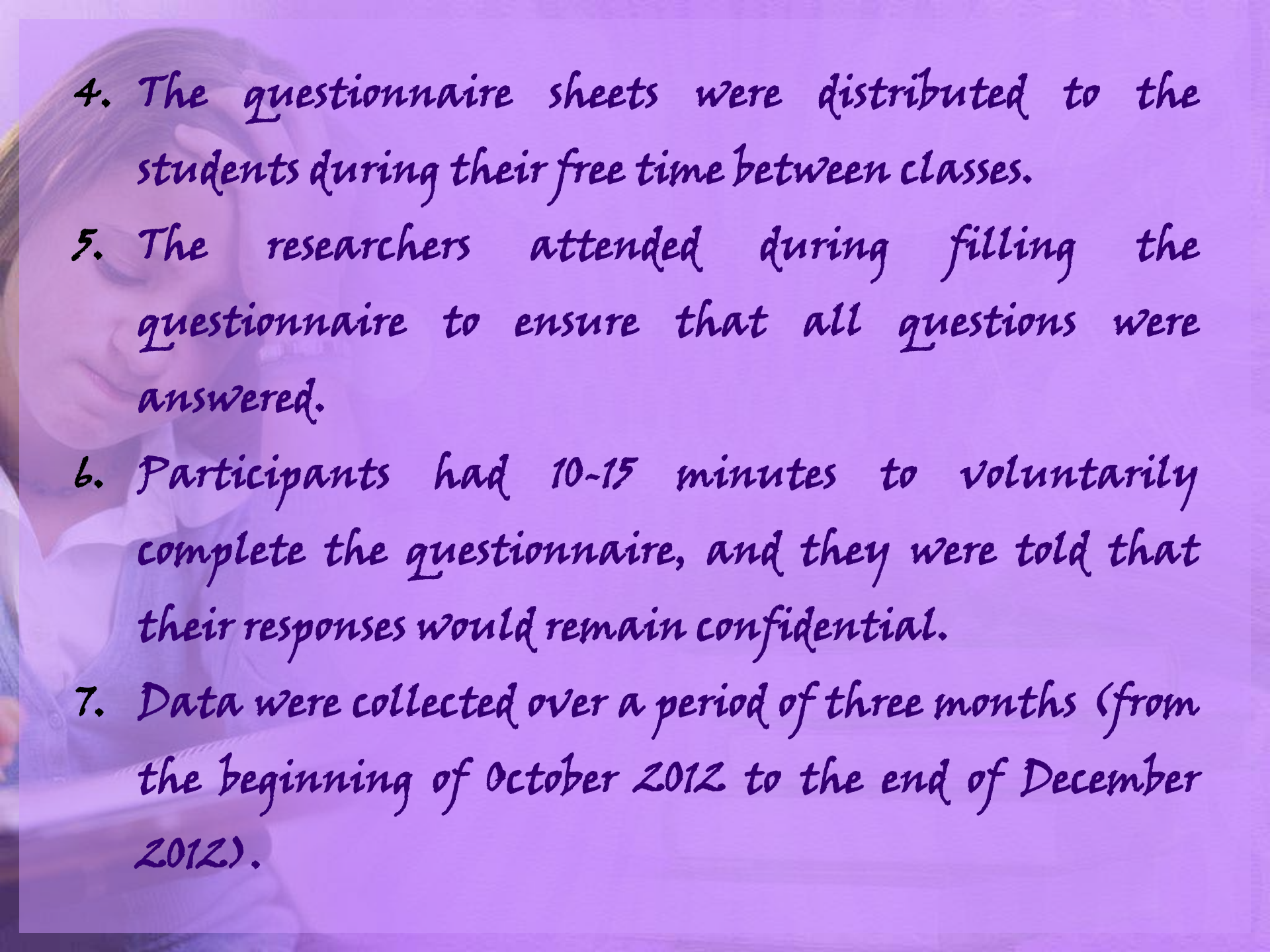
Tool I: a questionnaire sheet, which entailed two parts:

- Part 1: socio-demographic data such as age, parents' education and occupation, residence, crowding index.*
- Part 2: students' grade their knowledge about menstrual period, female genital mutilation, in addition girl students' sources of knowledge about reproductive health.*

Tool II: A likert like -scale was adopted to assess the students' attitudes towards reproductive health.

Methods

1. Approval of the educational districts directors and schools administration was obtained after the explanation of the purpose of the study.
2. Each girl student was individually contracted and informed about the aim of the study in order to obtain an oral informed consent for participation in the study. Reassurance was given to the girl student about the confidentiality of their responses.
3. Pilot study was carried out on 60 girl students to ascertain the clarity.

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4. The questionnaire sheets were distributed to the students during their free time between classes.
 5. The researchers attended during filling the questionnaire to ensure that all questions were answered.
 6. Participants had 10-15 minutes to voluntarily complete the questionnaire, and they were told that their responses would remain confidential.
 7. Data were collected over a period of three months (from the beginning of October 2012 to the end of December 2012).

Conclusion:

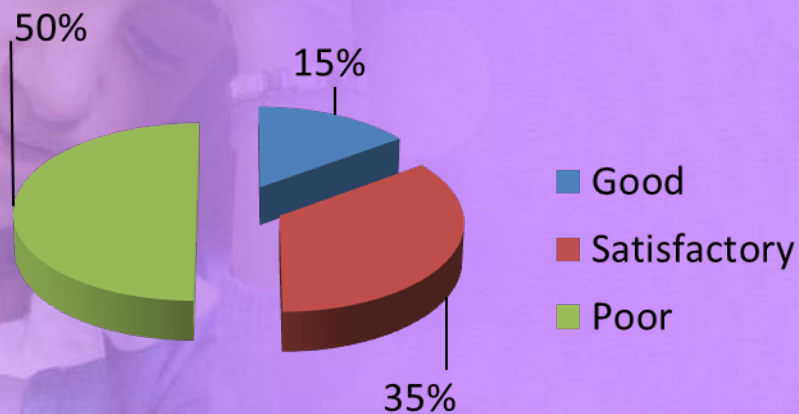
- Based on the findings of the present study, it can be concluded that, lack of knowledge and negative attitudes regarding RH was observed among half of the study subjects. The socio-demographic data were found to affect adolescents' knowledge about RH. The main sources of adolescents' knowledge about RH were mass media and relatives and friends.

Recommendation:

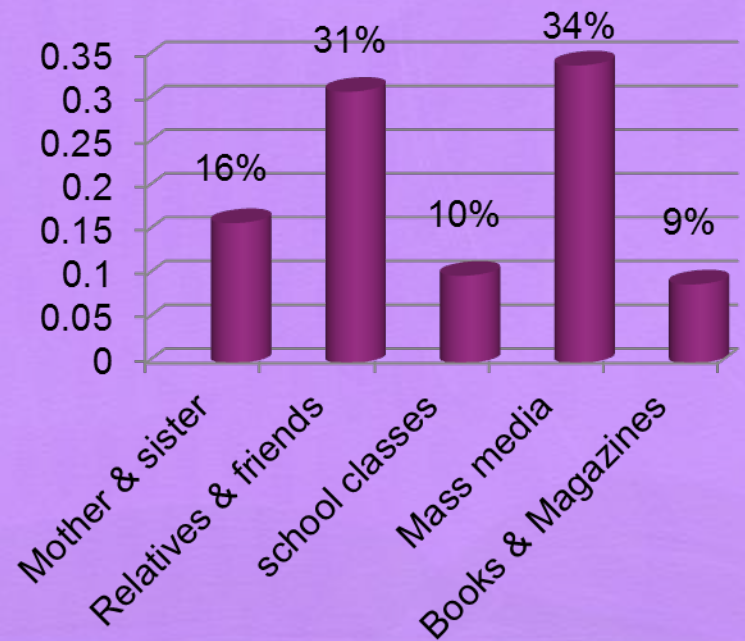
- Strengthen the RH component in the school curricula in order to improve adolescents' knowledge and build their positive attitude.
- The role of families, mass media, and school accurate information about RH must be enhanced.
- A program to educate parents on RH issues should be carried out.
- Teachers should be well informed about RH issues, so they can help prevent some of the problems by means of careful and open education.
- Further studies are needed to assess male versus female secondary school students' knowledge and attitudes regarding RH.

Distribution of the study subjects according to their socio-demographic data.

Socio-demographic data	N= 600	Percent (%)
Age		
≤16 years	330	55.0
>16- <18	131	21.8
18 or more	139	23.2
Mean & SD.	16.117± 1.440	
Father education:		
Illiterate/read &write	210	35.0
Less than university	300	50.0
University	90	15.0
Father occupation:		
Administrative work	206	34.3
Manual work	366	61.0
Others	28	04.7
Mother education:		
Illiterate/read &write	200	33.3
Less than university	248	41.3
University	152	25.3
Mother occupation:		
Administrative work	170	28.3
Manual work	32	05.3
House wife	398	66.3
Residence:		
Urban	163	27.2
Rural	437	72.8
Socioeconomic status		
High	103	17.2
Middle	311	51.8
Low	186	31.0



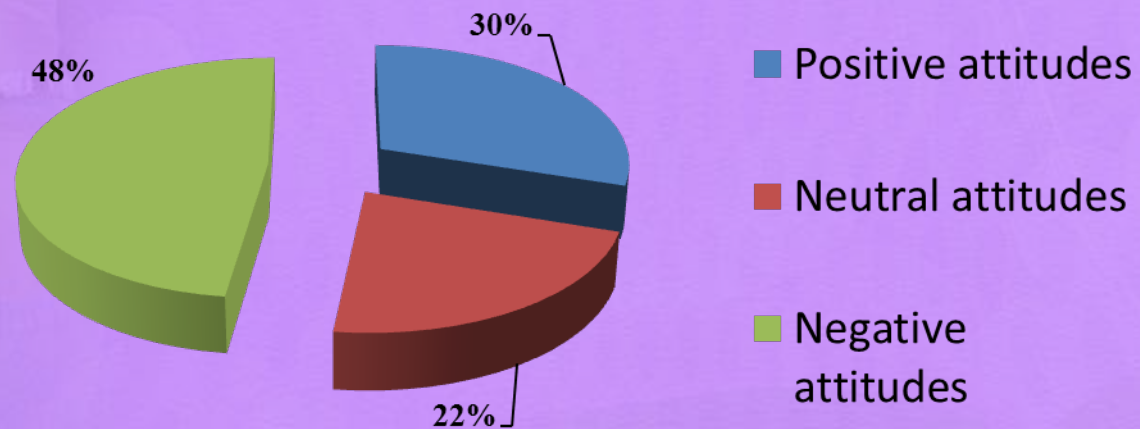
Distribution of the study subjects according to their total score of knowledge about reproductive health



Distribution of the study subjects according to their sources of knowledge about reproductive health

Relationship between girl students' socio-demographic data and their total score of knowledge about reproductive health.

Socio-demographic data	Total score of knowledge						Total n=600		X ² (P)
	Good n=90		Satisfactory n=210		Poor n=300				
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Age (years)									
≤16	8	2.4	85	25.8	237	71.8	330	55.0	187.97* (0.000)
>16- <18	32	24.4	49	37.4	50	38.2	131	21.8	
18 or more	50	36.0	76	54.7	13	9.4	139	23.2	
Father education:									
Illiterate/read &write	00	00.0	15	07.1	195	92.9	210	35.0	576.09* (0.000)
Less than university	15	05.0	180	60.0	105	35.0	300	50.0	
University	75	83.3	15	16.7	00	00.0	90	15.0	
Mother education:									
Illiterate/read &write	00	00.0	37	18.5	163	81.5	200	33.3	375.21* (0.000)
Less than university	04	01.6	107	43.2	137	55.2	248	41.3	
University	86	56.6	66	43.4	00	00.0	152	25.3	
Residence:									
Urban	62	38.0	80	49.1	21	12.9	163	27.2	153.52* (0.000)
Rural	28	6.4	130	29.8	279	63.8	437	72.8	
Socioeconomic status:									
-High	90	87.4	13	12.6	00	00.0	103	17.2	741.07* (0.000)
-Middle	00	00.0	197	63.3	114	36.7	311	51.8	
-Low	00	00.0	00	00.0	186	100	186	31.0	



Distribution of the study subjects according to their total score of attitudes towards reproductive health.

Relationship between girl students' total scores of knowledge and attitudes and their sources of knowledge about RH.

Total scores of knowledge and attitudes	Sources of knowledge										Total n=600		X ² (P)
	Mother & Sister n=96		Relatives & Friends n=186		School classes n=60		Mass media n=204		Book & Magazines n=54				
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Knowledge: -Good -Satisfactory -Poor	13 30 53	14.4 14.3 17.7	17 37 132	18.9 17.6 44.0	20 28 12	22.2 13.3 04.0	25 85 94	27.8 40.5 31.3	15 30 9	16.7 14.3 03.0	90 210 300	15.0 35.0 50.0	89.00* (0.000)
Attitudes: -Positive -Neutral -Negative	30 47 19	16.7 35.6 6.6	25 10 151	13.9 7.6 52.4	36 20 4	20.0 15.2 1.4	49 41 114	27.2 31.1 39.6	40 14 00	22.2 10.6 00.0	180 132 288	30.0 22.0 48.0	240.24* (0.000)

