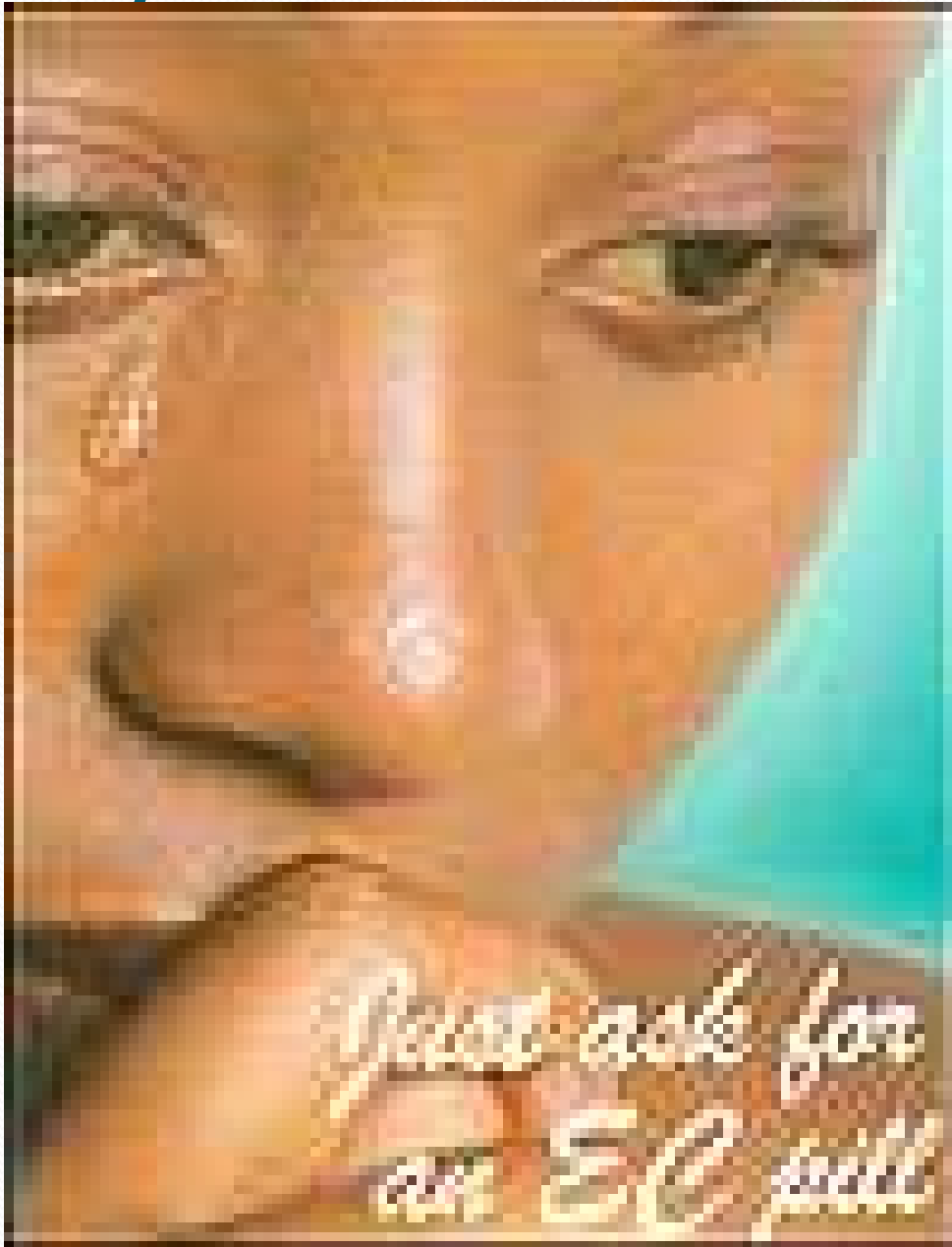




A STUDY ON KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND USE OF HORMONAL CONTRACEPTIVES AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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Have you seen this advert?





Background

- There has been sustained campaign for adoption of hormonal contraceptives for use by the general population worldwide to avoid unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions and reduce population growth. The main targets of these campaigns are the teenagers in schools, both primary and secondary since they are the most risk of unwanted pregnancies.





What are the youth aspirations

- According to a study in 2011 by Consumer Insight (dubbed Holla 2011) one of its most astounding revelations is that our youth are obsessed with material success. Among their aspirations is to have a professional career which pays lots of money and have a family.
- http://www.ciafrica.com/oindex/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=48:holla&catid=21:news&Itemid=46

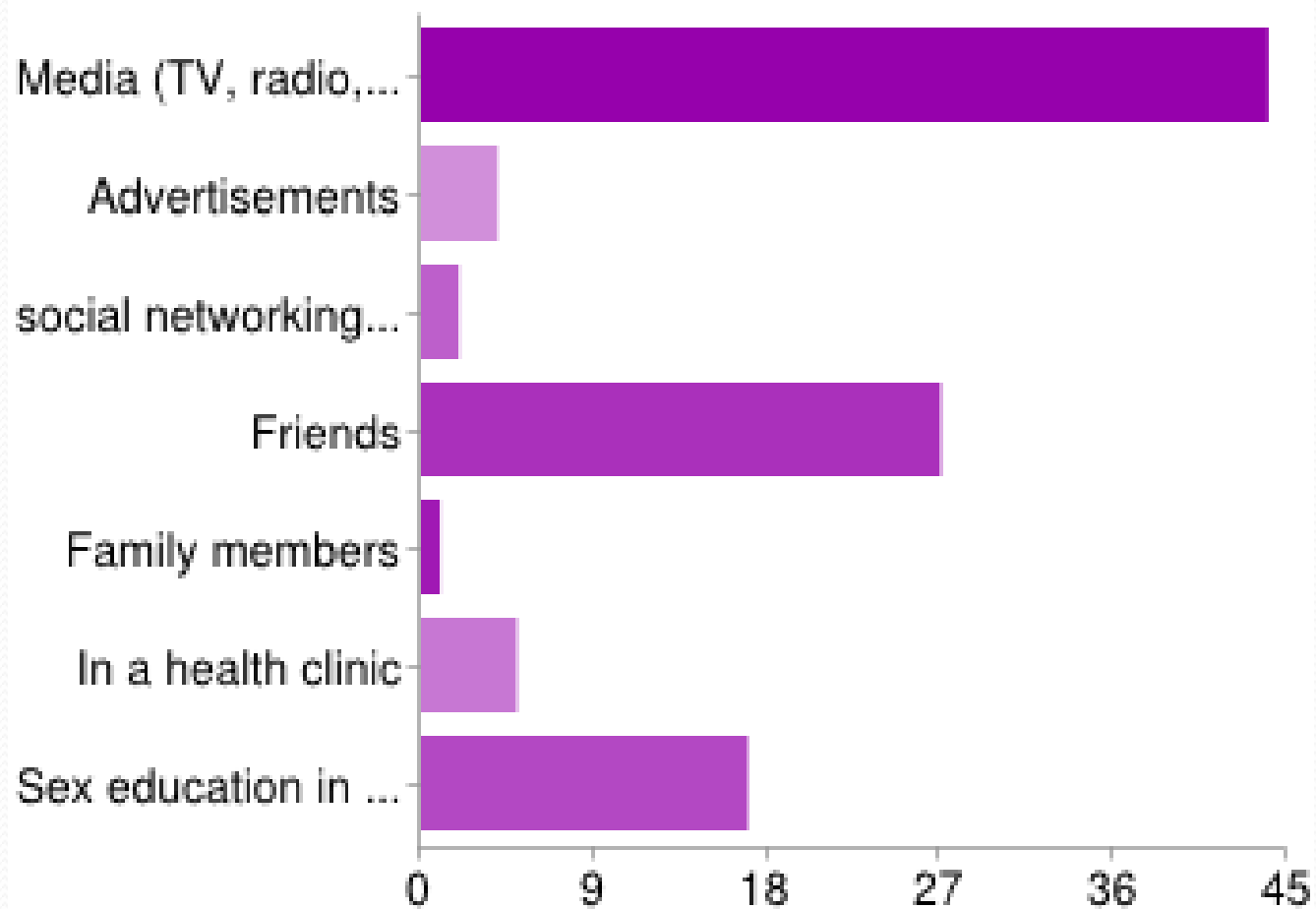
METHOD OF STUDY

- Between February and March 2012 a sample of 100 full time students were chosen randomly and directed to an online questionnaire. The link was posted in the E-Learning site, email and in the student council site. All questions were compulsory, but no identification was required to ensure confidentiality.
- <https://docs.google.com/a/strathmore.edu/spreadsheets/viewform?pli=1&formkey=dFpKQlppTFBoU3dERzhIS1NrNnJPckE6MQ#gid=o>

RESULTS

- Of the 100 respondents 41% were male and 59% were female, 27% were of age bracket 15-20 and 73% were of age 21-25. Overall 98% are aware of the existence of hormonal contraceptives. This awareness was obtained from media 44% and Friends 27% while family was only 1% this is worrying that the family is neglecting its role. On the usage of HC only 24% has ever used and the reasons for low usage can be found in the cited disadvantages. On where the HC are obtained from the pharmacy/chemist is the preferred provider with 76% compared to a health facility 18%. In order to determine further on the knowledge on the different types of HC 88% of the participants could identify pills as one of the HC and a further 62% identified injectibles and IUDs.

Source of information on HCs

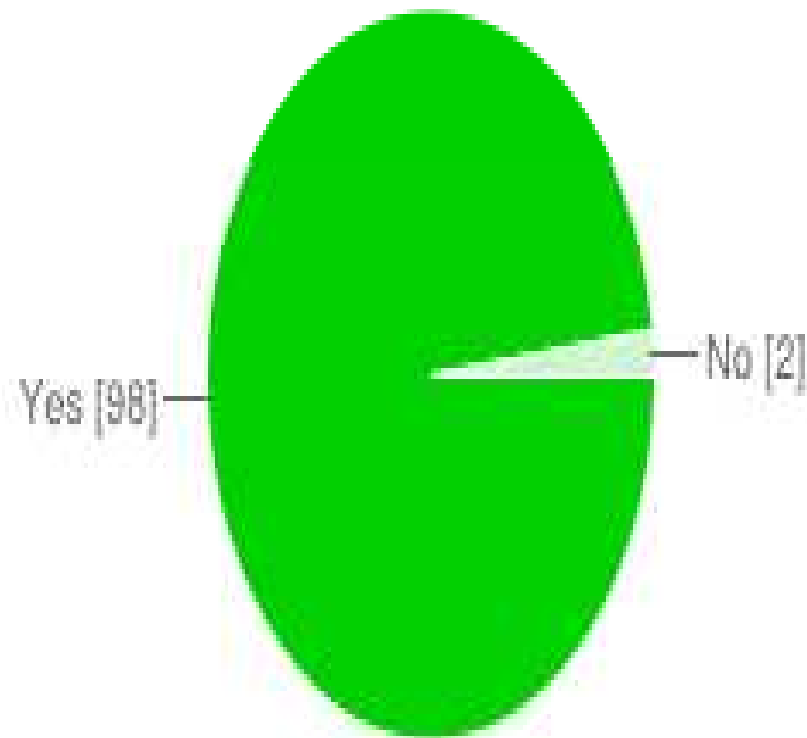




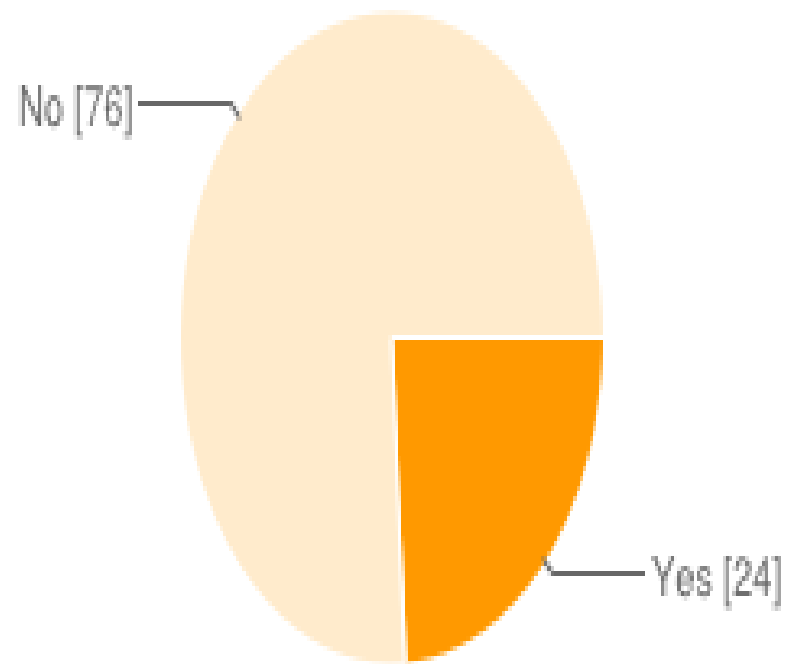
Discussion on source of Information

- The media (45%) is the largest source and preferred source of information on HCs by the students. This was expected since there has been vigorous campaign in the media promoting the use of certain HCs especially Emergency pills. It seems also the students rely on their friends for information, but we didn't find out the specifics.

Awareness



Results on those who have ever used.



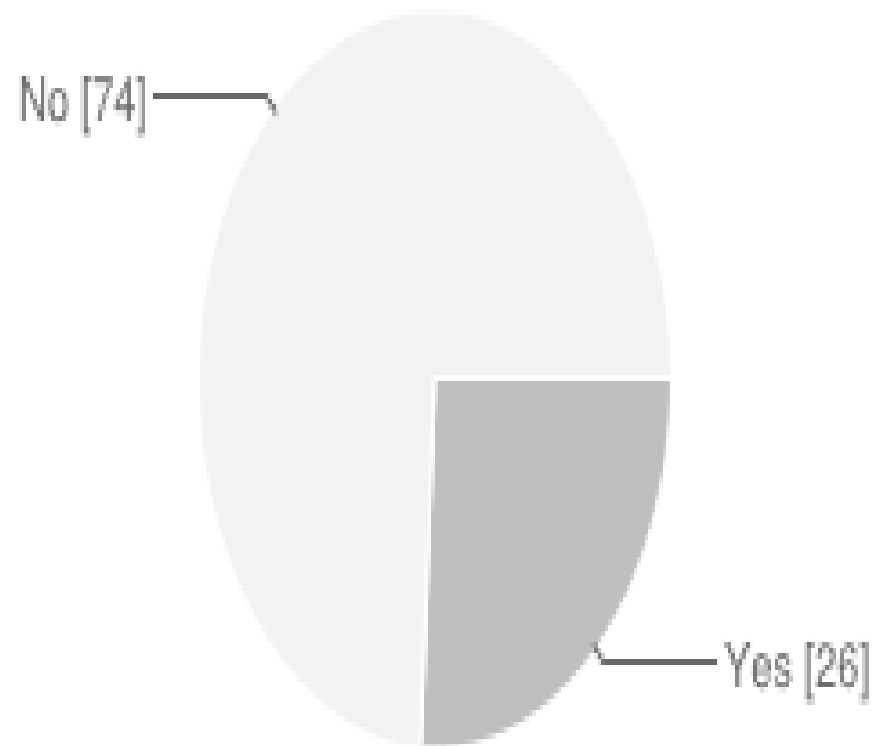


Discussion on usage

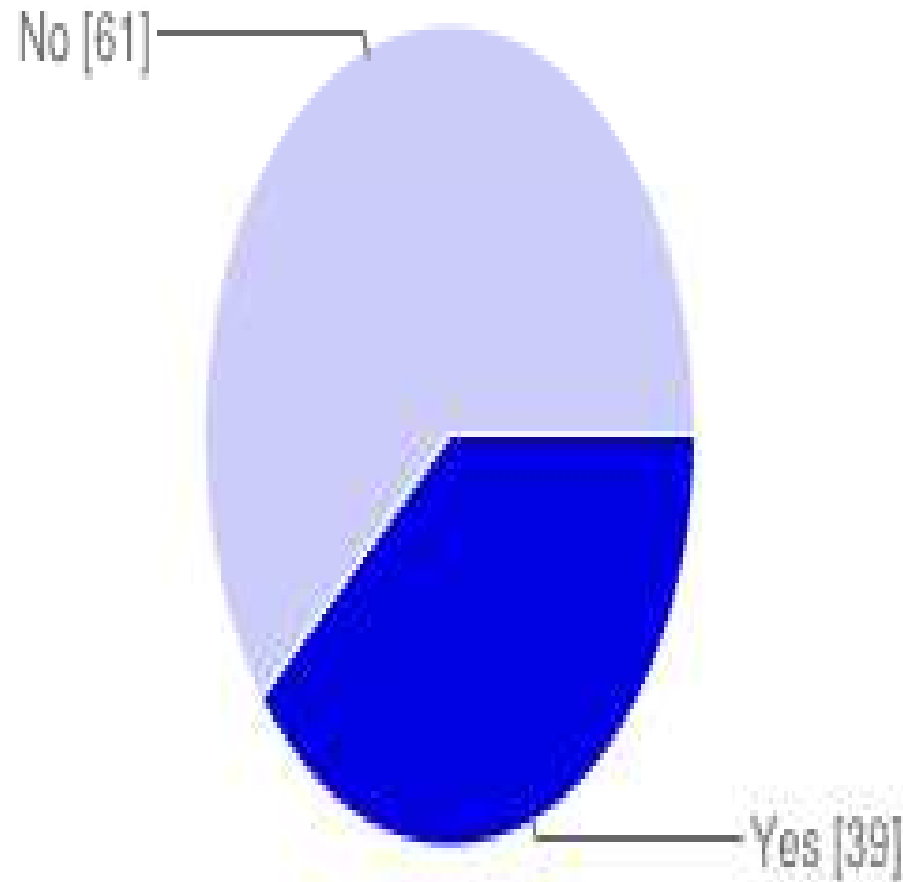
The usage is quite low as compared to the awareness levels and this could be a pointer that there is an underlying issue which is not being addressed. This is of concern to the stakeholder's desire for higher usage levels which is an indicator that the programmes are successful. From this we can hypothesize that:

- The students are not sexually active
- The students have negative perceptions on use brought about by what they know about the unmentioned effects
- Majority of students prefer not to use HCs and opt for other methods

Is it moral to use HCs?



What about recommending someone to use?

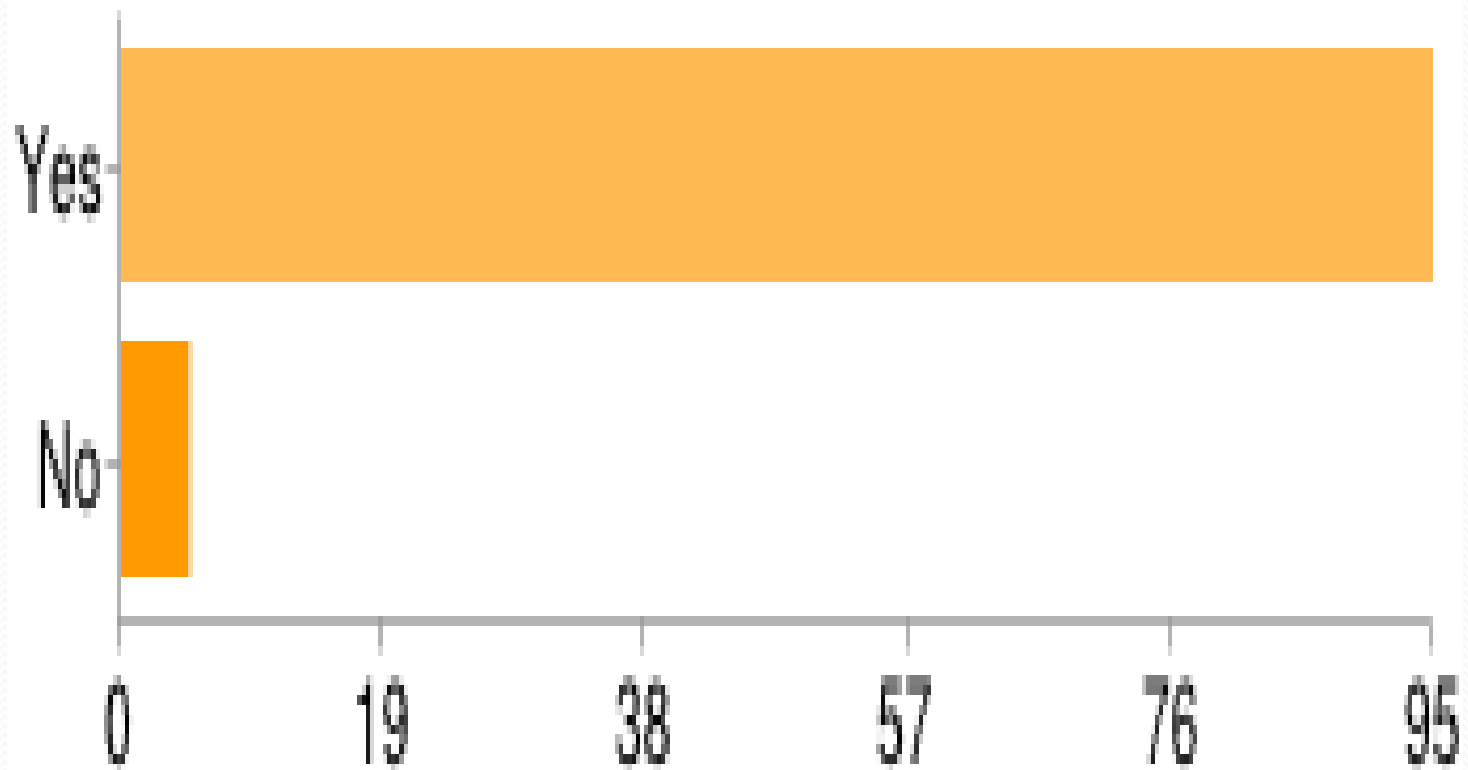




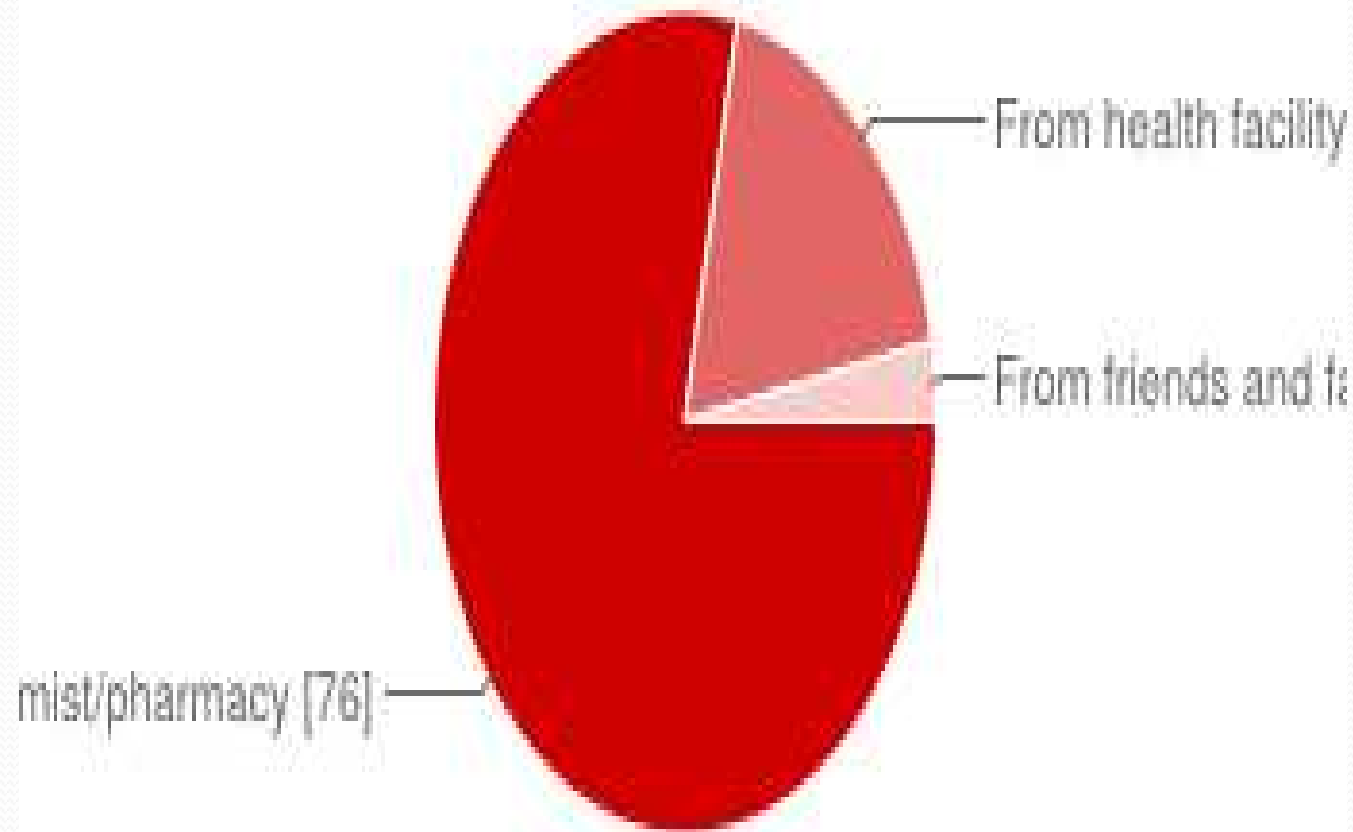
Use/Recommend

- There is a slight increase from those who actually have used and those willing to recommend, this means that based on what they know, some are willing to recommend to their friends to use HCs. But 61% of them are saying No to themselves and their friends. This could be a pointer that there is something that outweighs the use of HCs by the students. This also corresponds with the high knowledge levels of the health risks involved with the use of HCs as shown in the bar graph below. Health risks are a big concern for the youth so need to change tact on the promotion of the use of HCs by providers

Are there health risks associated with use of HCs



Source where HCs are obtained

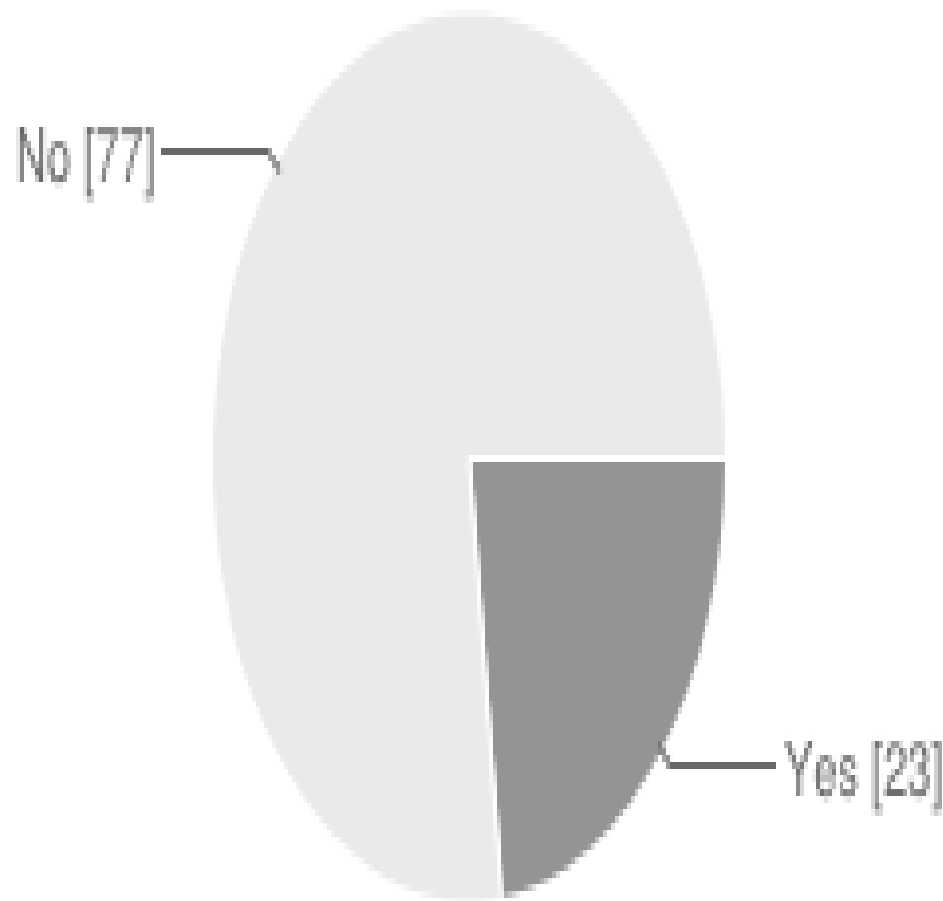


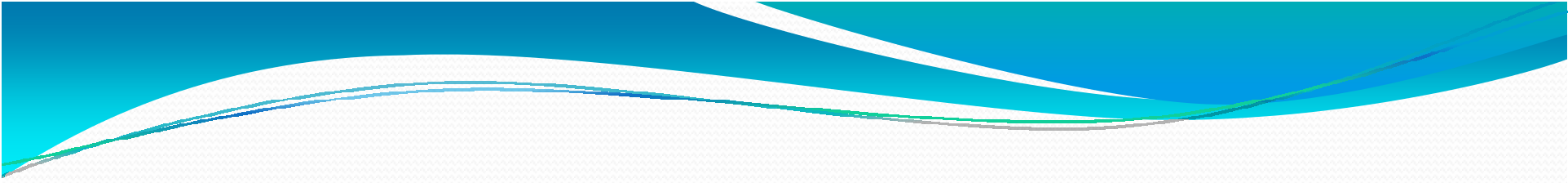


Sources of HCs

- From the results most of the HCs are obtained from chemist/pharmacy (76%) while health facility 18%, family and friends 6%. Chemists provide over the counter medications and most are motivated by sales hence won't mind selling the drugs to someone without a prescription from the doctor. If the preferred choice is the chemist it means most of the youth go for oral pills, unlike 18% who go to health facility. In the chemist the youth do not get adequate information on the side effects and most are shy hence just grab the drugs and go away. Health facility will be better since the providers will ensure confidentiality and the youth can ask all the pertinent questions hence make informed choice. At the health facility as a protocol a client is informed of all available HCs and choice left to the person. Very few use their friends and family meaning sexual matters are considered individual issue by the youth.

Are Hormonal contraceptives the answer to unwanted pregnancies?



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- The students are convinced that HCs are not the answer of unwanted pregnancies as presented by the promoters. This calls for rethinking and find out what the students think and are convinced is the answer. We need to find out since it seems for now they are stuck with what has been offered to then without being informed of other alternatives.



Conclusions from the study

- Awareness and knowledge levels are high among the students on HCs which means efforts should be turned towards attitude. Students are skeptical on the use of HCs and their concerns are genuine hence need to be addressed. The policy makers need to change tact and concentrate on abstinence which will be good for the society.



The Ethical-Moral Issues

- Global Contraceptives Market is Projected to Reach US\$17.2 Billion by 2015.(Global Industry analysis inc.)
- Marketing and advertising in Kenya heavily targetting generation y.
- Hardly any campaigns anymore on abstinence
- There is no such thing as a casual non-significant sexual act- Anscombe



Ethical-Moral Issues Cont'd

- Sexual intercourse only moral in a set-up where it is restricted to partners bound in formal, legal union whose fundamental purpose is the bringing up of children.
- Totally divorcing sexual union from fertility is disaster for humanity.
- 'Safe Sex' is extremely dangerous as it leads to loss of person and family.
- Widespread use of contraceptives leads to more and more abortions.
- Contraception is against human dignity hence the grave consequences like hormonal imbalances, abortifacient drugs, unwanted pregnancies.



Ethical-Moral Issues Cont'd

- Sexual love is an image of the giving and receiving love in the heart or inner life of the Trinity.
- Human sexuality within marriage is far greater than one can imagine (John Paul II).
- Sexual love in marriage is also meant to image the union of God with humanity.
- "In this entire world there is not a more perfect, more complete image of God, Unity and Community. There is no other human reality which corresponds more, humanly speaking, to that divine mystery" (12/30/81)..



Way Forward

- Most of the students are convinced that HCs are not the answer to unwanted pregnancies, so there is need to promote abstinence. From this study there is a good indication that the youth will be receptive to this alternative.
- Perception that students cannot control their sexual drives, hence need for more HCs is a wrong premise.
- Focus should be on **Moral Education** through a concerted effort by Family, School and the State.
- ‘Wacha Mpango wa Kando Campaign’ a positive step



Quote

- Responsible parenthood is the necessary condition for human love, and it is also the necessary condition for authentic conjugal love, because love cannot be irresponsible. Its beauty is the fruit of responsibility. When love is truly responsible, it is also truly free. (Crossing the Threshold of Hope. John Paul II, 1994.)



THANK YOU

- Questions
- Thanks
- Contacts:

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