

Knowledge and Attitude on Sexually Transmitted Infections among College Students in Selected Barangays of Echague Isabela

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Abstract: *Echague is one of Isabela's most populated place in the province because it is one of the largest towns composing of 64 barangays with 6 regions, and according to the 2021 data reported by the Rural Health Unit-Echague, there are 107 total cases of adolescent deliveries which is a great concern due to lack of knowledge and attitude towards contraception and protection during sexual intercourse. In relation to sexually transmitted infections, due to lack of information and misinformation, sexually transmitted infections can be acquired or transferred during intercourse due to these certain factors. In January – December 2021 there are 165 cases of Syphilis and 274 cases of Hepatitis B mostly pregnant women regardless of age as reported by the Rural health Unit-Echague, which is quite alarming because it shows that there are people who are still not knowledgeable enough concerning sexually transmitted infections. This study aimed to know and be aware with the knowledge and attitudes of the college students of Echague, Isabela particularly the riverside region towards sexually transmitted infections. Data were collected from 104 college students in Riverside Region, Echague, Isabela. Results showed in knowledge that majority of the respondents knew about other sexually transmitted infections other than HIV as well as the transmission, causes, kinds, signs and symptoms and complications. Majority of the respondents also knew the Infections through different sources and most of the respondents knew no one who has an STI. Results showed in attitudes that the respondents believed that contraceptive pills is a method to avoid STIs, little did they know that contraceptive methods are only ways to prevent unwanted pregnancy. The rest of the result showed majority on the about their concerns in getting an HIV when having sexual intercourse, their worries in acquiring those diseases, condom use, education to boost knowledge regarding STI's, seeking professional medical consultation if they are unsure whether they acquire the disease or not, treatment, and the danger it can bring. The result showed in the relationship between knowledge and demographic profile has significant relation in terms of what respondents think are the possible causes of STI's, and the rest shows no significant relationship. In relationship between the respondent's demographic profile and attitude, the result shows significant relationship in terms of avoiding a person with STI, people who are infected with STI should get treatment, and the use of contraceptive pills in avoiding STI. The rest of the result showed no significant relationship.*

Keywords: Sexually transmitted infections, riverside region, knowledge, attitudes, Echague, Isabela

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