

Knowledge of Abortion and Perception towards Legalization of Abortion among Students in a Nigerian University

EPH148

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BACKGROUND

Abortion laws across the globe and in Nigeria have in recent times drawn so much attention both from the pro-choice and pro-life groups

OBJECTIVES

This study sought to assess the knowledge of abortion and perception towards legalization of abortion in Nigeria among students in the University of Nigeria Nsukka.

METHODS

A prospective, cross-sectional survey was conducted online with a 27-item structured questionnaire using the snowball sampling technique and analyzed with IBM SPSS version 25. Descriptive statistics was used to summarize the data. Chi square test was used to determine the association of knowledge of abortion and perception towards its legalization in Nigeria.

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RESULTS

About 69.8% of the students had a poor knowledge of abortion while 37.2% were positively disposed to the idea of legalization of abortion. A half of the students (50.1%) strongly agreed that legalization of abortion will encourage premarital sex, while 9.4% strongly agreed that it will reduce abortion related deaths among teens. Perception towards legalization of abortion were not associated with gender, age and academic discipline (p>0.05).

Socio-demographic Characteristics	Good KnowledgeF (%)	P value
Gender		
Male	51 (32.3)	0.438
female	52 (28.4)	
Age (years)		
>15		0.106
16-20	19 (35.8)	
21-25	58 (26.7)	
26-30	26 (38.8)	
>30	0 (0)	
Religion		
Christianity	101 (30.3)	0.919
Islam	0 (0)	
Atheist		
Traditional	1 (25.0)	
Others	1 (33.3)	
Department		
Sciences	44 (29.3)	0.266
Arts	3 (21.4)	
Humanities	1 (25.0)	
Health Related Fields	50 (35.5)	
Others	5 (16.1)	
Importance f Religion		
Not Important	5 (29.4)	.977
Important	37 (29.6)	
Very Important	61 (30.7)	
Involvement in Religious activities		
Yes	80 (30.4)	0.875
No	23 (29.5)	
Relationship Status		
Never Been in a Relationship	34 (36.2)	0.261
Been in a relationship but currently not	30 (26.1)	
Currently in a relationship	39 (29.5)	

(p less than 0.05 is considered significant)

CONCLUSION

More than half of the students had a poor knowledge of abortion however, a few expressed a positive perception towards legalization of abortion in Nigeria. Proactive measures to educate students on abortion are recommended