

## **Knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) of sandwich under graduate students of Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria on condom use in the prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unwanted pregnancy.**

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**Abstract:** *The study investigated the knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) of sandwich under graduate students of Delta State University, Abraka, on condom use for the prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unwanted pregnancy. This is with a view of assessing the relevance of knowledge to attitude and practice. Three hypotheses were generated to guide the study. A self designed (KAP) questionnaire with 18 questions items were used to generate information. The sample was 610 students. Percentages and chi-square statistics were used to analyze the data. It was found that students had good knowledge of condom use towards the prevention of STIs and unwanted pregnancy. There was also a relationship between knowledge and attitude. Males and females do not differ in their knowledge, attitude and practice of condom use. It was recommended that family and sexuality education be a part of the school curriculum, while the media should continuously be used to campaign for the use of condom in the prevention of STIs and unwanted pregnancy.*

**Key words;** *knowledge, attitude, practice, condom, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), unwanted pregnancy,*

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### **I. Introduction**

Knowledge means understanding, awareness of a body of idea gained either by learning or experience. Knowledge makes for sensitivity and consciousness. Attitude is a way of behaving towards an issue(s) or circumstance. Hence Drouba (1952) stated that attitude is a mental disposition of an individual to act for or against a definite object and McDonald (1975) stated that "it is a pre-disposition to act in a positive or negative way towards persons or objects, ideas and events". Practice on the other hand is the real act in performance based on knowledge and attitude. Knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) can be assumed as a chain of action, one influencing the other.

Condom use is generally accepted as a means of preventing sexually transmitted diseases such as gonorrhoea, syphilis, HIV / AIDS and so on. It is also a means of preventing unwanted pregnancy; male condom is a sheath of polymer designed to fit the penis when worn while diaphragm is a cap that fits into the vagina. Condoms has been described as the most affordable barrier method available in most sub-Saharan African countries to prevent the spread of HIV / AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases

But the question is often asked: Does knowledge always influence attitude and practice? Would knowledge of condoms use and knowledge of the spread and prevention of STI influence males and females attitude, and sexual practice? Myer et al.( 2001) stated in their study that those who procured condoms on their own were more likely to use the condoms than those who received them as gift from health workers. The authors continued that individuals who had formal health education about condom use were also more likely to use their condoms than those who had no such education.

In another study, Lawoyin et al., (2000) reported Federal Office of Statistics in Nigeria that only 30% of the adult population believed that there is protection against AIDS while 64% believed that there is none. The implication is that most men are not likely to use condoms since they do not believe it provides protection. Lawoyin et al.,(2000) reported in their own study that many men in their study were aware of the risks they have taken but still do not use condom which had the dual advantage of protecting against unwanted pregnancy and STIs. Similarly, Idowu et al.,(2003), reported in their study that adolescents are aware of condom use but do not use condom for the prevention of HIV/AIDS. In another similar study on knowledge and attitude, Moronkola and Akinterinwa (2003) study showed that despite the fact that male students have better knowledge of health consequences of tobacco smoking, female students with poorer knowledge level still record better attitude in disapproving smoking

The focus of this study is to examine the knowledge, attitude and practice of students towards condom use in the prevention and spread of STIs and unwanted pregnancies. This will help to improve the knowledge of condom use and consequently alter their attitude and practice toward safe sexual act.

**Research Questions**

- Are sandwich undergraduate students of Delta State University Abraka (DELSU) knowledgeable about the use of condom in the prevention of sexually transmitted infections and unwanted pregnancy?
- Do these students have positive attitude and practice in the use of condom to prevent STIs and unwanted pregnancy?
- Do males and females sandwich undergraduate students differ in their knowledge, attitude and practice toward the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancy?

**Research Hypotheses**

Ho 1: There is no significant relationship between knowledge, attitude and practice of condom use towards the prevention of STIs and unwanted pregnancy among sandwich undergraduate students of Delta State University, Abraka.

Ho 2: Sandwich undergraduate students of Delta State University Abraka do not have positive attitude and practice in the use of condom towards the prevention of STIs and unwanted pregnancy.

Ho 3: There is no significant relationship between males and females in knowledge, attitude and practice of condom use towards the prevention of STIs and unwanted pregnancy

**II. Methodology**

The study adopted the ex post facto, descriptive survey design. The research population consisted of 3000 sandwich undergraduate students of Delta State University Abraka, 2006, (October/November contact). Both the quota and availability sampling methods were used to select the sample. The samples were selected equally across the Faculty of Education, Science, Arts and Social Science. 163 were allocated to each faculty. Using the availability sampling method, students on visit (male alternate a female was the mode of selection) to the faculty were given the questionnaire to complete and returned as soon possible. Six hundred and fifty (650) questionnaires were issued. Out of which 610 were correctly completed and returned, this translates to 93.85% returned rate. A self - designed KAP questionnaire was used to seek information. The first section of the questionnaires dealt with the bio-data of the subjects; the second section was constructed on the four scale likert pattern (i.e. SA = Strongly agreed, A = Agreed, D= Disagreed and SD = Strongly disagreed). The instrument was validated by experts in health education and test/measurement and found usable after little amendment. It was found reliable using test, retest, with a coefficient of .82. The statistical instrument was frequency count, percentages and Chi- square. The frequency count was reduced to manageable size by collapsing the cumulative frequency of the items in each of the variables.

**Findings**

The sandwich undergraduate students were selected on equal ratio males and females (50% each). Their ages range between 22 years and 46 years with mean age of 29 years. Most of them were married (76%; 37% males and 39% females). There were mostly Christian (97%~ 47% males and 49% females). They were admitted with various qualifications (National Certificate in Education (NCE) 57%, (males 29%, females 28%), National Diploma (ND); - 19 %, (males 10%, females 9%) and West African School Certificate (WASC) 22%, (males 10%, females 12%).

**Table 1: Distribution of respondents' knowledge of condom use in the prevention of STIs and unwanted pregnancy**

Total, N = 610

S/ N	ITEMS		MALES: N=305				FEMALES: N=305			
			SA	A	D	SD	SA	A	D	SD
1.	STI (Sexual Transmitted infection) are serious disease some of them are capable of lowering the body immune system causing death	F	102	90	61	52	98	89	70	48
		%	33.4 4	29.5 0	20.0	17.0 4	32.13	29.1 8	22.9 5	15.7 3
2	STI cannot be detected on the face especially at the latest	F	118	112	52	23	122	108	48	27
		%	38.6 8	36.7 2	17.0 4	7.54	40.0	35.4 0	15.7 3	8.85

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3	One of the major sources of contacting STI is through sexual intercourse while unwanted pregnancy is a possibility.	F	114	105	44	12.0	136	120	36	13
		%	37.37	34.42	14.42	3.93	44.59	39.34	11.80	4.26
4	STI and unwanted pregnancy can be prevented with the sue of condom	F	160	125	20	0	140	125	40	0
		%	52.45	40.98	6.55	0	45.90	40.98	13.11	0
5	Condom are found in most shoes and are very affordable	F	125	104	53	50	130	100	48	27
		%	40.90	34.09	17.37	16.39	42.62	32.7	15.73	8.85
6	Condom or No condom, STI or pregnancy can still occur	F	100	92	63	50	120	108	39	38
		%	32.78	30.16	20.65	16.39	39.34	35.40	12.78	12.45
	Total		7496	628	293	160	746	650	281	153
	Reduce to sample size		125.0	105	49	27	125	108	47	26

Table 1, explains the respondents’ knowledge of condom use towards the prevention of STI and unwanted pregnancy. With 125 and 105, SA and A respectively for males and 125, ‘SA’ and 108 ‘A’ for females, it goes to prove that sandwich undergraduate students of Delta State University were knowledgeable in the use of condom in the prevention of STIs and unwanted pregnancy.

**Table 2 Distribution of respondents’ attitude towards condom use in the prevention of STIs and unwanted pregnancy**

S/N	ITEMS		MALES: N=305				FEMALES: N=305			
			SA	A	D	SD	SA	A	D	SD
1.	Sexual intercourse is recommended for married persons only	F	44	55	81	125	58	80	70	97
		%	14.42	18.03	26.55	40.98	19.01	26.22	22.95	31.80
2	Causal sex can be completely avoided	F	22	60	102	121	40	80	98	87
		%	7.21	19.67	33.44	39.67	13.11	22.22	32.13	28.52
3	The more the use of condom, the less the likelihood of being infested with STIs	F	142	99	38	26	138	111	32	24
		%	46.55	32.45	12.45	8.5	45.24	36.39	10.49	7.86
4	With the use of condom, premarital sex cannot be completely condemned	F	38	59	82	126	30	41	118	116
		%	12.45	19.34	26.88	41.31	9.83	13.44	38.65	38.03
5	I always keep condom within reach either in my bag or at home in case of “emergency”	F	62	90	81	72	36	50	119	100
		%	20.32	29.50	26.55	23.60	11.80	16.39	39.01	32.78
6	Multiple sex partners create varieties and a source of joy in sexual intercourse.	F	115	118	38	34	95	80	70	60
		%	37.70	38.68	12.45	11.14	31.14	22.22	22.95	19.67
	Cumulative frequency		423	481	422	504	397	442	507	484
	Frequency count		71	80.00	70.0	84	66	74	84	81

Table 2 depicts the attitude of males and females sandwich undergraduate students of Delta state university, Abraka on the use of condom for the prevention of STIs and unwanted pregnancy. With 71 and 80, SA and A respectively for males and 66, ‘SA’ and 74 ‘A’ for females, the attitude on the use of condom for the prevention of STIs and unwanted pregnancy could be said to be negative. The distribution of the respondents on the options shows that there is no significant variability in the attitude between males and females.

**Table 3: Distribution of respondents practice on the use of condom in the prevention of STIs and unwanted pregnancy.**

S/N	ITEMS		MALES: N=305				FEMALES: N=305			
			SA	A	D	SD	SA	A	D	SD
1.	I always use condom in all casual sex in my bid to avoid STIs and unwanted pregnancy	F	30	50	100	125	60	65	87	93
		%	9.83	16.39	32.78	40.55	19.67	21.31	28.52	30.48
2	I apply the condom according to the instruction of the manufacturer or I do encourage my partner to follow instruction.	F	55	75	80	95	50	55	100	117
		%	18.03	24.59	22.22	31.14	16.39	18.03	32.78	38.36
3	When pressed, I do at times forgo condom in casual sex with risk of STIs and unwanted pregnancy	F	70	66	100	75	42	60	70	132
		%	22.95	21.63	32.78	24.59	13.76	19.67	22.95	43.27
4	My use of condom depends on the acceptance of my sexual partner	F	158	62	40	45	95	70	100	40
		%	51.80	20.32	13.11	14.75	31.14	22.95	32.78	12.11
5	I best enjoy sexual intercourse without a condom.	F	103	100	52	50	135	40	64	66
		%	33.77	32.78	17.04	16.39	44.26	13.11	20.98	21.63
6	I have had sexual intercourse within the last one year without a condom	F	177	60	38	30	150	42	60	50
		%	58.03	19.67	12.45	9.83	49.10	13.76	19.67	16.39
Cumulative frequency			593	413	410	422	532	332	481	498
Frequency count			98	69.0	68	70.0	88	55	80	82

Table 3, shows the analysis of the practice of condom use among sandwich undergraduate students of Delta State University, Abraka. With 98 and 69, SA and A respectively for males and 88, ‘SA’ and 55 ‘A’ for females, only 310 students actively support the use of condom in the prevention of STIs and unwanted pregnancy. From the even distribution in scores for both males and females, it can be concluded that these students are neither positive nor negative in their actual use of condom. Thus, do not use condom in the prevention of STIs and unwanted pregnancy.

**Hypothesis I**

There is no significant relationship between knowledge and attitude/practice of condom use towards the prevention of STIs and avoidance of unwanted pregnancy among sandwich undergraduate students of Delta State University, Abraka

**Table 4: Chi-square statistic of the relationship between knowledge, and attitude/practice of condom use among sandwich undergraduates students of Delta State. University, Abraka, on prevention of STI and avoidance of unwanted pregnancy.**

N = 60

		SA	A	D	SD
Knowledge	Ob.	249	213	96	52
	Exp.	205	176.6	124	104.5
Attitude/ practice	Ob.	161	140	15	157
	Exp	205	176.5	124	104.5

Cal.  $\chi^2 = 9.40 + 7.50 + 6.32 + 26.37 + 9.44 + 7.50 + 26.37 = 99$

df = 3  
 Alpha = 0.05  
 Table value = 7.81  
 Decision Rejected

Table 4 shows that the calculated  $X^2$  value of knowledge was 99 at df of and alpha of 0.05 while the table value was 7.81. Thus the hypothesis was rejected. There was therefore, significant relationship between knowledge and attitude and practice of condom use in the prevention of STIs and unwanted pregnancy

**Hypothesis 2**

Sandwich undergraduate students of Delta State University, Abraka do not have significant positive attitude/practice in the use of condom towards the prevention of STIs and unwanted pregnancy.

**Table 5: Chi-square statistic of Sandwich undergraduate students of Delta State University, on their positive attitude / practice of condom use in the prevention of STIs and unwanted pregnancy**  
 N=610

Variables		SA	A	D	SD
Knowledge	Ob.	162	140.0	151.0	157.0
	Exp.	152.85	152.85	152.85	152.85

Cal.  $X^2 = 0.54 + 0.99 + 0.13 + 0.01$   
 =  
 1.67  
 df = 3  
 alpha = 0.05  
 Table value = 7.81  
 Decision Accepted

Table 5: shows that the calculated  $X^2$  value of attitude and practice as of 1.67 at df 3 and alpha 0.05. The critical value was 7.81. Thus, the hypothesis was accepted that, sandwich undergraduate student of Delta State University, Abraka have no significant positive attitude on the use of condom in the prevention of STIs and unwanted pregnancy.

**Hypothesis 3:**

There is no significant relationship between males and females in their knowledge, attitude and practice of condom use towards the prevention of STIs and unwanted pregnancy.

**Table 6: Chi-square statistic on the Relationship between males and females sandwich undergraduate students of Delta State University, Abraka on condom use as prevention of STIs and unwanted pregnancy**

M = 305  
 F = 305 = 610

Variables		SA	A	D	SD
Males	Ob.	94	86	64	61
	Exp.	92.38	81.95	66.55	61.09
Females	Ob.	93.0	79.0	71.0	62.0
	Exp	92.61	83.04	67.44	61.90

Cal.  $X^2 = 0.004 + 0.20 + 0.189 + 0.19 + 0.003 + 0.19 + 0.18 + 0.019$   
 = 0.80  
 df = 3  
 Alpha = 0.05  
 Table value = 7.81  
 Decision Accepted

Table 6 explains the calculated  $X^2$  value of males against females was 0.80 at df 3 at 0.05 alpha. The critical value was at 7.81. The hypothesis is therefore accepted. Thus there is no significant relationship between males and females in their knowledge, attitude and practice of condom use in their prevention of STIs and unwanted

pregnancy.

### III. Discussions

The rejection of **Hypothesis 1** shows that students were knowledgeable on the use of condom in the prevention of STIs and unwanted pregnancy. The acceptance of **Hypothesis 2** shows that students of Delta state university, Abraka had poor attitude and practice towards condom use in the prevention of STIs and of unwanted pregnancy. This finding correlates and supports the findings of Lawoyin et al (2000) who stated that many men were aware of the risks they have taken but still do not use condom which had dual advantage of protecting against unwanted pregnancy and STIs. Also Idowu et al (2003) reported in their study that adolescents were aware of condom use but do not use condom for the prevention of HIV / AIDs. The acceptance of **Hypothesis 3** shows that males and females do not differ in their knowledge, attitude and practice of condom use. Although there are no direct study between males and females on the use of condom but similar study on health knowledge and behavior reported various variations. Moronkola and Akintarinwa (2003) reported that despite the fact that males' students have better knowledge of the health consequences of tobacco smoking, females' students with poor knowledge still record better attitude in disapproving smoking. However the findings of this study were at variance with that of Moronkola and Akinterinwa (2003).

### IV. Conclusion

This study has shown that knowledge do not influence attitude and practice on condom use in the prevention and unwanted pregnancy. Males and females do not differ in their knowledge, attitude and practice of condom use. The implication for this study is that the use of condom in the prevention and unwanted pregnancy should remain a priority area of interest in health education programme, public health campaign, among health educators, health workers and the government. The print and electronic media should continually use jingo and public enlightenment programmeto promote condom-use. Communicable diseases and family planning should be introduced into adult literacy classes and general studies in higher education. In addition, curriculum of primary and secondary schools should be enriched with reproductive health issues such as family health and sexuality to provide the information at earlier age in life.

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