

## Mothers' Perception Concerning their Adolescent Daughters' Seeking for Gynecological Health Services

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### Abstract

**Background:** Adolescence is a critical life phase in which individuals must have the opportunity to develop the capabilities required for realizing their full potential and achieving a healthy and fulfilling life. Healthy adolescence is the foundation of a healthy adult and this therefore becomes an important phase to concentrate upon by all the concerned stakeholders. **The aim of the study:** to assess the mothers' perception concerning their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services. **Design:** A descriptive study design was used. **Setting:** The study was conducted at outpatient clinics in EL Menofieya University Hospitals. **Sample:** A purposive sample of (385) mothers of adolescent girls were recruited on the study. **Data collection tools:** Structured interviewing questionnaire sheet and a three points Likert scale. **Results:** The result of the present study reveals that 68.8% of the studied mothers has unsatisfactory knowledge about their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services. The more than two third of the sample had positive attitude concerning their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services. **Conclusion:** It is concluded that more than two third of the studied mothers have unsatisfactory knowledge about adolescence gynecological problems, causes of gynecological problems, adolescent's complications relating to ignoring any gynecological problem, organs that examined during gynecological examination for adolescent, and centers for treating gynecological problems respectively. **Recommendation:** Conduction of awareness secessions for mothers' of adolescent girls to improve their knowledge about adolescent daughters' gynecological health problems and services Future research should focus on effect of instructional guideline about adolescent daughters' gynecological health problems and services on their mothers' knowledge and attitude.

**Keywords:** Gynecological health, Adolescent, Mothers' perception.

### Introduction

Adolescence is a critical life phase in which individuals must have the opportunity to develop the capabilities required for realizing their full potential and achieving a healthy and fulfilling life. Healthy adolescence is the foundation of a healthy adult and this therefore becomes an important phase to concentrate upon by all the concerned stakeholders. Adolescence need not only for awareness but for behavioral change through repeatedly addressing this issue (*Ki-Moon, 2016*).

The World Health Organization identifies adolescence as the period of human

growth and development that occurs after childhood and before adulthood, from 10 to 19 years of age. This period of adolescence is further categorized into three stages, namely early adolescence (10 to 13 years), mid-adolescence (14 to 15 years), and late adolescence (15 to 19 years). The period of adolescence for a girl is a period of physical and psychological preparation for safe motherhood (*Welt and Barbieri, 2019*).

Adolescents' gynecological health problems compromise dysmenorrhea, genitalia infection, sexual transmitted infections (STIs), and unplanned pregnancy. Adolescents' gynecological health problems becomes an

important component and there is a felt need for increasing awareness and thus empowering mothers for a healthy life of their adolescent daughters (*CDC, 2015*).

Mother's perception regarding their adolescent daughters' gynecological health is captured the inherent belief that mothers perceived that they know their daughters and could identify their social and emotional wellbeing needs. Mothers know their adolescent daughters because of the relationship they have with them, the time they spend with them and through the presence or absence of contact their daughters' have with them. Therefore, mothers perception is one of the important aspects for seeking gynecological health services which refers to any actions that aims to seek information in various ways as well as from different reliable sources. Thus, reliable information on gynecological health is needed as part of cognitive element in promoting healthy behavior among adolescent daughters (*Awaluddin et al., 2015*).

According to the international conference on population and development's operational program, gynecological health services have been included in the service programs of most countries since 1994. These gynecological health services aim not only to provide consultation and treatment for gynecological health problems, but also to improve quality of life and inter-personal relations. Although all ages and population groups were taken into consideration for these services, the use of these services by specific sub-groups, such as adolescents and unmarried individuals, has been impacted by various factors. The cultural context of communities plays an important role in individuals' use of these services (*Braeken and Rondinelli, 2012*).

Protecting adolescents' confidentiality is crucial to ensure their access to sexual and reproductive health care and is also an essential component of that care. Ensured confidentiality is associated with improved delivery of sexual and reproductive health services. Therefore, to promote better outcomes, nurses should reassure adolescents that reproductive health care behavioral screenings and pregnancy and

STI prevention counseling are confidential. Nurse suggests that the best way to encourage nurse-adolescent discussions is to increase private consultation time with a nurse who has established trust and confidence (*Weber, 2016*).

Nurses role for adolescents' mothers in a variety of settings, including communities, schools, and public health and acute care clinics, which affords them many opportunities to improve adolescents' gynecological health and reduce the rates of gynecological problems. To ensure that adolescents have access to gynecological health care (which includes both preventive counseling and treatment) in all nursing practice sites, nurses need to gain the knowledge and improve the skills required to deliver evidence-based counseling and services to adolescents' mother. To provide effective sexual and reproductive health care services to adolescents, nurses require knowledge and skills in counseling, behavioral screening, risk avoidance and reduction methods, as well as knowledge of treatment guidelines. Therefore, it's important for nursing educators and education programs to be responsive to the demand (*Braeken and Rondinelli, 2012*).

### Justification of the Problem

In many communities, the adolescent daughters and unmarried individuals stated non-reliance as well as shame and fear of stigma as impediments to use gynecological health services, the fear of stigma is the main impediment to use gynecological health services. This stigma imposes a great deal of mental stress, fear, and depression on adolescent and causes delays in the diagnosis and treatment of their conditions (*Abedian, Shahhosseini, 2014*).

Mothers are clearly the primary communicators about gynecological health in most families. Both mothers and daughters emphasize the importance of discussing sexuality and reproductive health, yet both report that it is challenging and most often inadequate. Little is known about the role of the mother in facilitating gynecologic care for adolescents. Adolescents have considerable need for confidential reproductive care but often

do not seek it. Given the heightened risk of negative reproductive health sequelae that adolescent girls face, research is needed to better understand the factors inhibiting their seeking for gynecological health services (*Sedlander, 2015*).

### **Aim of this study**

To assess mothers' perception concerning their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services. This will be achieved through:

1. Assessing mothers' knowledge concerning their adolescent daughters' gynecological health services.

2. Evaluate mothers' perception concerning their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services.

### **Research Questions**

▪ What is mothers' knowledge concerning their adolescent daughters' gynecological problems and gynecological health services available for their daughter?

▪ What is mothers' attitude concerning their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services?

### **Subjects and methods**

**Design:** A descriptive study design was used.

**Setting:** This study conducted in the outpatient clinics in EL Menofieya University Hospitals.

### **Sampling**

**Sample Size, type:** A Purposive sample technique was used to recruit (385) mothers of adolescent girls

### **With the following eligibility criteria:**

Mothers of adolescent girls suffer from any gynecological problems

### **Tools of data collection:**

#### **A structured interviewing questionnaire:**

That was developed by the researcher to collect the needed data, this tool will comprise of two parts as follow;

**Part I:** To assess general demographic characteristics of the studied adolescent girls and their mothers as; adolescent girl's age and educational level, mother's age, mother's level of education age, residence, level of education.

**Part II:** To assess mothers' knowledge regarding gynecological problems and health services for their adolescent girls: adapted from *Gaferi, (2018)*. It consists of 5 open questions that cover the following items: gynecological problems among adolescent girls', causes of the problems, incidence of gynecological problems, side effects of the problems, complications of the problems, management, and health services offer care for adolescent girls' gynecological problems.

#### **Knowledge scoring system:**

The correct response to each question will be given 2 grads and 1 grade for the incorrect. The total score of knowledge was 10 marks. The total scores were graded as < 75 % unsatisfactory, ≥ 75 satisfactory.

**Tool (2): A three points Likert scale** adapted from *Gaferi, (2018)* and modified by the researcher to assess mothers' attitude concerning their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services. This scale consist of 9 items that include the mother attitude towards their adolescent daughters for gynecological health ,attitude of mothers' concerning their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services, mothers attitude regarding the role of nurse and mother toward adolescent daughters gynecological problems. Each point had three category to choose (agree, uncertain, disagree).

#### **• Attitude scoring system:**

Items were scored through Likert scale type 1, 2, and 3 where (3) represented agree, (2)

represented disagree, (1) represented uncertain. The total scores were graded as < 75 % Negative perception,  $\geq 75$  Positive Perception..

**Validity of the Tools:** Tools were reviewed by a panel of three experts in obstetric and gynecological nursing field to test the face and content validity. Each of the experts was asked to examine tools for content coverage, clarity, wording, length, format, and overall appearance. Modifications were done according to the comments "rephrasing and cancelling for four questions". Reliability of tools was measured through Crambach alpha test (R= 0.92 for first tool & R= 0.94 for second tool ).

### **Ethical Considerations**

The research approval was obtained from Scientific Research Ethical Committee in Faculty of Nursing at Ain Shams University before starting the study. The researcher clarified the objective and aim of the study to the participants included in the study. The researcher was assured maintaining anonymity and confidentiality of the subject data. Adolescent mothers' informed consent was obtained and they allowed to participate or withdraw from the study at any time without penalties.

#### **Administrative design:**

An official approval to conduct this study was obtained from Dean of faculty of nursing Ain Shams University, a letter containing the title and aim was directed to administrator of the previous mentioned study setting.

#### **Statistical design:**

Data entry in the study was done by using quality control through two stages which were coding and data entry. Obtained data was statistically analyzed, organized and presented in numbers, percentage, table, figures, diagrams as required and suitable statistical tests was used to test the significance of results (chi-square test and correlation).

#### **Pilot Study:**

A pilot study was carried out on the adolescent mothers admit to outpatient clinics in EL Menofieya University hospitals to assess the clarity, feasibility, and applicability of the tools used in this study for data collection, a pilot study was conducted on (38 mothers adolescent girls) that represent 10% of the predetermined sample size according to the study criteria as no modification done in the tools of data collection. so the mothers were included in the main study sample.

#### **Field Work**

The researcher visited the study setting 3 days / week at morning shift from 9 am to 2 pm to collect data. The researcher introduced her self and explained the aim of the study to the adolescent mother and take oral consent from them. Data collection done through fulfillment of the structured interviewing questionnaire to assess adolescent socio-demographic characteristics, adolescent mothers knowledge regarding gynecological problems and health services aspect (10-15) mints in addition to assessment mother responses to perception items regarding gynecological health a three-points Likert type scale (15-20) mints

### **Results**

**Table (1):** Illustrates that the mean age of studied adolescents are (16.6  $\pm$ 1.24) years. Concerning their educational level 68.8% of them had secondary education.

**Table (2):** Illustrates that 79.2% of mothers their age between 35 and 45 years. Regarding place of residence (59%) of the studied mothers are living in rural areas. As regard mother's level of education (75.3%) of them have preparatory education. Concerning mother's job (51.7%) of them are not working.

**Table (3):** shows that (80.3%, 86.2%, 82.6%, 88.3% and 99.0%) of the studied mothers have not knowledge about adolescence gynecological problems, causes of gynecological problems, adolescent's complications relating to ignoring any gynecological problem, organs that examined during gynecological examination for

adolescent, and centers for treating gynecological problems respectively.

**Table (4)** Illustrates that **97.1%, 93%, 91.2%, and 95.8%** of the studied adolescents' mothers are agree that utilizing the best way for gynecological health units for teenage girls is very important, is the best solution to treat adolescent's gynecological problems, mother's culture affects teenage girls' utilizing gynecological health units, and educating the mother about gynecological problems for teenage girls helps on utilizing gynecological health units

**Table (5)** Displays that there is statistical significant relation between adolescents'

mothers' total knowledge and total attitude about their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services.

**Figure (1):** Reveals that (68.8%) of the studied mothers has unsatisfactory knowledge about their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services and (31.2%) of the studied mothers has satisfactory knowledge about their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services. **Figure (2):** Points out that (23.1%, 19.7% and 18.2%) of the studied mothers have their source of knowledge about their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services from doctors, relatives, and friends respectively.

**Table (1): Distribution of the studied adolescents according to their general characteristics (N=385).**

General Characteristics	N	%
<b>Age of adolescents (in years):</b>		
10 > 13	1	0.3
13 > 15	300	77.9
15 > 19	84	21.8
<b>Mean ± SD</b>	<b>16.6±1.24</b>	
<b>Level of adolescent's education</b>		
Illiterately	12	3.1
Primary education	12	3.1
Preparatory education	9	2.3
Secondary education	265	68.8
University education	87	22.6

**Table (2): Distribution of the studied adolescents' mother according to their general characteristics (N=385).**

General Characteristics	N	%
<b>Age of mothers (in years):</b>		
35 ≥ 45	305	79.2
>45	80	20.8
<b>Level of mother's education</b>		
Preparatory education	290	75.3
Secondary education	74	19.2
University education	21	5.5
<b>Place of residence</b>		
Urban	158	41
Rural	227	59
<b>Mother's marital status</b>		
Married	336	87.3
Widow	43	11.2
Divorced	6	1.6
<b>Mother's job</b>		
Working	186	48.3
Not work	199	51.7

**Table (3): Distribution of the studied mothers' knowledge concerning their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services (N=385)**

Items	Correct		In Correct	
	No	%	No	%
Types of adolescent's gynecological problems	76	19.7	309	80.3
Causes of adolescent girls' gynecological problems	53	13.8	332	86.2
Complication result from ignoring any gynecological problems	67	17.4	318	82.6
knowledge about Organs that examined during gynecological examination for adolescent	45	11.7	240	88.3
Methods of treatment for gynecological problems	123	31.9	262	68.1
Know health services for treating adolescent gynecological problems	4	1.0	381	99
Barriers for utilizing these health services	128	35.3	249	64.7

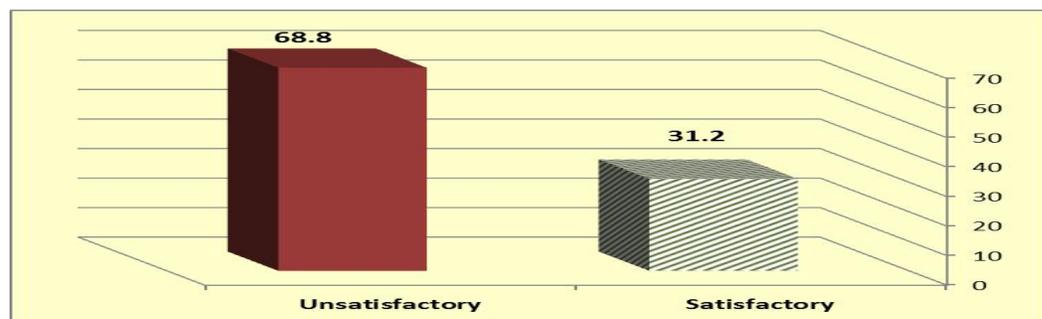
**Table (4): Distribution of the studied mothers' attitude concerning their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services (N=385)**

Items	Agree		Disagree		Uncertain	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Seeking gynecological health units for treating teenage girls gynecological problems is very important	374	<b>97.1</b>	7	1.8	4	1
Seeking gynecological health services is the best solution to treat adolescent's gynecological problems	358	<b>93</b>	17	4.4	10	2.6
Utilizing gynecological health units for adolescent girls helps to solve problems in a safe way	335	87	31	<b>8.1</b>	19	4.9
Seeking gynecological health services prevents complications for girls in the future	332	86.2	39	<b>10.1</b>	14	3.6
Utilizing gynecological health units for adolescent girls maintains girls' health rights	320	85.7	33	8.6	22	<b>5.7</b>
The mother's positive behavior towards teenage girl gynecology problems determines the way the girl deals with these problems in the future	343	89.1	24	6.2	18	4.7
Mother's culture affects teenage girls' utilizing gynecological health units	351	<b>91.2</b>	20	5.2	14	3.6
Educating the mother about gynecological problems for teenage girls helps on utilizing gynecological health units	369	95.8	10	2.6	6	1.6
Utilizing gynecological health units exposes adolescent girls' to stress	112	29.1	243	63.1	30	7.8

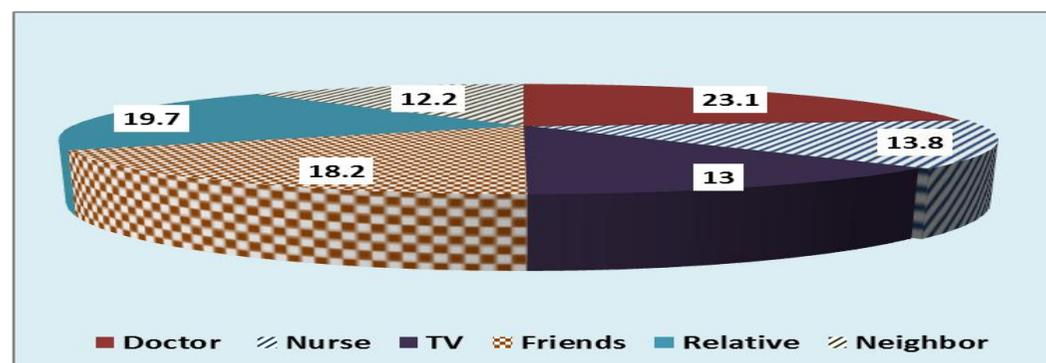
**Table (5): Correlation between adolescents mothers total Knowledge and total attitude about their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services (N= 385).**

Total Knowledge	Total perception				$\chi^2$	P-value
	Positive		Negative			
	No	%	No	%		
Satisfactory	97	29	23	45.1	7.317	<b>0.02*</b>
Unsatisfactory	237	71	28	54.9		

**Figure (1):** Distribution of the studied adolescent's mothers according to their total knowledge concerning their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services (N=385)



**Figure (2):** Distribution of the studied adolescents' mothers according to their source of knowledge about their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services (N=385)



## Discussion

The results of this present study permit us to reflect on the perception of mothers concerning their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services. The themes that emerged included: providing guidance about gynecological health and gynecological services, through to the relationship between mother, daughter and other health members (*Awaluddin, et al., 2015*).

In regard to the approach to adolescent gynecological health, the mothers were unanimous in relating that this was present during their dialogues, but many indicated that this fact was not enough to change what occurred. Included among the themes that the mothers declared they discussed with their daughters were: utilization of gynecological health, as a way to prevent diseases and gynecological problems; the use of health services (*Gaferi, Al-Harbi and Yakout, 2018*).

Patterns of care seeking, previously located within the mothers, shift dramatically at adolescent gynecological health. Adolescents cope by being selective in disclosing information perceived to be harmful to mother relationships, or to threaten privacy. Adolescent girls want personalized care modeled on the emotional and physical care received from their mothers (*Weber, 2016*).

### General characteristics of the studied adolescents and their mother:

The result of the current study shows that the age of female adolescents ranged from 10 to 19 years 77.9% of the participants ranged from 13 to 15 years old, while 21.8 % were aged 15 to 19 years. This finding was similar to the findings reported by *Gaferi Al-Harbi and Yakout (2018)* who studied (Knowledge, attitude and practice related to reproductive health among female adolescents), that carried out a quantitative descriptive cross-sectional

design study on 350 female students selected from governmental secondary schools in Riyadh and mentioned that the age of female adolescents ranged from 15 to 19 years. The age of 34.1% were aged from 15 to 17 years. The highest percentage of studied adolescents at this age as its time of adolescence period and we need to increase knowledge and attitude for mothers about their adolescent daughters at this age.

The study findings were supported by *Savanthe, Nanjundappa (2016)* who studied (knowledge, belief, and practices among adolescent girls of junior colleges), who carried out a quantitative descriptive cross-sectional design study in India and reported that more than third of their study was similar to present study age categories of female adolescent.

The current study shows that the age of female adolescents mothers were more than three quarter of them their age between 35 and 45 years which is similar to the findings reported by *Zakaria, et al. (2017)* who carried out a Cross sectional descriptive research survey on 400 girls' mothers respondents randomly selected from 15 political wards in the entire local government in Nigeria and stated that the age of 56% were aged from 26 to 45 years.

This results came in the same line with *Gaferi, Al-Harbi and Yakout (2018)*, who studied (Knowledge, attitude and practice related to reproductive health among female adolescents), who carried out a quantitative descriptive cross-sectional design was used for this study, about 61.4% of mothers were aged 35 to 45 years old.

Concerning level of education of the studied sample, the present study revealed that more than two third of the adolescents educational level was secondary education. This results agreed with previous study by *Savanthe et al. (2016)* and revealed that participants with lower education (i.e. pre-university). In my opinion this level of education for studied adolescents very important because of adolescent be more awareness and

knowledgeable, It is may be due to the girl in this age were in secondary school.

In relation to geographical area of the studied sample, the present study revealed that nearly to half of the sample were living in rural area and more than of them were not working. This finding may be due to difficulty transportation, low socioeconomic level and low level of education. These results are similar to the study (*Gaferi, Al-Harbi and Yakout, 2018*) that the majority of the mothers (79%) were unemployed.

#### **Regarding to knowledge of adolescent mothers' and adolescent gynecological problems .**

This study results that The studied mothers' knowledge about their adolescent daughters' gynecological problems types (80.3 %) had incorrect knowledge about any type of gynecological problems that may be the most sample living in rural area away of center of gynecological services and the majority of the mothers have low level of education. This study agreed with the studied *Alimoradi et al. (2017)* who carried out study on (Empowerment of Adolescent Girls for Reproductive Health Care), A qualitative study aimed to improve the understanding of the factors affecting the empowerment of Iranian adolescent girls in terms of taking care of their sexual and reproductive health. The result of this study showed that about of two third of sample had incorrect knowledge.

This study result disagreed with recent study on adolescent girls gynecological problems, A cross sectional study was conducted, *Suman, Supriya, Mahendra M. (2019) India* shown that 720 adolescent girls, menstrual disorders are seen in 362 (49.8%) the commonest indication for the consultation. Of these 362 cases puberty menorrhagia was seen in 11.32%. Among (40.2%) of them were diagnosed as adolescent pregnancy, among which 34 of them were unwanted pregnancy. Other presentations include vaginal discharge 5% (36), urinary tract infection 4.02%, mass per abdomen 0.13% and trauma to genital tract 0.27%, out of 362 cases of menstrual disorders.

In the same study, abdominal pain followed by Vaginal discharge was found to be the most frequent complaint the adolescent girls in the present study, which is similar to the results reported by *Savanthe et al. (2016)*, regarding knowledge about Types of adolescent's gynecological problems, they mentioned that 19.7% of the female adolescent mothers' had correct knowledge about the types of adolescent's gynecological problems such as which is often associated with problems of dysmenorrheal, irregular menstruation, excessive bleeding adolescent pregnancy, vaginal discharge and mass per abdomen.

The present study showed that only 13.8% of female adolescents mothers' has correct knowledge about the cause of gynecological problems, while 86.2% girl's mother did not know the cause of gynecological problems. This finding is similar to the study results of *Savanthe et al. (2016)* who reported that the quarter of the female adolescents mothers' was positive knowledge.

Also the current study showed that 11.7% of female adolescents mothers' had correct knowledge about Organs that examined during gynecological examination for adolescent and most of the female adolescent mothers' 88.3% had incorrect knowledge about organs that examined during gynecological examination for adolescent gynecological. The findings of the current study are similar to those of *Lamadah, Mohamed, El-Khedr (2015)*, study on (adolescent females regarding adolescent reproductive health at Makkah al Mukaramah) which reported that low overall knowledge in their sample had correct knowledge about Organs that examined during gynecological examination.

Also supported by *Farih et al. (2014)* who studied (reproductive health knowledge, information-seeking behaviour and attitudes among Saudi women of adolescent) a questionnaire survey of university students who reported that 89 % of their study sample had in correct knowledge.

The present study showed that 31.9% mothers' of adolescent had correct knowledge

about methods of treatment for gynecological problems and incorrect methods of treatment for gynecological problems were common; 68.1% of female adolescents mothers' used soap or shampoo for cleaning the external genitalia in the current study and oral contraceptive pills. This result was similar to the study by *Sreedhar and Syed (2014)* who reported soap and water were the most common materials used by girls (82.2%) for cleaning the external genitalia.

Also, This results came in the same line with the previous study by *Suman, Supriya, Mahendra (2019)*, who reported that third part of their study sample followed correct practices methods of treatment for gynecological problems as (hospital admission for correct diagnosis and management).

Concerning the studied mother knowledge about complication result from ignoring any gynecological problems among the adolescents of the current study, only 17.4% of the adolescent mothers' in the current study were aware of it and this was expected due to a current worldwide pandemic of the disease. 82.6% in the current study was incorrect knowledge about this complication.

This results were agreed with *Gollakota, Gollakota, Mylavarapu, Padmavathi (2015)*, who studied (Awareness of Reproductive Health among adolescent of Visakhapatnam) who reported that 10% of the study sample was correct knowledge about the complication result from ignoring any gynecological problems among the adolescents.

This finding came in the same line with *Abiodun et al. (2016)* who reported that Rural adolescent mothers' in Nigeria were aware of Complication result from ignoring any gynecological problems among the adolescents like Syphilis, Gonorrhoea, and ulcer in the genital area. Although chlamydial infections are the major causes of pelvic inflammatory diseases, tubal occlusions, and infertility, only quarter part of the adolescent mothers' in the this study were correct knowledge.

The present study showed that had barriers for utilizing health services around

35.3% as transportation to gynecological health services, low socioeconomic states, culture, 64.7% from the present study finding showed that no barriers for utilizing health services for adolescent ' mothers.

There results were agreed with *Abedian and Shahhosseini (2014)*, who reported that more than third of adolescent girls mothers faced many constraints and their families when using gynecological health services, adolescent mothers in many other countries tend to control their adolescent girls with regard to gynecological health services.

Although it seems that these cultures bring about barriers for receiving these services *Roudsari et al., (2013)*, mentioned that adolescent is stigmatized and rejected by society if it is believed that her problem might be caused by gynecological problem. Stereotypical thinking patterns and presumptions about this issue have led to the stigma attached to it and have made it very difficult for unmarried individuals to access gynecological health services. Other studies that have confirming the results obtained by the present research have shown that adolescent girls are afraid of being labeled and stigmatized for using these services. These individuals state that it is this fear that causes them to avoid using these services.

This finding came in the same line with *Oraby (2013)* who studied (Sexual and reproductive health among young people) in Egypt, reported that changing the social approach to using gynecological services was one of the solutions for helping the mothers of the adolescent daughters Thus, it appears that alongside the provision of reproductive health services, de-stigmatization should also be taken into consideration in this study barriers. This was because the social acceptance of reproductive health services for special groups significantly affects the behavior of these groups and their approach to seeking out and using these services. Even in communities where reproductive health services were officially provided to unmarried individuals and youth, sometimes cultural sensitivities and

social reluctance was affect people's willingness to access these services.

The current study finding showed that more than two third of the studied mothers had unsatisfactory total knowledge about their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health problems. The findings of the current study were similar to those of *Lamadah, Mohamed, El-Khedr (2015)*, which reported that more than half of sample unsatisfactory knowledge.

These findings were similar to the findings of a study done in Nepal and Bangladesh. Regarding the management for gynecological problems, the majority of the adolescents mothers in the current study had incorrect knowledge about management diseases; this is consistent with the studies *Masood, Dwivedi, Tiwary (2015)*, which reported negative knowledge among their samples.

The current study showed that the main sources of information regarding adolescents' mothers according their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services for the adolescent in the current study were school textbooks, Internet, followed by the mother and TV. They learned about the topics in the courses discussed in the school classes as it was 18.2% and the major source of knowledge regarding gynecological health was doctors 23.1%. On the other hand, mothers, relatives, and the Internet were reported as the least common source of gynecological health information. This is may be due to the society in the Middle East where parents hesitate to discuss some important gynecological health issues with their daughter.

The findings of this study indicated that adolescent girls mothers' chose their doctors as the primary source of information related to adolescent's gynecological health. The study finding were similar to the finding of the study *Panting et al. (2018)* Cross-sectional study was conducted involving 3 rural districts in Sarawak namely Padawan this study indicated that adolescent girls mothers' chose their doctors for the correct information regarding adolescent daughters gynecological health.

These findings disagreed with another finding that indicated that internet is the main source for gynecological health information, followed by peers and electronic media. These findings corroborated with *Malaysian Youth Index (2015) (IYRES, 2015)* which reported that 65.1% of Malaysian adolescents used internet to obtain information on health as compared to information on religion (66.6%) and entertainment (83%). It may be due to different of culture and barriers that prevent them for seeking information from doctors.

#### **Women according to their attitude toward their adolescent daughters':**

The present study showed the studied adolescents' mothers were agreed that utilizing the best way for gynecological health units for adolescent girls was very important, was the best solution to treat adolescent's gynecological problems, mother's culture affects adolescent girls' utilizing gynecological health units, and educating the mother about gynecological problems for adolescent girls helps on utilizing gynecological health units.

This result were consistent with the study results of (*Gaferi, Al-Harbi and Yakout, 2018*), who stated that female adolescents' mothers attitude toward aspects of gynecological health, was the majority had positive attitude regarding the importance of puberty gynecological health education, personal hygiene to avoid gynecological problems, STD risk for the adolescent gynecological health, and the need for gynecological health services to be accessible for adolescents, also *Lamadah, Mohamed, El-Khedr (2015)*, reported that the majority of female adolescents 'mothers in the present study followed positive attitude toward aspects of gynecological health.

The Total attitude score at the current study reported that 86.8% of the studied mothers have Positive attitude concerning their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services

Concerning the relation between adolescents' mothers' age and their knowledge

about their adolescent daughters' gynecological health problems , the present study revealed that there was a high statistically significant different between age of adolescents' mothers' with knowledge.

The present study was showed that there was no statistical significant relation between adolescents' mothers' other demographic characteristics and their knowledge about their adolescent daughters' gynecological health problems. This result agreement with the result of *Gaferi, Al-Harbi and Yakout (2018)*, who reported that a statistically significant correlation was found.

The result of this study showed that no statistical significant relation between adolescents' mothers' other demographic characteristics demographic (educational level, mothers job, the social situation of the mother, place of residence) and their knowledge about their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services.

Regarding relation between mothers attitude there was a statistically significant different between age of adolescents' mothers' with attitude about their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services; this results may be due to as the age increase the attitude. This result agreement with the result of *Gaferi, Al-Harbi and Yakout (2018)*, who reported that a statistically significant correlation was found.

The present study revealed that there was a high positive statistically significant different between level of education of adolescents' mothers' with attitude about their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services. This results may be due to as the level of education of adolescent 'mothers and the attitude increased. This result was in the same line with the result of *Gaferi, Al-Harbi and Yakout (2018)*, revealed that there was a high statistically significant.

While, there was no statistical significant relation between adolescents' mothers' other demographic (mothers job, the social situation of the mother, place of residence) characteristics

and their attitude about their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services.

The present study revealed that there was a high positive statistically significant difference between adolescents' mothers' total knowledge and total attitude about their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services ( $P$ -value = 0.02). This result may be due to the adolescents' mothers' total knowledge increased the attitude was increased.

These results came in the same line with *Lamadah et al. (2015)* who reported that the adolescents' mothers' total knowledge increased with attitude and lack of knowledge was associated with the negative of attitude.

### Conclusion

In the light of the current study findings, it is concluded that majority of the studied mothers have not knowledge about adolescence gynecological problems, causes of gynecological problems, adolescent's complications relating to ignoring any gynecological problem, organs that examined during gynecological examination for adolescent, and centers for treating gynecological problems respectively. In addition, more than two-thirds of mothers had unsatisfactory total level of knowledge concerning their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services. Moreover, majority of the studied mothers have positive attitude concerning their adolescent daughters' seeking for gynecological health services.

### Recommendations

- Conduction of awareness sessions for mothers' of adolescent girls to improve their knowledge about adolescent daughters' gynecological health problems and services.
- Development of tell communication mobile app for mothers' of adolescent girls to improve their knowledge and attitude about adolescent daughters' gynecological health problems and services especially in rural area.
- Future research should focus on effect of instructional guideline about adolescent

daughters' gynecological health problems and services on their mothers' knowledge and attitude.

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