ABSTRACT

The cross sectional descriptive study of level of knowledge about adolescent reproductive health with the sexual behavior among female high school students in a selected school in Nakhon Pathom province, was conducted during February to May 1998. The main objective was to determine the level of knowledge of adolescent reproductive health by the sexual behavior. One hundred fifty female high school students were interviewed with self-administered questionnaire.

The result shows that the distribution of students by high and low level of knowledge was more or less equal. But, there were two times as many subjects in the group of positive sexual behavior than in the negative group. There was no significant association found between knowledge of adolescent reproductive health and the sexual behaviors. The most important sources of knowledge on adolescent reproductive health for students were teacher, followed by book and television. The most interesting observation was that according to responses, parents were the least important sources of knowledge on adolescent reproductive health for the students.

The result of this study can provide necessary information for the agencies which are responsible for adolescent health problems, especially decision making, health planning and education, in order to improve health education by including appropriate curricula and methods to educate the students about knowledge of adolescent reproductive health related with sexual behavior. In addition, this program might be implemented through the catchment areas like the schools, youth organisations, woman organisations or other related institutions.