Abstract

Sexual and reproductive health knowledge is an important predictor of individual's sexual behavior. However, little is known about this issue among Iranians. This study assesses sexual and reproductive health knowledge among men and women aged 15-49 years in Tehran. A sample of 755 men and women aged 15-49 were recruited using multi stage random cluster sampling in June 2014. An illustrative anonymous questionnaire endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO) was utilized to collect the data. Bivariate and multivariate analyses were performed using SPSS version 20. Results showed that men and women were moderately knowledgeable about sexual and reproductive health (mean score of SRH knowledge =39, range: 26-52). However, main myths and misperception in different aspects of SRH was prevailed. For instance, only 45% of women and 38.7% of men accurately knew that HIV-infected person can look healthy. Friends were identified as source of knowledge or the second main source of knowledge about puberty and sexually-related issues. Multivariate analysis showed that being female (Coefficient=0.139, P<0.001); and being married (coefficient=0.180, p<0.001) was significant predictors of better SRH knowledge, while being young (age group 15-24) was significant determinant of poor SRH knowledge (coefficient=-0.161, p<0.001) when the other influencing factors were controlled. Culturally appropriate and age-specific comprehensive education is recommended, particularly for men, unmarried and younger generation in Iran.

*Keywords:* HIV/STI, sexual health, reproductive health, sexual knowledge