



# A Comparative Study Of Perception Regarding Reproductive Health Between Rural And Urban Adolescents In Agra District.

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## ABSTRACT

Six hundred girl adolescents (300 from urban and 300 from rural areas) aged 13 – 19 years from Lucknow district were selected through cluster random sampling technique in the present study. Adolescent's perception regarding reproductive health was recorded, analysed and presented in the following tables. Significant differences regarding perception about reproductive health i.e., physical changes, body weight, body height, sexual relation, reproductive organs, conception, child birth, use of contraceptives and reproductive disease were observed between the adolescents belonging to rural and urban areas ( $p < 0.05$ ). It can be concluded that adolescent's perception regarding reproductive health was significantly better among urban adolescents as compared to rural adolescents.

## Introduction

The adolescence is a vulnerable phase of development process and the childhood changes to the adult, falling in the age group of 13-19 years. This period of adolescence is an important face of the life cycle in which physical and psychological changes observed. In many societies changes in social and sexual behavior have increased the risk of unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. On the other hand, young people are willing and able to take greater responsibility for their health but whether they actually do so is greatly dependent on the behavior of others as well as their own knowledge and perceptions.

## Objective

To compare the perception regarding reproductive health between rural and urban adolescents in Agra district.

## Methodology

The study was carried out on six hundred girl adolescents (300 from urban and 300 from rural areas) aged 13 – 19 years from Lucknow district through cluster random sampling technique in the present study.

## Tools of the Study

A self constructed tool was used to know the perception regarding reproductive health among girl adolescents.

## Results and Discussion

**Table 1 : Perception regarding physical changes among adolescents according to rural and urban areas.**

Areas	Physical changes during adolescence				
	Know		Dono't Know		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
Rural	195	65.00	105	35.00	300
Urban	271	90.33	29	9.67	300

$\chi^2 = 55.499$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p < 0.05$

The above table reveals the knowledge of perception regarding physical changes among adolescents according to rural and urban areas. The knowledge of perception regarding physical changes was more among urban adolescents (90.33%) as compared to rural adolescents (65.00%). Significant difference of knowledge of

perception regarding physical changes between the rural and urban adolescents was observed ( $\chi^2 = 55.499$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). The study conducted by Bhende, (1994) corroborate the findings of the present study.

**Table 2 : Perception regarding body weight among adolescents belonging to rural and urban areas.**

Areas	Body Weight Among Adolescence				
	Know		Dono't Know		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Rural	33	11.00	267	89.00	300
Urban	196	65.33	104	34.67	300

$\chi^2 = 187.636$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p < 0.05$

The knowledge of perception regarding body weight among adolescents according to rural and urban areas recorded in the above table 2. The knowledge of perception regarding body weight was much more among urban adolescents (65.33%) as compared to rural adolescents (11.00%). Significant difference of knowledge of perception regarding body weight between the rural and urban adolescents was observed ( $\chi^2 = 187.636$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Perceptions about body weight was quite low as reported by Benerman, R. E. et.al. (1996).

**Table 3 : Perception regarding body height among adolescents belonging to rural and urban areas.**

Areas	Body Height Among Adolescence				
	Know		Dono't Know		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Rural	24	8.00	276	92.00	300
Urban	216	72.00	84	28.00	300

$\chi^2 = 256.000$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p < 0.05$

The knowledge of perception regarding body height among adolescents according to rural and urban areas noted in the above table 3. The knowledge of perception regarding body height was much more among urban adolescents (72.00%) as compared to rural adolescents (8.00%). Significant difference of knowledge of perception regarding body height between adolescents belonging to rural and urban areas was observed ( $\chi^2 = 256.000$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Perceptions about body height was quite low as reported by Benerman, R. E. et.al. (1996).

**Table 4 : Perception regarding sexual relation among adolescents according to rural and urban areas.**

Areas	Sexual Relation Among Adolescence				
	Know		Dono't Know		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Rural	96	32.00	204	68.00	300
Urban	173	57.67	127	42.33	300

$\chi^2 = 39.953$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p < 0.05$

The above table 4 highlight the knowledge of perception regarding sexual relation among adolescents according to rural and urban areas. It is significant to note that the least perception about sexual relation was found in rural adolescents and maximum perception about sexual relation in urban adolescents and the difference was observed regarding perception of sexual relation between rural and urban adolescents. ( $\chi^2 = 39.953$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Similar finding was reported by Nandan, D. (1999) as he observed that the perception of sexual relation was quite higher among adolescents in urban areas. Similar finding was also reported by Monica Das Gupta (1996) regarding the perception of sexual relation among adolescents in rural and urban areas.

**Table 5 : Perception regarding reproductive organs among adolescents according to rural and urban areas.**

Areas	Reproductive Organs Among Adolescence				
	Know		Dono't Know		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Rural	103	34.33	197	65.67	300
Urban	185	61.33	115	38.33	300

$\chi^2 = 44.898$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p < 0.05$  The knowledge of perception regarding reproductive organs among adolescents according to rural and urban areas shows in the above table 5. It is significant to note that the least perception

about reproductive organs was found in rural adolescents (34.33%) and maximum perception about reproductive organs in urban adolescents (61.33%) and the difference was observed regarding perception of reproductive organs between rural and urban adolescents. ( $\chi^2 = 44.898$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Similar finding was reported by Pandhi et.al. (1999) as they found that the perception of reproductive organs was significantly higher among urban adolescents as compared to rural adolescents.

**Table 6 : Perception regarding conception among adolescents according to rural and urban areas.**

Areas	Conception Among Adolescence				
	Know		Dono't Know		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Rural	76	25.33	224	74.67	300
Urban	129	43.00	171	57.00	300

$$\chi^2 = 20.814, df = 1, p < 0.05$$

The above table 6 indicates the knowledge of perception regarding conception among adolescents according to rural and urban areas. It is significant to note that the least perception about conception in rural adolescents (25.33%) and more perception about conception in urban adolescents (43.00%) was notice and this difference was observed regarding perception of conception between rural and urban adolescents. ( $\chi^2 = 20.814$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). The study conducted by Chhabra (1992) reported very low perception about conception among rural as well as urban adolescents which supported the finding of the present study.

**Table 7 : Perception regarding child birth among adolescents according to rural and urban areas.**

Areas	Child Birth Among Adolescence				
	Know		Dono't Know		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Rural	58	19.33	242	80.67	300
Urban	137	43.67	163	54.33	300

$$\chi^2 = 47.415, df = 1, p < 0.05$$

The knowledge of perception regarding child birth among rural and urban adolescents reveals in the above table 7. The low perception about child birth was found in rural adolescents (19.33%) and higher perception about child birth in urban adolescents (43.67%) and the difference was observed regarding perception of child birth between rural and urban ( $\chi^2 = 47.415$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Perception of child birth was reported more are less similar by Nandan D. (1999) in his study.

**Table 8 : Perception regarding use of contraceptives among adolescents according to rural and urban areas.**

Areas	Use of Contraceptives Among Adolescence				
	Know		Dono't Know		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Rural	58	19.33	242	80.67	300
Urban	137	43.67	163	54.33	300

$$\chi^2 = 47.415, df = 1, p < 0.05$$

The above table-8 shows the knowledge of perception regarding use of contraceptives among adolescents according to rural and urban areas. The least perception about use of contraceptives in rural adolescents (19.33%) and more perception about use of contraceptives in urban adolescents (43.67%) was found and this difference was existed regarding perception of contraceptive use between rural and urban adolescents ( $\chi^2 = 47.415$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Contrary to the findings of the present study the perception of contraceptives use was found quite high among adolescents belonging to rural and urban areas (Nandan D. 1999).

**Table 9 : Perception regarding reproductive disease among adolescents according to rural and urban areas.**

Areas	Reproductive Disease Among Adolescence				
	Know		Dono't Know		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Rural	06	2.00	294	98.00	300
Urban	103	34.33	197	65.67	300

$$\chi^2 = 105.484, df = 1, p < 0.05$$

The knowledge of perception regarding reproductive disease among rural and urban adolescents reveals in the above table-9 very few adolescents in the rural areas (2.00%) showed the perception regarding reproductive disease as compared to urban adolescents (34.33%). The significant difference was observed regarding perception of reproductive disease between rural and urban adolescents ( $\chi^2 = 105.484$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Similar finding regarding perception of reproductive disease among adolescents was reported by Srivastav, A. (1998) as he found a very poor perception of reproductive disease among rural as well as urban adolescents.

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