

Abstract

Sexual expression is a basic human need throughout our lives. Sexual behaviour of young people has been a source of concern to societies worldwide due to the adverse effects on the individual as well as society at large. As a result a significant proportion of youth with disabilities (YWD) is infected by HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections mainly through sexual intercourse, while on the other hand prevalence of unwanted pregnancies is rising. The main objective of this study is to describe knowledge, practice, attitudes and factors influencing sexual relationships among the youth with disabilities in Bungoma district in Western Province of Kenya. During this study a semi-structured questionnaire was administered on the respondents together with key informant interviews, focus group discussions and informal conversations. A sample population of 20 YW D aged 15 – 30 years was determined by simple random cluster sampling. Quantitative data were analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) computer package. Results indicate that majority of the YW D are sexually experienced (65%) with most of them (60%) having their first sexual encounter occurring between age 12–15 years of age. There is a high level of lack of knowledge (75%) on sexually related issues and a negative attitude towards use of contraceptives. Factors influencing this attitude are associated with the individual's background as well as health delivery systems and policy. There is need to empower the YW D, review policies and practices regarding reproductive health of YWD, sexuality and family life education.