

**A STUDY ON THE KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTIVES
PILLS AMONG FEMALE STUDENTS IN THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF
KENYA (TU-K)**

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ABSTRACT.

Kenya was one of the first countries in Africa to introduce EC into its private and public sectors in 1996, the international consortium for emergency contraception (ICEC) identified Kenya as a priority country for an EC introduction campaigns. A baseline assessment of attitudes and knowledge of emergency contraception among policy makers, public- and private-sector providers, family planning clients, and university students demonstrated that less than 50 percent of service providers and only 10 percent of clients knew about emergency contraception. As access has expanded most notably in the private sector concerns over potential "misuse" of EC by young women has emerged in public debate in 2004. Kenya's leading newspapers published an article claiming that girls were eating EC "like chocolate" and engaging in risky unprotected sex. (Okwemba A and Anyona 2004). However, as ICEC's campaign increases on access of ECs concerns over potential misuse of ECs by young women has emerged coupled with low level of awareness. Therefore this study sought to assess the knowledge and use of emergency contraceptive pills among female students at the Technical university of Kenya.

The study found that the key sources of information on ECPs for students include friends, television/radio, journals/magazines, books and the internet. Further, peer counselors, healthcare providers, pharmacists and leaflets were not key sources of information on ECPs for students. On the knowledge and use of ECPs, the findings indicate high level of usage of ECs without proper information.

A descriptive cross-sectional survey was conducted among female students in the Technical University of Kenya. The data was obtained through structured questionnaires.

Descriptive statistics such as percentage and frequencies were used to analyze the data. Data was then presented in tables, graphs and percentages in the presentation of the findings.