

# The junior high students' awareness level of the reproductive health concepts in Gaza

Fathia Sobhi Alloolo<sup>1</sup>, Roba AL- Sayed Abu Kmail<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Professor in Science Curricula and Methodology, College of Education, The Islamic University of Gaza (IUG), Palestine

<sup>2</sup>Instructor of Science Curricula and Methodology, College of Education, The Islamic University of Gaza (IUG), Palestine

## Email address:

floolo@iugaza.edu.ps (F. S. Alloolo), k-roba@hotmail.com (R. AL- Sayed A. Kmail)

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**Abstract:** This study aims to identify the junior high students' awareness level of the reproductive health concepts in Gaza. To answer the questions of the study and verify its hypotheses, the researchers have implemented the descriptive approach. They have also prepared a list of reproductive health concepts, a test to measure the cognitive aspects, and an attitude scale to measure the affective aspects. The test and the attitude scale have been implemented on the study sample comprising (322) female and male students in the tenth grade of the school year (2010- 2011) from Basheer Al Rayes school, Assad Al Saftawi School, Al Ramla School, and Suleiman Sultan School. The outcomes proved that the level of the cognitive aspects and the level of the affective aspects of the awareness of the reproductive health concepts for the junior high students in Gaza is less than the hypothetical limit by 75%. There are no statistical significance differences in the awareness level of the cognitive aspects of the reproductive health concepts for the high junior students attributed to gender variable (males and females). There are no statistical significance differences in the awareness level of the affective aspects of the reproductive health concepts for the junior high students attributed to gender variable (males and females) in the total degree.

**Keywords:** Awareness, Reproductive Health, Reproductive Health Awareness

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## 1. Introduction

Nowadays, we witness different changes reflecting the characteristics of the enormous information and technological revolution including all the life fields. Therefore, the scientific education has the biggest role in promoting the sole and social responsibility, enhancing the adaptation with the modern life, empowering people to produce their life needs, opening their minds, and finally maintaining health mentally, physically, psychologically and reproductively.

It is impossible to separate the reproductive health, physical health, mental health and social health from each other. Each aspect of these types affects and gets affected by the other. It is also impossible to achieve one of these aspects apart from the other.

The reproductive health is important as it renders diverse services. It renders services in the field of organizing and educating a family, safe nursery and children health (Badah and others, 2009:232). Currently, the reproductive health has a special rank for promoting health awareness because it is a preemptive entrance for most of the reproductive health

problems (AlJuneidi, 2003:1).

Curricula, especially science curricula contribute in the awareness about the reproductive health. This is due to the nature of the science material and the reproductive health – related subjects it includes. Science curricula should be complementary and interrelated in presenting the reproductive health subjects to be more effective.

In addition, a teacher is a fabric corner in health education particularly the reproductive health. This happens by following approaches and teaching strategies helping in acquiring the concepts and enriching curricula with the modern inventions in this field.

Awareness about the reproductive health for individuals in the different stages is one of the paramount objectives of the educational process, especially in the junior high grades because students become increasingly interested in birth issues. The aim of the study is to recognize the junior high students' awareness level of the reproductive health concepts in Gaza owing to the absence of studies for measuring the junior high students' awareness of the reproductive health concepts in Gaza.

### 1.1. The Study Problem

The study problem has been determined in the major following question:

What is the junior high students' awareness level of the reproductive health in Gaza?

The minor following questions come out of the previous major question:

- 1 What are the reproductive health concepts that must be available for the junior high students in Gaza?
- 2 What is the junior high students' level of awareness of the cognitive aspect of the reproductive health concepts in Gaza?
- 3 What is the junior high students' level of awareness of the affective aspects of the reproductive health in Gaza?
- 4 Are there statistically-significant differences at the significance level ( $0.05 \geq \alpha$ ) in the junior high students' awareness level of the cognitive aspects of the reproductive health concepts that can be attributed to sex variable in Gaza?
- 5 Are there statistically significant differences at the significance level ( $0.05 \geq \alpha$ ) in the junior high students' awareness level of the affective aspects of the reproductive health that can be attributed to sex variable?

### 1.2. The Hypotheses of the Study

- 1 The junior high students' awareness level of the cognitive aspects of the reproductive health concepts in more than the hypothetical limit by 75%.
- 2 The junior high students' awareness level of the affective aspects of the reproductive health in Gaza is more than the hypothetical limit by 75%.
- 3 There are no statistically significant differences at the significance level ( $0.05 \geq \alpha$ ) in the junior high students' awareness level of the cognitive aspects of the reproductive health concepts that are attributed to sex variable.
- 4 There are no statistically significant differences at the significance level ( $0.05 \geq \alpha$ ) in the junior high students' awareness level of the affective aspects of the reproductive health that are attributed to sex variable.

### 1.3. The Study Aims to

- 1 Determine the reproductive health concepts the students have to achieve.
- 2 Recognize the junior high students' awareness level of the cognitive and affective aspects of the reproductive health concepts in Gaza.
- 3 Find the differences in the awareness level of the cognitive aspects of the reproductive health concepts among the junior high students in Gaza.
- 4 Find the differences in the awareness level of the affective aspects of the reproductive health concepts among the junior high students in Gaza.

### 1.4. Study Limits

The study is confined to the tenth- grade students in the western and eastern directorates governmental schools in Gaza. The study has been applied in the school year of (2010-2011). Besides, cognitive test for the reproductive health concepts and an attitude scale have been used.

### 1.5. Study Terms

Awareness: familiarity with all information, knowledge and attitudes related to a subject, effective in its life and help when taking decisions.

Reproductive health: the state of complete physical, mental and social well-being of reproductive systems at all stages of life through following proper healthy processes, functions and services.

Reproductive Health Awareness: the students' learning of all reproductive health concepts and principles which affect their different lives stages and help them take appropriate decisions. The awareness is measured through the students' grades in the concepts and attitude scale test

### 2.1. Reproductive Health

The reproductive health has been defined by different educational researchers including Abu-Elhamael and others (2010: 247) as "the status when a person is physically, psychologically and socially mature and when he/she has no any diseases or defects of the reproductive health organs. Then he/she is able to have a safe sexual life, safe birth, and freedom to take related decisions.

Al Baghdadi (2008:8) defines it as "the case of physical, psychological and social maturity and not only having no diseases or deformities related to the woman reproductive organ or its functions.

Al Shaer (2005: 519) has defined it as "Humans' ability to enjoy a safe and satisfactory life, give birth regularly, and use the permissible, effective and safe birth organizing means. This leads to organizing fertility by the means they choose and what do not go against law"

In the light of the previous, the researchers define the reproductive health as "the case when the birth and reproductive health aspects are socially, psychologically and physically fully grown in all stages of a person's life by following a set of ways methods and suitable hygiene .

#### 2.1.1. The aims of the Reproductive Health

After the literature investigation, there are many aims of the reproductive health. Al Bogdadi's study (2008:11) and Al Juneidi's study (2003:9) have set some aims of the reproductive health as follows:

- 1-. Acquiring the information related to health, food, pregnancy, safe nursery and the reproductive diseases
- 2-. Forming the appropriate attitudes towards the reproductive issues and problems
- 3-. Practicing the sound healthy customs helping a woman keep her health and her child's health as well

- 4-. Following the healthy behavior and keeping out the behavior that might be to the detrimental to others.
- 5-. Making the healthy decisions suitable for maintaining life and protection from diseases
- 6-. Selecting the type of behavior helping in the protection from diseases before marriage, during pregnancy and after birth.

Hasan (2002:17) indicate that the reproductive health aims can be determined as follows:

- 1-. Providing good health services for maintaining the right motherhood including care about mothers during pregnancy and giving birth and postpartum.
- 2-. Contributing in organizing the society needs- based family
- 3-. Immunity from and treatment for the reproductive organs diseases especially HIV and AIDS.
- 4-. Procuring good protection services from miscarriage
- 5-. the early disclosure of the disease affecting females' reproductive organs as breast cancer

#### **2.1.2. The Researchers of this Study State that the Aims of the Reproductive Health as**

- 1-. supplying people with the information and knowledge about the reproductive health in all its concepts
- 2-. spreading awareness about the healthy behaviors for producing a healthy generation
- 3-. Enhancing the positive attitudes towards the healthy practices that can achieve the reproductive health
- 4-. Enlightening people about the wrong behaviors and superstitions of the reproductive and its impact.

#### **2.1.3. The Concepts of the Reproductive Health**

As in the literature investigation, the concepts of the reproductive health vary. Al Baghdadi has determined them as family organization, safe motherhood, abortion, natural breastfeeding, circumcision, nutrition, adolescence, postpartum problems, infertility and the reproductive organs diseases.

Abu Al hamael and others (2010:266) claim that the reproductive health includes the following concepts: family organization, safe motherhood, miscarriage, natural breastfeeding, nourishment, adolescence, postpartum problems, infertility, the reproductive health diseases and the sexually-transmitted diseases.

Al Shaer (2010: 536-524) has determined the reproductive health concepts: freedom of selecting a spouse, birth control, abortion, the right of birth and treatment, relatives' marriage and early marriage.

Accordingly, the researchers state that there is an agreement among the reproductive health concepts mentioned by the educational researchers. As a result, the researchers of this study determine the reproductive health concepts: Adulthood, nutrition, adolescence, marriage, pregnancy, abortion, giving birth, natural breastfeeding, infertility, family organizing, and sexually transmitted disease.

#### **2.1.4. The Targeted Stages by the Reproductive Health**

The reproductive health is not confined to a specific stage, but it starts even before birth. The targeted stages have been determined by Abu Elhamal and others (2010:256) and Hasan(2002:15-16) as follows:

- 1 A man and a woman in the age of reproduction.
- 2 Teenagers and youths.
- 3 Women in amenorrhea.
- 4 A born child stage.

Additionally, Al-Junedi(2003:18-21) specifies the targeted stages as follows:

- 1 Childhood stage.
- 2 Teenage stage.
- 3 A premarital genetic screening stage.
- 4 Care about a pregnant woman stage.

The researchers of the study state that the care about the reproductive health includes the different stages from fetus, then child, teenager, youth and finally man. Besides, care about the reproductive health of a woman should be as long as she is able to give birth.

### **3. Literature Investigation**

A number of studies like Yen (2010) are interested in the reproductive health to recognize the common wrong reproductive health information. In this study, the researcher has thoroughly surveyed a list of the internet sites to determine to what extent the superstition's about the reproductive health sweep the internet and to recognize the bona fide internet sites recommended by the providers to their patients. The results of the study prove the fact that that the famous health internet sites are out of date, not precise in the reproductive health information particularly in adults' health and contraception.

Moreover, Rojass and others (2010) have conducted a study to evaluate the relationships between knowledge in the reproductive health and the productive health behaviors and the awareness about hazards of breast cancer and the cervix cancer. To elicit information, the researchers have depended on an interview that has been applied on (240) persons in their thirties from Midwestern in the United States. The study indicates that familiarity with breast cancer is affected by education characteristics among the women in thirties who have poor education and low knowledge about the reproductive health.

Al Baghdadi (2008) has carried out an awareness program for literacy about the reproductive health among the female villagers in Egypt. The researcher has prepared 3 tests: a test of awareness about the reproductive health and its dimensions, a test of recognizing the attitudes towards the reproductive health and its dimensions and a test of acquiring the ability to take decision in the reproductive health and, dimensions and life situations. He has also implemented these tests on (62) females who are about to get married. The results of the study prove that the user program helps the participants enhance awareness about the reproductive health.

In addition, Mohammed and Helal (2008) have conducted a study to identify how much Sohag Faculty students are aware of the reproductive behavior. The researchers have employed 3 tools: the reproductive behavior awareness scale, the wrong attitudes towards the reproductive behavior scale and a questionnaire on the need to the psychological guidance in the reproductive behavior. They were implemented on (200) female and male students from the Faculty of Education in Sohag . The outcomes show a decline in the grades average of the sample in the reproductive behavior awareness.

Abu Zneid (2007) has conducted a study to recognize Al Najah National University female and male students' information about the reproductive health subjects. The researcher has applied a questionnaire on (400) students. The results indicate that the definition of the reproductive health is familiar to most of them and the fact that the reproductive health is confined not only to women but also to men.

Yamen(2005) has measured the impact of education and health reinforcement on the level of familiarity, attitudes and practices for married women at the age of reproduction in the northern villages, southern West Bank and the Gaza strip. The researcher has implemented a questionnaire and an interview. The study has been applied on (1347) women. The outcomes indicate that women's familiarity with the postpartum health care, family organizing and the sexually transmitted diseases are poor, yet it improved after the second stage.

Hendi (2005) has conducted a study to recognize the education role in developing women's awareness of the reproductive health in Egypt. A questionnaire has been applied on 720 women from Sohag and Assiut in Egypt. It shows that education impact is insufficient enough to transfer knowledge and culture about the reproductive health.

Another study by Al Juneidi (2005) where he intends to recognize the effectiveness of a self-learning based program proposed for enhancing the awareness of the reproductive health and its dimensions for a teacher student in females' colleges. The researcher has applied a test of understanding for the reproductive health and attitudes scale that were applied on (63) female senior students chemistry specialization. The results prove that the program is effective in helping the students acquire awareness in the reproductive health.

The aforementioned studies show the researchers' concern about recognizing the knowledge level of the reproductive health for the different categories of a society. There is also an interest in carrying out programs for spreading awareness of the -reproductive health. These programs have proven their effectiveness. Many measurement tools as a test, questionnaire and interview have been used in such pro

## 4. Study Procedures

**Study Approach:** the two researchers used the Descriptive Method in gathering information about the high junior students' awareness level of the reproductive health .

**Study Community** it consists of all junior high students in Gaza ministry of education government-run public schools for the school year (2010 -2011).

**Study Sample:** it consists of (322) male and female students selected randomly from schools classes picked by Ministry of Education. (120) student have been selected from Basher al-Rayes (B) Girls' High School, (68) from Suliman Sultan (B) Boys' School in West Gaza Directorate district, (71) from al-Ramla (B) Girls' High School and (63) from Asad al-Saftawi Boys' school .

**Study Tools:** in order to achieve study aims, the following study tools have been applied:

- 1 List of reproductive health concepts .
- 2 Test of reproductive health concepts.
- 3 Attitude scale towards reproductive health.

### 4.1. The Mechanisms of Forming the Study Tools

#### 4.1.1. Firstly, a List of the Reproductive Health Concepts

The two researchers made a list of reproductive health concepts students must grasp. After examining previous studies such as al-Bagdadi(2010) and al-Jondi (2003), references, specialized books, school curriculums and exchanging views with science, health and environment teachers, the two researchers determined the concepts and their verbal significances. Afterwards, they showed them to members of teaching staffs at Palestinian universities (Islamic University of Gaza, al-Azhar and Gaza University) as well as to supervisors at the Ministry of High Education . and some science teachers. Then, the researchers have prepared a list of the reproductive health concepts in its final shape. The list includes (11) major concepts, the verbal significance for each concept and the minor concepts for each main concept, the main concepts are adulthood, marriage, nourishment, pregnancy, miscarriage, giving birth, breastfeeding, infertility, family organizing, and the sexually- transmitted diseases.

#### 4.1.2. Secondly: Selecting the Concepts of the Reproductive Health

In the light of the list of the reproductive health concepts, a test including 47 items has been prepared. Each item has four alternatives and one them is the correct answer. The items have been submitted to a group of referees to give their opinions. They have recommended a set of corrections to some items. The researchers of the study have made the proper corrections and the test has become of 34 items after refereeing. In its original version, the test has been applied on a survey sample comprising 40 female students from the tenth grade in Gaza. After the validation and reliability procedures and the elimination of 4 items, the test has become of (30) items.

## 4.2. Test Validity

The researchers have verified the test validity by the following means:

### 4.2.1. Referees' Validity

The test has been submitted to a group of referees from the teaching staffs of the Palestinian universities including the Islamic University of Gaza, Al-Azhar University, Al-Aqsa University and Alquds Open University, educational supervisors from the Ministry of Education and some science teachers. All of them have been asked for giving their opinions and remarks on the items quality, comprehensiveness, aptness to the test

Language soundness and the clarity of the test instructions.

### 4.2.2. Content Validity

Correlation coefficient has been calculated between each item and the total grade of the test. It has been found that most of the items are correlated with the total grade of the test for the exception of the items (18, 16, 20, and 31) the correlation coefficient has been calculated between each item and its field total grade.

It has been shown that most of the items are correlated with the total grade of the test except the items (18, 16, 20, and 31) therefore; the items (18, 16, 20, and 31) have been excluded.

## 4.3. Test Reliability

The test reliability coefficient has been calculated by the split-half method after applying the test on a survey sample of 40 female students from the tenth grade from the study society. The reliability coefficient totaled (0.80). these grades indicate that the test is of high reliability and confirm the test validity for use.

### 4.3.1. Thirdly: Attitude Scale towards the Reproductive Health

After investigating the previous studies and some related references, the attitude scale main dimensions and items have been determined. Then, it has been shown to a group of referees of specialization. In the light of their remarks, the attitude scale has been amended to have (20) items distributed in three fields: knowledge about the reproductive health, the degree of practicing the reproductive health concepts and families' role in developing the reproductive

health. The items have been designed in accordance with likert five point scale that are (agree strongly, agree, unsure, disagree and disagree strongly) and these points have been ordered (5,4,3,1,2) for the positive items. On the other hand, the points (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) have been ordered for the negative points. Furthermore, some procedures of validity and reliability have been done. The final formula of the scale has become (18) items.

## 4.4. Attitude Scale Validity

### 4.4.1. Referees Validity

The attitude scale has been submitted to some teaching staffs of the Palestinian universities including the Islamic University of Gaza, Al-Azhar University, Al-Aqsa University and Alquds Open University, educational supervisors from the Ministry of Education and some science teachers. All of them have been asked for giving their opinions and remarks on the suitability of the vocabulary. In the light of their instructions, appropriate corrections have been made.

### 4.4.2. Content Validity

The content validity has been calculated by the correlation coefficient between every item and the total grade of the attitude scale and the total grade of its field. It has been demonstrated that all the attitude scale items are correlated with the total grade and the total grade of its fields for the exception of the two items (1, 7) that has been removed. This evinces the tool validity. Finally, the attitude scale has become (18) items.

### 4.4.3. Attitude Scale Reliability

Attitude scale reliability has been verified by Alpha Cronbach, for it gives the minimum of the reliability coefficient. It has been shown that alpha Cronbach is (0.81) and this is an appropriate coefficient in such studies and this reassures the researchers about the use of the scale.

## 4.5. The Study Results and Their Analysis

### 4.5.1. Firstly, the Results of the First Question that is

What are the reproductive health concepts the junior high students have to have in Gaza?

The reproductive health concepts, the junior high students must have, have been determined according to the aforementioned steps. They have been limited within (11) major concept as in table (1)

**Table (1).** A list of reproductive health concepts the junior high students have to have in Gaza.

Concepts	Verbal significance	Minor concepts
Adulthood	Reaching a stage of age of about 12 or 14 years when a person is able to reproduce and have physical, mental social and sexual changes for sexual hormones secretion.	Adulthood definition Synthesis of the reproductive system for male and female Period Wet dream
Nutrition	A set of processes by which a living thing gets the alimentary elements necessary for its growing, life keeping, and generating the energy necessary for its life.	Nutrition definition Food groups Feeding a pregnant mother Feeding a mother who breast feeds child nutrition

Concepts	Verbal significance	Minor concepts
Marriage	A legal contract between two a couple for forming a family by a strong religious, legal and moral bond.	adolescent nutrition Marriage definition Early marriage Relatives' marriage Premarital genetic screening
Adolescence	A gradual and transitional period through which a person shifts from childhood into maturity with some physical and psychological changes.	Adolescence definition Sexual changes in adolescence for a female Sexual change in adolescence for a male Fertility
pregnancy	The stage of the beginning of fertility during which a fetus grows gradually. It lasts till a fetus gets out of womb. Natural pregnancy lasts for 40 weeks	Pregnancy definition Pregnancy signs Changes during pregnancy Pregnancy stages Twins
Abortion	The end of pregnancy before the fetus independence from his mother. It means before the end of the twenty eighth week for fetus and mother lives maintenance	Abortion definition Abortion causes Abortion types Sharia judgment on abortion
Giving birth	A process through which a mother gives a birth to a baby accompanied with placenta abruption. It can be natural or caesarean	Giving birth definition Giving birth stages Giving birth types Postpartum care
Breastfeeding	A process through which an infant gets its food either natural milk or made up.	Natural breastfeeding Made-up breastfeeding Ablactating
Infertility	Inability to reproduce due to a problem of one of a couple or both of them at the age of reproduction.	Infertility definition Causes of men's infertility Causes of women's infertility Methods of treating infertility
Family organizing	Planning for reproduction or keeping time between pregnancies by the suitable means of family organizing.	Family organizing definition means of family organizing
sexually- transmitted disease	Contagious diseases transmitted from an infected person to a well-being person through sexual relationships as hepatitis, syphilis AIDS and gonorrhea	AIDS Hepatitis B Syphilis Gonorrhea Sexually transmitted diseases complications

This study agrees with Al Bughdadi's study (2010) and Al Juneidi's study (2003) in some reproductive health concepts mentioned by other studies. These concepts are family organizing, abortion, natural breastfeeding, nutrition, adolescence, infertility and reproductive system diseases. The study also agrees with the study of Abu AL Hmael and others in some concepts as family organizing abortion, natural breastfeeding, nourishment, adolescences, infertility, reproductive system diseases and the sexually transmitted diseases.

In addition, the study has added some other concepts: adulthood, marriage, pregnancy and giving birth.

#### 4.5.2. Secondly, the results of the Second Question that is

What is the high junior students' awareness level of the cognitive aspects of the reproductive health concepts in Gaza?

The students' achievement in the test of the reproductive health concepts has been calculated. It has totaled the grade (17.83) that is less than the hypothetical grade that is (22.5) by (4.67). The average of all the concepts is less than their

hypothetical average and 'T' calculated value is (17.37). This means that the high junior students' awareness level of the cognitive aspect of the reproductive health concepts is less than the hypothetical limits by (75).

This is due to the following reasons:

- 1 Curricula do not include on adequate material on the reproductive health concepts.
- 2 The sensitivity of some reproductive health concepts make students, teachers and even families shy and embarrassed to talk about.
- 3 Teaching science and environment curricula only to the male students of the ninth and tenth grades with the exception of the female students.
- 4 The absence of enough families' awareness about the reproductive health.
- 5 The educational and health associations interest in educating and conducting training courses in the reproductive health are scant.

#### 4.5.3. Thirdly: The Result of the Third Question that is

What is the high junior students' awareness level of the

affective aspects of the reproductive health in Gaza?

As it has been clarified in the previous table (2), the average of the students' achievement of the affective aspects

of the reproductive health concepts is (60.67) and this is less than the hypothetical grade that is (67.5).

**Table (2).** "t" test results for one sample in the affective aspects of the reproductive health concepts in Gaza Mean expected

Field	Degree of freedom	Noticed Mean	Relative Mean	Standard deviation	t value	Significance	
Attitude scale	321	60.67	3.37	5.99	20.448	0.01	67.5

The value of "t" for one sample at the freedom degree of (321) and significance level of (0.05) equals (1.645).

The value of "t" for one sample at the freedom degree of (321) and significance level of (0.01) equals (2.326).

It has been also shown that the calculated value of "t" is (20.448) that are not significant at (0.05). This means that the high junior student' awareness level of the affective aspects of reproductive health concepts is less than the hypothetical limit by (75).

The researchers of the study attributed this to the following reason:

- 1 The reproductive health conferences and the means of spreading awareness about it are scant.
- 2 The educational sessions about the reproductive health are scant.
- 3 The sensitivity and misbehavior of the reproductive health in our societies due to customs and

conventions.

- 4 There are some controversial issues in the field of the reproductive health. Despite their negative impacts, many people still stick to as early marriage and relative marriage.

#### 4.5.4. Fourth: the Result of Answer of the Fourth Question that is it

Are there statistically-significant differences at the significance level ( $0.05 \geq \alpha$ ) in the junior high students' awareness level of the cognitive aspects of the reproductive health concepts that can be attributed to sex variable?

**Table (3).** The outcomes of "t" test for identifying the difference between the two averages of the study sample responses in the level of the cognitive aspects of the reproductive health concepts

concept	Type of application	N	Mean	Std.Deviation	t value	Significance
The general grade of the attitude scale	Male	191	17.40	4.91	1.309	Non-significant at 0.05
	Female	131	18.12	4.79		

The table "3" demonstrates that there are no statically significant differences in the junior high students' awareness level of the cognitive aspects of the reproductive health concepts that can be attributed to sex ( females and males ) variable . This agrees with abuzneid's study (2007) that claims that the reproductive health includes both of men and women.

#### 4.5.5. Fifth: the outcomes of the answer of the fifth question that is

Are there statistically significant differences at the significance level ( $0.05 \geq \alpha$ ) in the junior high students' awareness level of the affective aspects of the reproductive health that can be attributed to sex variable?

**Table (4).** The outcomes of the "t" test for recognizing the difference between the two averages of the study sample responses in the affective aspects of the reproductive health.

Field	Type of application	N.	Mean	Std. deviation	t value	Sig.
Familiarity with reproductive health,	male	131	17.43	2.98	1.055	Non-significant at 0.05
	female	191	17.76	2.62		
the degree of practicing the reproductive health concepts	male	131	28.41	4.08	2.082	significant at 0.05
	female	191	27.39	4.43		
families' role in developing the reproductive health	male	131	13.53	2.28	1.358	Non-significant at 0.05
	female	191	13.87	2.24		
The general grade	male	131	59.37	6.31	0.471	Non-significant at 0.05
	female	191	59.03	6.26		

The value of "t" for two samples at the freedom grade of (320) and significance level ( 0.05) equals 1.96

The value of "t" one samples at the freedom grade (321) and significance level (0.05) equals 2.576

The aforementioned table proves the absence of statistically significant differences, from the junior high students' awareness level of the affective aspects of the reproductive health concepts that can be attributed to sex variable (males and females) in the total grade and in the two fields of knowledge about the reproductive health and families' role in enhancing the reproductive health. On the contrary, there are statistically significant differences in the junior high students, awareness level of the affective aspects of the reproductive health in the field of the degree of the practicing.

The reproductive health concepts that can be attributed to sex variable (male and females) and these differences count for females.

The researchers of the study attribute the absence of difference, in the field of familiarity about the reproductive health to the nature of the junior high stage because it is the stage of adolescence and the male and the female teenagers of this stage are curious about the reproductive health concepts .

Additionally, there are no statistically significant differences in the attitudes towards families' role in the reproductive health because of:

- 1 The negative role of families sometimes in this subject where families do not accept questions about reproductive health.
- 2 The lack of adequate awareness of the reproductive health among families and this make children lack confidence in their parents.

The researchers of the study have attributed this to the nature of the a female who conceives, gives birth and breast feeds that's why she is more interested in the reproductive health practices . Furthermore, females may get married before males. Because of this, she is interested in the reproductive health issue in an early age. On the other hand, a man may also be aware of the reproductive health practices.

## Recommendations

- 1 The necessity of the integration between science curriculums and other curriculums in showing the reproductive health concepts because the awareness of the reproductive health concepts does not confine to the science curricula.
- 2 The necessity of arranging cultural scientific courses for teachers for increasing their awareness of the reproductive health concepts and providing them with the new discoveries in the field of the reproductive health.
- 3 The necessity of cooperation between the educational associations, the civil organizations and the health association for arranging cultural courses for parents about the reproductive health concepts and the reproductive health issues.
- 4 Teaching health and environment sciences books for

the male and female students together and not confining to the male students only.

- 5 Issuing cultural leaflets about the concepts that belong to the reproductive health.
- 6 Allocating an activity for the students for discussing the topics that belong to the reproductive health.
- 7 Activating the media role as the television programs, the broadcast programs and newspapers for the educating about the reproductive health.

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