

**PP 38: Contraceptive knowledge among first year students of Science, Commerce and Arts streams of University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.**

**D.L.A.A. Jayathilake<sup>1</sup>, P.H.T.N. Jayathissa<sup>1</sup>, P.H.S. Jayaweera<sup>1</sup>, S.C Karunathilake<sup>1</sup>, B.M.N.D. Kularatne<sup>1</sup>, B.D.W. Jayamanne<sup>2</sup>**

*<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Medicine and <sup>2</sup>Department of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya*

**Introduction:** Because of biological, psychological and social changes during puberty, youth is a period characterised of impulsiveness and risk taking which results in risky sexual behaviors. Therefore there is a timely need to assess the knowledge about contraception and sexually transmitted infections at the University entrance.

**Objectives:** Assess the contraceptive and STI knowledge among the first year undergraduates of Science, Commerce, Arts streams of University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

**Methods:** A descriptive cross-sectional study was carried by taking the study population as first year undergraduates from Science, Commerce, Arts by distributing a questionnaire as a Google form and randomly selected 128 responses from each stream to get the sample size of 384, they were analysed using R software. Kruskal- Wallis test was used for comparison of knowledge.

**Results:** 384 respondents were included in the analysis. 60% were males and mean age was 21.45 years. Median contraceptive knowledge and STI knowledge of different faculties were significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ). In gender-wise comparison, marks for both contraceptive and STI knowledge was higher in males than females. But only median STI knowledge was significantly higher in males ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Conclusions:** 61% of the participants had a good knowledge regarding contraception. There was a median knowledge difference between Science, Commerce and Arts streams. 68% of the participants had a good knowledge regarding STI. But there was no significant median difference between Arts and Commerce streams.

**Keywords:** Contraception, sexually transmitted infections, knowledge, undergraduates