

## ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Unmet Need for Sexuality Education among Adolescent Girls in Southwest Nigeria: A Qualitative Analysis

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## Abstract

This study utilises a qualitative approach to elicit the reproductive health concerns of girls at a Christian summer camp with a view to making recommendations on how to improve the content and process of future sessions. The girls asked questions anonymously about various aspects of their sexuality, which were analysed to identify emergent themes. There were 75 participants with ages ranging from childhood to late adolescence (7-21 years). The different levels of cognitive development are clearly illustrated in the types of questions asked. The late adolescents focused on coping with relationships and demands for sex. The early and middle adolescents focused on their feelings, relationships, menstruation and breast size. Those in childhood (7-11 years) appeared totally ignorant about parts of their body. Myths and misconceptions were identified in all age groups. Future sessions should address the peculiar needs of these different age groups. Christian and other religious groups should work with health educators to develop realistic teaching guidelines that focus on the everyday concerns of the youth. (*Afr J Reprod Health* 2004; 8[3]:27-37)

**Keywords:** Qualitative analysis, adolescent girls, sexuality, Christian, Nigeria

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