



AWARENESS AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH PRACTICES AMONG RURAL WOMEN IN ANDHRA PRADESH: A STUDY

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In the recent years in the world, particularly in the developing countries like India, there is a major paradigm shifts in the women reproductive health issues. Because, in these countries the burden of reproductive health problem is particularly severe to women since they are almost and always illiterate, disproportionately poor, having lower empowerment/status and politically powerless. A significant transformation is the inclusion of the conception women reproductive health, both at Cairo conference(ICPD, 1994)and the Beijing conference (1995) then only, most of the countries in the world, particularly developing countries have been concentratedon women reproductive health problems/issues. According to Fathallah (1988) reproductive health means that people have the ability to reproduce and regulate their fertility; women are able to go through pregnancy and childbirth safely; the outcome of pregnancy is successful in terms of maternal and infant survival and well being; and couples are able to have sexual relations free of the fear of pregnancy. A reproductive health approach thus demands more than the delivery of maternal and child health and family planning services since it is inextricably bound with individuals, particularly women's reproductive rights and freedom. Reproductive health may be said to begin from adolescence and end at post-menopausal age. In the life cycle of women this is the stage that is vulnerable to reproductive health problems because, systemic and functional changes that occur during this stage may be accompanied by many health problems.