

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST

KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF CONTRACEPTIVE AMONG
ADOLESCENTS: A CASE STUDY IN CHORKOR, ACCRA, GHANA



BY
RUTH FOSUA DARKO

Thesis submitted to the School of Nursing and Midwifery of the College of
Health and Allied Sciences, University of Cape Coast, in partial fulfilment of
the requirements for the award of Master of Nursing Degree

MAY 2017

DECLARATION

Candidate's Declaration

I hereby declare that this thesis is the result of my own original work and that no part of it has been presented for another degree in this university or elsewhere.

Candidate's Signature:..... Date:.....

Name: Ruth Fosua Darko

Supervisors' Declaration

We hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of the thesis were supervised in accordance with the guidelines on supervision of thesis laid down by the University of Cape Coast.

Principal Supervisor's Signature:..... Date:.....

Name: Dr. Funmilayo Adeniyi Okanlawon

Co-Supervisor's Signature:..... Date:.....

Name: Prof. Ahmed-Adu Oppong

ABSTRACT

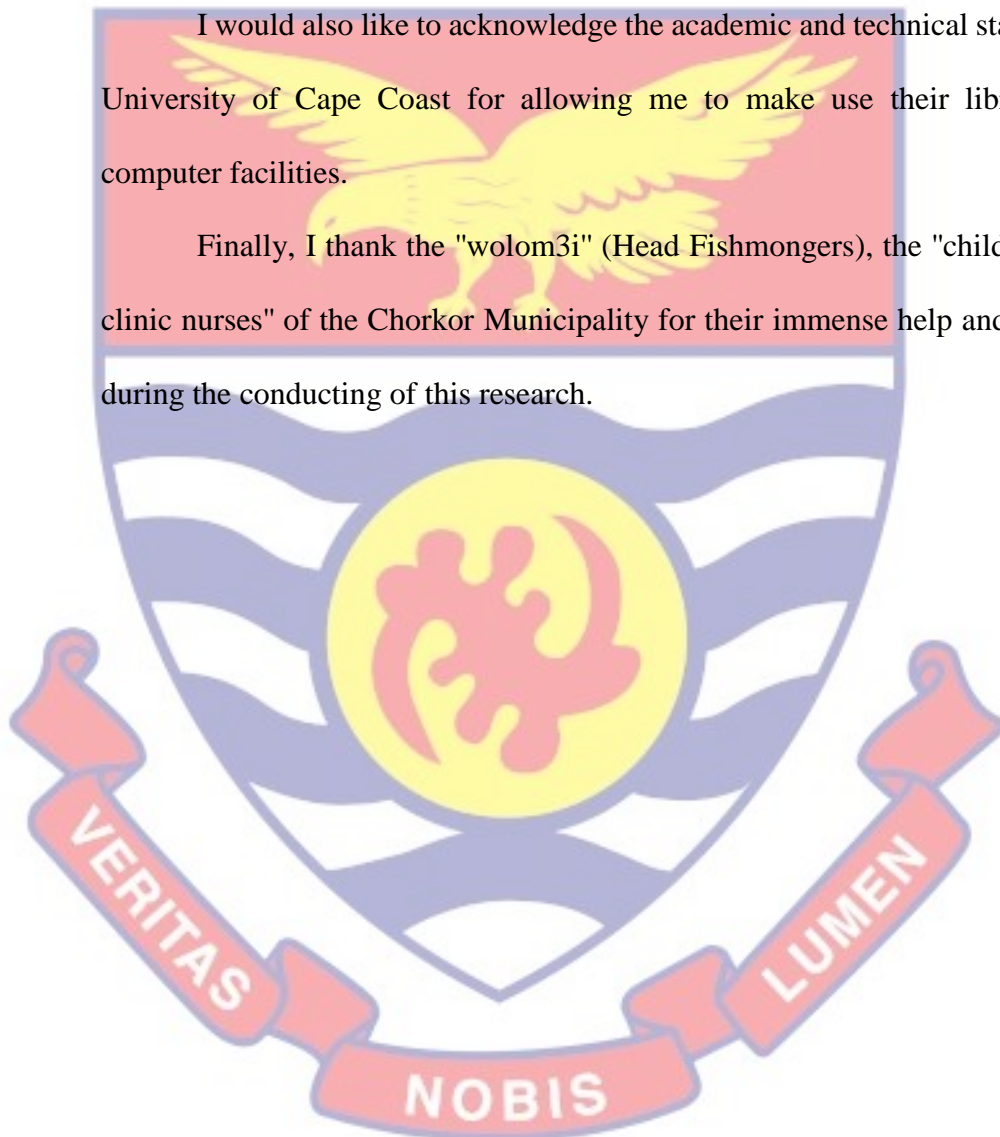
Contraceptives are regarded as reliable methods of avoiding unplanned pregnancies and in some cases the safest ways of preventing sexually transmitted infections. However, adolescents have several misconceptions and misinformation on contraceptives and therefore engage in sexual activities without wanting to use it. This study assessed the adolescents' knowledge and usage (or non-use) of contraceptives. Four hundred and sixty five (465) respondents between the ages of 10 to 19 were randomly selected and given questionnaires to volunteer information. The study found that all the respondents had heard about contraceptives and a little over a third had used or still using one form or another of contraceptive as a protection. Again, the study found that though some of the respondents were using or had used contraceptives they were having some misconceptions and misinformation on it and this acts as barriers for them in using contraceptives. The respondents therefore suggested that if more education is given to them on contraceptives such misconception and misinformation could be eliminated. The study concludes that contraceptive usage was prevalent among the respondents however; there is a relationship between the respondents' age and usage of the contraceptives. The study recommended that stakeholders should find ways to take the right and accurate information to the respondents using word-of-mouth as a medium. This could be done by using social clubs, parents and friends as contact persons. The findings of this study could be used as a basis for training in public health institutions and other stakeholders interested in adolescents sexuality and behaviours.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank God Almighty for His grace and mercy. This thesis would not have been possible without the help, support and patience of my Supervisors, Dr. Funmilayo A. Okanlawon and Prof. Ahmed-Adu Oppong for their advice and careful supervision.

I would also like to acknowledge the academic and technical staff of the University of Cape Coast for allowing me to make use their library and computer facilities.

Finally, I thank the "wolom3i" (Head Fishmongers), the "child welfare clinic nurses" of the Chorkor Municipality for their immense help and support during the conducting of this research.



DEDICATION

To the adolescents of Chorkor and to my family.



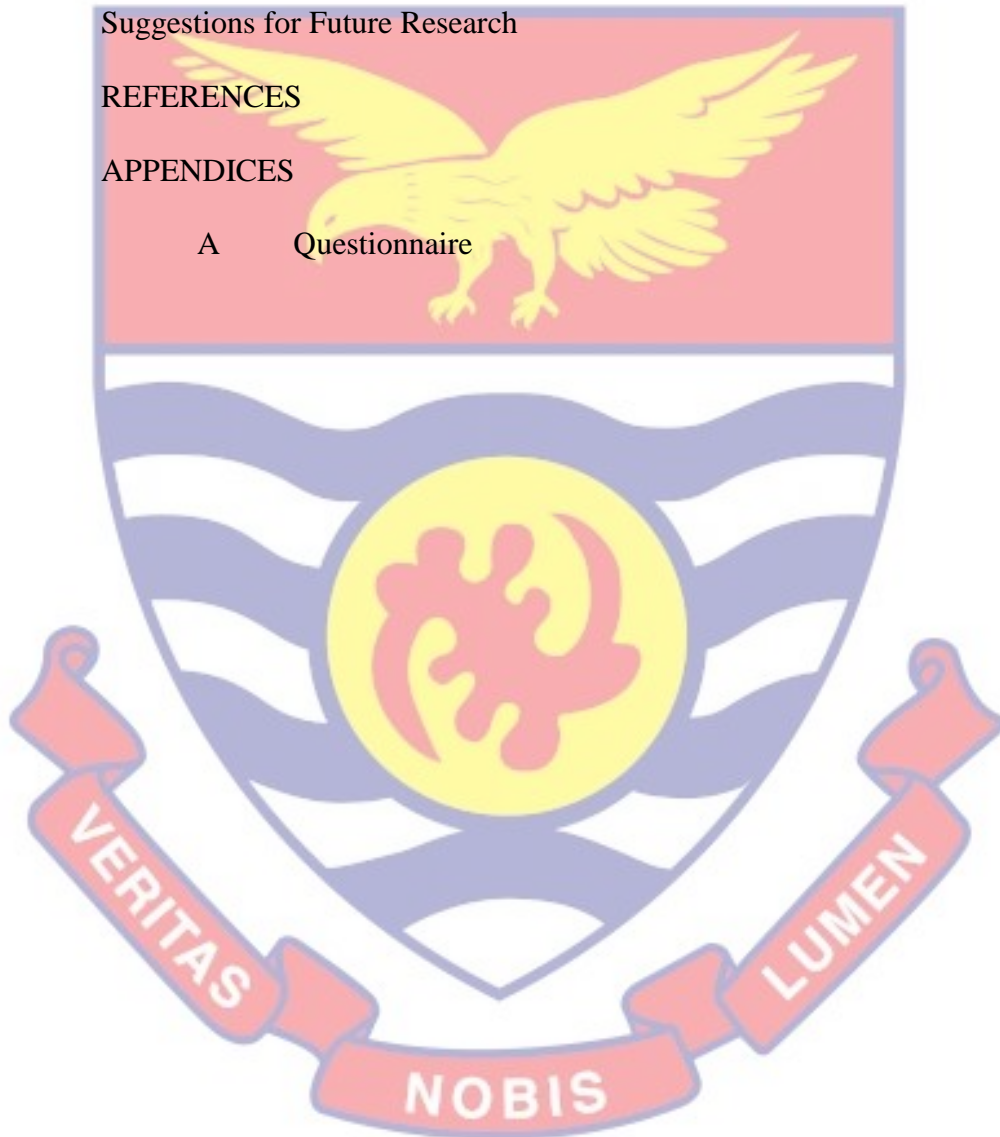
TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
DECLARATION	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
DEDICATION	v
LIST OF TABLES	x
LIST OF FIGURES	xi
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	
Background to the Study	1
Statement of the Problem	2
Purpose of the Study	3
Research Questions	3
Hypotheses	4
Significance of the Study	4
Delimitation of the Study	4
Limitations of the Study	4
Organisation of the Study	5
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	
Knowledge and Use of Contraceptives	6
Sources of Information on Contraceptives	11
Access to Contraceptives	14
Barriers to the Use of Contraceptives among Adolescents	15
Types of Contraceptives	19
Condoms	20

Medroxyprogesterone Acetate Injection (DEPO-PROVERA)	21
Intrauterine Contraceptive Device (IUCDs)	21
Diaphragm and Cervical Cap	23
Oral Contraception	24
The Combine Pill	24
Vaginal Spermicides	26
Implant Contraceptive	27
Factors that Affect Use and Non-Use of Contraceptives among Adolescents	29
Age	29
Gender	30
Educational status	30
Social Psychological Issues	31
Economic Factors	31
Conceptual Framework: Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA) Adapted for Contraceptive Use	33
Intentions among Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA)	36
Attitude among Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA)	37
Subjective Norm among Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA)	38
Summary of Literature	40
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODS	
Research Design	41
Profile of Study Area	42
Study Population	43
Sample and Sampling Procedure	43

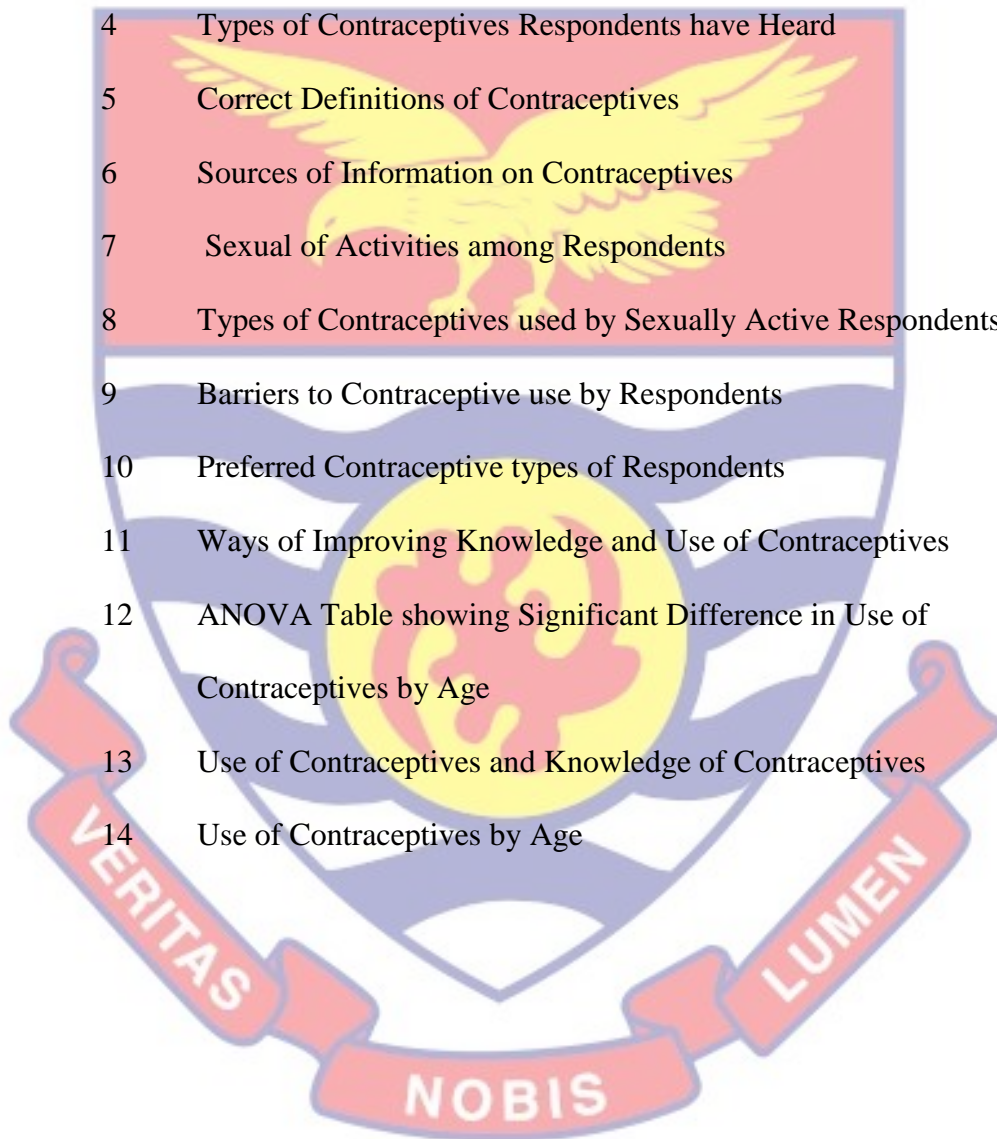
Inclusion Criteria	45
Exclusion Criteria	45
Data Collection	45
Instruments and Procedure for Data Collection	46
Pre-Testing of Instrument	46
Data Analysis	47
Ethical Considerations	47
CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	
Test of Reliability of the Instrument	49
Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents	50
Information on Contraceptives	52
Use or Non-Use of Contraceptives	57
Barriers to Contraceptive Usage among Respondents	60
Contraceptive Preferences and Choices among Respondents	65
Test of Hypotheses	68
Summary of Findings	70
Discussions	70
Knowledge of Contraception	71
Use of Contraceptives	72
Barriers to the Use of Contraceptives	73
Contraceptive Choices, Preferences and Usage	73
Improving Knowledge of Contraceptives Use	74
CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
Summary	75

Key Findings	76
Conclusions	77
Recommendations	77
Practice	78
Policy	78
Suggestions for Future Research	79
REFERENCES	80
APPENDICES	90
A Questionnaire	91



LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1 Cronbach’s Alpha Reliability Coefficients	50
2 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents	51
3 Ever Heard of Contraceptives	52
4 Types of Contraceptives Respondents have Heard	53
5 Correct Definitions of Contraceptives	54
6 Sources of Information on Contraceptives	56
7 Sexual of Activities among Respondents	58
8 Types of Contraceptives used by Sexually Active Respondents	60
9 Barriers to Contraceptive use by Respondents	63
10 Preferred Contraceptive types of Respondents	66
11 Ways of Improving Knowledge and Use of Contraceptives	67
12 ANOVA Table showing Significant Difference in Use of Contraceptives by Age	68
13 Use of Contraceptives and Knowledge of Contraceptives	69
14 Use of Contraceptives by Age	70



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1	Conceptual framework on contraceptive use among adolescents	39
2	Uses of contraceptives	58

