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TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	AN EXPLORATION OF POWER RELATIONS IN THE SEXUAL AND CONTRACEPTIVE CHOICES OF ADOLESCENTS IN SOUTH WEST NIGERIA
Type	Oral Presentation <i>Measuring Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals</i>
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Country	United Kingdom
Abstract N°	TUFH347
Content	<p>Background: Nigeria has a very wide health and economic inequalities, high levels of maternal deaths from pregnancy-related causes and sexually STIs especially among adolescents. Methods: A qualitative study using an interpretative approach, with semi-structured interviews was used to collect data from both in-school and out-of-school adolescents, between 16 and 19 years. Principles of thematic analysis and some elements of framework analysis were used. Results: Three major themes developed were: diffused male dominance and control, influential relationships and influencing contraceptive knowledge. Discussion: Adolescents in South West Nigeria make their sexual and contraceptive choices in the context of powerful structural and relational factors - the prevailing cultural norms, religious beliefs, and patriarchal system that leads to unequal gender power relations. Nigerian parents are reluctant to talk about sex-related issues to their adolescent children due to fear and denial. Thus, adolescents rarely discuss their sexual and contraceptive health (SCH) needs with their parents and seek advice in other ways. Power is exercised by the young men, with coercion and sexual violence towards young women, which often goes unchallenged. Young females do exert power in some instances, but in a much more nuanced way. Conclusion: This study highlighted the ways that the health services in Nigeria do not meet the SCH needs of adolescents and suggests ways that nursing education and practice could be pivotal in meeting these needs of the adolescents. With specific focus on better access to services, improved nurse education and more effective advocacy work.</p>