

**Investigating the level of sexual health literacy in adolescent women and its relationship with demographic factors in the health centers of Ardabil city during 2022-2023**

**Abstract**

**Background:** Sexual health is a part of reproductive health that is expressed as a need and strategy to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Addressing all aspects of family health, including sexual health, is one of the measures that strengthens the foundation of the family.

**AIM:** Investigating the level of sexual health literacy in adolescent women and its relationship with demographic factors in the health centers of Ardabil city in 2022-2023.

**Materials and Methods:** In this cross-sectional and analytical study, 200 adolescent women referred to health centers in Ardabil city in 2022-2023 were included in the study. In order to collect data and measure the level of sexual health literacy of the participants in the study, the standard adult sexual health literacy questionnaire (SHELA) was used. Finally, the relevant information was evaluated by inserting it into SPSS software version 27 based on the objectives of the study.

**Results:** Most of the studied women were 16 and 17 years old. Half of the women had secondary education and all lived in urban areas. 47% of women had no children and 43% had only one child. 17% of women did not use any contraceptive method. On average, the studied women scored  $49.8 \pm 11.5$  in the skill of obtaining sexual health literacy information, in the skill of understanding sexual information  $50.7 \pm 17.8$ , in the skill of evaluating sexual information  $7.18.02 \ 50/50$ , in the field of using sexual information, they scored  $50.03 \pm 16.9$ , and in general they scored  $50.4 \pm 15.3$  in general sexual health literacy.

**Conclusion:** The general level of sexual health literacy among adolescent women participating in the study was 4.50 out of 100 and often had an insufficient level of sexual health literacy. Also, out of the 4 subjects examined in this study, they scored the lowest in the skill of accessing information and the highest score in the skill of evaluating sexual information. Also, these points were separately and aggregated with some demographic factors such as the age of the person and his wife, the level of education of the person and his wife, and the prevention method used.

**Keywords:** sexual health, pregnancy health, adolescents.