Table 1 Characteristics of the 96 girls in the vaginal swab study (VSS) compared by study arm (with or without nurse assistance) and the main menstrual hygiene management (MHM) survey.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total | With nurse  assistance  (N=49)  n(%) | Without nurse assistance  (N=47)  n(%) | | | Overall  (N=96)  n(%) | MHM Survey  (N=352) |
| DATA FROM THE MHM QUESTIONNAIRE | |  | | |  |  |
| **Age** |  |  | | |  |  |
| 12-14 | 9 (18%) | 10 (21%) | | | 19 (20%) | 60 (17%) |
| 15 | 11 (23%) | 9 (19%) | | | 20 (21%) | 102 (29%) |
| 16 | 20 (41%) | 16 (34%) | | | 36 (38%) | 119 (34%) |
| 17+ | 9 (19%) | 12 (26%) | | | 21 (22%) | 71 (20%) |
| **School** (VSS=96; MHM=300)a |  |  | | |  |  |
| Private low SES | 8 (16%) | 8 (17%) | | | 16 (17%) | 55 (18%) |
| Government high SES | 14 (29%) | 13 (28%) | | | 27 (28%) | 80 (26%) |
| Government low SES | 27 (55%) | 26 (55%) | | | 53 (55%) | 165 (55%) |
| **Maternal education: Completed secondary or above** (VSS=94; MHM=348) b | 18 (38%) | 16 (34%) | | | 34 (36%) | 98 (28%) |
| **Paternal education: Completed secondary or above** (VSS=93; MHM=345) b | 10 (21%) | 10 (22%) | | | 20 (22%) | 56 (16%) |
| **Passed menarche** | 49 (100%) | 46 (98%) | | | 95 (99%) | 351 (100%) |
| **Age passed menarche**  (median, IQR) | 13 (12-14) | 13 (13-14) | | | 13 (13-14) | 13 (13-14) |
| **Menstrual hygiene used at last period** |  |  | | |  |  |
| Old clothes | 4 (8%) | 6 (13%) | | | 10 (10%) | 44 (13%) |
| Toilet paper | 5 (10) | 5 (11%) | | | 10 (10%) | 33 (9%) |
| Cotton wool | 7 (14%) | 5 (11%) | | | 12 (13%) | 41 (12%) |
| Locally made reusable pad | 5 (10%) | 2 (4%) | | | 7 (7%) | 44 (13%) |
| Disposable manufactured pads | 42 (86%) | 41 (87%) | | | 83 (87%) | 305 (87%) |
| Tampon | 0 (0) | 3 (6%) | | | 3 (3%) | 16 (5%) |
| **Ever used a tampon** (VSS=95; MHM=344) b | 1 (2%) | 4 (8%) | | | 5 (5%) | 36 (11%) |
| **Have you ever had sexual intercourse?** | 3 (6%) | 2 (4%) | | | 5 (5%) | 25 (7%) |
| DATA FROM THE SUB-STUDY QUESTIONNAIRE | | |  |  | |  |
| **When did you last cleanse inside the vagina?** |  |  | | |  |  |
| Never | 36 (74%) | 29 (62%) | | | 65 (68%) |  |
| While at school today | 1 (2%) | 0 (0%) | | | 1 (1%) |  |
| This morning | 9 (18%) | 13 (28%) | | | 22 (23%) |  |
| Last night | 2 (4%) | 2 (4%) | | | 4 (4%) |  |
| Within the last 7 days | 1 (2%) | 0 (0%) | | | 1 (1%) |  |
| More than 7 days ago | 0 (0%) | 3 (6%) | | | 3 (3%) |  |
| **Have you ever had a genital examination?** (VSS=93) b | 4 (9%) | 18 (39%) | | | 22 (24%) |  |
| **Have you ever looked at your genitals?** (VSS=94) b | 15 (32%) | 35 (75%) | | | 50 (53%) |  |
| **Current genital symptoms** | 5 (10%) | 6 (13%) | | | 11 (12%) |  |
| **Bacterial vaginosis** (VSS=96) |  |  | | |  |  |
| Healthy | 43 (88%) | 35 (75%) | | | 78 (81%) |  |
| Intermediate | 1 (2%) | 4 (9%) | | | 5 (5%) |  |
| Bacterial vaginosis | 5 (10%) | 8 (17%) | | | 13 (14%) |  |

a 52 observations are missing from the MHM survey for the ‘school’ variable because the vaginal swab study did not enrol from the high SES private school.

b Data likely missing at random