

Introduction: Females on migration process can face unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions and sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS. But no study focused youth female migrants and exposing factors; unprotected sex and contraceptives non-use. Many Ethiopian young females; from rural, having primary or lower educational and, very low contraceptives knowledge and use levels, are moving to Arab States as maids. Middle men - locally known as “delala” – to mean brokers: mediate or facilitate passport and VISA processing and accommodations (may take two to three months) for these females and are entitled to have sex with them, particularly in Addis Ababa. Temporary separation from family can expose for casual sex and sexual violence heighten vulnerability, unprotected sex and its consequences, deny their long-term ambition of getting better paying jobs overseas. More importantly, pre-departure training is not given by language they understand.

Objective: To assess youth migrant’s perceptions on risks of unprotected sex and use of contraceptives to reduce its consequences during migration process.

Method: Mixed-method with convenient and purposive sampling was applied. Semi-structured questionnaire and in-depth interviews were used to collect data from 258 and twelve Ethiopian youth female migrants to Arab States. Quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS version 17. Qualitative data were thematically analyzed.

Result: Low levels of knowledge about the meaning of unprotected sex (33.5%) and importance of contraceptives (42.53%), and practice (34.5%); hampered by shame, inaccessibility, mixed feelings and non-existing pre-departure training. Unprotected sex inflicted by middlemen 112 (55.2%) and sex for money exchange 66(32.5%) were common concerns. Perceived risk of unprotected sex 98(56.3%) favored using contraceptives. Eighteen (24.0%) respondents reported unprotected sex that significantly associated with ever using contraceptive methods (P-value<0.001).

Conclusion: These migrants are at risk of the consequences of unprotected sex. Increasing awareness on the importance of contraceptives use is critical, their reproductive health right.