

Supplementary Material 02: Factors Associated with Overall Knowledge

Variable and Levels		Sample Cross Tabulation			Univariable logistic regression	
Variable	Levels	Level of overall knowledge		Total (%)	Odd Ratio (95% CI)	P Value
		High (%)	Low (%)			
Age	Youth	46 (82.14)	10 (17.86)	56 (10.16)	1.00 (ref)	
	Adult	333 (67.27)	162 (32.73)	495 (89.84)	0.45 (0.22-0.91)	0.0260
	Total	379 (68.78)	172 (31.22)	551 (100.00)		0.0260 (Overall)
Monthly Income	Less than 50,000	102 (49.04)	106 (50.96)	208 (37.89)	1.00 (ref)	
	50,000 to 99,999	158 (75.96)	50 (24.04)	208 (37.89)	3.28 (2.16-4.99)	<.0001
	100,000 or more	119 (89.47)	14 (10.53)	133 (24.23)	8.83 (4.77-16.37)	<.0001
	Total	379 (69.03)	170 (30.97)	549 (100.00)		<.0001 (Overall)
Ability to read and write	Yes	347 (74.15)	121 (25.85)	468 (90.00)	1.00 (ref)	
	No	25 (48.08)	27 (51.92)	52 (10.00)	0.32 (0.18-0.58)	0.0001
	Total	372 (71.54)	148 (28.46)	520 (100.00)		0.0001 (Overall)
Language you speak most commonly	Sinhalese	347 (72.29)	133 (27.71)	480 (87.27)	1.00 (ref)	
	Tamil	32 (45.71)	38 (54.29)	70 (12.73)	0.32 (0.19-0.54)	<.0001
	Total	379 (68.91)	171 (31.09)	550 (100.00)		<.0001 (Overall)
Listen to the Radio	Yes	74 (80.43)	18 (19.57)	92 (16.70)	1.00 (ref)	
	No	305 (66.45)	154 (33.55)	459 (83.30)	0.48 (0.28-0.84)	0.0093
	Total	379 (68.78)	172 (31.22)	551 (100.00)		0.0093 (Overall)
Watch Television	Yes	119 (75.80)	38 (24.20)	157 (28.49)	1.00 (ref)	
	No	260 (65.99)	134 (34.01)	394 (71.51)	0.62 (0.41-0.94)	0.0257
	Total	379 (68.78)	172 (31.22)	551 (100.00)		0.0257 (Overall)
Own a mobile phone	Yes	354 (70.94)	145 (29.06)	499 (90.56)	1.00 (ref)	
	No	25 (48.08)	27 (51.92)	52 (09.44)	0.38 (0.21-0.68)	0.0010
	Total	379 (68.78)	172 (31.22)	551 (100.00)		0.0010 (Overall)
Use Internet	Yes	260 (78.31)	72 (21.69)	332 (60.25)	1.00 (ref)	
	No	119 (54.34)	100 (45.66)	219 (39.75)	0.33 (0.23-0.48)	<.0001
	Total	379 (68.78)	172 (31.22)	551 (100.00)		<.0001 (Overall)
Level of Education	Up to grade 10	208 (63.03)	122 (36.97)	330 (59.89)	1.00 (ref)	
	GCE O/L or above	171 (77.38)	50 (22.62)	221 (40.11)	2.01 (1.36-2.95)	0.0004
	Total	379 (68.78)	172 (31.22)	551 (100.00)		0.0004 (Overall)
Duration in Sex Work	5 years or less	151 (78.24)	42 (21.76)	193 (35.67)	1.00 (ref)	
	6 to 14 years	151 (68.33)	70 (31.67)	221 (40.85)	0.60 (0.39-0.94)	0.0242

Variable and Levels		Sample Cross Tabulation			Univariable logistic regression	
Variable	Levels	Level of overall knowledge		Total (%)	Odd Ratio (95% CI)	P Value
		High (%)	Low (%)			
	15 or more	69 (54.33)	58 (45.67)	127 (23.48)	0.33 (0.20-0.54)	<.0001
	Total	371 (68.58)	170 (31.42)	541 (100.00)		<.0001 (Overall)
Typology	Massage Canteen	103 (77.44)	30 (22.56)	133 (24.14)	1.00 (ref)	
	Hotel /Brothel /Lodge	147 (70.00)	63 (30.00)	210 (38.11)	0.68 (0.41-1.12)	0.1319
	Street Based	65 (52.00)	60 (48.00)	125 (22.69)	0.32 (0.18-0.54)	<.0001
	Other	64 (77.11)	19 (22.89)	83 (15.06)	0.98 (0.51-1.89)	0.9544
	Total	379 (100.00)	172 (31.22)	551 (100.00)		<.0001 (Overall)
Paying partners/clients (last month)	30 or Less	141 (64.38)	78 (35.62)	219 (41.87)	1.00 (ref)	
	31 to 100	180 (71.71)	71 (28.29)	251 (47.99)	1.40 (0.95-2.07)	0.0890
	More than 100	40 (75.47)	13 (24.53)	53 (10.13)	1.70 (0.86-3.37)	0.1276
	Total	361 (69.02)	162 (30.98)	523 (100.00)		0.1313 (Overall)
Use condoms consistently with all the partners	Yes	100 (70.42)	42 (29.58)	142 (25.77)	1.00 (ref)	
	No	279 (68.22)	130 (31.78)	409 (74.23)	0.90 (0.60-1.37)	0.6249
	Total	379 (68.78)	172 (31.22)	551 (100.00)		0.6249 (Overall)
Unprotected sex for extra pay	Yes	91 (54.17)	77 (45.83)	168 (35.07)	1.00 (ref)	
	No	254 (81.67)	57 (18.33)	311 (64.93)	3.77 (2.48-5.73)	<.0001
	Total	345 (72.03)	134 (27.97)	479 (100.00)		<.0001 (Overall)
Currently using non-barrier FP methods	Yes	263 (66.58)	132 (33.42)	395 (75.82)	1.00 (ref)	
	No	101 (80.16)	25 (19.84)	126 (24.18)	2.03 (1.25-3.29)	0.0043
	Total	364 (69.87)	157 (30.13)	521 (100.00)		0.0043 (Overall)
Ever used ECP	Yes	239 (72.87)	89 (27.13)	328 (61.42)	1.00 (ref)	
	No	135 (65.53)	71 (44.38)	206 (38.58)	0.71 (0.49-1.03)	0.0723
	Total	374 (70.04)	160 (29.96)	534 (100.00)		0.0723 (Overall)
Ever terminated a pregnancy	Yes	90 (63.83)	51 (36.17)	141 (26.11)	1.00 (ref)	
	No	283 (70.93)	116 (29.07)	399 (73.89)	1.38 (0.92-2.07)	0.1178
	Total	373 (69.07)	167 (30.93)	540 (100.00)		0.1178 (Overall)

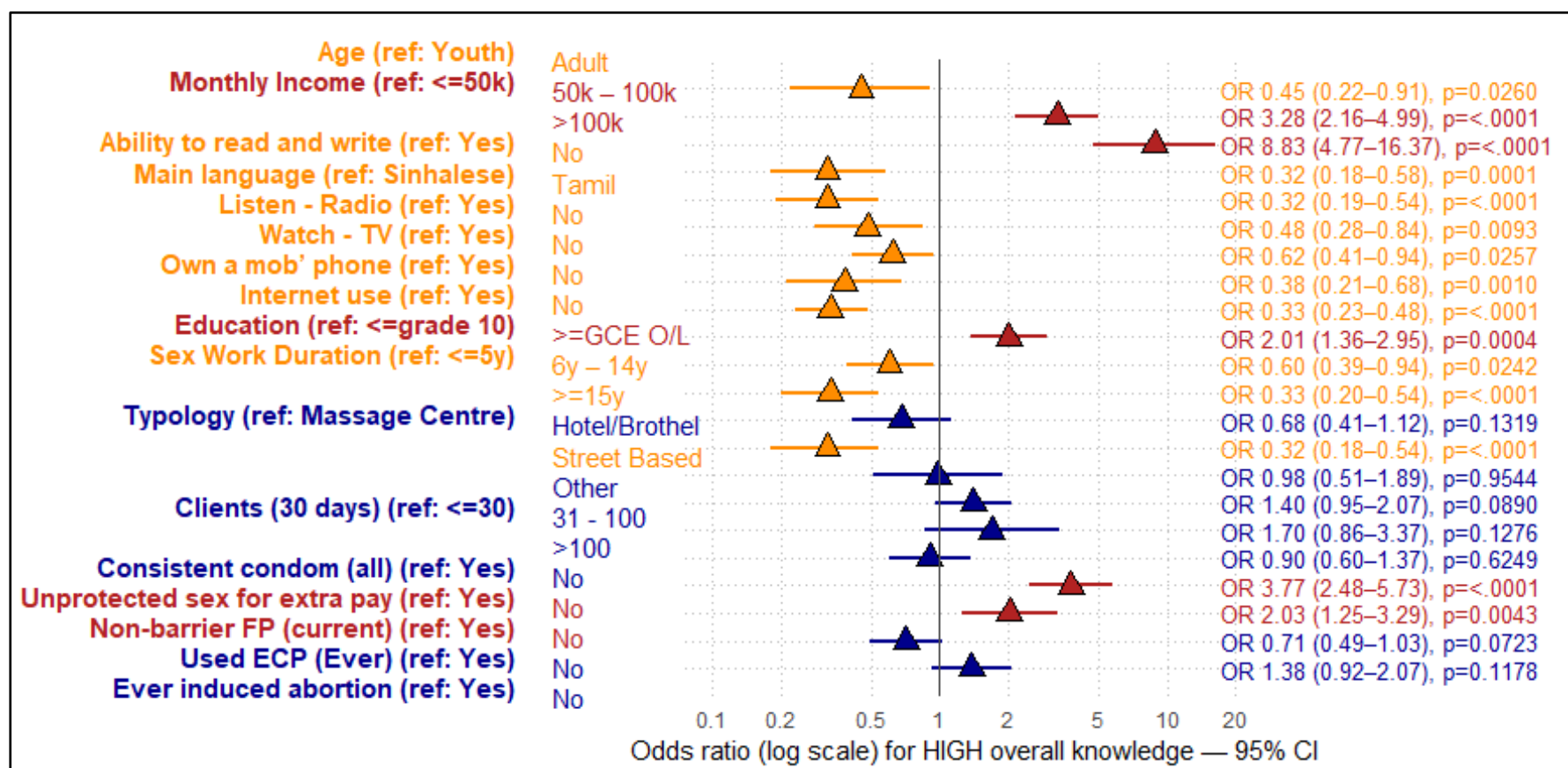


Figure S1. Correlates of high SRH knowledge: socio-economic and information-access gradients

Notes: Outcome is high overall knowledge (score $\geq 11/18$) versus $\leq 10/18$. Points show univariable odds ratios (ORs) and horizontal lines indicate 95% confidence intervals; the vertical line marks OR=1. Reference categories are shown in the left labels. Colour indicates statistical significance: red = significant OR>1; orange = significant OR<1; blue = non-significant (95% CI crosses 1). Abbreviations: OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval; SRH, sexual and reproductive health; FSW, female sex worker; TV, television; GCE O/L, General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level.

The univariable analyses indicate a pronounced socio-economic gradient in high overall knowledge ($\geq 11/18$). In particular, higher monthly income was strongly associated with higher odds of good knowledge, with a stepwise pattern from the reference group ($< \text{LKR } 50,000$) to LKR 50,000–99,999 (OR=3.28, 95% CI 2.16–4.99) and $\geq \text{LKR } 100,000$ (OR=8.83, 95% CI 4.77–16.37). Consistent with this, education $\geq \text{GCE O/L}$ was associated with higher odds of good knowledge (OR=2.01, 95% CI 1.36–2.95), while low literacy (unable to read/write) was associated with markedly lower odds (OR=0.32, 95% CI 0.18–0.58). A language gradient was also evident, with Tamil speakers having lower odds of good knowledge than Sinhala speakers (OR=0.32, 95% CI 0.19–0.54), suggesting that linguistic access to information may contribute to observed inequalities. Beyond these structural gradients, behavioural vulnerability related to socio-economic gradient aligned with knowledge: those who did not accept unprotected sex for extra pay had higher odds of good knowledge (OR=3.77, 95% CI 2.48–5.73).

A clear digital divide / information-access gradient is also apparent. Participants without a mobile phone (OR=0.38, 95% CI 0.21–0.68) and those not using the internet (OR=0.33, 95% CI 0.23–0.48) had substantially lower odds of good knowledge, indicating potential exclusion from digital-first SRH information pathways. Traditional media access showed similar directionality: not listening to the radio (OR=0.48, 95% CI 0.28–0.84) and not watching television (OR=0.62, 95% CI 0.41–0.94) were associated with lower odds of good knowledge.

Overall, these patterns suggest that “average” knowledge obscures substantial within-sample inequity: advantage (income, education, literacy, information access) aligns with higher knowledge, while marginalisation (digital exclusion, language barriers, and some work-context characteristics) aligns with lower knowledge. Given these are unadjusted associations, confounding and inter-relationships between socio-economic position and information access are expected; however, the consistent direction and magnitude support the interpretation of a socio-economic gradient compounded by a digital divide, with practical implications for designing communication strategies that do not inadvertently widen gaps.