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**Table 4 Socio-demographic characteristics: differences in mean total contraceptive knowledge score of all participants, female participants and male participants**

Socio-demographic variables	Frequency of overall participants (%)			Frequency (Female)			Frequency (Male)		
	N (483)	Mean ± SD (0-5)	p	N (226)	Mean ± SD (0-5)	p	N(257)	Mean ± SD (0-5)	p
Age									
18-25	363	3.10 (1.54)	NS	169	3.21 (1.50)	NS	194	2.99 (1.59)	NS
26-35	120	3.13 (1.59)		57	3.24 (1.29)		63	3.02 (1.50)	
Gender									
Male	257	3.02 (1.60)	0.03	—	—		—	—	
Female	226	3.28 (1.48)		—	—		—	—	
Ethnicity									
Malay	403	3.14 (1.56)	NS	189	3.29 (1.40)	NS	214	2.99 (1.49)	NS
Non-Malay	80	3.07 (1.48)		37	3.11 (1.52)		43	3.02 (1.52)	
Religion									
Muslim	409	3.12 (1.54)	NS	192	3.28 (1.56)	NS	217	2.97 (1.62)	NS
Non-Muslim	74	3.09 (1.49)		34	3.15 (1.45)		40	3.03 (1.50)	
Level of education *									
Primary school	192	3.08 (1.57)	NS	97	3.27 (1.51)	NS	95	2.89 (1.59)	NS
secondary school	281	3.17 (1.54)		129	3.26 (1.48)		152	3.09 (1.61)	
Average monthly household income									
<2000	351	3.12 (1.57)	NS	164	3.22 (1.57)	NS	187	3.02 (1.54)	NS
≥2000	132	3.01 (1.51)		62	3.10 (1.26)		70	2.92 (1.63)	

\* p < 0.05, p > 0.05, NS = Not Significant

## Discussion

The present study was conducted in a rural area of Sabah, Malaysia. The mean total contraceptive knowledge score of all participants was 3.10 (SD 1.54). The mean total contraceptive knowledge score of female participants was 3.28 (SD 1.48) and the mean total contraceptive knowledge score of male participants was 3.02 (SD 1.60). The difference in mean total contraceptive knowledge score between female and male participants was statistically significant (p = 0.03). The mean total contraceptive knowledge score of participants with primary school education was 3.08 (SD 1.57) and the mean total contraceptive knowledge score of participants with secondary school education was 3.17 (SD 1.54). The difference in mean total contraceptive knowledge score between participants with primary school education and participants with secondary school education was not statistically significant (p = NS). The mean total contraceptive knowledge score of participants with average monthly household income < 2000 was 3.12 (SD 1.57) and the mean total contraceptive knowledge score of participants with average monthly household income ≥ 2000 was 3.01 (SD 1.51). The difference in mean total contraceptive knowledge score between participants with average monthly household income < 2000 and participants with average monthly household income ≥ 2000 was not statistically significant (p = NS).

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