

Abstract

This study aims to study teenage pregnant women' opinions on gender and sexuality. Informants of this study were pregnant women and women after giving birth, ages of 17years or below. The data was collected during 1st – 28th February 2009. Most informants were girls. Some are studying and some have jobs with uncertain incomes. Most of them relied on their families and lovers. Most informants who were students had to stop studying. Some informants had to change studying periods to feed their children and to have part time jobs. The data collection tools were the in-depth interview under the general interview guide approach.

It was found from the study that informants believed that gender roles occurred from sex dividing human beings into men and women. Such gender differences affected gender identity, called womankind and mankind. Most informants believed than women were weak and relied on men. In addition, female roles were connected to in-house activities, especially child feeding. When pregnant, informants believed that it was their duties to feed their children. From studying such group, even with different pregnant experiences, but in the overall picture, informants were not ready for motherhood due to their lack of experience. In addition, they believed that they were not mature and did not have economic factors. As a result, they concerned about child feeding. It was reflected that informants needed child feeding factors and economic stability. Thus, assistance should be considered from welfare state establishment to support child feeding and education. Education will enhance competency on self care and child care of such group in the future.

In addition, what such women reflected was the gender control of society. The society divided good or bad women by proper intercourse. Good women shall not have sexual desire and shall have sexual relationship with only one man. For woman, such relationship shall be lover affair. Intercourse reduces woman value. Then, if a woman breaches sexual rules set by society, the woman will be blamed or punished by society. It can be seen that informants pregnant during study shall stop studying but men live their lives as usual. In addition, medical institutions choose to control

pregnancy via women. To solve such incidents, the empowerment of women should be enhanced. A choice to deny intercourse under a lover relationship is not considered wrong. Male attitudes towards sex should be adjusted in term of birth control, intercourse and responsibility for consequences.

Root causes of teenage pregnancy do not occur from girls but from socialization on gender and sexuality. As a result, women have no bargaining power on sex. Therefore, the major thing is to look backward on such socialization and to adjust it in accordance with current situations.