

ABSTRACT

Title of Research Paper : Attitude of Teenagers towards Sex
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The purpose of studying attitude of teenagers towards sex is to understand various factors that impact on teenager's attitude.

Population was the teenagers who are studying in both public and private general schools and vocational schools in Bangkok, the sample groups were 217 teenagers. The data was collected by using questionnaires and analyzed in terms of frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation and chi-square test.

Result

1. The sample groups were boys and girls with similar backgrounds i.e., studying in either public or private general schools or vocational schools, ages between 15-20, with a grade average of more than 2.50, personal income of not more than 3,000 Baht, family income of more than 10,000 Baht. Most are living at their parent's homes. Important values analyzed include (i) sexual reservation, (ii) male chauvinism, (iii) equality between the sexes, (iv) women as sexual objects, (v) free sex and (vi) sexual education. On the average, teenagers are found to accept these values in medium level. Almost half of the target group have access to the internet at home and almost 40% have had experience in using sexual web sites.

2. The attitude of teenagers towards sex found that most teenagers have extensive knowledge about sex, are interested in the opposite sex and like to take overnight trip with friends to the countryside. They are usually aware if friends are having sex with their dates, living together or have had abortions. Most of the teenagers have dates and tend to take trips together without friends. Almost all of the ones who have dates have some kind of sexual contacts such as

touching, kissing and hugging and almost half of the target group have consummated sex. An interesting finding is that almost 20% of these teenagers have had sex with other people who were not their lovers.

3. By studying factors that influence teenagers attitude towards sex, found that:

3.1 boy tend to prefer sexual contact to girls;

3.2 teenagers between the age of 19-20 prefer sexual contact more than those younger;

3.3 teenagers studying in vocational schools prefer sexual contact more than those studying in general schools;

3.4 teenagers who have low values regarding sexual reservation and equality between the sexes tend to have preference for sexual contact. Teenagers who have high values regarding male chauvinism and women as sexual objects tend to have high preference for sexual contact;

3.5 teenagers who have experience in using sexual web sites prefer sexual contact more than those who have never used sexual web sites.

Recommendation

1. Sexual education in schools should include and emphasize topics on values, the roles of gender, moral and sexual responsibility so that teenagers can have better understanding of sex, good feeling about sex and appropriate sexual behavior. This may help reduce sexual activities of teenagers.

2. More sexual education should be promoted in vocational schools because the results of this study show that teenagers in vocational schools have less knowledge about sexual education than those studying in general schools but are more sexually active. This will enhance safety, prevent various consequences such as pregnancy during school years, readiness before pregnancy, stress, etc.

3. The government should have measure to prevent teenagers from having access to sexual web sites because, based on the findings of this study, those who have used sexual web sites tend to be more sexually active than those without experience in using such web sites.