

**ORIGINAL ARTICLE****SEXUAL EXPERIENCES AND THEIR CORRELATES AMONG JIMMA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, JIMMA, ETHIOPIA****Zerai Kassaye (MD)****ABSTRACT**

**BACKGROUND:** *Unprotected sexual activities are hazardous because of the prevailing HIV/AIDS pandemic and other associated reproductive health risks. The aim of this study was to explore the level and extent of sexual-behavior among unmarried youth students and the correlates of that behavior.*

**METHODS:** *A cross-sectional study of sexual experiences and their correlates among 572 Jimma University unmarried students was conducted in April 2002. Study subjects were selected by stratified, non-proportionate sampling technique using their faculty as a stratum and one batch/ class per department as a sample unit. A total of 9 classes were selected from all departments of the five faculties by simple random sampling technique. Data was collected using a pilot-tested, structured, self-administered questionnaire.*

**RESULTS:** *Of the total respondents, 468 (81.8%) were males and 104 (18.2%) females. Of these, 195 (41.7%) males and 33 (31.7%) females had any sexual experiences. 155 (31.1%) males and 18 (17.3%) females respondents admitted that they have had sexual intercourse in the past; their mean age at first coitus was 18.1 years (range: 10-24 years). Of those who had sexual intercourse, 123 (71.7%) had not regular sexual partners but only 80 (46.2%) of them used condom consistently. Among the independent variables, all intermediate and some personal level variable had a significant association with student's sexual-behavior but all variables at the familial level showed no significant association with their sexual-behavior. The strongest predictor of student's sexual behavior were their attitudes towards premarital sex followed by their level of social interaction and exposure to erotic materials.*

**CONCLUSION:** *Traditional norms and the role of the family are losing importance in governing young people's sexual behavior. The development of broad sexual and reproductive health agenda for the young needs an active involvement of the family school society nexus in addressing such issues. (Ethiop J Health Sci 2005; 15(1) :1-17).*

**KEY WORDS:** *Young student, Adolescent, Sexual experience, sexuality.*

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## INTRODUCTION

The term "adolescent" and "young people" are defined by WHO as the age group 10-19 years and 10-24 year, respectively. There are 1.2 billion adolescents and 1.7 billion young people in the world today (1) of which 85% of them live in developing countries making nearly 30% of their population (2).

Risk-taking, a natural part of growing up, can be more hazardous if mixed with alcohol and /or drugs. Many adolescents are sexually active and in some regions, as many as half are married (3). Unprotected sexual relationships are the heart of the problems with their various reproductive health risks. Each year, about 15 million adolescents aged 15-19 years give birth, as many as 4 million obtain an abortion and up to 100 million become infected with curable sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Globally, 40% of all new HIV infections occur among 15-24 years. Recent estimates indicate that 7,000 youngsters are infected daily. In one study, 20% female and 12% male youth reported being sexual abused (4). Efforts to decrease HIV and other STIs transmission among young people face major barriers. The ambivalent attitude of adults toward young people sexuality is a major obstacle. Besides, unmarried youth are sexually active at a younger age than in the past generation presumably due to factors like change in social norms, peer pressure, media influences etc. This leads them to unprotected premarital sex. Limited economic opportunities, particularly girls, are also major challenges that affect the preventive programs (5).

Recent studies conducted in different part of developing countries show that sexual behavior among unmarried young people is on the rise, especially in urban areas, where an estimated 20-25% of unmarried males and 6-10% females have

experienced premarital, sex (6). Other studies indicate that while adolescents attitude toward premarital sex are becoming liberal, their awareness of contraceptives remain poor (7).

In much of sub-Saharan Africa, one-third of births occur among unmarried adolescent women aged 15-19 years. Furthermore, in several countries of sub-Saharan Africa, adolescents represents between one-fourth and one-third of women suffering from abortion-related complications (8). Every year, about 1.7 million young people in Africa are infected with HIV (9).

Ethiopia, the third most populated nation in Africa, has about 70 million people. About 20% of the Ethiopian people are youth aged between 15-24 years (1). Among the High-school age population (15-18 years) only 9.7% enrolled. Furthermore, the reproductive health profile of the nation is poor (11).

In Ethiopia, there is little data available on youth's sexuality and reproductive health; furthermore their focus has been primarily on the extent of youth's sexual behaviors rather than on their correlates of that behavior. Results of these studies show that both in and out of school youths are practicing unsafe sexual activity with its accompanying health consequences (12-14).

This study aimed to determine students' sexual behavior and identifying possible associated risk factors that influence them.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Study area and population:** The study was conducted in April, 2002 at Jimma University, Jimma town. Jimma is located about 335 Kms Southwest of Addis Ababa. In Jimma University, there were a total of 3,628 regular students (3,026 male and 602 female) enrolled in the academic year

2001-2002 in the 5 faculties of the University. These were a source population for the study except post basic students.

**Sample size and sampling Technique:** A random sample of 684 students (565 males and 119 females) were selected, based on the assumption that (P = prevalence of sexual activity in this group to be 50%; 95% CI; 80% power; 5% allowance for random error in estimate; 10% contingency and a response rate of 75%) and to include at least one class (batch) from all departments. Study-subjects were selected by simple stratified non-proportionate sampling technique using their field of study (faculty) as strata. Then by taking one batch of students from each departments as a unit, at least one unit was selected from all departments of the five faculties of the University by simple random sampling technique. Inclusion criteria were being a member of the selected unit (class) and never married and aged less than 25 years. Exclusion criteria were being married or /and aged >25 years. In this respect 400 (344 males and 56 females) of post-basic students were excluded from the study because the majority were above the age of 25 years or /and married. In addition, student unwilling to participated in the study were excluded. Variables such as young people knowledge about issues related to sexual behavior; attitude towards sex in general and premarital sex in particular; the degree of social interaction; and level of exposure to erotic materials were collected.

**Measurements:** Data was collected using a pilot-tested, structured, self-administered questionnaire that sought information about student's individual, familial and intermediate level variable (independent variables) and questions that assess their sexual-behavior which was seen in this study as two variables, i.e., any sexual experiences and sexual intercourse.

In order to minimize bias on giving true information by the students, university teachers and authorities were not involved in administering the questionnaires. Thus, 20 high school teachers were recruited from Jimma High school as data collectors and they were briefed on the purpose and significance of the study and on proper way of filling the prepared questionnaire.

As a sample unit in this study was one-batch of students after convenient time (free period or end sessions) were adjusted with the respective department heads, to make the data collection in the same day, in both campuses (the main and agricultural college) and data collectors were assigned to their respective assigned classes according the given schedule. Study subjects were given a necessary information about the study and proper way of filling of the questionnaire by the data collectors and concomitantly a verbal consent were taken from after being confirmed that their response will be kept confidentially. Finally, the questionnaires were administered to the study subject and recollected back after compilation.

**Data analysis:** Data was entered to a computer, processed and analyzed using SPSS for window version 11.0. Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) test was employed in bivariate analyses to examine the association between student's sexual behaviour and each independent variables. One of these independent variables, i.e., the Intermediate variable, which may be dependent on the individual and familial ones, includes student's level of knowledge about issues (topics) such as menses and pregnancy; contraceptives, STIs and HIV/AIDS that were assessed by asking 2-3 questions from each and then their score combined to classify as low, moderate or high level of knowledge in such issues; Respondent's attitude towards sex in general and towards premarital sex, classified as liberal, moderate or traditional on the basis of their

level of agreement on five-point scale ranging from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree" to five statements each related to these issues and their level of exposure to erotic materials and social interaction was rated as low, medium or high on basis of their agreement to the 3-scale choices given to them on these areas (6).

A multivariate logistic regression was used to quantify and compare the likelihood of sexual behaviour among the students within the selected categories of independent variables. Thus, two such regressions, i.e., with any sexual experiences and sexual intercourse among the students, as the dependent variables was conducted. P- value  $\leq 0.05$  was considered as statistically significant. The following operational definitions of terms were used in this study.

**Sexuality:-** Physiologic and psychological processes within an individual which promote behavior related to procreation and/or erotic exposure (15).

**Sexual-behavior:-** any sexual experience or/and sexual-intercourse (16).

**Any sexual experience:-** defined as kissing, hugging, touching or being touched sex organs (16)

**Illicit abortion:-** Termination of unwanted pregnancy before viability (17)

**Erotic material:-** Materials that has excessive irritability or sensibility particularly with reference to the sexual organ but including any body parts (16).

Ethical clearance was obtained from the research and publication office (RPO) of Jimma University. Participation of subjects was voluntary and verbal consent was taken. Study subjects were about the purpose and significance of the study.

## RESULTS

Of the total study subjects, 572 students, 468 (81.8%) males and 104 (18.2%) females filled the questionnaire and returned making a response rate of 83.6%. Of these, 148 (25.9%) of the respondents were from Medical faculty while 75(13.1%) were from Business and Economics Faculty (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Distribution of Students According to their Academic Disciplines and Class Year of School, Jimma University, Jimma, Ethiopia, April 2002

Faculties & Schools	Year in		Sex		Total No (%)
	School	Male	Female	No (%)	
<b>Medical Sciences (148)</b>					
Pre-clinical II	3	43	10		53 (9.3)
Laboratory Tech	2	44	3		47 (8.2)
Pharmacy	1	42	6		48 (8.4)
<b>Public Health (118)</b>					
Nurse	1	40	31		71 (12.4)
Environmental Health	2	43	4		47 (8.2)
<b>Business and Economics 75)</b>					
Accounting	4	58	17		75 (13.1)
<b>Technology (117)</b>					
Pre-Engineering	2	100	17		117 (20.5)
<b>Agriculture (114)</b>					
*General. Agriculture	1	65	16		81 (14.2)
*Horticulture	2	23	10		33 (5.7)
<b>Total, No (%)</b>		<b>648 (81.8)</b>	<b>104 (18.2)</b>		<b>572 (100.0)</b>

\* Degree program students

**Table 2.** Percentage Distribution of Students by Selected Personal and Sexual Behavior Characteristics, Jimma University, Jimma, Ethiopia, April 2002

Characteristics	Any sexual experience (n = 228) %	Sexual intercourse (n = 173) %	No any sex experience (n = 161) %	Non-response (n = 10) %	Total (n = 575) %
<b>Age (years)</b>					
17-19	20.2	17.9	18.6	40.0	19.4
20-21	47.8	35.3	60.2	40.0	47.4
22-24	32.0	46.8	21.1	20.0	33.2
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	85.5	89.6	83.5	40.0	18.8
Female	14.5	10.4	16.5	60.0	18.2
<b>Income (Birr/month)</b>					
< 50	50.0	43.9	43.8	50.0	46.5
50-100	37.8	33.5	26.6	16.7	31.1
100-200	12.7	19.7	26.3	25	19.6
> 200	-	2.9	3.3	8.3	2.8
<b>Religion</b>					
Orthodox	66.2	66.5	62.3	58.3	63.3
Catholic	-	4.0	11.1	16.7	7.3
Protestant	17.6	15.0	14.1	16.7	15.0
Muslim	14.9	10.4	6.4	-	9.4
Other	1.3	4.0	6.1	8.3	4.0
<b>Ethnic group</b>					
Oromo	36.8	34.1	33.0	33.3	35.1
Amhara	39.5	38.7	40.4	41.7	39.7
Tigray	4.3	5.8	9.8	8.3	7.3
Gurage	10.1	12.1	9.1	8.3	9.0
Other	9.2	9.2	7.7	16.7	8.7
<b>Year in school</b>					
First year	37.7	42.2	35.4	40.0	38.5
Intermediate	36.4	32.9	46.6	60.0	38.6
Final year	25.9	24.9	18.0	-	22.9
<b>Academic Field</b>					
Medical Science	26.3	34.1	14.0	50.0	25.9
Public Health	22.4	24.9	12.4	40.0	20.6
Business & Econ.	18.0	14.5	5.6	-	13.1
Technology	15.8	13.9	35.4	-	20.5
Agriculture	17.5	12.7	31.7	10.0	19.9

\* P ≤ 0.1 + P ≤ 0.05

‡ P ≤ 0.01

§ P ≤ 0.001

Majority, 271(47.4%) were in the age group of 20-21 years (Table 2). Data on the family characteristics indicated that, 338 (59.1%) and 414 (72.4%), respectively, came from families of low socio-economic status and perceive their families as a strict one (Table 3). Furthermore, 352(61%) of the respondents reported that they had high level of exposure to erotic materials and 187 (32.7%) of them have a liberal attitude towards premarital sex (Table 4).

Regarding their sexual behavior, a total of 228 (39.9%) students, [195 (41.7%) males and 33 (31.7%) female] had any sexual experiences while a total of 173 (30.2%) students, [155 (31.3%) males and

18 (17.3%) females] admitted that they have had sexual intercourse in the past (Table 2). Among those students who admitted to have had sexual intercourse, their mean age at first coitus was 18.1 years with an age range of 10-24 years; majority, 123 (71.7%) had not had a regular sexual partners but only 80 (46.2%) of them use condom consistently (Table 5).

**Table 3.** Percentage Distribution of Students by Selected Familial and Sexual Behavior Characteristics Jimma University, Jimma, Ethiopia, April 2002

Characteristics	Any sexual experience (n = 228 ) %	Sexual intercourse (n = 173) %	No any sexual experience (n = 161) %	No response (n = 10) %	Total (n = 572) %
<b>Father's Education</b>					
Illiterate	14.9	18	18.9	-	17.7
Read and Write	33.8	26.5	20.0	20.0	29.0
Primary school	10.8	13.2	14.5	-	13.3
Junior/ High school	18.9	21.7	18.5	40.0	20.1
College/University	21.6	20.6	19.1	20.0	19.9
<b>Mother's Education</b>					
Illiterate	37.8	33.3	31.3	40	32.9
Read & Write	28.4	23.3	31.0	20	128
Primary school	12.2	18.0	9.4	20	28.1
Junior/2 <sup>nd</sup> school	14.9	15.3	19.1	20	17.3
College/University	6.7	10.1	9.1	-	8.9
<b>Family Income (Birr/Month)</b>					
< 100	25.7	29.1	23.9	20.0	25.7
100 - 500	31.1	36	31.6	40.0	33.4
500 - 1000	29.8	19.0	27.6	20.0	24.8
> 1000	12.3	15.9	16.8	20.0	16.1
<b>Family Religiosity</b>					
Not religious	1.3	3.2	2.0	41.7	3.1
Religious	36.5	41.2	47.8	50.0	44.2
Very religious	58.1	54.0	49.2	8.3	51.1
No response	4.1	1.6	1.0	-	1.6
<b>Family restrictions</b>					
Restrictive	53.9	73.4	75.1	58.3	72.4
Non restrictive	36.8	26.6	18.2	25.0	20.3
No response	9.2	-	6.7	6.7	7.3

\* P ≤ 0.1

+ P ≤ 0.05

‡ P ≤ 0.01

§ P ≤ 0.001



**Table 4.** Percentage Distribution of Students by Selected Intermediate and Sexual Behavior, Jimma University, Jimma, Ethiopia, April 2002

Characteristics	Sexual behavior					Total (n=572) %
	Any sexual experience (n = 228) %	Sexual intercourse (n = 173) %	No any Experience (n = 161) %	No Response (n = 10) %		
<b>Social Interaction</b>						
Low	11.4	14.5	37.3	30.0		19.9
Medium	35.1	35.3	35.4	20.0		35.0
High	§51.3	§48.5	20.5	40.0		41.1
No response	2.2	1.7	6.8	10.0		4.0
<b>Erotic Exposure</b>						
Low	12.7	13.9	30.4	20.0		18.2
Medium	19.2	21.4	11.8	50.0		18.4
High	66.2	§63.0	57.7	10.0		61.0
No response	-	-	-	20.0		2.4
<b>Attitude toward sex</b>						
Traditional	15.1	16.6	22.7	26.0		17.8
Moderate	+23.8	+25.4	21.6	18.0		23.6
Liberal	‡58.3	‡56.0	50.4	16.0		55.2
No response	2.8	2.0	5.3	40.0		3.3
<b>Attitude towards premarital sex</b>						
Traditional	29.1	14.9	71.4	48.0		37.6
Moderate	29.7	37.8	13.0	20.0		27.2
Liberal	§39.7	§46.0	10.4	10.0		32.7
No response	1.2	1.3	5.1	22.0		2.4
<b>Knowledge</b>						
Low	42.5	30.3	53.6	56.2		42.1
Medium	§56.5	§68.9	41.8	28.8		55.7
High	-	-	-	-		-
No response	1.0	0.8	4.6	15.0		2.1

\* P ≤0.1

+ P ≤0.05

‡ P ≤0.01

§ P ≤0.001

**Bivariate Findings:** Among the variables that presumed to exert an influence on students' sexual-behavior, Age and gender (from personal) and all intermediate level variable were found to have a significant association with while the familial level variable at the household level did not show any significant association with the student's sexual-behavior. The proportion of male students who had any sexual experiences and sexual intercourse were significantly higher (Table 2) than their female encounter parts ( $P < 0.01$ ).

All intermediate level variables had a significant association (Table 4) with student's sexual-behavior; the proportion of students who held a liberal attitude towards premarital sex were found to have a significantly higher sexual involvement than their peers who had a traditional view in this issue. Male students tends to initiate sexual activity at an early age and to be engaged in unsafe sexual-activities significantly more ( $P < 0.001$ ) than their female counter parts (Table 5).

**Table 5.** Characteristics of Students who had Sexual Intercourse in the Past, Jimma University, Jimma, April 2002

Characteristics	Sex		
	Male (n=155) %	Female (n = 18) %	Total (n =173) %
<b>Age at first coitus (years)</b>			
< 14	3.9	-	3.4
14-17	31.0	38.9	31.8
18-19	49.7	55.6	50.3
20-24	15.4	5.5	14.3
<b>Regular sexual partnership</b>			
Yes	10.3	§77.8	17.3
No	78.1	11.1	71.1
No response	11.6	11.1	11.6
<b>No. of Sexual partners</b>			
Never had	14.2	83.3	21.4
One	63.9	16.7	59.0
Two	5.8	-	5.2
Three	2.6	-	2.3
Four	3.9	-	3.5
Seven	0.6	-	0.5
More than ten	9.0	-	8.1
<b>Pattern of Condom Use</b>			
Never	39.4	5.6	35.8
Some times	17.4	22.2	17.9
Always	43.2	†72.2	46.2

\* P ≤0:1

+ P ≤0.05

‡ P ≤0.01

§ P ≤0.001

**Table 6.** Odds Ratios' and 95% CI from Logistic Regression Analysis, Showing the Likelihood that Students have had any Sexual Experience and Sexual Intercourse, by Selected Characteristics, Jimma University, Jimma, Ethiopia, April 2002

Characteristics	Sexual behavior	
	Any sexual experience	Sexual intercourse
<b>Age group (Yrs)</b>		
17-18	1.00	1.00
19-21	0.81	0.63
22-24	+1.56	§2.45
<b>Sex</b>		
Female	1.00	1.00
Male	§2.44 (1.43-4.15)	§3.55 (1.89-6.73)
<b>Year in school</b>		
First	1.00	1.00
Intermediate	0.73	0.59
Final	1.35	1.16
<b>Knowledge about sexuality</b>		
Low	1.00	1.00
Medium	§2.15	+1.82
High	-	-
<b>Attitude towards sex</b>		
Traditional	1.00	1.00
Moderate	1.62	1.65
Liberal	+1.75	+1.48
<b>Attitude towards premarital sex</b>		
Traditional	1.00	1.00
Moderate	6.07	15.08
Liberal	§9.26	§21.13
<b>Social Interaction</b>		
Low	1.00	1.00
Medium	3.39	2.66
High	§8.25	§6.21
<b>Erotic exposure</b>		
Low	1.00	1.00
Medium	3.91	3.76
High	§2.90	§2.58

\* P ≤0.1

+ P ≤0.05

‡ P ≤0.01

§ ≤0.001

**Multivariate Findings:** The logistic regression analysis included only 8 of the 19 variable examined at the bivariate level. Most individual level and all familial level variables were excluded as they had no significant association with students' sexual behavior (Table 6).

In the analysis of factors affecting the odds of any sexual behavior, male were more than twice as likely as female students to be sexually experienced (Odds Ratio, OR 2.4). Effects of age and years in school were at best of marginal significance on the students' odds of having sexual experiences. The findings suggest that students at final year and older ones (22-24 years), respectively had an elevated likelihood of being sexually experienced than their first year and younger (17-19 years old) peers [OR 1.35 – 1.56].

The intermediate level variables had the greatest effect on students' sexual behaviour. Those with moderate attitude toward premarital sex were six times more as likely as their traditional minded peers to be sexual experienced [OR 6.07] and the odds were higher among those with a liberal view [OR 9.26]. Similarly those with medium and high level of social interaction were more than three times than their peers who had low level of social interaction to be sexually experienced (OR 3.39-8.25). Those with high and medium level of erotic exposure were more than twice than their peer who had low exposure to be sexual experienced (OR, 2.90-3.91). Similarly those students who had had a moderate level of knowledge about sexually related issues were more than twice as likely as their peers who had low level of knowledge on these issues to be sexually experienced [OR 2,15]. The effect of students' attitude toward sex in general were at best of marginal statistical significance; the finding suggest that those with moderate and liberal view may have

an elevated likelihood of being sexually experienced than their traditional minded peers [OR, 1.62-1.75].

Most of the factors that were associated with an elevated likelihood of sexual experience also had significant effects on young students' odds of having intercourse. Among the individual level variables, male students were three times more as likely as their female encounter parts to had had intercourse [OR, 3.55]. Similarly those students aged 22-24 years were more than twice as likely as their younger (17-19 years old) to have had sexual intercourse (OR, 2.45).

## DISCUSSION

Finding of this study showed that a significant number of students, 228 (39.9%) 195 (41.7%) males and 33(31.7%) females have had any sexual experiences, a result comparable to finding of similar study done in Bombay (20). Similarly the proportion of students who admitted to have had sexual intercourse in the past 173 (30.2%), was more or less similar to results of studies conducted among youths in Awassa and Harar (35, 36). As to their age at first coitus, 61 (35.2%) of them were less than 17 years old and majority, 136 (78.6%) of them, were engaged in unprotected sexual activities, a finding comparable to results other similar studies (3, 27).

Regarding the independent variables presumed to exert an influence on student's sexual-behavior, certain Individual level and all intermediate level variables were found to have a significant effect on; while the socioeconomic variables at the household level had not shown any significant association with student's sexual-behavior.

While only gender and age, from personal variable showed a significant association, all intermediate level variable had a significant effect on student's sexual

behavior, a finding comparable to result of similar study (20).

Among the intermediate level variables, student's attitude toward premarital sex were found to be the most predictable factor of their sexuality; followed by their level of social interaction and degree of exposure to erotic materials. This indicates the effect of peer influence and that of exposure to erotic materials, respectively, which usually carry incorrect, incomplete and distorted message without reliable information on sexuality and related topics. This study also showed that most of those students who practiced unprotected sexual activity had a better knowledge on sexuality-related issues than their peers who had no any sexual-experiences. This is a paradoxical result such that their knowledge was not reflected on their sexual behavior.

In any study of sensitive subjects, it may be difficult to obtain faithful response. Though this study attempt to maximize honesty by taking the whole class than selecting from and using self-administered questionnaire for data collection social taboos could still results in underreporting, particularly for females.

Findings of this study indicate that a significant number of students were involved in any sexual experience such as kissing, hugging etc, which indicate such acts were quite common and no more taboo among the students. Among those students who admitted to have had sexual intercourse in the past, majority initiate sexual activity, appear to do so, at young age before getting adequate information about sexuality and reproductive health, which expose them to various problems. Furthermore, male students tend to involve in early and risky sexual activities significantly more than their female counterparts. This might be either boys in this age group are more likely to be sexually active than girls or females tends

to under report because of the cultural norm on their sexuality.

Among the variables presumed to exert an influence on students' sexual behavior, gender and age (personal) and all intermediate variables showed a significant association while the familial levels variable showed no significant association. This might be due to a more or less similar background of the students or it could be a reflection of loss in the traditional families control in governing youth's sexual-behavior.

This study also uncovered a contradictory relationship between student's knowledge about sexuality related issues and their sexual behavior. The age at which knowledge is gained may determine the extent of its influence on sexual behavior. As most initiate sexual activities at an early age, they might have had inadequate knowledge at that time, but presumably at least the older ones among them have improved their knowledge since then. Overall, this situation is important and requires explanation. It is difficult to hypothesize on the direction of the relationship between knowledge and sexual behavior. Further Research is needed to examine the nature, extent and quality of the knowledge, as well as the effect of other factors such as socio-economic, cultural and familial variables.

Students who initiate sexual activity appear to do so at young age. Thus, school based sexual education programs are needed at an early age in order to provide them with accurate information about sexuality related issues. Besides, such program could benefit even out of school youths, as their partners often are students. Because of the traditional believe that sex education make adolescents more promiscuous, many parents oppose this program. These parents and the community at large need to be made aware on the importance of sexual education.

Great effort is required to increase young peoples' access to information, education and communication (IEC) that cover basic sexual and reproductive health related themes. Such programs should emphasize peer influences in sexual behavior of adolescents. Thus, adolescents participation in training and as youth promoters is crucial on success of these programs. Young students who are exposed to erotic materials which may carry incorrect, incomplete or distorted messages, requires reliable information on sex and related topics.

Carrying of condoms and other contraceptives had an impact on youth's utilization of modern contraceptives. Thus, reproductive health service delivery facilities for youths must designed in such a way that they provide privacy and be adopted to the characteristics and needs of each group of adolescents, as needs vary with age, socioeconomic level and degree of family and community support.

Finally, a similar and large scale community based research, that involves both in school and out of school youngsters is needed to address their reproductive health and other related issues in order to design programs applicable to the lives of different group of youngsters in the nation.

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