

Poster Presentation

17 November 2005

PP1-01

SEX EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS: KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE OF TEACHERS IN PARIT BUNTAR, PERAK

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A cross-sectional study was carried out in SMJ K Kerian and SMK Methodist in Parit Buntar, Perak to determine the level of knowledge and attitude towards sex education among teachers. Self-administered questionnaires were distributed to all teachers (155) to which 94 responded. Average knowledge score was only 66% based on 15 questions about sex education. Attitude (based on 12 statements) towards sex education among teachers was not very favorable (71.6%). However as knowledge increased, attitude towards sex education was significantly more favorable ($r=0.509$, $p < 0.01$). Eight out of ten teachers (82%) were of the opinion that they were not the most suitable person to impart knowledge about sex to young people. At the same time, respondents showed some reservations towards topics like masturbation, abortion, contraceptive methods and safe sex. Only 26.7% of the respondents felt that they were equipped to teach sex education. Meanwhile 49.3% of the teachers felt that given the training/ knowledge they can teach it. Pearson's Correlation revealed that teachers who were older ($r = 0.272$, $p < 0.01$) as well as those who had more experience in teaching ($r = 0.254$, $p < 0.05$) had significantly higher knowledge about sex education. T-test revealed that the mean knowledge and attitude scores of the male teachers were significantly higher than that of the female teachers. In the midst of the numerous social problems associated to the lack of knowledge about sex among young Malaysians it is of utmost urgency that the relevant authorities find avenues to get the knowledge to as many young Malaysians as possible. Teachers can play this role. However this study reveals that they will need to increase their own knowledge as well as their attitude towards it.

PP1-02

SEXUAL ISSUES : LET'S HEAR IT FROM THE BOYS

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Purpose This paper explores adolescents' sexuality with specific reference to their attitudes towards sex, safe sex, their risk-handling skills, sources of sexual information and how these information influence their knowledge and attitudes.

Methods This qualitative study utilized focus group methodology. Four (4) focus groups, consisting of 31 adolescent boys aged between 13 and 17 years old took part in the study and they are currently in secondary schools.

Results Findings from the focus groups revealed that the concept of sex was seen within the context of a marriage and it was also seen as synonymous with love. The boys denied having sex. The reasons for having sex were "to have fun", "part of natural urge", curiosity, tension and pressure from family, school work and being away from family. Procreation and the expression of love were also noted as some of the reasons why people have sex. Masturbation was fairly well known among the boys but was felt to have negative consequences on one's health. There was a general lack of awareness on the issue of wet dreams. There were mixed feelings with regards to sexual abstinence before marriage. Knowledge on safe sex was still vague. The boys also perceived themselves to be at risk of HIV infection,

but lack the skills in handling this issue. Sources of sexual information were mainly from male friends or through the mass media. None of their parents talked to them about sexual matters.

Conclusions Level of awareness and knowledge on sexual issues is still lacking. Misconceptions still prevails. Sex education and research in this area is warranted.

PP1-03

GENDER, SEXUALITY AND AIDS

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As a young Muslim nation with a complex anthropology, Pakistan continues to struggle with a common sense of identity. This struggle also touches our personal lives particularly amongst young people with severe identity and gender stereotyping issues, poverty and low levels of literacy. This confusion is propounded and manifests clearly in sexual behaviors and practices. Community based sexual health/AIDS prevention programs in Pakistan must incorporate self-reflection, self-concepts and identity issues to ensure ownership and sustainability of their programs.

Methods Promote Peer education, Life Skills Training's and educate public on gender sexuality- for behavior change. Exercise responsibility in sexual relationships, by abstinence addressing power imbalances, negotiation skills resisting pressure during sexual intercourse, encouraging contraception use.

Results In Pakistani socio cultural framework is supremely gender and often-sexual relationships are framed by gender roles, power relationships, poverty, class, caste, tradition and custom, hierarchies of one sort of another. Here for many the term "man" is a male gender identity not a sexual identity. The phrase males who have sex with males, or men who have sex with men is not about identities and desires it is about recognizing that there are many frameworks within which men/males have sex with males, many different self-identities, many different context of behavior.

Conclusions To bring ownership among communities to work on AIDS prevention could only be achieved by incorporating self-concepts and identity issues. Must need to explore and understand MSM desires, as to involve men, if we are truly to develop effective and sustainable AIDS prevention strategies amongst males who have sex with male.

PP1-04

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICES/BEHAVIOURS RELATED TO HIV/AIDS AMONG CHINESE WOMEN IN BUDDHIST TEMPLE, JINJANG, KUALA LUMPUR

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There has been a three fold increase in the number of infected women in Malaysia in the last ten years. Because Chinese men are more likely to visit sex workers they tend to become infected through heterosexual transmission. Due to the fact that their infections are generally detected when they contract AIDS, their wives are highly vulnerable. This was a cross-sectional study conducted to determine the level of knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS, attitude towards HIV/AIDS and practices/behaviour related to HIV/AIDS among 73 Chinese women who attended the weekly meditation, yoga, religious and singing classes held at a Buddhist Temple in Jinjang, Kuala Lumpur. Data was gathered with the use of a self administered questionnaire in Mandarin or English. Results showed that mothers with fewer children had significantly higher knowledge about HIV/AIDS ($r = -0.488$, $p < 0.01$). Mean knowledge scores of working mothers