

PREMARITAL SEX AS PERCEIVED BY SELECTED CTE STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

Technology has significantly pervaded the society; thus access of any kind of information and material be it audio or visual has been made readily available by a "click." With its advent, good and bad things can happen, moral or immoral, religious or villainous, and the like. One reality brought about by this is premarital sex where teenagers are the ones most involved. The College of Teacher Education students is not spared from these possibilities. There is a high vulnerability for the commission of an act which is believed especially by the conservative groups as something immoral. It is for this reason that the researcher took the initiative to conduct research which delved into the CTE students' perception of premarital sex. Mean and simple correlation was used to treat the data gathered statistically. Having applied these tools, the researcher found out that the respondents have a high level of perception or awareness of the effects of premarital sex. Course and religion are significantly related to the respondents' perception or awareness of premarital sex. The researcher recommends that one must be more discerning in choosing a future partner, someone who does not relish the act. Fortify awareness on the negative effects it brings and the pregnancy test to unmarried students be periodically done as a requirement for enrolment.

Keywords: Premarital sex; Education students; Perception; Effects

Introduction

Adolescence is a critical time for people to receive confirmation from their peers that they are adequate and desirable. Boys and young men have always sought this confirmation in sexual experience; their self-esteem is bolstered by reproductive success and deflated by failure. Many young men have thus been impelled to engage in premarital sex with his women friends regardless of the nature of the relationships. Traditionally the young women often have been confused and somewhat frightened by such male aggression. In fact, their own self-esteem is threatened because the favorable self-concepts have depended upon not having too much sex too soon or with the wrong person. Human relationship, including those that involve in sexual intercourse, are never simple and uncomplicated. The sexually active relationships of teenagers and young adults usually involve ambivalences and anxieties that are concealed from the outsiders. Many young women do not have the orgasm in their

first encounters, and they worry about that failure many of them also have doubts, at least, about whether they are emotionally ready intercourse with a particular man. They worry about whether the man really loves them, about discovering from their parents, about becoming pregnant, and so on.

The point of all these is not that premarital intercourse is always a disappointing experience. It is not. With time and experience, and a loving relationship, it usually becomes very rewarding. What is unfortunate, however, is that some young people seek to allay their own anxieties by forcing other young people prematurely into the same situation. These pressures gain support from the general trend in our society towards sexual permissiveness.

Premarital sex has always been given primordial concern, especially by religious groups as this can bring about unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, Human immunodeficiency virus. In the different across the Philippines, many

unmarried individuals are involved with sexuality. This explains the rise of individuals who are affected with sexually transmitted diseases, unwed mothers, unwanted pregnancies and even abortion. The Philippines has its share of these concerns and problems.

The inequalities against any young man or woman remaining a virgin, time and experience will take care of that. Moreover, there is absolutely no reliable evidence either way to suggest that whether one has had intercourse or not is related to one's later personal or marital adjustment, (Jaccard,193) What is true is that sex in a loving relationship is likely to be far more satisfactory than sex as a means of providing something to oneself, or of gaining the approval of others. Loving sex is far more independent of performance standards and far more likely to strengthen the overall relationship.

This research undertaken by and large did assess the awareness and perception of select CTE students on premarital sex. It also tried to identify which personal factors could affect their perception. Results of this study could provide basic policies on what to do such that proliferation and perpetuation of this act can be arrested. Likewise, it also helps teachers and other school personnel in effectively and efficiently guiding the students.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This study aimed to determine the awareness and perception of CTE students on the effects of pre-marital sex.

This research output sought answers to the following questions, to wit:

1. What is the profile of the respondents in terms of the following:
 - a. course;
 - b. religion;
 - c. no. of siblings;
 - d. movie preference; and
 - e. reading materials preference?
2. What is the level of perception of the respondents towards premarital sex?
3. Is there a significant relationship between the perceptions of the respondents and their personal profile?

Theoretical Framework

Reviews on the literature on parent-adolescent communication about premarital sex and pregnancy were undertaken. Two major areas of research can be delineated: (1) studies of the impact of parent-teen

communication on subsequent sexual and contraceptive behavior and (2) studies of the extent, nature, and timing of parental communication about sexual behavior and contraception. Current theoretical frameworks and research methodologies are evaluated. Issues addressed include the need to develop better measures and theories of the communication process between parents and teenagers and the need to study the problem from the perspective of parents as well as teens. A family-based approach is described as a politically viable and potentially effective method for making an impact on adolescent pregnancy.

In Nigeria, Thompson(1983) research has documented a significant disparity between people's knowledge of HIV/AIDS and the extent to which they act to protect themselves. Data from a survey of 863 adolescent and unmarried young adults, in-depth interviews, and participant observation are combined in this study to explain some of this discrepancy. Young migrants appear to make sexual and contraceptive decisions in relation to gender norms and attitudes concerning procreation at least as much as in relation to fear of disease. Assessments of current and potential partners, choices about whether or not to have sex, and decisions about whether or not to use condoms are influenced by shared cultural values regarding the importance of parenthood. These cultural conceptions of parenthood are gender-specific and put men and women in different negotiating positions with regard to sex and contraception.

Premarital and sexual partnerships in rural Malawi, the purpose of money exchange extends beyond the alleviation of female partners' economic constraints, and, second, by clarifying this broader purpose, it becomes possible to recognize where women exert control over their own sexual selves, (Gruinset and Kippav,1997) These findings come from field observations and a rich set of in-depth interviews(N=54), bolstered on occasion by survey data, conducted with young women and men, aged 15–24 years, in the Balaka district in the southern region of the country. This research demonstrates that, contrary to typical expectations, money and gift transfers in sexual partnerships are part and parcel of the courting practices of young Malawian women and men. Transfers are as much about the expression of love and

commitment as they are about meeting the financial needs of women or the acquisition of sex for men. Using the narrative information to shed light on the semiotics of the sex–money link, these findings from Malawi offer a new perspective that broadens usual interpretations of transactional sex, the understanding of which is critical in fighting AIDS.

According to (Strouse,1985)parents and educators have been concerned with the impact of sex education courses and sources of sex information on premarital sexual behavior. This study investigates different sources of sex information, including parents, peers, and others, and how they influence premarital sexual behavior among American college students. This exploratory research is based on the secondary analysis of cross-sectional data from a national probability sample of 1,177 college students interviewed about their sexual behavior and sexual socialization experiences. Cross-tabulations between several sources of sex information and a composite index of incidence and prevalence of premarital socio-sexual involvement are presented. Among females, sexual behavior was influenced in a negative direction by their mothers and in a positive direction by male friends and independent reading. Among males, sexual behavior was influenced in a negative direction by clergymen and in a positive direction by male and female friends and independent reading. Due to the availability of cross-sectional data only, the need for cautious interpretation is emphasized.

A growing body of literature finds an inverse association between religiosity and several types of deviant behavior. Although studies of adolescent sexuality form a large part of this literature, it is not clear that their results necessarily pertain to adults. This study examines the relationship between religiosity and the number of sexual partners among never-married adults in pooled samples of the General Social Survey. The major findings indicate that religiosity reduces the number of partners and does so partly because of moral disapproval of premarital sex. Fenweik, (1998) said, “The Bible clearly shows that practice on premarital sex is not acceptable.” Likewise, Earle, (2007) also cited that faith and values were the most important reasons for abstaining from premarital sexual intercourse.

Twenty-one parental and 16 adolescent topic-specific reservations that parents and

adolescents may have about discussing sex and birth control were explored in a sample of 751 African American. Inner-City youths (14 to 17 years old) and their mothers. Both maternal and adolescent perspectives were obtained with regard to the prevalence of specific reservations and the extent to which they were predictive of communication behavior. Topic-specific reservations were predictive of communication behavior over and above more general family environment variables, such as the quality of the parent-teen relationship and the overall quality of communication in general. A number of interaction effects were found, suggesting a differential impact of reservations as a function of the age and gender of the adolescent. The types of reservations expressed by parents were not correspondent with the types of reservations expressed by adolescents,(Daniel,2004)

Lou (2007) found out that male held more permissive attitudes toward premarital sex than females did with both boys and girls expressing greater permissiveness to male premarital sexual behavior. On the other hand, according to Finkie (1998), the Bible clearly shows that practice on premarital sex is not acceptable. However, people, in general, are becoming more acceptable in this practice as time goes by.

Using data from nearly 600 adolescents aged 12–19 in combination with data collected from 33 primary schools that the adolescents attended, this report explores whether certain aspects of the school environment affect the initiation of premarital sex among girls and boys in three districts of Kenya. The results suggest that, although neither the school nor the home appears to influence whether boys engage in sex prior to marriage, for girls, a school characterized by a gender-neutral atmosphere appears to reduce the risk of their engaging in premarital sex. Furthermore, although policymakers in Kenya are clearly concerned with the problem of “schoolgirl pregnancy,” the data indicate that in this sample, pregnancy is not the primary reason that girls leave school.

Reported attitudes of American adults toward premarital, extramarital, and homosexual relations in the mid 970s are examined by use of data from seven independently drawn national samples of about 1,500 respondents each. Standards concerning extramarital and homosexual relations were

highly restrictive, but standards concerning premarital sex were much more permissive and were rapidly changing in a permissive direction. Examination of reported attitudes by sex, age, race, religious preference, and level of education revealed marked intercategory variation. Jews, persons with no religion, young adults, and persons with more than 12 years of school were distinctly more permissive—and Protestants, older persons, and persons with less than 12 years of school were distinctly more restrictive—than the adult population as a whole.

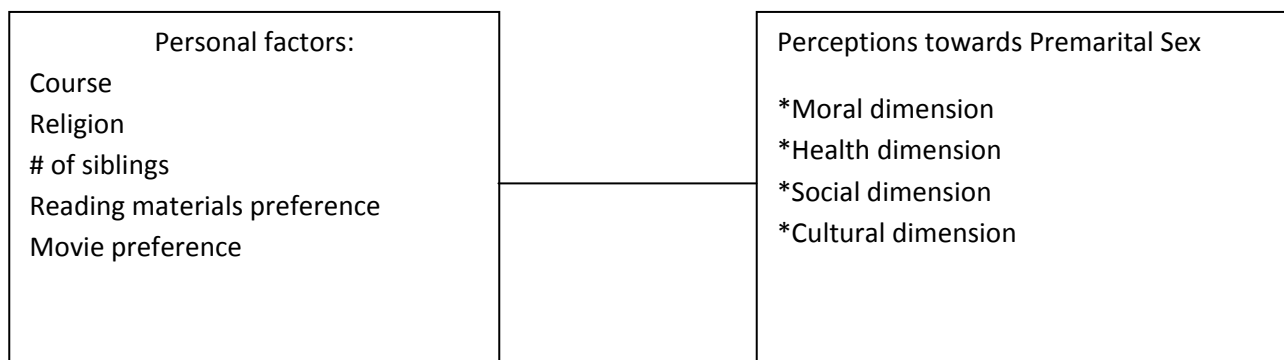
This points out some of the limitations of formal sex education, especially when contrasted with the influence of informal sources. It also examines some of the plausible reasons for the lack of success of sex education and reviews literature which suggests that the informal sources of sexual socialization, especially television, may dilute the impact of school programs. The new sex education of the 1970s and 1980s is characterized by the impartial teaching of factual information, nonjudgmental discussion, and values clarification. The purpose is to promote healthy sexual relationships, encourage responsible decision making, and reduce the incidence of unintended teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. Very young teens may be too cognitively immature to engage in the logical,

premeditated thought process necessary for sexual behavior responsibility. According to Poulin, (2007), the sexual socialization process is very complicated and is influenced by many factors other than classroom instruction. The primary sources of informal sex education—parents and television—have increased in importance as original information sources. Studies show that young people spend more time watching television than participating in any other activity except sleeping. More importantly, heavy television viewers tend to believe that what they see on television represents reality; television may play a very influential role in sexual socialization. The National Federation for Decency reports that on prime-time television, 89% of all sex is presented outside of marriage. When evidence from studies of social learning and observational learning is related to sex on television, the results will show that young people are influenced by the sexual behavior of their favorite characters.

In a capsule, there are factors that can affect one’s awareness and perception of the effects of premarital sex, hence their inclusion in this study.

Conceptual Framework:

This investigation revolved around the conceptual paradigm illustrated below:



METHODOLOGY

To achieve the purpose of the study, the descriptive correlational method of research was utilized. The descriptive survey method was used to describe the respondents of the research. The correlation method was used to look into the relationship between the perception of the respondents toward premarital sex and their personal related factors and so with the relationship between the perceptions of the respondents toward

premarital sex. The respondents of the study are select male and female CTE students of University of Northern Philippines.

Data Gathering Instrument. The researcher gathered the needed data with the aid of a questionnaire. It has two parts:

Part I Collect the personal related factors of the respondents.

Part II Assess the level of perception of the students towards premarital sex.

Statistical Treatment of Data.

This study used the following statistical tools:

a. Frequency count and percentage.

To describe the profile of respondents

b. Mean. To determine the important effect between the student’s level of perception towards premarital sex and environmental factors.

c. Simple Correlation Analysis. To determine the important effects of the student’s level of perception towards premarital sex and their personal profile.

smallest with 3.33 % each. This finding proves that the Philippines is a predominantly Christian country.

In terms of the no. siblings, most of them have 3-4 brothers/sisters with 50% of them; 31.11% have 1-2 brothers/sisters. It must be noted that two of the respondents do not have siblings. As far as movie preferences are concerned, the respondents like to watch romance with 41.11 % of them; followed by action/adventure with 25.56% while the least preferred movie is Sci/fic/fantasy with only 5.56 % of them. Since the respondents are teenagers, it is obvious that their movie preference is either romance or action adventure. Relative to the preferred reading materials, the table revealed that the numbers for fiction, fantasy, and comedy are not significantly different though they have the highest frequencies. Horror is the least preferred. The respondents' choice of movie and reading materials is consistent.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 shows the personal profile of the respondents. The researcher randomly picked 30 students from each curricular program, BSEd, BEEd, and BSIE. In terms of religion, very obviously, Roman Catholic dominates all religious sects with 67.78 %, followed by Born Again with 11.11%. Methodist and 7th Day Adventist has the

Table 1.
Profile of the Respondents

Personal Profile		Frequency
Course		
	BSED	30
	BEED	30
	BSIE	30
Total		90
Religion		
	Roman Catholic	61
	INC	10
	Methodist	3
	Jehovah Witness	4
	7 th day Adventist	3
	Born Again	9
Total		90
No. of Siblings		

	None	2
	1-2	28
	3-4	45
	5 and above	15
Total		90
Movie Preference		
	Drama	18
	Comedy	7
	Action-Adventure	23
	Romance	37
	Sci-fi/Fantasy	5
Total		90
Reading Materials Preference		
	Drama	16
	Horror	5
	Fiction	20
	Fantasy	24
	Comedy	25
Total		90

Table 2 reveals the perceptions/awareness of the respondents towards premarital sex. The overall level of their perception is high supported by a mean

equivalent to 3.71. The respondents believe that premarital sex relation is not wrong if a 'couple' is in love. With a mean of 4.84, this item has the highest score.

Table 2
Perceptions of CTE Respondents on Premarital Sex

Perception towards premarital sex	X	DR
1. Neither a man nor a woman should engage in premarital sex.	3.45	A
2. A woman should be virgin before marriage.	4.29	SA
3. A man should be a virgin before marriage.	3.33	U
4. Premarital sexual relation is morally wrong.	4.20	A
5. Having premarital sex injures the dignity of a person	4.18	A

6. Premarital sex degrades and demoralizes individual's life.	4.23	SA
7. Teens value their moral and sexual purity.	4.17	U
8. Engaging in premarital sex is disgraceful act.	4.25	SA
9. Engaging in premarital sex is a sinful act	4.25	SA
10. Sexual relation before marriage is right because it is a kind of biological need.	4.71	SA
11. Premarital sexual relation is not wrong if a "couple" is in love.	4.84	SA
12. Premarital sexual relation is not wrong if the "couple" has been in a steady relationship for quite some time.	4.46	SA
13. Premarital sexual relation is not wrong if the person has only one partner.	4.34	SA
14. Premarital Sexual relation is not wrong if the "couple" plans to marry in the future.	4.47	SA
15. Premarital sex promotes unwanted pregnancy.	3.46	A
16. Premarital sex is okay as the female does not get pregnant.	3.27	U
17. Premarital sex is detrimental to a teen's body that is not yet ready to conceive a baby.	4.25	SA
18. Premarital sex should be acceptable if the "couple" practices safe sex.	3.58	A
19. Premarital sex increases vulnerability of the individual to sexually transmitted diseases (STD's) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)	3.38	U
20. Syphilis, gonorrhea, herpes and human immunodeficiency Virus infections worldwide are the products of premarital sex.	3.90	A
21. Premarital sex is the one reason why Acquired Immune Deficiency (AIDS) is the sixth leading cause of death.	2.98	U
22. Premarital sex leads to mental depression.	3.42	A
23. Premarital sex leads to emotional depression.	3.27	U
24. Premarital sex leads to the dilemma because of the negative consequences attached to it.	3.08	U
25. Premarital sex is socially acceptable.	3.42	A
26. Premarital sexual relations should be acceptable because it can help to select an ideal wife/husband.	3.38	U
27. Premarital sex prior to future intimate relationships causes relationship fractures.	3.47	A

28. Premarital sex should be acceptable to determine if the “couple” is sexually compatible	3.12	U
29. Engaging in premarital sex makes individuals popular.	3.27	U
30. Engaging in premarital sex boosts one’s femininity/masculinity.	3.39	U
31. Premarital sex increases one’s confidence	3.26	U
32. Premarital sex induces guilt feeling that hinders open communication with parent and with other people.	3.35	U
33. There is a probability of an extramarital affair when the couple engages in sex before marriage.	4.18	A
34. Premarital sex is a normal occurrence in our country.	3.59	A
35. Premarital sex has become the norm of the society.	2.73	U
36. Premarital sex is considered taboo.	2.98	U
37. The norms and beliefs of the society hinder the individual from engaging in premarital sex.	4.11	A
38. Premarital sex is considered a huge problem in our country.	3.96	A
39. Our present society promotes premarital sex.	2.67	U
Overall Mean	3.71	H

Legend:

- Strongly agree-----Very High (VH)
- Agree-----High (H)
- Undecided-----Fair (F)
- Disagree-----Low (L)
- Strongly disagree-----Very Low (VL)

Also with a mean of 4.71, they likewise strongly agree that engaging in sexual relationships before marriage is right as it is a kind of biological need. Very importantly and on the other hand, the respondents manifested indecisiveness on several items particularly on whether or not our present society promotes premarital sex, 2.67; and whether or not premarital sex has become the norm of the

society, 2.73. It seems as though that the respondents are equivocal as to what the society is concerning premarital sex. Questions like, "Are there crafted laws that penalize premarital sex?" "Have the partners concerned who indulge in the act the moral obligations even if they have mutual understanding are the ones that bring uncertainty and causing perplexity.

Table 3

Correlation Between the Perception and the Profile of the Respondents

Personal Profile	Rxy
Course	.267
Religion	.418
No. Siblings	.193

Movie Preference	.294
Reading Materials Preference	.323

The 3 indicates the correlation between the awareness/perception of the respondents on premarital sex. It is disclosed in this table that among the personal characteristics of the respondents, only number of siblings was found out to have no significant correlation to perception/awareness of the respondents on the effects of premarital sex. Course, religion, movie preference and reading material preferences do have a bearing on their perception. This finding is supported by that of Daria (2013) in terms of course. She revealed that BSEd, BEED, and AB students are not in favor of premarital sex compared to other courses. She also mentioned that courses under Arts, Sciences, and Education composed mainly of Teacher Education Students should be the role models; they are expected to be good examples because they are future teachers and need not be seen as deviant in the society.

Respondents appear to be conservative. Perhaps many are aware that the Bible does not accept premarital sex (Fenweik, 1998). Earle, et.al. (2007) said that faith and values factors are the most important reasons for abstaining from premarital sexual intercourse.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The majority of the respondents are Roman Catholic.
2. The respondents had a high level of perception/awareness on the effects of premarital sex and said that a woman has to be virgin before marriage; but for a man, he may necessarily not.
3. Course and religion are significantly related to the perception/awareness of students on the effects of premarital sex.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Since some teenagers are vulnerable to sexual temptations, they must be discerning in choosing their friends whether boy or girl especially those who relish premarital sex.
2. Idleness is a source of evil. Students have to give enough attention to their studies. The school is meant for the acquisition of knowledge and not made a place of disgraceful acts.

3. Fortify the awareness of students on the harmful, moral, and academic effects of premarital sex. Related topics may be infused in some subjects.
4. A pregnancy test must be a requirement for enrolment. Policy related to this has to be crafted. In the interest of safety on the part of the pregnant student and her baby, she must be advised not to enroll.

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