

Sexual activity in youths: Their perceptions, values and susceptibility

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Abstract

There had been much discussion in the press about the gradual erosion of moral values among our youth. Much concern had been raised over the rising number of youths who hold permissive values toward pre-marital sex, and the increasing proportion of youths who engaged in sexual activities, or sex-related activities, such as visiting pornographic websites, that might potentially result in actual sexual activities. This study aimed to understand youth trends and issues pertaining to sexual activity before marriage in youth. In particular, it explored (i) youth's ability to resist the desire for sex under circumstances when they were pressured or tempted to have sex, (ii) their experiences of being pressured or coerced into having sex, (iii) perceptions about their peers' sexual activity and about their peers' attitudes towards pre-marital sex, (iii) awareness and impressions of youths who engaged in pre-marital sex, (iv) reasons for wanting or not wanting to have sex before marriage, and (v) experiences of discussing with a helpful adult on intimate personal issues. A survey using a self-administered questionnaire was conducted among 2659 students from five secondary schools in the northeast region.

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