

PARENTS' INVOLVEMENT IN ADOLESCENTS' SEXUALITY AND FERTILITY

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ABSTRACT

This study focuses on the assessment of the extent of parents' involvement in providing guidance on their adolescent children's orientation, understanding and handling of their sexual life and experiences. It also attempted to determine the extent to which identified factors influence adolescents' sexuality and fertility behavior.

The research involved both the parents and their adolescent children as respondents randomly selected from twenty-nine (29) cities and towns of the five (5) provinces in the Cagayan Valley region. It made use of two sets of questionnaire for the two types of respondents.

The study revealed that mothers generally are more involved than the fathers in providing their adolescent children with the needed guidance and direction in terms of modeling and decision making as regards sexuality and fertility behavior. Furthermore, the study revealed that parents who have attained a higher level of education, parents with higher income and with less number of children tend to have greater extent of involvement. The adolescents being within the nurturance of their natural fathers and mothers greatly influenced their experience of sexuality and fertility. Furthermore, their experience of an intact family relationship, conservative family upbringing, positive family values and spirituality (fear of God) greatly influenced their sexual experience.

Keywords: *Parents' Involvement, Adolescents' Sexuality and Fertility*

Introduction

The adolescent stage is claimed to be the “storm and stress” period of human development as it is often riddled with problems of varied types and of different magnitude. It is also a period of rapid and dramatic changes in biological, cognitive, social and psychological make up and functioning of an individual. As such, it is a time of great opportunity and potential as well as of vulnerability and risk. That is, at this stage, a lot of opportunities to maximize their potential come their way owing to their heightened interest and enthusiasm to explore and learn new things but at the same time as they can also become easy prey to the destructive effects of mishandled changes and peculiarities that characterize the adolescence stage.

Adolescence will bring to each young person unprecedented changes both physical and emotional so that one needs time to cope with a “new self” that sometimes appears almost everyday. True to this fact, adolescents tend to suffer from all kinds of normal stress which when not properly handled may lead to their self-destruction.

With these facts, families with adolescent children face the tremendous task of guiding and supporting their children to be able to handle the changes that come along with this stage. It is a natural role of parents to guide their children safely through the transition called adolescence. They should help their children become men and women who accept their sexuality, appreciate their powers of fertility and are ready to take on the responsibility of growing into adulthood. Parents are precisely the persons to whom growing children can and should go for information about all important things in life, including sexual things and by all means, parents should discuss these things openly with their children honestly and without embarrassment.

However, in a country like the Philippines where families are still predominantly conservative, topics of family discussion center mostly on something of economic importance, if not on trivial things that range from personalities to events of superficial importance. Topics about sexuality and fertility are still taboo despite the advent of modern technology and the extensive exposure of children to media. Hence, young people are left to themselves in coping with problems relative to their sexuality and fertility without accurate information or good counsel. Consequently, many adolescents nowadays do not truly understand their sexuality and fertility. More often than not, they reduce their sexuality to genital sex which results

to a growing number of pregnancies among unmarried young women, many of whom resort to abortion, fearing inconvenience and shame. In addition, their lack of understanding of their sexuality and fertility yields several other problems like the proliferation of sexually transmitted diseases, substance abuse, and suicide among other things.

Aware of the many ways by which adolescents are misguided about their sexuality and fertility, and of parents' indispensable role in helping their children understand their fertility and appreciate their sexuality, this study sought to determine the extent of parents' involvement in the adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility in order that proper action will be undertaken by concerned stakeholders to help minimize incidence of adolescents' problems.

Statement of the Problem

This study entitled "Parents' Involvement in the Adolescents' Sexuality and Fertility" sought to determine the extent of parents' involvement in guiding the adolescents' orientation, understanding and handling of their sexual life and experiences.

Specifically, it sought answers to the following questions:

1. What is the profile of the parent-respondents in terms of the following variables?
 - 1.1 age
 - 1.2 religion
 - 1.3 educational attainment
 - 1.4 occupation
 - 1.5 family monthly income
 - 1.6 number of children in the family
 - 1.7 marital status
 - 1.8 type of locality
 - 1.9 ethnic group

2. What is the profile of the adolescent-respondents in terms of the following variables?
 - 2.1 age
 - 2.2 sex
 - 2.3 sibling order
 - 2.4 religion
 - 2.5.1 educational status
 - 2.5.2 educational attainment

- 2.6 academic performance
 - 2.7 monthly income
 - 2.8 occupation
 - 2.9 ethnic group
3. As assessed by the parent-respondents and their adolescent children, what is the extent of involvement of the parent-respondents in the adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility in terms of the following:
- 3.1 orientation
 - 3.2 communication
 - 3.3 supervision/direction
 - 3.4 role modeling
 - 3.5 decision-making
4. Is there a significant difference in the extent of the parents' involvement in the adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility when parents are grouped according to their profile variables?
5. Is there a significant difference in the extent of involvement of the father and the mother in the adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility?
6. Is there a significant difference in the assessment of the parent-respondents and their adolescent children on the parents' extent of involvement in the adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility?
7. To what extent do the following family characteristics influence adolescents' sexuality and fertility?
- 7.1 Parental classes
 - 7.2 Family interaction
 - 7.3 Family relationship
 - 7.4 Parents' manner of children upbringing
 - 7.5 Family values
8. As perceived by the respondents, what are the prevailing problems involving adolescents' sexuality and fertility behavior?
9. Is there a significant difference between the extent of adolescents' problems involving sexuality and fertility when

respondents are grouped according to some selected variables?

10. To what extent do the following factors affect the occurrence of the problems relative to sexuality and fertility?
 - 10.1 family
 - 10.2 peers
 - 10.3 school
 - 10.4 church
 - 10.5 neighborhood/larger community
 - 10.6 government
 - 10.7 media

Method

Research Design

This study used the descriptive method of research. It endeavored to gather, assess, describe and analyze the data indicative of the extent of involvement of the parents in guiding their adolescent children's experience of sexuality and fertility. It attempted to determine the extent to which identified factors influence adolescents' sexuality and fertility behavior.

Assessment of the parents and adolescents through the questionnaire and informal interviews served as bases for the descriptions.

Locale of the Study

This study was conducted in Region 02, particularly in the provinces of Batanes, Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya. Each of these provinces was represented by the towns that were selected according to the sampling technique employed in the study.

Respondents

This study included respondents from the five provinces of Region 02. It required two groups, one group consisting of parents (both parents of the adolescent child as the case maybe) and their adolescent children.

The two groups of respondents were determined using the multistage sampling as described in the sampling procedure.

From the list of towns and barangays of each province, different strata from which the respondents are to be chosen, were identified.

According to Gay (1976), the minimum acceptable size for the descriptive research is 10% of the population while 20% is required for smaller population. Hence, in this study the researchers have decided to use 30% of the population in each stratum. This sample size of respondents is essential as this exceeds the 10% mark as stated by Gay and de Leon, et. al. (1978)

From the total number of towns in each of the five provinces, 30% were taken. From these towns, a number of barangays were identified such that 30% of the total number of barangays in each town was selected. From among these selected barangays, families with adolescent children were identified. From these families, 30% were taken to represent the sample to be investigated. This sample consisted of the parent- respondents (both father and mother, the single parent, adoptive parents, or guardians) and their adolescent children (one adolescent child per family).

The actual number of respondents was determined after consulting the list of towns and barangays with their corresponding population which was obtained from the DILG, Regional Office.

Table A presents the number of respondent families in the five provinces of Region 02.

Table A: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondent Towns and Household Respondents Per Province

PROVINCE	Total No. of Towns/ Cities	No. of Respondent Towns/ Cities	Total No. of Households with Adolescent Children	Frequency	Percentage
Batanes	6	3	287	86	1.66
Cagayan	29	9	4,832	1447	27.88
Isabela	37	11	9,087	2726	52.51
Nueva Vizcaya	15	4	2,260	678	13.06
Quirino	6	2	847	254	4.89
Total	93	29	17,304	5191	100.00

Sampling Procedure

The study made use of the multi-stage sampling. Since the population under investigation is spread out over a wide geographical area, the population was then divided into five provinces which form the first stratum. From each province, 30% of the total number of towns was selected which form the second stratum. From each of these towns, 30% of the total number of barangays was chosen which form the third stratum. From these barangays, the families with adolescent children were identified and which form the clusters. Out of these clusters of families, 30% was taken to serve as respondents. The parent and adolescent respondents were determined using the simple random sampling technique. Both father and mother together with one adolescent child served as respondents.

The following towns/cities consisted the respondent-towns of this study in each province: Cagayan: Alcala, Amulung, Aparri, Enrile, Gonzaga, Iguig, Peñablanca, Piat, Tuguegarao City, Isabela: Cabagan, Cauayan City, Gamu, Ilagan, Mallig, Naguilian, Quezon, Roxas, San Mateo, Sta. Maria, Tumauni, Nueva Vizcaya: Bambang, Bayombong, Dupax del Norte, Solano, Quirino: Diffun, Saguday Batanes:, Basco, Mahatao, Uyugan.

Research Instruments

To gather the needed data, two (2) sets of questionnaire were utilized. Each set consisting of five parts was used by the parents and by the adolescent children. These questionnaires were constructed by the researchers based from the review of related literature and studies. These were shown to experts for comments, suggestions and for refinement. They were further tried out to a small group of adolescents and parents who were not part of the respondents of the study for ease of directions, clarity of language, and reliability of responses.

The first part is designed to gather information regarding the personal profile of the parent and adolescent respondents.

The second part consisted of items that sought to elicit the extent of involvement of the parents in the adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility.

The third part consisted of items on the extent to which family characteristics influence adolescents' sexuality and fertility.

The fourth part dealt with the problems of adolescents relative to sexuality and fertility behavior.

The fifth part contained items on the extent to which identified factors influence adolescents' problems involving sexuality and fertility.

Collection of Data

Initially, the researchers secured the lists of towns and barangays from the Department of Interior and Local Government, Region 02 through a letter of request addressed to the Regional Director. Permission from the town mayors and barangay captains were sought for the identification of the families. The researchers coordinated with the barangay officials in the identification of the respondents. From these lists, the two groups of respondents were selected on the basis of the sampling technique that was employed in the study.

The researchers then floated the questionnaires to the respondents with the assistance of the Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNS) or the Barangay Health Workers (BHW). The directions and content of the two sets of questionnaires were explained to the BNS and/or BHW in the language or dialect that they can understand so that they will be able to answer questions/ clarify terms/concepts in case they will be asked by the respondents. This is also done to enable the BNS and BHWs to clarify respondents' misconceptions/ misinterpretations. Informal interviews were conducted to validate the respondents' responses and to check for inconsistencies.

Analysis of Data

Data were analyzed using the following statistical measures:

The frequency and percentage count were used to describe the personal profile of the respondents.

The weighted mean was employed to describe the respondents' assessment on the extent of parents' involvement, the extent to which family characteristics affect adolescents' sexuality and fertility behavior, and the extent to which identified factors influence the occurrence of these problems relative to adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility.

The t-test and the Analysis of Variance were used to determine the significant differences that exist among the means with respect to the different variables.

The Chi-square test was used to determine whether a significant difference exists on the extent of the adolescents' problems related to sexuality and fertility when respondents are grouped according to some selected profile variables.

The hypotheses stated in this study were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

For a 5-point scale, the following scale was used to describe the respondents' assessment.

Scale	Scale Range	Verbal Interpretation
5	4.20 – 5.00	Very Great Extent
4	3.40 - 4.19	Great Extent
3	2.60 - 3.39	Moderate Extent
2	1.80 - 2.59	Little Extent
1	1.00 - 1.79	Very Little Extent

For a 4-point scale the following scale was used to describe the respondents' assessment.

Scale	Scale Range	Verbal Interpretation
4	3.25 – 4.00	Very Serious
3	2.50 - 3.24	Serious
2	1.75 - 2.49	Moderately Serious
1	1.00 - 1.74	Not a Problem

Summary of Findings

1. Profile of the Parent-Respondents

1.1 Age

Majority of the father and mother respondents belong to age range 40 – 49 years with percentages of 55.13 and 55.71,

respectively. The father-respondents' mean age is 47.08 years while that of the mother-respondents is 44.55.

1.2 Religion

Majority of the parent-respondents are Catholic, 82.51 of the mother-respondents and 84.01% of the father-respondents are Catholic.

1.3 Educational Attainment

Most of the mother-respondents are high school graduates while most of the father-respondents are high school undergraduates.

1.4 Occupation

Majority (60.16%) of the mother-respondents are plain housewives while majority of the father-respondents are self-employed.

1.5 Family Monthly Income

Majority or 65.83% of the parent-respondents have a monthly family income below P10,000.00 followed by those with family income ranging from P10,000.00 – P19,000.00 with a percentage of 27.20.

1.6 Number of Children in the Family

The biggest number or 45.25% of the parent-respondents have 1 – 2 children followed by those with 3 – 4 children (30.90%).

1.7 Marital Status

Majority or 79.68% of the parent-respondents are legally married.

1.8 Type of Locality

Majority or 54.59% of the parent-respondents live in urban areas followed closely by those living in rural areas.

1.9 Ethnic Group

Majority or 63.98% of the mother-respondents and most (45.08%) of the father-respondents belong to the Ilocano ethnic group followed by the Ibanag ethnic group for the mother-respondents and the Tagalog ethnic group for the father-respondents.

2. Profile of the Adolescent-Respondents

2.1 Age and Sex

Almost the same percentage of respondents belong to the different age groups for the male adolescent respondents while for the female, the biggest number belong to the 16 years age group while the least number belong to the 21 years age group. The mean ages of the male and female adolescent-respondents are 17.80 and 17.52 respectively and their overall mean age is 17.65.

2.2 Sibling Order

The biggest number or 41.32% adolescent-respondents are middle children in the family followed by the eldest children.

2.3 Religion

Majority or 80.52% of the adolescent-respondents are Catholic.

2.4 Educational Status

Majority or 66.60% of the adolescent-respondents are in-school while 28.07% are out of school.

2.5 Educational Attainment

The biggest number or 41.96% of the adolescent-respondents are college undergraduates followed by the high school undergraduates.

2.6 Academic Performance

Majority (79.31%) of the adolescent respondents have average academic performance.

2.7 Occupation

Only 16.45% of the adolescent-respondents are employed either as skilled workers, professionals or self-employed while the majority (83.55%) are not engaged in any form of occupation.

2.8 Ethnic Group

Majority or 65.07% of the adolescent-respondents belong to the Ilocano ethnic group.

3. Extent of Parents' Involvement in Adolescents' Experience of Sexuality and Fertility

3.1 Orientation

The father-respondents' assessment of the extent of their involvement in the adolescents' experience of Sexuality and Fertility is to a "Moderate Extent" (3.36) while the mothers' assessment is to a "Great Extent" (3.51).

Based from the children's assessment of their parents' involvement, the mother-respondents are greatly involved with a mean of 3.51 while the father-respondents are moderately involved with a mean of 3.35.

3.2 Communication

Both the father and mother-respondents' assessment of their involvement in their adolescents' experience of Sexuality and Fertility in terms of Communication is to a "Great Extent" with weighted means of 3.47 and 3.61, respectively.

The adolescent-respondents assessed both their fathers and mothers' involvement in terms of communication to a "Great Extent".

3.3 Supervision/Direction

In terms of Supervision and Direction, all respondents - father, mother and adolescent children assessed the father and mother respondents' involvement in the adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility to a "Moderate Extent" with weighted means of 3.18 (father-respondents' assessment), 3.27 (mother-respondents' assessment), 3.10 (adolescent children's assessment of the father) and 3.25 (adolescent children's assessment of the mother).

3.4 Role Modeling

All respondents - father, mother and adolescent children assessed the parents' involvement in the adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility in terms of Role Modeling to a "Great Extent" with weighted means of 3.74 (father-respondents' assessment), 3.80 (mother-respondents' assessment), 3.70 (adolescent children's assessment of the father) and 3.80 (adolescent children's assessment of the mother).

3.5 Decision Making

All respondents - father, mother and adolescent-children assessed the parents' involvement in the adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility in terms of Decision-making to a "Great Extent" with weighted means of 3.61 (father-respondents' assessment), 3.70 (mother-respondents' assessment), 3.61 (adolescent children's assessment of the father's involvement), 3.73 (adolescent children's assessment of the mother's involvement).

4. Parents' Extent of Involvement in the Adolescents' Experiences of Sexuality and Fertility by Area and Province

4.1 Age

With respect to age, parents' extent of involvement varies from little to very great extent in all the areas and in all the provinces.

4.2 Religion

With respect to religion, parents' extent of involvement varies from very little to great extent in all the areas and in all the provinces. In Cagayan and Nueva Vizcaya, the weighted means of the Non-Catholic parents' involvement are higher than those of the Catholic parents. In Isabela, the weighted means of Catholic parents' involvement are higher than those of Non-Catholic parents. In Batanes, the weighted means of the Catholic mothers' involvement are higher than those of Non-Catholic mothers.

4.3 Educational Attainment

With regard to educational attainment, parents' involvement in all the areas varies from very little to very great extent. The involvement of parents is generally greater for those with higher educational qualification.

4.4 Occupation

In terms of occupation, parents' involvement generally varies from moderate to great extent in all areas. Parents who are unemployed tend to have a greater extent of involvement.

4.5 Family Monthly Income

In terms of family monthly income, generally, parents' involvement in all the areas varies from Little to Very Great Extent. Parents with higher income tend to have a greater extent of involvement than those with lower monthly income.

4.6 Number of Children

With respect to number of children, parents' involvement varies from Moderate to Great Extent. Parents with fewer children tend to have a higher extent of involvement in all the areas and in all the provinces.

4.7 Marital Status

In terms of Marital Status, parents' involvement varies from Moderate to Great Extent.

4.8 Type of Locality

With respect to type of locality, parents' involvement varies from Moderate to Great Extent.

4.9 Ethnic Group

With respect to Ethnic Group, parents' involvement varies from Very Little to Very Great Extent.

5. Test for Significant Difference in the Extent of Parents' Involvement in the Adolescents' Experience of Sexuality and Fertility when Parents are Grouped According to Profile Variables

5.1 Age

There is no significant difference in the mothers' extent of involvement in the adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility in the areas of orientation and communication when they are grouped according to age. There is however a significant difference in the extent of mothers' involvement in the areas of supervision, role modeling and decision-making when they are grouped according to age.

The weighted means of mothers' involvement with respect to orientation and communication for the different age groups are almost the same. With respect to supervision/direction, role modeling and decision-making, the weighted means for the different age groups almost vary. Mothers tend to be less

involved as they grow old in the areas of supervision, role modeling and decision-making.

As for the fathers' involvement, there is a significant difference in the fathers' involvement in all areas when they are grouped according to age. Generally, the father-respondents tend to have greater involvement as they progress in age.

5.2 Religion

The mothers' extent of involvement in terms of orientation, communication, supervision/ direction, role modeling and decision making do not significantly vary when grouped according to religion. This observation is also the same for the father-respondents except in the area of Orientation where the Catholic father-respondents have higher extent of involvement than those who are non-Catholic.

Generally, the assessment of the father and mother-respondents' extent of involvement in the adolescents' experience of sexuality does not depend on their religion.

5.3 Educational Attainment

There is a significant difference in the extent of both the father and mother-respondents' involvement with respect to orientation, communication, supervision/ direction, role modeling and decision-making when they are grouped according to educational attainment.

The weighted means on the extent of parents' involvement with respect to orientation, communication, supervision/ direction and role modeling vary when grouped according to educational attainment. Parents with higher educational background generally have greater extent of involvement in all areas than those who have lower degree of education.

5.4 Occupation

There is a significant difference in the extent of both the father and mother-respondents' involvement with respect to orientation, communication, supervision/ direction, role

modeling and decision-making when they are grouped according to occupation.

The weighted means on the extent of parents' involvement with respect to orientation, communication, supervision/ direction and role modeling vary when grouped according to occupation. Parents who are unemployed generally have greater extent of involvement in all areas than those who are employed.

5.5 Family Monthly Income

There is a significant difference in the extent of both the father and mother-respondents' involvement with respect to orientation, communication, supervision/ direction, role modeling and decision-making when they are grouped according to family monthly income.

Generally parents belonging to higher income groups are involved in the adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility to a greater extent than those belonging to lower income groups.

5.6 Number of Children in the Family

The parents' extent of involvement with respect to orientation, communication, role modeling and decision-making significantly vary when grouped according to the number of children in the family.

Parents with fewer children have a greater extent of involvement in the adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility in terms of orientation, communication, supervision, role modeling and decision making than those with more children.

5.7 Marital Status

There are no significant differences in the parents' extent of involvement with respect to communication, supervision, role modeling and decision-making when they are grouped according to their marital status.

On the other hand, a significant difference exists in the fathers' extent of involvement with respect to orientation. In terms of communication, there is no significant difference in the mothers' assessment of their involvement when they are grouped according to marital status.

Generally, the parents' marital status does not have any effect on their extent of involvement in the adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility.

5.8 Type of Locality

There are no significant differences in the assessment made by the father and mother-respondents on the extent of parents' involvement in terms of orientation, communication, role modeling and decision making when grouped according to type of locality. With respect to supervision/ direction, there exists a significant difference in the extent of parents' involvement when grouped according to type of locality.

Parents from urban areas have a greater extent of involvement in terms of supervision/direction than parents who live in rural and rural areas.

5.9 Ethnic Group

Both the father and mother-respondents' assessment on the extent of parents' involvement in the adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility significantly vary in terms of orientation, communication, supervision/ direction, role modeling and decision making when they are grouped according to ethnicity.

6. Test for Significant Differences in the Parent-Respondents' Assessment on the Extent of Parents' Involvement in the Adolescents' Experience of Sexuality and Fertility

There is a significant difference in the assessment of the extent of involvement of the father and mother respondents in the adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility in terms of Orientation, Communication, Supervision/ Direction, Role Modeling, and Decision-Making. Generally, the mean assessment

of the mother-respondents on their extent of involvement in all areas is significantly higher than that of the fathers.

7. Test for Significant Difference in the Assessment of the Parent-Respondents and the Adolescents on Parents' Extent of Involvement in the Adolescents' Experience of Sexuality and Fertility

7.1 Father and Child

There is no significant difference in the assessment of the father respondents and the adolescents on the parents' extent of involvement in the adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility in terms of communication, supervision/ direction, role modeling and decision-making. With respect to orientation, there exists a significant difference in the assessment of the father and the adolescents on the parents' extent of involvement in adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility.

Generally, the father and the adolescent-respondents' assessment of the fathers' extent of involvement in all areas except in the area of orientation do not significantly differ. This means that the fathers' assessment is consistent with that of the adolescents' assessment.

7.2 Mother and Child

There exists a significant difference in the assessment of the mother and the adolescent-respondents on the extent of parents' involvement in the adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility in terms of orientation, communication, supervision/ direction, and role modeling. On the other hand, in terms of decision making, the mother respondents and the adolescents do not differ in their assessment regarding the parents' extent of involvement in the adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility.

8. Extent to which Family Characteristics Influence the Adolescents' Experience of Sexuality and Fertility

The natural father and mother influence adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility to a "Great Extent" with means of 4.08 (mother) and 4.02 (father) while the rest of the parental classes influence adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility to "Moderate/Little" Extent.

Generally, as assessed by both father and mother respondents, parental classes influence adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility to a "Moderate Extent".

Based on the assessment of the parent respondents, an extensive family interaction was rated highest while the minimal family interaction was rated lowest. Generally, family interaction whether extensive, moderate or minimal, influences adolescents' sexuality and fertility to a "Moderate Extent".

An intact family relationship influences adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility to a "Great Extent" while a dysfunctional family relationship influences adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility to a "Moderate Extent".

Generally, family relationship influences adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility to a "Great Extent".

A conservative family upbringing influences adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility to a "Great Extent". Generally, as assessed by the father-respondents, family upbringing influences adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility to a "Moderate Extent" while the mother respondents assessed the influence of family upbringing to a "Great Extent".

Based on the father respondents' assessment, family values influence adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility to a "Great Extent" with fear of God having the highest mean. Regarding the mother-respondents' assessment, family values in terms of respect, trust, loyalty, and fear of God influence adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility to a "Very Great Extent" while integrity and self-worth/dignity have a great influence on the adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility.

Generally, both parents assess the influence of family values on the adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility to a "Great Extent".

9. Problems Involving Adolescents' Experience of Sexuality and Fertility Behavior

The father-respondents assessed pre-marital sex and teenage marriage as "Serious" problems while the other problems that include teenage pregnancy, use of contraceptives, teenage abortion, exposure to pornographic media, occurrence of sexually transmitted diseases, use of prohibited drugs and suicide as "Moderately Serious". Both mother and adolescent children respondents assessed pre-marital sex, teenage pregnancy and teenage marriage as "Serious" problems and the rest as Moderately Serious. Based on the category means, all the three respondents assessed the stated problems as "Moderately Serious".

10. Test for Significant Differences in the Respondents Assessment on the Degree of Seriousness of Adolescents' Problems Involving Sexuality and Fertility when Respondents are Grouped According to Some Selected Variables

10.1 Age

Based from the chi-square results, significant differences exist in the assessment of the father respondents on the degree of seriousness of each of the problems when grouped according to age.

On the other hand, the mother respondents' assessment on the degree of seriousness of the problems on pre-marital sex, teenage pregnancy, teenage marriage, and use of contraceptives and teenage abortion differ significantly when grouped according to age while their assessment on the degree of seriousness of the other problems mentioned do not vary significantly.

With regard to the adolescent respondents' assessment, significant differences exist regarding their assessment on the degree of seriousness of the use of

contraceptives, teenage abortion, and exposure to pornographic media when they are grouped according to age while their assessment does not vary significantly with age in terms of the problems on pre-marital sex, teenage pregnancy, teenage marriage, occurrence of sexuality transmitted disease, use of prohibited drugs and suicide.

10.2 Religion

The father-respondents' assessment of the degree of seriousness of each of the stated problems varies significantly with their religion.

For the mother-respondents, significant differences exist in their assessment of the degree of seriousness of all the problems when grouped according to religion except for teenage abortion and exposure to pornographic media.

For the adolescent respondents, significant differences exist in their assessment of the degree of seriousness of the problems on teenage pregnancy, teenage marriage, use of contraceptives, use of prohibited drugs, and suicide when grouped according to religion.

10.3 Type of Locality

The assessment of the three groups of respondents on the degree of seriousness of all the problems vary significantly with respect to their type of locality.

11. Extent to which Certain Factors Affect the Occurrence of the Problems Relative to Sexuality and Fertility

Biological factors, economic status, emotional stability and religious affiliation affect the occurrence of the problems on sexuality and fertility to a "Great Extent" as assessed by the mother and adolescent respondents, while these factors are assessed by the father respondents as affecting the occurrence of the problems to a "Moderate Extent" except for religious affiliation.

Generally, these individual factors affect the occurrence of the adolescent problems on sexuality and fertility to a “Great Extent” as assessed by the three groups of respondents.

On the other hand, family and school factors are assessed by the father, mother and adolescent respondents as affecting the occurrence of the problems to a “Great Extent”. The neighborhood/larger community, government and media affect the occurrence of the problems only to a “Moderate Extent”.

Generally, environmental factors moderately affect the occurrence of the problems relative to sexuality and fertility as assessed by the three groups of respondents.

Conclusions

Based on the summary of findings, the following conclusions are arrived at:

One of the most important responsibilities of parents toward their children is to provide them with the needed guidance and orientation regarding their experience of sexuality and fertility. Ideally, the father as well as the mother should work closely in giving their children the right information regarding matters that pertain to their sexuality as their children grow. This study however, generally, reveals that mothers are more involved than the fathers in providing the adolescents with the needed guidance and direction in terms of modeling and decision making.

The families who made the study possible typically describe the familial landscape in Region 2. Majority of the parent-respondents belong to age range 40 to 49 years, Ilocanos living in rural areas. They are predominantly Catholic, legally married, at most high school graduates with mothers of the adolescents as plain housewives and with self-employed fathers. Most of the parents in this study have family monthly income less than P10,000.00 with most of them having at most 4 children.

On the other hand, the adolescents who participated in this study have mean age of almost 18 years with most of them being middle children in their family. Just like their parents, the adolescents are predominantly Catholic and most of them are Ilocanos. They, too, are mostly still attending school, thus, considered as undergraduates and not engaged in any form of

occupation. In terms of their academic standing, most of them have average academic performance.

Given the above profile, this study revealed that parents who have attained a higher level of education, parents with higher income and with less number of children tend to have greater extent of involvement. This is expected because parents who are more educated are more likely to have the sufficient knowledge, expertise and the personality to provide their children with the information and guidance they need. As the saying goes, "One can not give what he does not have". In the same manner the parents' income and occupation have something to do with their extent of involvement because parents who have less income will spend more of their time finding other ways of augmenting the finances of their family and will thus barely find time discussing and attending to the concerns of their adolescent children. Lastly, occupation and family size, particularly on the parents' number of children, tend to have an effect on the extent of parents' involvement in the adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility. Parents who are unemployed and with fewer number of children will definitely have more time to spend with their children to discuss matters, issues and problems that have to do with their experiences on sexuality and fertility.

The adolescents being within the nurturance of their natural fathers and mothers greatly influence their experience of sexuality and fertility. Furthermore, their experience of an intact family relationship, conservative family upbringing, positive family values and spirituality (fear of God) greatly influence their sexual experience. Indeed, an adolescent will likely become better oriented and directed in his sexuality under a family that is intact where good family children upbringing is a great concern for parents. An adolescent truly gets to understand better his sexuality when he is equipped with positive family values such as respect, trust, loyalty, fear of God and a lot more. He eventually learns to appreciate his body, his sexuality and become better able to handle responsibly his power of fertility when he experiences respect and trust from other people.

Recommendations

In the light of the findings and the conclusions reached, the researchers hereby recommend the following:

- 1) That older adults especially parents be educated on handling issues of adolescent sexuality in order to promote positive attitudes among the young.
- 2) That the adolescents be encouraged to talk openly about their concepts and attitude regarding sexuality, for them to develop the capacity to decide on sex related issues and to develop positive attitudes towards sexuality and fertility.
- 3) That the Commission on Population through its local chapters conduct orientation, capability building activities and seminars on Family Planning and Responsible Parenthood for parents as regards their responsibility as parents of adolescents with emphasis on the fathers' involvement.
- 4) That Sex Education be integrated in the different subject areas in school starting from grade school specifically in subjects where they are most relevant.
- 5) That the school through its Guidance Center design educational and counseling programs that address the adolescents' specific interests, needs and characteristics based on their gender, age, socio-economic status and other variables.
- 6) That the Commission on Population, Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development and other concerned agencies provide activities/opportunities to properly channel adolescents' interests, dynamic character towards more productive endeavors.
- 7) That the seriousness of the problems on pre-marital sex, teenage pregnancy and teenage marriage identified by the respondents of this study should be addressed and sufficiently given attention to by parents, teachers and all other individuals, entities, agencies or organizations.
- 8) That the Catholic Church and all other religious denominations remain the most potent force in influencing the parents to provide guidance and direction to the adolescents' experience of sexuality and fertility.

- 9) That parents and teachers maintain a healthy harmonious family and school environment characterized by openness, respect and trust in order for the adolescents to be more open in discussing with them their experience of sexuality and fertility.
- 10) That parents observe sound family planning practices so they can have quality time to assist, orient, direct and supervise their children in handling their experiences of sexuality and fertility effectively.

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