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Sex and Sexuality among Unwed Mothers in Kerala

Giji George¹

Abstract

The lack of factual knowledge of sexual matters among teenagers is often attributed as one of the major causes of unwed pregnancies. This article attempts to find out the relevance of the knowledge on sexual matters among the unwed mothers residing in the licensed homes in Kerala. A standardized scale on Sex and Sexuality developed by Rao (2006) was used to measure the same. The study also seeks to understand whether there is any association between age and education, and the knowledge about sex. The respondents (unwed mothers) were selected from the nine licensed homes based on an inclusion criteria. Findings revealed that the overall knowledge about sex among the unwed mothers was very low. There was association between education and sexual knowledge. There was no association between the level of sexual knowledge and age of unwed mothers. The results offer guidance to human service agencies in making decisions on additional components and enhancements to existing programmes and services for unwed mothers.

Keywords

unwed mothers, licensed homes, knowledge on sexuality

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