UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

IMPACT OF SEXUAL KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE, AND EXPOSURE TO PORNOGRAPHY ON SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR AMONG URBAN ADOLESCENTS IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

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MASTER OF SCIENCE
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IMPACT OF SEXUAL KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE, AND EXPOSURE TO PORNOGRAPHY ON SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR AMONG URBAN ADOLESCENTS IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

By

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August 2012

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Adolescents’ liberal sexual behaviour is becoming a distressing trend for the country, with increasing number of teenage girls getting pregnant and seeking help from welfare department. This study aimed to determine the association between sexual behaviour with its selected contributing factors (sexual knowledge, sexual attitude, exposure to pornography, gender and having a romantic partner). The respondents were 860 adolescents, aged 13 to 18 years, from developed urban areas in north (Penang Island), central (Klang Valley) and south (Johor Bahru) of Peninsular Malaysia. Data were gathered through self-administered questionnaire. Statistical analyses employed were descriptive analysis which is Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) to describe the data, Principle Component Analysis (PCA) to analyze the component of data, and Spearman’s Rho and Path Analysis to test the hypotheses of the study.
Approximately 36% of the respondents reported that they engaged in at least one type of sexual behaviour; and 11% of the respondents engaged in sexual intercourse. In general, male respondents and respondents who reported having a romantic partner appeared to be more active in sexual behaviour. Results of the Spearman’Rho correlation indicated that sexual attitude, exposure to pornography, gender and have a romantic partner were significantly associated with sexual behaviour among respondents.

The finding of path analysis showed that the model supported the direct relationship between sexual attitude and exposure to pornography with sexual behaviour. The direct relationship between sexual knowledge and sexual behaviour was not supported by the model. The results of the study also indicated that exposure to pornography mediates the relationship between sexual attitude and sexual behaviour. Gender moderates the influence of sexual attitude on sexual behaviour. The influence of sexual attitude on sexual behaviour is stronger for male compared to female respondents. In addition, having a romantic partner did not moderate the relationships between sexual knowledge, sexual attitude, and exposure to pornography with sexual behaviour. The findings of the study highlighted that positive sexual attitude and less exposure to pornography may prevent adolescents from engaging in sexual behaviour especially among male adolescents.

Overall, the study contributes to the fundamental understanding of Malaysian adolescents’ development, specifically on sexual development. In addition, the findings of the study also imply the need to encourage positive sexual attitude among respondents. The findings from this study may provide useful information regarding adolescents’
sexual behaviour to educators, policy makers, parents and caregivers, counsellors and professionals who work closely with adolescents.
Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Ijazah Masta Sains

**KESAN PENGETAHUAN SEKSUAL, SIKAP SEKSUAL, DAN PENDEDAHAN KEPADA PORNOGRAFI PADA TINGKAH LAKU SEKSUAL DALAM KALANGAN REMAJA BANDAR DI SEMENANJUNG MALAYSIA**

Oleh

**WONG FUI PING**

Ogos 2012

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Tingkah laku seksual remaja yang liberal menjadi satu trend yang membimbangkan bagi negara ini, dengan bilangan remaja perempuan yang mengalami kehamilan dan mendapat bantuan daripada jabatan kebajikan semakin meningkat. Kajian ini bertujuan menentukan hubungan antara tingkah laku seksual dan faktor-faktor penyumbang kepada tingkah laku seksual (pengetahuan seksual, sikap seksual, pendedahan kapada pornografi, jantina dan mempunyai pasangan romantik) dalam kalangan remaja bandar. Responden terdiri daripada 860 orang remaja yang berumur di antara 13 hingga 18 tahun, dari kawasan bandar di utara (Pulau Pinang), tengah (Lembah Klang), dan selatan (Johor Bahru) Semenanjung Malaysia. Data dikumpul melalui borang soal selidik yang ditarik sendiri. Analisis statistik yang digunakan dalam kajian ini adalah *Exploratory Data Analysis* (EDA) untuk memerihal data, *Principle Component Analysis* (PCA) untuk
menganalisis komponen data, Sperman’s Rho dan Path Analysis (PA) untuk pengujian hipotesis.

Kira-kira 36% responden melaporkan bahawa mereka terlibat dalam sekurang-kurangnya satu jenis tingkah laku seksual; dan 11% responden terlibat dalam hubungan seksual. Secara umum, responden lelaki dan responden yang melaporkan mempunyai pasangan romantik didapati lebih aktif dalam tingkah laku seksual. Keputusan kajian menunjukkan bahawa pendedahan kepada pornografi, jantina dan mempunyai pasangan romantik mempunyai perkaitan yang signifikan dengan tingkah laku seksual dalam kalangan responden.


vi
Secara keseluruhan, kajian menyumbang kepada pemahaman asas tentang perkembangan tingkah laku remaja Malaysia, khususnya tentang perkembangan seksual. Di samping itu, dapatan kajian ini juga membeli implikasi penting menggalakkan sikap seksual yang yang positif dalam kalangan responden. Kajian ini boleh memberikan maklumat berguna yang tentang tingkah laku seksual remaja kepada para pendidik, pnggubal polisi, ibu bapa dan penjaga, kaunselor dan professional yang bekerja rapat dengan remaja.
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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 15 Ogos 2012 to conduct the final examination of Wong Fui Ping on her thesis entitled “Sexual Behaviour and Its Contributing Factors among Malaysian Urban Adolescents” in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Science (Psychology of Child Development).

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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citation which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

_____________________
WONG FUI PING
Date: 15 August 2012
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRAK</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</td>
<td>viii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPROVAL</td>
<td>ix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECLARATION</td>
<td>xii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE OF CONTENTS</td>
<td>xv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF FIGURES</td>
<td>xvi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</td>
<td>xvii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1. Background of the Study</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2. Statement of the Problem</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3. Research Questions</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4. Significance of the Study</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5. The Objectives of the Study</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6. Hypotheses</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7. Theoretical Background</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7.1. Social Cognitive Theory</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7.2. Sexual Script</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.8. Conceptual Framework</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.9. Definition of Terms</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. LITERATURE REVIEW</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1. Adolescents and Sexual Behaviour</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2. Adolescents and Sexual Knowledge</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1. Sexual Knowledge and Sexual Behaviour</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3. Adolescents and Sexual Attitude</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.1. Sexual Attitude and Sexual Behaviour</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.4. Adolescents and Exposure to Pornography 43
   2.4.1. Exposure to Pornography and Sexual Behaviour 46
2.5. Gender Differences in Adolescents’ Sexual Behaviour 48
2.6. Having a Romantic Partner and Adolescents’ Sexual Behaviour 51
2.7. Exposure to Pornography as Mediator 55
2.8. Gender as Moderator 59
2.9. Having a Romantic Partner as Moderator 62
2.10. Summary 65

3. METHODOLOGY 66
   3.1. Research Design and Data Collection 66
      3.1.1. Design of the Study 66
      3.1.2. Location of Study 67
      3.1.3. Sampling Methods 68
      3.1.4. Respondents of the Study 69
      3.1.5. Instrumentation 71
      3.1.6. Procedures 73
   3.2. Data Preparation 74
      3.2.1. Cleaning Data 74
      3.2.2. Missing Data 75
      3.2.3. Data Reduction Technique 76
   3.3. Data Analysis 78
      3.3.1. Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) 78
      3.3.2. The Analysis of Correlation 79
      3.3.3. Development of Structural Equation Model 80
         3.3.3.1. Mediation Analysis 82
         3.3.3.2. Moderation Analysis 84
4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Result of Principle Component Analysis

4.1.1. Sexual Behaviour

4.1.2. Sexual Attitude

4.2. Descriptive Findings

4.2.1. Results of Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA)

4.2.2. Sexual Behaviour

4.2.3. Sexual Knowledge

4.2.4. Sexual Attitude

4.2.5. Exposure to Pornography

4.3. Hypotheses Testing

4.4. Summary of the Results

5. CONCLUSION, IMPLICATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Summary

5.2. Conclusion

5.3. Implication

5.4. Limitations

5.5. Recommendations

REFERENCES

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: QUESTIONNAIRE

APPENDIX B: PILOT TEST SUMMARY

BIODATA OF STUDENT

xiv