



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

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

WONG FUI PING

FEM 2012 26

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



WONG FUI PING

**MASTER OF SCIENCE
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

AUGUST, 2012

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science in Psychology of Child Development

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

By

WONG FUI PING

August 2012

Chair : Siti Nor Yaacob, PhD

Faculty: Human Ecology

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's 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.



© COPYRIGHT UPM

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

Pengerusi: Siti Nor Yaacob, PhD

Fakulti: Ekologi Manusia

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 kepada 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 ditabir 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.

Penemuan analisis laluan menunjukkan bahawa model menyokong perhubungan langsung di antara sikap seksual dan pendedahan kepada pornografi dengan tingkah laku seksual. Perhubungan langsung di antara pengetahuan seksual dan tingkah laku seksual tidak disokong oleh model. Hasil kajian juga menunjukkan pendedahan kepada pornografi mengantarai perhubungan di antara sikap seksual and tingkah laku seksual. Jantina memoderasi perhubungan di antara sikap seksual dan tingkah laku seksual. Pengaruh sikap seksual ke atas tingkah laku seksual adalah lebih kuat untuk responden lelaki berbanding responden perempuan. Di samping itu, mempunyai pasangan romantik tidak memoderasikan hubungan di antara pengetahuan seksual, sikap seksual, dan pendedahan kepada pornografi dengan tingkah laku seksual. Penemuan kajian ini menekankan bahawa sikap seksual yang positif dan kurang pendedahan kepada pornografi mungkin dapat mencegah remaja daripada terlibat dengan tingkah laku seksual terutamanya dalam kalangan remaja lelaki.

Secara keseluruhan, kajian menyumbang kepada pemahaman asas tentang perkembangan tingkah laku remaja Malaysia, khususnya tentang perkembangan seksual. Di samping itu, dapatan kajian ini juga memberi implikasi penting menggalakkan sikap seksual yang positif dalam kalangan responden. Kajian ini boleh memberikan maklumat berguna yang tentang tingkah laku seksual remaja kepada para pendidik, punggabal polisi, ibu bapa dan penjaga, kaunselor dan professional yang bekerja rapat dengan remaja.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many people have provided support and assistance to me in some way during the process of completing Master programme. First, I would like to thank my parents and my siblings for all the support during my graduate studies. They always stood by me with words of encouragement. I am truly grateful for all the strong emotional support and contribution that they have given me throughout my experience in graduate studies.

Second, my gratitude goes to my supervisory committee chair, Dr. Siti Nor Yacob, for her expertise, advise and excellent editing suggestion. She was patient, supportive and always dedicated a tremendous amount of her time and effort to make the dissertation possible. I also would like to thank another supervisory member, Prof. Dr. Rozumah Baharudin for all her in-put, insight and guidance in the work.

I also would like to extend my appreciation to all my friends who encouraged me and helped me. Special mention is made of Irene Tan, Iris Goh, Sandy Hong and Lim Hui Jun. I am incredibly grateful for their willingness to lend their listening ears and helping hands when it was most needed during the process of completing Master programme.

Finally but not the least, my profound gratitude and deep appreciation to my beloved and caring husband, Lean Yeok Chiun, for all his constant understanding, encouragement, endless love and support during my study. I deeply appreciate all the sacrifices that he has made for me.

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).

Members of the Thesis Examination Committee were as follows:

Prof. Madya Dr. Nobaya binti Ahmad

Jabatan Sains Kemasyarakatan dan Pembangunan
Fakulti Ekologi Manusia
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Chairman)

Dr. Hanina Halimatunsaadiah binti Hamsan

Jabatan Sains Kemasyarakatan dan Pembangunan
Fakulti Ekologi Manusia
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Internal Examiner)

Dr. Ma’rof bin Redzuan

Jabatan Sains Kemasyarakatan dan Pembangunan
Fakulti Ekologi Manusia
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Internal Examiner)

Prof. Madya Dr. Azizi Yahaya

Department of Educational Foundation
Faculty of Education
University Technology Malaysia
81310 Skudai
Johor

BUJANG KIM HUAT, PhD

Professor and Deputy Dean
School of Graduate Studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia
Date:

This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of **Psychology of Child Development**. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

Siti Nor Yaacob, PhD

Senior Lecturer
Faculti Human Ekologi
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Chairman)

Hajjah Rozumah Baharudin, PhD

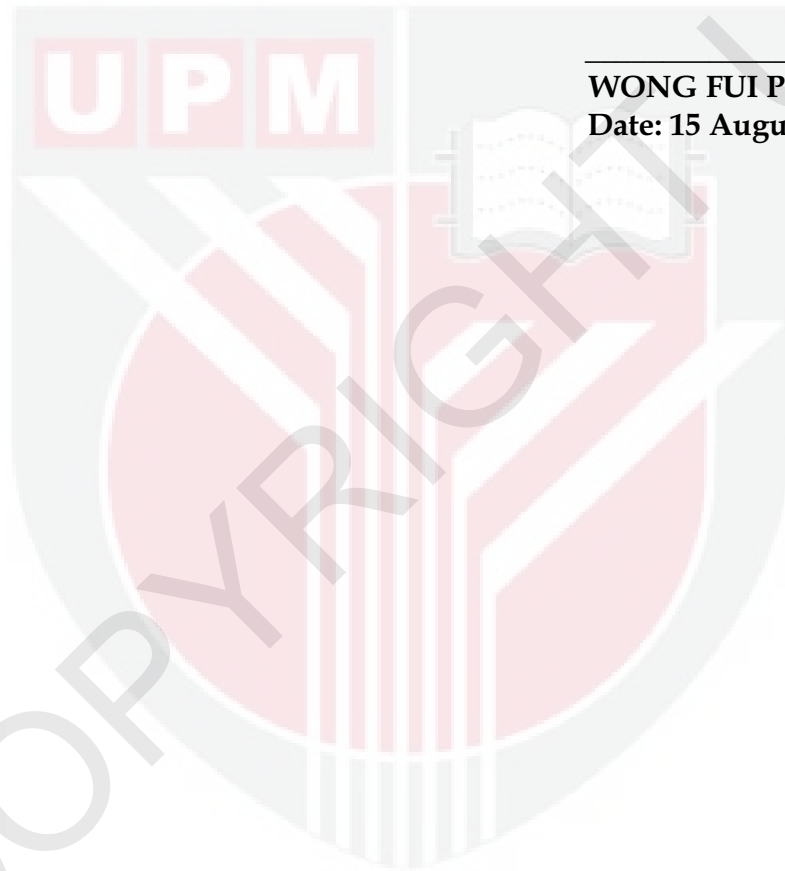
Professor
Faculti Human Ekologi
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Member)

BUJANG BIN KIM HUAT, PhD

Professor and Dean
School of Graduate Studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia
Date:

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

	Page
ABSTRACT	ii
ABSTRAK	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	viii
APPROVAL	ix
DECLARATION	xii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	xv
LIST OF FIGURES	xvi
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xvii
CHAPTER	
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1. Background of the Study	1
1.2. Statement of the Problem	6
1.3. Research Questions	9
1.4. Significance of the Study	10
1.5. The Objectives of the Study	12
1.6. Hypotheses	13
1.7. Theoretical Background	14
1.7.1. Social Cognitive Theory	15
1.7.2. Sexual Script	17
1.8. Conceptual Framework	19
1.9. Definition of Terms	23
2. LITERATURE REVIEW	26
2.1. Adolescents and Sexual Behaviour	26
2.2. Adolescents and Sexual Knowledge	31
2.2.1. Sexual Knowledge and Sexual Behaviour	34
2.3. Adolescents and Sexual Attitude	37
2.3.1. Sexual Attitude and Sexual Behaviour	41

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	86
	4.1. Result of Principle Component Analysis	86
	4.1.1. Sexual Behaviour	86
	4.1.2. Sexual Attitude	87
	4.2. Descriptive Findings	91
	4.2.1. Results of Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA)	91
	4.2.2. Sexual Behaviour	91
	4.2.3. Sexual Knowledge	93
	4.2.4. Sexual Attitude	98
	4.2.5. Exposure to Pornography	102
	4.3. Hypotheses Testing	103
	4.4. Summary of the Results	123
5.	CONCLUSSION , IMPLICATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	125
	5.1. Summary	125
	5.2. Conclusion	130
	5.3. Implication	131
	5.4. Limitations	134
	5.5. Recommendations	135
	REFERENCES	138
	APPENDICES	154
	APPENDIX A: QUESTIONNAIRE	154
	APPENDIX B: PILOT TEST SUMMARY	164
	BIODATA OF STUDENT	168