

The Onset Factors towards Adolescents Premarital Sexual Intercourse

Khairiyah Hj. Md. Shahid¹, Siti Hajar Abu Bakar Ah², Haris Abd. Wahab³, Noralina Omar⁴, Mohd Alif Jasni⁵

¹Faculty of Administrative Science & Policy Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Seremban, Negeri Sembilan

^{1,2,3,4,5}Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan

Abstract

Sexuality is a very sensitive topic to discuss openly for some society. In regards to the Islamic rules and values, the issue of premarital sexual intercourse is prohibited within the Muslim society. This study intends to comprehend the onset and contributing factors of Malay adolescent girls' decision making towards engaging in premarital sexual intercourse. Methodologically, semi-structured interviews were conducted in this study to understand about Muslim young girls' sexual decision-making out of wedlock. The results of a qualitative data are present and discussed. Data analysis shows that their involvements with premarital sex issues categorized into two broad spectrums: personal factors and social influences. Since issues of premarital sex can lead to many other social problems such as teenage and unwanted pregnancy, abortion as well as sexually transmitted diseases, therefore a serious intervention needs to be developed and closely monitored.

Keywords: *premarital sexual, decision making, adolescents, sexuality, illegitimate child*

INTRODUCTION

Received: 5 May 2018
Accepted: 29 October 2018
Published: December 2018

Recently, the number of reported cases of social problem has been increasingly year-by-year especially with the alarming trend of premarital sexual experience among the younger generation. As a Muslim majority population country, the trend and issues of premarital sex among Malaysian adolescents especially in regards to young Muslim girls need serious attention due to the alarming rise of the teenage pregnancy rate. Currently, in both developed as well as developing countries, the phenomena of sexual intercourse among adolescents have become a major health issue worldwide.

With reference to Malaysian context, about 472 cases of baby dumping has been reported from 2005 until June 2011 whereas an average of 4,500 of adolescents gets pregnant out of wedlock each year (The Star Online, 2015, October 29). Besides, it is also reported that about 63 percent (%) of respondents in a cross sectional studies

admitted that they get pregnant due to the consensual sexual intercourse with their partners (Tan et al., 2012). Moreover, statistic from the National Registration Department also reveal that about 53,000 of child birth are registered without their father's name or known as illegitimate child (New Straits Times, 2011).

This paper is organized into three stages. Discussion starts with an overview of premarital sex as a background of the study. In the second stage, discussion related to the review of the empirical literature. The discussion then will be followed by the main finding as well as discussion about specific factors that influence Malay adolescents girls' decision in engaging with premarital sexual intercourse. Finally, the discussion ends with the suggestion and conclusion aspects. In this study, the focus of the study is on understanding adolescents' premarital sexual decision-making among those below 18 years of age.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In Malaysia, Malays are the largest Malaysian ethnic group amounting to half of the total population besides other ethnics such as Chinese, Indians, Sabahans, Sarawakians, and many more. Currently, it has been reported that number of adolescents who engaged in premarital sex activity is alarming especially among the Muslim adolescents even though Malaysia has a strong Islamic foundation. In the area of sexuality, Muslims are prohibited to be involved in sexual intercourse especially before marriage. The only accepted with regards to sexual intercourse are between husband and wife.

According to French and Dishion (2003), premarital sex can be defined as all forms of sexual behaviour that comes from sexual desire in the opposite sex by adolescents before marriage. Furthermore, Alo and Akinde (2010) summarize that premarital sex as phenomenon of teenage and unintended pregnancies, abortion, the spread of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). In line with this, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) also reported that, about 2.2 million adolescents worldwide are suffering from HIV with majority of them are females adolescents. Besides, according to this report also, about 11% of worldwide births involve adolescents in the bracket age between 10 to 19 years of age (UNICEF, 2012).

In discussing about sexuality, most countries worldwide especially in regards to religious views on premarital and extramarital sex, majority of them are against this act. In relation to this, Muslim community place higher concern on virginity before marriage. Religiosity reflects the degree of one's devotion and passion towards religion

(Salleh, 2012). According to Ahmad et al. (2011), those who have fewer behavioural problems normally practise personal prayers as well as have a strong personal faith. Moreover, a study done by Adamczyk and Hayes (2012) among 90 countries reveals that in comparison to other religions, Muslim and Hindus are found to be less involved or have a low rate of premarital sex. In comparison to African and other developed countries, the peak age of adolescents' involvement with premarital sex is between 15-19 years of age (Allen et al., 2013; Doyle et al., 2012). According to Anwar et al. (2010) and Manaf et al. (2014), in Asian countries it was revealed that about 5 to 13% of a lower prevalence has been reported comprising Malaysia but expected to rise due to the improvement in social status, delayed marriage as well as the globalization of mass media. Therefore, it is necessary to study about adolescents' sexual initiation in order to understand about complexity of adolescents sexual activity especially regards to premarital sex. As mentioned by Guilamo-Ramos et al. (2008), by changing the behavioural intention, it may lead to a positive behavioural outcome.

Based on Department of Statistic Malaysia, from year 2006 to 2010, it shows that about 234,647 illegitimate births were registered. Whereas, based on this number, about 34% or 80,979 of the babies' mother are Muslims. This is related to the involvement of the adolescents towards premarital sexual intercourse at the school age (Utusan Malaysia, 2012; Berita Harian, 2010, May 19). Looking at the onset age towards this issue, many studies indicate that it is varying based on the demographic and socioeconomic factors of the youth (Makenzius & Larsson, 2013; Farahani et al., 2012). In looking at the developing countries, most of the boys and girls are engaged with premarital sex as early as before their 15th birthdays. In Malaysian context, year by year, issues of premarital pregnancy are alarming. Based on the statistical report, adolescents in the bracket age of 10-19 years have reported to be involved with premarital sex and become pregnant out of wedlock amounting to 16,528 (Utusan Online, 2015, December 1). Moreover, each year about 4,500 adolescents get pregnant before they get married. This figure is also in line with the statistic reported by the National Registration Department with regards to the alarming number of illegitimate child birth (Table 1)

Table 1: Illegitimate child in Malaysia 2013-2015

Year	Fact & Figure
2013	53,492
2014	54,614
2015	51,169

Source: National Registration Department

Moreover, it is very hard to understand why the adolescents involved with premarital sex activity at a young age. A study by Symons, Vermeersch, and Van Houtte (2014) reveal that there are three factors associated with this activity among youth namely individual socio-demographic, interpersonal as well as lack of family structure and parental involvement. Besides, it is also reported that those adolescents who were raised by single family as well as from low income family have a high chances to be engaged with premarital sexual intercourse at an early aged (Blum et al., 2000). Apart from that, in referring to the factors contributing towards Muslim adolescents' engagement in sexual intercourse out of wedlock, Salasiah et al. (2012) reported that personal factors are the main influences towards unwanted pregnancy. This related to the element of religious as well as ignorance of Islamic rules and regulation in their daily lives.

In relation to this, intimacy was highlight as other contributing factors that contributed towards adolescents' early involvement with premarital sex (Symons, Vermeersch, & Van Houtte, 2014). Moreover, risks factors such as being under the influence of alcohol and increase in number of partners also reported to early initiation of sexual intercourse (Standfort, Orr, Hirsch, & Santelli, 2008). The puberty period, believe towards their love relationship as well as viewing pornographic material also increase the excitement to know about sex (O'Hara, Gibbons, Gerrard, Li, & Sargent, 2012). Furthermore, smoking habit, experience with tobacco and drugs correlates with high involvement with sexual risk (Mason et al., 2012; Makenzius & Larsson, 2013).

METHODOLOGY

The study adopts qualitative approach by utilizing the researchers' experience in understanding about the onset and contributing factors that influence the adolescents' premarital sexual engagement. Through face-to-face meeting as well as direct communication between researcher and respondents, help the researcher to gain more precise and complete information about the respondents' experiences with premarital sex. The interviews conducted with two trainees in one of the government shelter institutions for the care and rehabilitation of children in the Klang Valley. Interview participants were chosen through a purposive sampling technique based on set of inclusion criteria that was set prior to the interview. The inclusion criteria were based on; Adolescents Malay girls, aged below 18 years, residing at the institution for at least two months and experienced with premarital sex.

The "thematic analysis" methods were used to interpret the information collected through an interviews session. Firstly, were grouped into several forms such as individual words or sentences based on transcribed scripts. Then, the key points were

summarizing into two broad spectrums, which are Personal Factors and Social Influences and listed based on categories or themes related to the research under study. The themes or categories that are applicable to the study are Love Relationships, Addicted to Social Media, Lack of Problem Solving Skill, Obstructive Home Environment, Low level of Religious Adaptations, Peers/friends Influences, and Absence of Role Model.

Research Samples and Interviews Protocol

Two respondents representing the shelter institution participated in the study based on set of inclusion criteria set up prior to the study. Both of the respondents have been residing at the rehabilitation institution for at least two months during the period of the study and have an experience with premarital sexual intercourse. Interviews were semi-structured and lasted between 45 minutes to an hour. All interviews were recorded using the digital recording devices and transcribed verbatim. The questions were divided into four sections. Questions in the interview protocol covered respondents' demographic profiles and what factors affecting their decision-making in engaging with premarital sex at an early age. Both participants voluntarily participated in the study by giving consent. The respondents were also well informed regarding this inform consent form where they have their own rights to withdraw at any point of time from participating as respondents if they are reluctant or uncomfortable to continue with the interview process. In order to protect the confidentiality of the respondents; therefore, each of them was assigned with an anonymous coding during the analysis as well as for reporting the finding of the study.

FINDINGS

Although two broad spectrums were found as a finding results; Individuals Factors as well as Social Influences (refer Table 2) but for the purpose of discussion in this paper, the discussion will centre on the "Social Influences" only, which includes Low Level of Religious Adaptations, Obstructive Home Environment, Peers/friends Influences, and Lack of Parental Monitoring. Besides that, the onset of Adolescents premarital sex will also be discussed as part of the findings.

Table 2: Factors contributing towards adolescents' premarital sexual intercourse

Individual Factors

Social Influences

Love Relationship
Addicted to Social Media
Lack of Problem-Solving Skill

Low level of Religious Adaptations
Obstructive Home Environment
Peers / Friends Influences
Lack of Parental Monitoring

Low level of Religious Adaptations

In this research, when asked to explain about how they practise Islam in their daily life as a Muslim. Both respondents admit that they are not practising Islamic rules as well as values as stipulated by the Islamic principles. Both respondents explained:

“ I did not perform solat as others.. I mean... sometime I do it, sometime I just ignore... besides, everybody at home also did not care whether I am performing my solat or not.... ”

“ If I feel tired, I just ignore my solat. For the whole day, sometime I only perform Solat Zohor (afternoon prayer)... ”

(Respondent 01, 16 years, Kulai, Johor)

“ I seldom perform my prayers... but my boyfriend always encourages me to perform the solat even though he also rarely performs his solat... ”

“ When he forces me to solat, then I perform the prayer.... He always calls me ask whether I have performed my solat... If I in mood, I will do it... if not, I just lied to him.. hahaha... ”

(Respondent 02, 17 years, Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu)

They also added that their family members also do not comply with Islamic rules and values in their daily lives First respondent (R01) explained that her father as well as her sister also does not pray. Her father seldom performs his prayer and sometime he does not perform at all. It is also same goes to her sister. She also did not perform her solat. Besides, she also added that during the fasting month, all of them (father, sister, herself) never fulfil their 30 days of fasting as required by the Islamic guideline:

“ My father performs his solat based on his mood... sometime he did perform it but most of the time he seldom pray... my sister also did the same thing.... I can say that most of the time both of them did not pray.... ”

“ Not only prayer, all of us also never fulfil the required 30 days of fasting requirement during Ramadhan Eve... if too tired, my father just simply not fasting... me and my sister too... opppssttt”

(Respondent 01, 16 years, Kulai, Johor)

Besides, second respondent (R02) also did mention the same thing. She admits that most of her family members also seldom perform their prayers. She also added that during the Ramadhan Eve, most of her family members fulfil their duties except herself:

“ Even though everybody (mum and siblings) know about the duties to perform the solat but because of working as well as personal reason most of them seldom perform the prayers.... But, during Ramadhan, most of them are fasting except me....when I meet my friends, I just ignore it... means that I'm not fasting.. haha...”

(Respondent 02, 17 years, Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu)

Obstructive Home Environment

On the other hand, when asked whether home environment contributed towards their engagement with premarital sex, both respondents agreed with this statement. They mentioned that family structures, communication among family members as well as lack of support system are among the factors. They explained:

“I feel uncomfortable staying at home because I did not have a good relationship with my family especially with my mum...my mum and dad divorced when I was 6 years old.... I do not hate my mum... but I don't like the way she treat me... her nagging attitude make me fed-up to stay at home... that's why I more closed with my boyfriend family members.... I always come overnight at my partner's parent house and because of that, we always do it (sexual intercourse) together....”

“ Apart from that, the reason why I'm not having a closer relationship with my mum is because at that time (age 8-9 years old) she got married with another man... therefore, I decided to stay with my dad.. Other siblings stay with my mum”

“Moreover, the reason why I didn't like to stay at home is because the structure of the house.... all together we have 7 of us stay in a house and we

need to share between the three rooms... the size of the house also small.... I feel stress facing this situation..."

(Respondent 02, 17 years, Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu)

"I miss my childhood life.... My mum and dad divorced when I was a baby... my dad raised us (me and my sisters) alone... they divorce because my mum wanted to marry other man... then she left us (siblings) with my dad... my dad still single until now... pity him...."

(Respondent 01, 16 years, Kulai, Johor)

Peers/Friends Influences

Moreover, Friends/Peers Influences is another factor contributed towards their engagement with premarital sex. Both of the respondents admitted that, normally friends introduced to them many things as well as encouraged them to get involve with those kinds of negative issues :

"My friends, mostly my schoolmates often discuss sexual issues... they often shared with me about pornographic pictures as well as videos... since most of us have our own hand phoned, it is more easier for us to exchange the pornographic material..."

"Besides, they also introduced many gadget applications such as WhatsApp and WeChat... through this application we can chat with outsiders and gain many input as well"

(Respondent 01, 16 years, Kulai, Johor)

"We always watched porno videos when hang out together.... most of the time my male friends start watching, then everybody will give their opinion and discuss it openly"

(Respondent 02, 17 years, Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu)

Apart from that, when asking about where they learnt about sexuality, the first respondent (R01) explained :

“Reading material and own searching are the most important sources... besides, during school age some of my friends has engaged with sexual intercourse and they always shared their experienced...”

“My first experienced engaging with sexual intercourse was last year... I was in form three at that time... within two week of our relationship and we declared as a couple, then we just do it...”

(Respondent 01, 16 years, Kulai, Johor)

The first respondent (R01) faced many challenging situation compared to the second respondent in regards to friendship. She admitted that she had experienced with many negative influences from her circle of friends. She had involved with drugs, alcohol as well as clubbing. According to her:

“Through my friends, I had experienced with clubbing.... Even though I am still under age, I can enter to the nightclub easily through their line... I tried many things here... drinking as well as sexual intercourse experienced.”

“Before this, I had many special boyfriends....12 of them... when the relationship end, I always get a new boyfriends (couple)... and surprisingly, throughout the relationship, I had slept with majority of them... most of the time when we hang out together, it normally end at the hotel.”

(Respondent 01, 16 years, Kulai, Johor)

Lack of Parental Monitoring

Lack of parental monitoring is another factor contributing towards the onset of their sexual intercourse at an early age. Family working hours lead to minimal parental

supervision towards their children. Therefore, the unsupervised time that adolescents have make them free to do many things. The admit that:

“During my free time...besides reading romantic novel, I also search about sexual knowledge through Internet.... I watch pornographic videos... pictures and many more.... I feel ashamed to ask my family... therefore I search on my own.”

“Besides, my dad normally gives permission to chit-chat with my friends’ even though he knew that majority of them are male.... he set a rules that I need to be in the house before 12pm but he did not ask me what I’m doing...his nature of work make him less monitor towards my daily schedule”

“Surprisingly, he also did not know about my pregnancy at that time even though I am 6 months pregnant... we stay in one roof but he did not aware of this due to his tight working schedule”

(Respondent 01, 16 years, Kulai, Johor)

“I always feel bored at home because my mum always busy with her tight schedule.. in a day, it is very hard to see her and talk to her... she work with caterer and also involved with many political agenda”

“Besides, she always attended meeting because she hold many position within the society such as the Chairman of Single Mother society, JKKK and many more... that’s why I always left our home and more closed with my friends”

(Respondent 02, 17 years, Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu)

When asked whether this will affect their relationship with the school, both of them agreed that lack of parental monitoring affect their attitude at school. They explained:

“My dad did not aware that I lie to him... he thought that I went to school but in reality I didn’t go.. Me and my friend hangout at the mall, restaurant

as well as cyber café... most of the time we never change our school uniform but nobody care about that”

(Respondent 01, 16 years, Kulai, Johor)

“I don’t like to be at home... same goes to school.. I go to school just because I want to meet my friends.. I have no feeling towards studying.. That’s why I involved with many disciplinary problem such as truancy... many time received warning letter but I didn’t give to my mum...she never know whether I’m attending school or not because as early as 5am she have left the house for work..”

(Respondent 02, 17 years, Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu)

DISCUSSION

This study found that Social Influences also give significant contribution towards the onset factors of adolescents’ premarital sexual engagement beside Personal Factors. Low Level of Religious Adaptations, Obstructive Home Environment, Peers/friends Influences, and Lack of Parental Monitoring are major sub-themes for Social Influences factors.

In Islam, premarital sexual is prohibited among Muslim. The only legal sexual intercourse is, if it happened within the marriage. Low Level of Religious Adaptations such as not complying with Islamic rules and regulation seem to encourage the adolescents to involve with many negative influences. Many past studies indicate that the adolescents who highly religious are much more delaying their sexual intercourse at an early aged (Gilbert, 2008; Chamratrithirong et al., 2010; Shirazi & Morowatisharifabad, 2009). Although the adolescents know about the Islamic rules and regulation but they seem to ignore that. Since both respondents in this study are not complying with Islamic guideline thoroughly, therefore the finding can conclude that there are relationships between religion’s influences on person sexual behaviour. If the person does not have a highly context with Islamic rules and values, it is easier for them to get involved by the negative influences.

Obstructive Home Environment is also having a link relationship with the Friends/Peers Influences towards the adolescents’ involvement in premarital sexual intercourse. Both respondents in this study admitted that their family structures are not supportive during their childhood times. Their parents did not impose good examples in

their upbringing. Therefore, they always seek happiness outside the home. This is in line with a study conducted by Tsala et al. (2011) and Peltzer et al. (2011) whereby they reported that a positive family environment such as family stabilization as well as childhood socialization help to lessen the adolescents' involvement with premarital sexual intercourse. Besides, other studies also indicate that majority of adolescents who involve with premarital sexual intercourse come from broken family (Salasiah et al., 2012).

Moreover, adolescents who are engaged with problematic friends/peers such as those related to delinquency issues, having criminal record as well as having bad character will encourage them to be involved with sexual intercourse at an early stage (Salasiah et al., 2012). The finding is also supported by a study conducted by Halpern and Haydon (2012) whereby they found three quarters of their respondents admitted that they have experience with vaginal intercourse before the age of 18 whereas 67% of them also admitted that they also engaged in oral sex. This shows that peers give a big impact in influencing their friends to get involved with negative issues. Nowadays, access to the Internet is much easier. Everybody can access it even for a minor. A study in Denmark also reveal that Internet become the most common sources of sexual knowledge among their adolescents and this also influences their sexual decision making (Lauszus et al., 2011). One of the respondents in the current study (R1) has admitted that she has experienced many negative influences such as clubbing as well as alcohol intake in relation to her involvement with sexual intercourse. This result is also in conjunction with other studies whereby those who are highly engaged with sexual risks are normally those who have been experiencing tobacco, drugs, smoking as well as intake of alcohol (Mason et al., 2012; Makenzius & Larsson, 2013).

Lack of parental monitoring is another factor found as result of this finding. Both respondents reveal that this factor also gives a major impact towards their engagement with premarital sex. When there is less supervision, it is easier for them to be influenced with the negative issues. A study by Fagan, Van Horn, Antaramian, and Hawkins (2011) also supported this finding. In their study, they also found that minimal parental supervision such as poor family monitoring become a factor lead towards negative involvement among adolescents. Those who have close relationship with their parents are observed to be less risky.

CONCLUSION

This research has shown the ways in which factors relating to Low Level of Religious Adaptations, Obstructive Home Environment, Peers/friends Influences, and Lack of Parental Monitoring influence adolescents Malay girls towards their

engagement with premarital sexual intercourse. Key findings reveal that individual low self-defence is the most important element that influences these four factors. The findings also show that the positive development of young generation can be achieved through close monitoring towards their positive daily life practice. Based on this finding, it is suggested that there is a need for Interpersonal prevention program such as a module of health counselling as well as education life skills beside sex education. It is also important to educate the parents to improve parent-teen communication skills. Since those involved with premarital sex are below 18 years old, the highly risk group such as those come from divorced family, drop out from school system as well as those involved with delinquency problem need to be equipped with sexual knowledge at an early age.

REFERENCES

- Ahmed, S. R., Fowler, P. J., & Toro, P. A. (2011). Family, public, and private religiousness and psychological well-being over time in at-risk adolescents. *Mental Health, Religion & Culture, 14*(4), 393-408.
- Alex Mason, W., Hitch, J. E., Kosterman, R., McCarty, C. A., Herrenkohl, T. I., & David Hawkins, J. (2010). Growth in adolescent delinquency and alcohol use in relation to young adult crime, alcohol use disorders, and risky sex: A comparison of youth from low-versus middle-income backgrounds. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, 51*(12), 1377-1385.
- Allen, C. F., Edwards, P., Gennari, F., Francis, C., Caffè, S., Boisson, E., ... & Jack, N. (2013). Evidence on delay in sexual initiation, multiple partnerships, and condom use among young people: Review of Caribbean HIV behavioural studies. *West Indian Medical Journal, 62*(4), 292-298.
- Anwar M., Sulaiman, S. A., Ahmadi, K., & Khan T. M. (2010). Awareness of school students on sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and their sexual behaviour: A cross-sectional study conducted in Pulau Pinang, Malaysia. *BMC Public Health, 10*, 47.
- Berita Harian (2010). Retrieved from <http://www.bharian.com.my/>
- Blum, R. W., Beuhring, T., Shew, M. L., Bearinger, L. H., Sieving, R. E., & Resnick, M. D. (2000). The effects of race/ethnicity, income, and family structure on adolescent risk behaviours. *American Journal of Public Health, 1879-1884*.
- Chamrathirong, A. A., Brenda A. M., Hilary, F. B., Orratai, O. R., Pamela, K. C., Michael J. R., Warunee, W. F., Katharine, A. A., & Warunee, W. C. (2010). Spirituality within the family and the prevention of health risk behaviour among adolescents in Bangkok, Thailand. *Social Science and Medicine 71*, 1855-1863.

- Doyle, A. M, Mavedzenge, S. N., Plummer, M. L., & Ross, D. A. (2012). The sexual behaviour of adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa: Patterns and trends from national surveys. *Trop Med Int Health*, 17(7), 796-807.
- Fagan, A. A., Van Horn, M. L., Antaramian, S., & Hawkins, J. D. (2011). How do families matter? Age and gender differences in family influences on delinquency and drug use. *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, 9, 150-170.
- Farahani, F. K., Shah, I., Cleland, J., & Mohammadi, M. R. (2012). Adolescent males and young females in Tehran: Differing perspectives, behaviours and needs for reproductive health and implications for gender sensitive interventions. *Journal of Reproduction & Infertility*, 13(2), 101-110.
- Gilbert, S. S. (2008). The influence of Islam on AIDS prevention among Senegalese University Students. *AIDS Education and Prevention*, 20, 399-407.
- Guilamo-Ramos, V., Jaccard, J., Dittus P., Gonzalez, B., & Bouris, A. (2008). A conceptual framework for the analysis of risk and problem behaviours: The case of adolescent sexual behaviour. *Social Work Research*, 32(1), 29-45.
- Halpern, C. T., & Haydon, A. A. (2012). Sexual timetables for oral-genital, vaginal, and anal intercourse: Socio-demographic comparisons in a nationally representative sample of adolescents. *American Journal of Public Health*, 102, 1221-1228.
- Lauszus, F. F., Kloster, A. O., Nielsen, J. L., Boelskifte, J., Falk, J., & Rasmussen, K. L. (2011). Gender-specific knowledge on sex. *Journal of Gynaecology and Obstetrics*, 283(2), 281-287.
- Makenzius, M., & Larsson, M. (2013). Early onset of sexual intercourse is an indicator for hazardous lifestyle and problematic life situation. *Scandinavian Journal of Caring Sciences*, 27, 20-26.
- Manaf, M. R. A., Tahir, M. M., Sidi, H., Midin, M., Jaafar, N. R. N., Das, S., & Malek, A. M. A. (2014). Pre-marital sex and its predicting factors among Malaysian youths. *Comprehensive Psychiatry*, 55, 82-88.
- O'Hara, R. E., Gibbons, F. X., Gerrard, M., Li, Z., & Sargent, J. D. (2012). Greater exposure to sexual content in popular movies predicts earlier sexual debut and increased sexual risk taking. *Psychological Science*, 23(9), 984-993.
- Peltzer, K., & Pengpid, S. (2011). Prevalence and social correlates of sexual intercourse among school-going adolescents in Thailand. *Science World Journal*, 11, 1812-1820)
- Salasiah Hanim Hamjah, Mohd Al-Adib Samuri, Rosmawati Mohd Rasit, Fariza Mohd Sham, Zaliza Mohd Kusrin, Zainab Ismail, & Nazirah Kamal Basah (2012).

- Factor related to Premarital Pregnancy among Muslim Adolescents in Malaysia. *Research Journal on Medical Sciences Medwell Journal*, 6(6), 266-271.
- Salleh, M. S. (2012). Religiosity in development: A theoretical construct of an Islamic-based development. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 2(14), 266-274.
- Shirazi, Kambiz K., Mohammad A., & Morowatisharifabad (2009). Religiosity and determinants of safe sex in Iranian non-medical male students. *Journal of Religion and Health*, 48, 29-36.
- Standfort, T. G., Orr, M. Hirsch, J. S. & Santelli, J. (2008). Long-term health correlates of timing of sexual debut: Results from a national US study. *American Journal of Public Health*, 98, 155-161.
- Symons, K., Vermeersch, H., & Van Houtte, M. (2014). The emotional experiences of early first intercourse: A multi-method study. *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 29, 533-560.
- Tan, P. S., Tohid, H., Su, X. V., Tan, K. T. M., Azimah, M. N., & Khairani, O. (2012). A study on pregnant adolescents residing in a government home: Common characteristics and their views on the pregnancy. *Malaysian family physician: the official journal of the Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia*, 7(1), 11.
- Tsala Dimbuene, Z., & Kuate Defo, B. (2011). Family environment and premarital intercourse in Bandjoun (West Cameroon). *Archives Sexual Behaviour*, 41, 351-361.
- UNICEF (2012). *Progress for children: A report card on adolescents*. New York, NY: UNICEF.
- Utusan Malaysia (2012). Retrieved from <http://www.utusan.com.my/>
- Utusan Online (2015). Retrieved from <http://www.utusan.com.my/>