

A Descriptive Study to Assess the Knowledge Regarding Sex Education in High School Students in Government Higher Secondary School, Salem

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ABSTRACT

A descriptive cross sectional survey approach study was conducted to assess the knowledge level of higher secondary school students regarding sex education in Government higher secondary school, Salem. Data were collected from 50 higher secondary school students by Purposive sampling technique. Findings revealed that highest percentage (34%) of school students were in the age group of 17 years. Highest percentages (66%) of school students were Female. Highest percentage (70%) of the school students were from nuclear family. Highest percentage (44%) of the school students father educational qualification were graduates. Highest percentage (54%) of the school students father occupation was daily wagers. Highest percentage (36%) of the school students with a family monthly income of above Rs.10, 000. Further area wise distribution of the mean knowledge score percentage of students regarding concepts of sex education is 61.6%, male sex organs 66%, female sex organ 61.42%, family planning 49%, sexually transmitted diseases 58.32% and other aspects of human relationship and sexual behavior is 58.6%.

The Overall knowledge score of school students regarding sex education highest percentage (48%) of had average knowledge. Chi square values for the demographic variables were non-significant for Age, sex, type of family, father educational qualification and father occupation. Highly significant for the Family monthly income.

KEY WORDS: Knowledge, Sex Education, School Students

INTRODUCTION

"Providing basic information

Provides foundation on which more complex knowledge is built up over line"

Early education on sex is a very sensitive subject that is still considered a taboo in Indian Society and this topic is not discussed so much so far. Even there is a growing recognition of the need to inculcate responsible reproductive behavior among the adolescents. Thus before formally introducing the topic of sex education, it is extremely important to know the perception, of people, parents, teacher and school children regarding sex education to avoid any adverse effects¹.

Need for the Study

Sex is probably an area of life about which common man knows very little and whatever little they happen to know is through sources like friends, acquaintances and cheap sex books. Parents, teachers and elders in India hardly play any significant role in imparting scientific knowledge. Mothers are reluctant to deal with it. Fathers deny any role and they leave it to mothers. Teachers hesitate in discussing these topics and they are usually left for self study.²

The state of sex education programs in Asia is at various stages of development. Indonesia, Mongolia, South Korea have a systematic policy framework for teaching about sex within schools. . India has programs aimed at children aged nine to sixteen years. In India, there is a huge debate on the curriculum of sex education and whether it should be increased. Attempts by state governments to introduce sex education as a compulsory part of the curriculum have often been met with harsh criticism by political parties, who claim that sex education "is against Indian culture" and would mislead children.³

A descriptive study was conducted at senior secondary schools in Kumasi metropolis regarding adolescents' attitude towards sex education on 320 adolescents selected by stratified purposive random sampling and found out that the respondents were overwhelmingly in support of the view that sex education should be made part of senior high school curriculum. It was again revealed through the study that sex education can be improved in senior secondary schools by establishing counseling centres.⁶

Objectives

1. To assess the knowledge of students regarding sex-education.
2. To assess the knowledge regarding sex-education with selected demographic variables.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research approach	:	A Descriptive Study Design was used for the study
Research design	:	Cross Sectional Survey approach was used for the study
Setting of the study	:	The study was conducted in Government Higher Secondary School, Attayampatti, Salem.
Population	:	The present study sample selection from senior secondary students of class 11 th and 12 th from government higher secondary, Attayampatti, Salem.

- Sampling Technique** : Purposive sampling technique was used for the present study.
- Sample Size** : The sample size consists of 50 school students between 16- 18 years, studying in the government higher secondary, Attayampatti, Salem.

Description of the Tool

Tools consists of two sections

Section - A

Deal with demographic data of school students between 16 – 18 years. It consist of 8 items which seek information about the demographic characteristics, such as Age, sex, type of family, father educational qualification, father occupation and family monthly income.

Section - B

Deals with Knowledge, it consists of 30 questions, Questions are arranged as following score headings.

(TableNo.3.1.1)

Sl. No	Subsection	No. of item
1	Concept of sex education	5
2	Male sex organ	5
3	Female sex organ	7
4	Family planning	4
5	Sexually transmitted diseases	6
6	Other concept of human relationship and sexual behaviour	3
	Total	30

Knowledge Scoring and Percentage

(TableNo.3.1.2)

Level of knowledge	Knowledge score	Percentage
Poor	1-7	1-25%
Average	8-14	26-50 %
Good	15-21	51-75%
Excellent	22-30	76-100 %

Method of Data Collection

Ethical Consideration

- Permission was obtained from the principal of Vinayaka Mission's Annapoorana Collage of Nursing, Salem.
- Written permission was obtained from the head mistress of government higher secondary school Attayampatti, Salem. After the oral consent will obtain from each sample prior to data collecting process
- After explaining the purpose of the data collection procedure, prior to interview self introduction and purpose of interview were clearly explained to each school students to obtain maximum co-operation and consent from them

Planned Data Analysis

The collected data was analyzed by using both descriptive statistics. Such as percentage, mean and standard deviation and presented in the form of tables and figures.

RESULT

TableNo.4.3.1 : Area wise analysis of knowledge regarding sex education.

S.No.	Area of knowledge	No. of questions	Mean score	Mean score percentage	Standard Deviation
1.	Concept of sex education	5	30.8	61.6%	2.71
2.	Male sex organ	5	33	66%	8.94
3.	Female sex organ	7	30.71	61.42%	4.01
4.	Family planning	4	24.5	49%	15.46

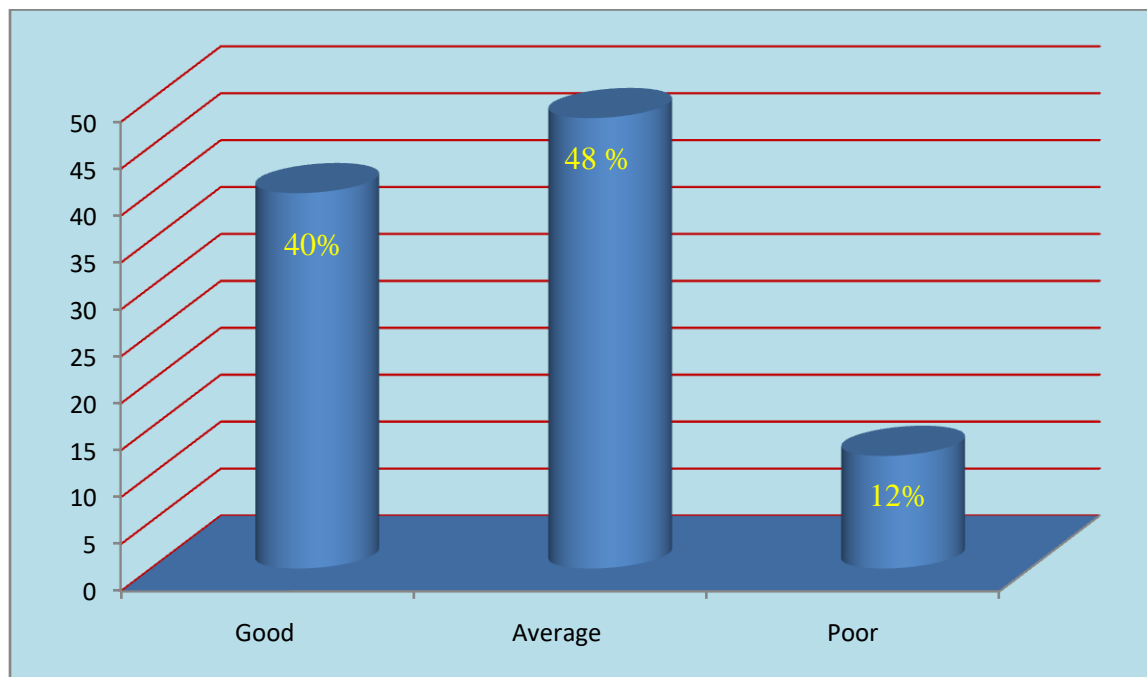
5.	Sexually transmitted diseases	6	29.16	58.32%	10.44
6.	Other concept of human relationship and sexual behaviour	3	29.3	58.6%	2.07

Area wise analysis of knowledge score percentage of students regarding concepts of sex education is 61.6%, male sex organs 66%, female sex organ 61.42%, family planning 49%, sexually transmitted diseases 58.32% and other aspects of human relationship and sexual behavior is 58.6%.

Table No. 4.3.2: Overall knowledge score of school students regarding sex education

S.No.	Knowledge of students	Frequency(f)	Percentage (%)
1.	Good	20	40%
2.	Average	24	48%
3.	Poor	6	12%

Figure 4.3.1



The knowledge of school childrens were graded into 4 levels. According to the score highest percentage (48%) of school students had good knowledge, 12% of school childrens had poor knowledge and 40% of school childrens had good knowledge

CONCLUSION

A descriptive survey was conducted to assess the knowledge regarding sex education in high school students in government higher secondary school Attayampatti, Salem the period of study was 6 days the tool used for the study consists of two parts. 50 samples were selected by purposive sampling technique and data was collected by using questions and the results reveals that highest percentage (48%) of school students had average knowledge, 12% of school students had poor knowledge of sex education.

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