

Sexual Knowledge, Attitudes, and Contraceptive Knowledge among Male High School Students in Korea

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Abstract. The purpose of this study was to examine sexual knowledge, attitudes, and contraceptive knowledge among male high school students in Korea. As a cross-sectional study, a questionnaire survey was conducted in G high school and an investigation carried out by a structured survey of 79 male high school students. The results are as follows: The mean of correct answer rate on sexual knowledge was 12.18 ± 6.49 of 30 items. The mean score of sexual attitudes was 2.25 ± 0.32 . The mean correct answer rate of contraceptive knowledge was 1.56 ± 2.48 of 15 items. Sexual knowledge had a positive correlation with sexual attitudes ($r=.67, p<.001$), and contraceptive knowledge had a positive correlation with sexual attitudes ($r=.28, p=.012$). Based on the findings from our survey, we advise that promotion of sex and contraceptive related knowledge be targeted towards male high school students. Sex and contraceptive education should be sustained and reinforced among the male high school students in Korea.

Keywords: Sexual Knowledge, Attitudes, Contraceptive Knowledge, High School Students

1 Introduction

In Korea, Ministry of Education and Science Technology has recommended middle schools and high schools to include sex education which would include 10 or more hours a year in their educational curriculum. However, the reality is that systematic sex education lacks because of current school environments that focus on the examinations for entrance to colleges and teenagers defenselessly have been exposed to sexually explicit movies, vulgar chatting and websites [1]. As a result, there are various sexual issues related to teenager in our society because they have been exposed to distorted sexual knowledge and adult culture; they have accepted such misguided sexual knowledge inconsiderately [2]. It is reported that especially, male students who are in their adolescent period are more likely to lose their control and end up involving in sexual activities because they have not developed appropriate sexual behavior

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and values [3]. Therefore, this study is aimed to suggest basic material that guides teenagers with appropriate sex education by investigating their sexual knowledge, sexual attitudes, and contraceptive knowledge among male high school students.

2 Methods

2.1 Research procedure

This study is targeted to investigate sexual knowledge, sexual attitudes, and contraceptive knowledge among male high school students and examine the correlations between the variables.

One male high school which is located in G city was selected and a survey was conducted by 100 sophomore students. Data was collected between August 20 to 30 2014. Before conducting the study, the researcher visited school health teacher to explain about study purpose and with school permission and cooperation, study schedule for collecting data was set up. As agreed with school, the researcher visited study subjects as scheduled and explained to them about study purpose, confidentiality, contents of questionnaire, and answering methods. This study was conducted after receiving study agreements from the study subjects. After collecting the data, 1 hour of sex education was provided in return for subjects' efforts in participation for this study. The total of 100 questionnaires was distributed, but only 79 of the subjects agreed and completed the questionnaire. Collected data was analyzed by using SPSS program 19.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). General characteristics, sexual knowledge, sexual attitudes, and contraceptive knowledge were identified with descriptive statistics such as frequency, percentage, average and standard deviation and the correlations among sexual knowledge, sexual attitudes, and contraceptive knowledge were analyzed by using Pearson correlation coefficient.

2.2 Survey instruments

2.2.1. Measuring Instrument for Sexual Knowledge

In order to measure the subjects' sexual knowledge, this study used Sexual Knowledge Instrument developed by Jeong, Kim and Yang[4]. This instrument is composed of the total of 30 questions by SIECUS's conceptual framework of sex [5] asking about reproduction anatomy, secondary sexual characteristics, human sexual reaction, masturbation, sexual activities, sexual violence, sexual transmitted disease, AIDS and so on. Correct answer to each question was given 1 point, wrong answer and "I don't know the answer" were given 0 point. The higher the number of points indicates that study subjects have more sexual knowledge. Cronbach's alpha for the present study was 0.88.

2.2.2. Measuring Instrument for Sexual Attitudes

This study used Sexual Attitudes Instrument developed by Jeong, Kim and Yang[4] to measure the subjects' sexual attitudes. The instrument is composed of the total of 20 questions by SIECUS's conceptual framework of sex [5] asking about attitudes on relations with opposite sex, physical changes in adolescent period, body image, sexual identity, marriage, role of gender and so on. The instrument is a 3 point scale and when answered "yes", "neutral", "no", 3 points, 2 points, and 1 point were given respectively. Negative questions were calculated by converting reversely and the higher points indicate that the subjects have more liberal sexual attitudes. Cronbach's alpha for the present study was 0.78.

2.2.3. Measuring Instrument for Contraceptive Knowledge

Contraceptive knowledge instrument developed by Kim [6] was used to measure subjects' contraceptive knowledge. This instrument is composed of the total of 15 questions and 1 point was given to each correct answer and 0 point was given to each wrong answer and "I don't know the answer". The higher points indicated that subjects have more contraceptive knowledge. Cronbach's alpha for the present study was 0.89.

3 Results

3.1 Sexual knowledge, sexual attitudes, and contraceptive knowledge of subjects

This study results indicated that the average of the subjects' sexual knowledge was 12.18 points out of the total 30 points and the minimum was 0 point and the maximum was 26 points. 50% or more of the subjects were aware of the answers for 11 questions out of 30 questions. Overall, the subjects' sexual knowledge was poor and the items below 10% that the subjects answered were 'The men cannot cum after vasectomy' (8.9%) and 'Taking antibiotics before or after having intercourse can prevent sexual disease' (8.9%).

This study found that the subjects' sexual attitudes were positive as shown by its average was 2.25. Among the questions regarding sexual attitudes, the items that showed below the average of 2 points were as follows; 36.7% of the subjects indicated that 'having sex with a person I don't love is possible', 45.6% reported that 'sex can be learned without education', and 39.2% reported that 'men have stronger sex desire than women'. Therefore, it is necessary to provide proper knowledge to teenagers that can change their misunderstood sexual attitudes.

This study also found out that the average of contraceptive knowledge among the subjects was 1.56 out of 15 and the minimum was 0 and the maximum was 9. The subjects were very poorly informed about contraception and only below 30% of the subjects answered correctly in all the 15 questions related to contraceptive knowledge.

3.2 Correlations among sexual knowledge, sexual attitudes, and contraceptive knowledge

According to analysis of the correlations among the subjects' sexual knowledge, sexual attitudes, and contraceptive knowledge, sexual knowledge and sexual attitudes ($r=0.60$, $p<0.001$) were very significantly correlated and sexual knowledge and contraceptive knowledge ($r=0.47$, $p<0.001$) and sexual attitudes and contraceptive knowledge ($r=0.28$, $p=0.012$) were significantly correlated.

That is, as the subjects have the better sexual knowledge, they had positive sexual attitudes. Correlation between sexual knowledge and contraceptive was 47% and it is necessary to develop concrete educational proposals to improve sexual knowledge and contraceptive knowledge for teenage students.

4 Conclusions

This study results indicated that male high school students' sexual knowledge and contraceptive knowledge was very poor and it was required to re-educate their sexual attitudes. This shows that current sex education provided in schools are not effective enough and it is necessary to provide systematic sex education programs that can contribute to build proper sexual knowledge and attitudes for male high school students. In addition, it is vital to provide sex education in high schools where all students can receive regular courses and it will help minimize teenage sexual issues.

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