Predictors of Sexual Experience among Korean Adolescents

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate the prevalence of sexual experience among adolescents in South Korea and predictors of sexual experience tendency. A self-report survey was conducted upon 7th-12th grade middle and high school students in South Korea. 717 students included in the study. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS / Win 21.0 program. Significant influencing factors of sexual experience were 'smoking' and 'drug use'. schools primarily must recognize the importance of health as much as their entrance examination-oriented curriculums, and need to continue to educate adolescents about harmful effects of the drinking, smoking, and drug use that they may be easily exposed to due to their psychological wandering and curiosity. In addition to that, it should be recommended to allow adolescents to reproduce their sound energy through their use of impulse energy by developing and taking advantage of healthy hobbies.

Keywords: Sex, Adolescent, Economics, Depression, Alcohol Drinking

1. Introduction

The sexual experience among adolescences is considered as an act deemed to be a serious deviation. a shortcut [1] that leads to a dangerous delinquency, and a mentally and physically risk behavior that causes a reproductive health disorder due to unwanted pregnancy and abortion, and venereal disease [2]. The nature of the adolescence characterized by rapid physical changes and emotional changes leads to vigorous sexual curiosity. Studies reported that 40% of adolescents experienced dating and their acceptable degree of the body is also gradually increasing [3]. Thus, it is imperative to establish an early sexual experiences mediation program for adolescents by determining the degree of their sexual experience and investigating the influential factors on their sexual experience.

A study of Korea society regarding sexual experience per grades among adolescents showed that 28.1% of junior high school students had sexual experience, higher than 57.0% of high school students [4]. For the gender ratio, this study reported that 11.1% of male high school students had sexual experience, higher than 8.1% of male high school students [5].

The previous literature included smoking, drinking, drug use, violence, low academic achievement, anti-social behaviors, etc. as factors associated with sexual experience [6]. Another previous literature found the other factors, such as runaways, intercourse with a friend with sexual experience, and anti-social personality patterns [7].

The timely urgent effort should be made to develop an appropriate program to prevent the problems due to the early sexual experience in adolescents. In addition, the program needs to preferentially identify influential factors on youth sexual experience and configure them as a focused content for arbitration. This study attempted to provide the basis of an early sexual experiences prevention program by determining sexual experience and the influencing factors among adolescents with the help of the data from the 2014 Youth

Risk Behaviors Online Survey carried out through a stratified sample of choosing subjects from the national youth population of Korea.

1.1 Purpose

This study was conducted to understand predictors of sexual experience among adolescents.

2. Method

2.1 Design

This study was intended for the descriptive research to identify factors on sexual experience among adolescents as the secondary analysis of part of the 2014 Youth Risk Behavior Online Survey.

2.2 Subjects and Data Collection

The sample size for this study was determined using the G * power 3.1. The sample size was thus calculated into 160 people, in which significance level 05, moderate effect size 15, statistical power 95 and 12 explanatory variables had been inserted. The number of subjects for this study, 717, was proven to provide enough statistical power. This study was conducted through February 1 - March 6, 2015. The secondary analysis was performed by asking for the 2014 Youth Risk Behaviour Online Survey (performed via. a stratified sampling method of selecting subjects from the population) data from the survey agency, getting approved, and downloading the data.

2.3 Instrument

For this study, 6 question items, such as gender(Male, Female), economic conditions(Top, Top-middle, Middle, Middle-low, Low), grade(Middle school grade 1, Middle school grade 2, Middle school grade 3, High school grade 1, High school grade 2, High school grade 3), academic achievement(Top, Top-middle, Middle, Middle-low, Low), subjective health recognition(Very healthy , Health, Usually, Unhealthy, Does not very healthy), and subjective happiness recognition(Very happy, Little happy, Usually, Usually unhappy, Very unhappy) were used to determine the general characteristics of subjects, along with the other question items on drug use(None, In   the past, but not these days, In these days, but sometimes), drinking(None; Drinking   more than one cup, Have; Drinking   more than one cup), and smoking(None; Lifetime   smoking, Have; Lifetime   smoking) as health risk behaviors related to sexual experience. Question items on depression(None; A   recent 12-month period, Have; A   recent 12-month period), stress(I   feel very much, I   feel a lot of, I   feel a little, I   do not feel, I   do not feel at all), and suicidal thinking(None; A   recent 12-month period, Have; A   recent 12-month period) were used to apply anti-social personality pattern variables. Sexual experience was measured for sexual experience or not, heterosexual experience, homosexual experience, and bisexual experience.

2.4 Data Analysis

The SPSS / Win 21.0 program was used to analyze the data of this study.
Individual variables were examined using descriptive statistics such as percentage, mean, and standard deviation. The association between sexual experience and related variables was examined using the Pearson's correlation coefficient. Factors found to be significant at $p<0.05$ in the univariate analyses were set as the independent variables, and the sexual

experience was set as the dependent variable. Influencing factors on sexual experience were investigated using multiple regression (simultaneous multiple regression).

2.5 Results

1) General characteristics

The gender ratio in this study was 62.5% of male students and 37.5% of female students. With regard to economic conditions, 31.2% of adolescents responded "middle", the highest and 16.6% of adolescents responded "low", "top-middle" the lowest.

For grade, the 3rd grader in middle school accounted for 20.6%, the highest; the 1st grader 7.7%, the lowest.

Concerning the academic achievement, 25% of adolescents perceived their level as 'low,' the highest. Regarding subjective health recognition, 'very healthy' was the highest with 34.9% and regarding subjective happiness recognition, 'usually' was the highest with 28.6%.

Table 1. General Characteristics
(N=717)

Category	Sub-category	Frequency(%)	Mean(SD)
Gender	Male(1)	448(62.5)	
	Female(2)	269(37.5)	
Economic conditions	Top(1)	134(18.7)	2.96(1.322)
	Top-middle(2)	119(16.6)	
	Middle(3)	224(31.2)	
	Middle-low(4)	121(16.9)	
	Low(5)	119(16.6)	
Grade	Middle school grade 1(1)	55(7.7)	3.82(2.16)
	Middle school grade 2(2)	112(15.6)	
	Middle school grade 3(3)	148(20.6)	
	High school grade 1(4)	126(17.6)	
	High school grade 2(5)	142(19.8)	
	High school grade 3(6)	134(18.7)	
Academic achievement	Top(1)	139(19.4)	3.19(1.45)
	Top-middle(2)	96(13.4)	
	Middle(3)	153(21.3)	
	Middle-low(4)	146(20.4)	
	Low(5)	183(25.5)	
Subjective health recognition	Very healthy (1)	250(34.9)	2.23(1.18)
	Health (2)	201(28.0)	
	Usually(3)	153(21.3)	
	Unhealthy(4)	77(10.7)	
	Does not very healthy(5)	36(5.1)	
Subjective happiness recognition	Very happy (1)	184(25.7)	2.52(1.23)
	Little happy (2)	183(25.5)	
	Usually(3)	205(28.6)	

	Usually unhappy(4)	84(11.7)	
	Very unhappy(5)	61(8.5)	

2) Sexual experience-related characteristics

For sexual experience, 'None' was the highest with 53.6%, and 'Bi-sex' was also responded in 10.6%. Concerning drug use, 'No' was highest with 56.6%, followed by 'In these days but sometimes' with 20.45% and 'In the past, but not these days' with 23.0%.

Regarding drinking, 'Have' turned out 74.6%, and regarding smoking, 62.5% responded 'Have'.

For depression, the mean was 1.51. Concerning stress, 'I feel a little' was the highest with 29.3% and 'I do not feel at all' with 9.9%. With regards to suicidal thinking, the mean was 1.41.

Table 2. Drug Use-related Characteristics
(N=717)

Category	Sub-category	Frequency(%)	Mean(SD)
Sex	None(0)	384(53.6)	0.85(1.06)
	Hetero-sex(1)	130(18.1)	
	Homo-sex(2)	127(17.7)	
	Bi-sex(3)	76(10.6)	
Drug use	None(1)	406(56.6)	1.64(0.80)
	In the past, but not these days (2)	165(23.0)	
	In these days, but sometimes (3)	146(20.4)	
Drinking	None(Drinking more than one cup)(1)	182(25.4)	1.75(0.44)
	Have(Drinking more than one cup)(2)	535(74.6)	
Smoking	None(Lifetime smoking)(1)	269(37.5)	1.62(0.49)
	Have(Lifetime smoking)(2)	448(62.5)	
Depression	None(A recent 12-month period)(1)		1.51(0.50)
	Have(A recent 12-month period)(2)		
Stress	I feel very much (1)	189(26.4)	2.61(1.28)
	I feel a lot of (2)	147(20.5)	
	I feel a little (3)	210(29.3)	
	I do not feel (4)	100(13.9)	
	I do not feel at all (5)	71(9.9)	
Suicidal thinking	None(A recent 12-month period)(1)		1.41(0.49)
	Have(A recent 12-month period)(2)		

3) Correlation between sexual experience and variables

Analysis of correlation between sexual experience and associated variables showed that drinking, smoking, grade, drug use, stress, depression, and suicidal thinking have a significant correlation.

whereas subjective gender, economic condition, academic achievement, health recognition and subjective happiness recognition do not.

Table 3. Correlation of Drug-used and Variables
(N=717)

Category		Sex
Sex	Pearson coefficient	1
	Significant probability (both sides)	
Gender	Pearson coefficient	-.018
	Significant probability (both sides)	0.630
Economic conditions	Pearson coefficient	0.010
	Significant probability (both sides)	.791
Grade	Pearson coefficient	0.142(**)
	Significant probability (both sides)	〈.001
Academic achievement	Pearson coefficient	-0.034
	Significant probability (both sides)	0.357
Subjective health recognition	Pearson coefficient	-0.036
	Significant probability (both sides)	0.340
Subjective happiness recognition	Pearson coefficient	0.048
	Significant probability (both sides)	0.201
Drug use	Pearson coefficient	0.484(**)
	Significant probability (both sides)	〈.001
Drinking	Pearson coefficient	0.132(**)
	Significant probability (both sides)	〈.001
Smoking	Pearson coefficient	0.264(**)
	Significant probability (both sides)	〈.001
Depression	Pearson coefficient	0.103(**)
	Significant probability (both sides)	0.006
Stress	Pearson coefficient	0.080(*)
	Significant probability (both sides)	0.032
Suicidal thinking	Pearson coefficient	0.126(**)
	Significant probability (both sides)	0.001

4) Predictors of sexual experience

Simultaneous multiple regression found that smoking($\beta=0.120$) and drug use($\beta=0.429$) explain 24.9% of sexual experience.

Table 4. Predictors of Drug Use
(N=717)

Variables	b	β	t	*p*
(Constant)	-0.869		-4.143	
Drinking	-0.034	-0.014	-0.397	0.691
Smoking	0.262	0.120	3.349	0.001
Grade	0.039	0.058	1.723	0.085
Drug use	0.567	0.429	12.299	〈.001
Stress	0.048	0.058	1.732	0.084
Depression	-0.003	-0.001	-0.034	0.973
Suicidal thinking	0.112	0.052	1.320	0.187
R^2=0.257, Adj R^2=0.249, F=34.995, *p* 〈*.001*				

3. Conclusions

This study revealed that smoking and drug use explain 24.9% of sexual experience, In other words, the higher degree of youth smoking means the higher degree of youth sexual experience. The notable finding was that smoking and drinking have the similar hazards, considering that both are prohibited among adolescents, but that only smoking is included in the influencing factors on sexual experience. Previous studies divided students aged over 15 into a male and a female, and conducted a comparative analysis of factors on their sexual experience.

Results showed that current smoking and truancy are the factors in female students and that low educational level, drinking, absence of close friends, and poor relationships with parents acted as the factors in female students.

Early sexual experience among adolescents is an important health issue that affects their personal health as well as the health of future citizens. Therefore, it is necessary to create a home environment to prevent adolescents from deviation and delinquency. In addition, schools primarily must recognize the importance of health as much as their entrance examination-oriented curriculums, and need to continue to educate adolescents about harmful effects of the drinking, smoking, and drug use that they may be easily exposed to due to their psychological wandering and curiosity[9] [10] [11].

In addition to that, it should be recommended to allow adolescents to reproduce their sound energy through their use of impulse energy by developing and taking advantage of healthy hobbies.

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