

Comparative Study of Premarital Sexual Behavior among Hindu and Muslim Females in Gopalganj District of Bihar

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Abstract: This study was aimed to assess sexual behavior in premarital stage of girls emphasized on cultural difference in Gopalganj district of Bihar, The prevalence of sex also showed separate concept among educated and non-educated females, and, also about difference in use of contraceptive agents. The result showed maximum premarital sex among Muslim than Hindu girls and it was consistently increased with age might be caused due to kin selective theory for marriage. It was revealed that most educated girls had practiced safe sex with use of oral pills and condoms.

Keywords: Gopalganj district, premarital sex, Muslim, Hindu

INTRODUCTION

The sexuality is an instinct like hunger and thrust may be defined as intimate relationship between two opposite sex in human beings [1]. The society does not look on sex before marriage as a sexual matured concept due to short-term attachment for only sexual contentment with no regard from parents and society. There are several community also existed with no bar on sex before marriage, while in other intercourse is very rare, but in recent years the social concepts were broken with modernization and adoption of western culture in warm regions of world live in lack of prosperity social disorganization is common. The existing bond on sex before marriage may arise extramarital sex to widening aspect of like, renewal of past feelings and balance in desire and sexual satisfaction during intercourse with various partners. The physical maturity of a person is found to be associated with risk taking behavior. The female individual in premarital period doing sex is often unprotected against unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections and as a consequence, generally resulting in adverse social, economic and health problems [6-7].

There is lack of studies about comparative premarital sex in different religions. A study on use of contraceptive and premarital sex indicated the prevalence of its risk-taking task among girls is increasing in India. The implementation of effective health programs must be needful and it is necessary to identify prevalence in society of this practice with its associated factors. The present study was conducted

among different age-group of Hindu and Muslim girls to access prevalence of this practice, use of contraceptives and other epidemiological factors associated with sexual entertainment prior to marriage.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study is a cross-sectional baseline experimentation conducted from August 2013 to March 2014 with 100 participants randomly selected on the basis of religion, education and age-group. The main objective of this survey was explained to them and their consent based on questionnaire only indirectly indicating their participation in intercourse designed by A. Abraham et al provided to all participant [2]. All the terms were explained to them and prepared them psychologically for correct answer with taking their confidence. The filled Performa were folded and dropped in the box by participants maintaining strict confidentiality and anonymity. The collected data were compiled, analyzed and interpreted using statistical methods.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Though it is not easy to extract real information regarding sexual practices among unmarried girls, yet it was an effort to drive information about it. The present study revealed premarital sex in overall 57% with high incidence in Muslim (47%) rather than Hindu unmarried girls (Table1). It was also observed that education level of girls affects the prevalence of premarital sex and surprisingly girls become liberal view on sex after higher education, yet

partner mostly selected from same profession or profile in practice (Figure 2).

The prevalence of premarital sex is increasing in recent years due to modernization and effect of western culture. This practice was less prevalent in girls than boys. This is revealed during study that most intimate relation were performed in girls after age of 25 and also increasing trend with age increment from 15 to 19 years with surprisingly low percentage of premarital sex in girls of 20-25 age-group in practice (Figure 1). It was found to be more prevalent among those students studying in public schools (37.32%) than compared to those studying in private schools (27.84%). There was a trend observed in this study that higher proportion of the participated girls have had sex with only one partner

either once or on another occasions (68.23%) and only few girls have had sex with multiple partners (18.43%). It is highly satisfying to note that all respondents had heard about the disease HIV/AIDS and 71.46% knew its viral etiology. The higher proportion of girls was aware about the correct mode of transmission and high risk behavior as well and also that safe sexual practice as a preventive measures (53.75%). Majority of the girls with premarital sex were aware about the threats of unprotected sex like pregnancy and used condoms and oral pills prior or after sexual intercourse. There is high proportion of girls (56.13%) were conscious and used contraceptive agents without any motivation from the partner whereas 12.35% used condom after being motivated from their partner.

Table1. Sexual behavior perception in Hindu and Muslims Females.

Variable	Hindu (%)	Muslim (%)
Pre-marital Sexual intercourse with close relative	13	27
Pre-marital Sexual intercourse with unknown person	30	4
Pre-marital intercourse with Single partner	60	85
Pre-marital intercourse with multiple partners	6	2
Use of masturbating agent before marriage	70	17
Use of masturbating agent after marriage	3	13
Use of Contraceptive device during intercourse	72	23

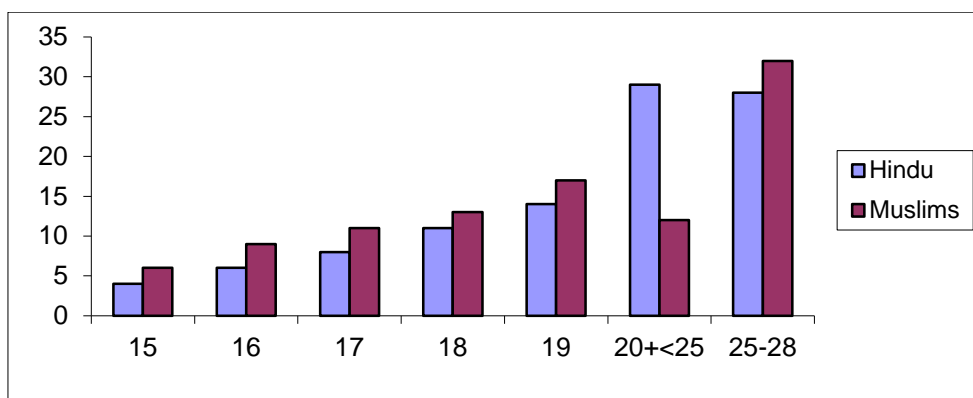


Fig-1: Age-wise prevalence of premarital sex in Hindu and Muslim girls.

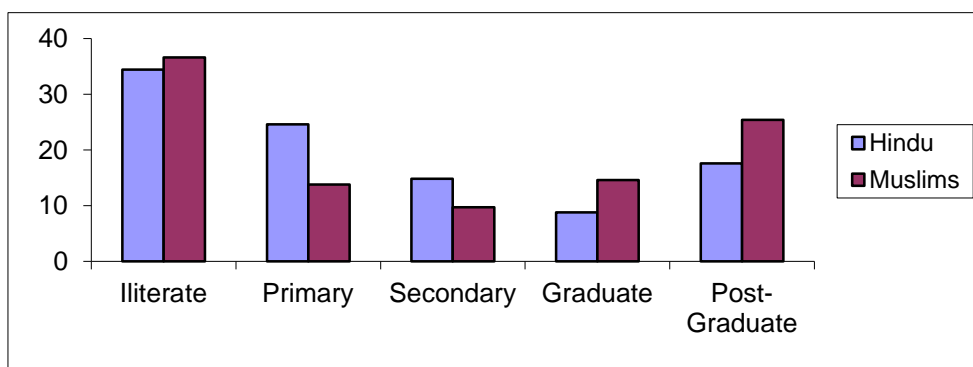


Fig-2: Participant's education and prevalence of premarital sex in Hindu and Muslim girls.

The sex is necessity of life, however, sex before marriage is only intention to explore and see the body configuration of opposite sex and prove their capacity and performance. The studies on sexual experience may increase our thinking on present society and its degradation with lack in human values and Indian culture. In modern times, the tendency has been to exclude factor of procreation and to regard the marriage as relationship of two opposite sex and same or different culture.

The result of present study about more premarital sex in Muslim girls is consequence of only kin selective theory of marriage as there is pre-setting of marriage with close relative enhancing intimate relationship prior to marriage. This result is consistent with findings of Minja *et al.* [3]. The prevalence of sex is more common in educated girls as also revealed in the study of Tamang *et al* [4]. Most of girls practiced premarital sex was protected by using condom or other contraceptive device as oral pills is consistent with the past research of Basir *et al.* [5].

This study revealed that educational profile of girls were also affecting such practices with liberal view is in agreement with Tamang *et al* [4].

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