

The backdrop

In the age of AIDS pandemic the situation of developing countries like India gradually gets more vulnerable for spreading up the virus. India is experiencing an increase in HIV and other sexual transmitted infections. The situation is more alarming while talking about the young population. The burden of infection is gradually increasing on adolescents in India. After more than a decade of 1994 ICPD, the Govt of India planning of paradigm shift away from traditional family planning programme towards holistic reproductive health programme, the promising announced slogan to reach each 10 to 19 age young, the vulnerability still shows a high rising bar. On this out set it is a need to look into different left out pockets, where the darkness still prevails. The current paper tries to define the sexual development among to explore the linkage with risk taking behavior among out of school rural adolescents in India.

Data and method

One thousand and eighty nine boys and one thousand two hundred and forty five girls within the age group of thirteen to eighteen are recruited for the survey phase in eight districts of two culturally different states in India. Apart from that forty focus group discussion among adolescents and one twenty key informant interviews were carried out among the different stakeholders in the community. The survey data is used to look into the domains like early child marriage, perception about physiological change, knowledge and attitude about sexual development, awareness about other sex, development of gender value, sexual practices and risk factors attached to it. The qualitative data is analyzed to explore the domains like the parental role in sharing the information about the sexual development, peer role in giving information about sexuality, depth understanding of the sexual development among the adolescents. Bi-variate and multivariate tables have been generated and the chi-square tests have been obtained for the same. The qualitative data has been analyzed to generate the thematic path network.

Findings and discussions

The analysis of the paper is on progress. However the primary analysis reveal that around one third of the rural adolescent girls and around eleven percent of the boys are married and sexually active. While assessing the knowledge about physiological change it is revealed that there is large proportion of the adolescents from both the sexes are not aware about their own physical developments. Most of them are confused or concluded on a risky perception.

Confusion, conclusion and correction

More than half of the boys don't have correct knowledge about the physical change and signs of body development. One fourteen year old boy sates, "...I know height grows, but nothing happens in my case... it will happen when I will get married I guess...I always wonder why hairs grows on my certain parts why not in other parts...".

Another thirteen year old boys says about his confusion on sexuality, "...I am having some bad feelings...my friends also get that...Sometimes I get scared of many happening I cant reveal to anyone..."

Equally the girls are also having the confused state and they suffer even more. One fifteen year old girl opined, "...girls should not talk about these...only bad girls do ...time will come when we will know everything..."

Surprisingly it is found that thirteen percent of the married young girls are not aware of male partners sexual development and facts about biological reproduction. Twenty percent of them answered child is the blessings of the God. It is revealed that around eighty percent of the girls don't talk about sexuality to any one. The only source of information among the young boys and girls is their same age peer who most probably having the similar misconceptions.

Body, semen and gender

Most of the boys relate their sexual development to their gender message they get from surroundings. They try to connect the immediate observation and perception. Sixty eight percent of the boys opined that penis should grow up to 8 inches till the age of 18. There is lots of misconception regarding male sexuality among the young boys. Semen

dominates in the gender image. One sixteen year old boys says, "...one drop of semen is made of thousand drops of bloods ...it is the precious thing of man's life. One should not waste it..." another seventeen year old boy says, "...semen is of two types...one is black semen and another is yellow...only strong man have black semen...black semen produces male child while yellow one produces girl child...". Another fourteen year old says, "...loosing semen means you will die soon...semen should be protected...masturbation is a bad habit...many of our friends are sick of this.."

Menstruation, myths and hygiene

More than half of the girls are not having the correct knowledge about the menstruation process. Seventy seven percent of the girls who have attained menarche have not been consulted or not told by any one about this biological process . sixty eight percent of the menstruating girls consult their girl friends about management of these days. One fifteen year girl says, "...it is the bad blood goes out of the body once in a month...we should not touch anyone during these days...else we will go to hell.."

Another girl says, "...my friend said not to eat at night during menstruation. It is the time when the evil power is eyeing on us..."

Sex and risk

More than thirty eight percent of the rural adolescent girls are exposed to sexual relation frequently. More than half of them do not know about precaution. Around seventy numbers of girls have been sexually harassed or abused out side of marriage. In most of the cases they report to be abused by any near relatives. Like wise among the young boys around eleven percent are sexually active either marriage or out side of the marriage. Only thirteen percent are aware about the condom use .the boys feel the pressure to perform in sexual activities shih again leads to risky behaviors like trying some unhealthy methods to perform long in sexual act or to enhance the male sexual organ.

Finally the study aims at suggesting an appropriate intervention strategy after the final analysis.