ABSTRACT

The aim of the study was to identify the sexual behaviour and its related factors among first year university students in Bangkok, Thailand. A cross sectional study was conducted on sexual behaviour among first year students at Mahidol University, Thailand. Data were collected from 210 first year students of International College, Mahidol University from 25th February to 1st March, 2001. The study found that 78 students (37.1%) had had sexual experience.

The results showed a significant association between demographic factors (age and gender) and sexual experience. There was also a significant association between contributing factors of social lifestyle (media influence, smoking, alcohol drinking, narcotic drug use) and sexual experience, and between attitude towards safe sex and sexual experience. There is no statistically significant association between sexual experience and living arrangements, family and friend support towards sexual consultation, double sex standard related to premarital sex, knowledge towards safe sex, and attitude towards contraceptives. In relation to sexual knowledge, there is a significant association between knowledge gained through the media source but there is no significant association between knowledge gained through the personal sources and sexual experience. After controlling all associated variables by using logistic regression, only two factors remained significant: male gender (adjusted OR=11.7 and 95%CI=5.5-24.8) and habit of smoking (adjusted OR=3.2 and 95%CI=1.5-6.9).

The picture of adolescent sexual behaviour generated by this study can be used as output when formulating policies and implementing programmes.