

BỘ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC SƯ PHẠM - ĐẠI HỌC ĐÀ NẪNG UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION - THE UNIVERSITY OF DA NANG

# BAO BAO BANG DAY SINH HOC THE REHIER COUVAGIANG DAY SINH HOC TOWET NAM



HỘI NGHỊ KHOA HỌC QUỐC GIA LẦN THỨ 2 ĐÀ NĂNG, 20/05/2016

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND TEACHING IN VIETNAM DA NANG, MAY 20, 2016



# BỘ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC SƯ PHẠM - ĐAI HỌC ĐÀ NẮNG

Ja Thang 05 2016

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PROCEEDING OF THE 2ND NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND TEACHING IN VIETNAM DA NANG, MAY 20, 2016

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# KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND BEHAVIOURS ASSOCIATED WITH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH OF STUDENTS AT HUE UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION

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Abstract: A cross-sectional survey was completed with a sample of 448 students aged 18-19. A structured interview included questions about knowledge, attitudes and behaviours of students in relation to reproductive health and Test X² was used to test for correlations between variables. In general, students recognized the terms reproductive health and safe sexwhile having high knowledge of contraceptive methods and of sexually transmitted disease. There was a statistically significant difference between the knowledge of schoolboys and schoolgirls. Notably, we found that 53 out of 448 students who have sex had used oral contraceptives (15.09%), 26.42% had used monthly emergency contraceptive pills, and 50.95% of them had used condoms. Among 53 students having sex (of the total of 448 study students), the most common contraceptive method was condoms (50.95%) whereas the second most method was the emergency contraceptive pill (26.42%), followed by daily oral contraceptive pills (15.09%). Most of the sexually active adolescents had had one partner (42.37% of males) and (58.49% of females).

Key words: Condom, reproductive health, safe sex, oral contraceptives, emergency contraceptive pills.

## INTRODUCTION

Since the early 70s, there has been an increasing interest in studying sexual behavior of adolescents in the United States due to a gradual growth in sex before marriage and childbearing. For similar reasons, adolescents have recently been studied in many other countries as well, including countries in Africa, Latin America, and Asia [5]. Research in Vietnam has examined sexual activities, consequences of having sex before marriage, abortion and characteristics of sexually transmitted diseases, especially HIV [2, 5]. Vietnam has a young population, with around one-third of population falling into the age group of 10 to 24 years old [6]. Hence, studies of adolescents in Vietnam must receive much more attention.

Interestingly, pregnancy in adolescents was the theme of World Population Day in 2013. According to the UN Population Fund UNFPA, there are more than 500 million girls living in developing countries, many of whom get married and pregnant when young. Notably, around 16 million (10%) of girls worldwide between 15 and 19 years of age have a baby every year. Additionally, within every 20 patients with sexually transmitted infections (STIs), there is one person who is a juvenile age. Half of HIV/AIDS patient is under 25.

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Nowadays, Vietnam is facing many issues related to the reproductive health of adolescents. In particular, the annual average number of abortions in the age range from 15 to 19 is 300.000, within which about 60-70% are high school and university students (Family Planning Association of Vietnam). According to the General Population - Family Planning, although the rate of abortion in the past 10 years shows a decreasing tendency overall, the number has strongly increased for adolescents (20% of the total). In addition, Vietnam has the highest abortion rate of any country in Southeast Asia and is fifth worldwide. The aim of this study is to analyze the current status of knowledge, attitude and behavior regarding reproductive health in late adolescent students who are studying Mathematics, Chemistry, History and Literature faculties in the Hue University of Education. This will supply necessary knowledge and allow us to propose solutions to improve student awareness of reproductive health.

#### 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Research object

First and second grade students (18-19 years old) studying in the Mathematics, Chemistry, History and Literature faculties at the Hue University of Education.

Research time: From October, 2013 to April, 2014

Methods

Research design: Crossing-sectional method and descriptive statistics

Sample size

Sample size was calculated following the formula below [3]:

$$n = Z_{\alpha/2}^2 \frac{p(1-p)}{d^2}$$

In which

n: the minimum number of sample surveys

p: theoretical frequency value

d: deviation value (5%)

Research variables

Features of the study subjects, reproductive health knowledge, reproductive health attitude.

Data analysis

Microsoft Access 2010 and EPIDATA

Using Test  $\chi^2$  for finding out the correlation between variables

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(o-p)^2}{p}$$

In which  $\chi^2$  Statistical meaning

o: observational frequency

p: theoretical frequency

Statistics describing the overall situation of the sample and percentage calculation. Data are presented as mean  $\pm$  SD and p<0,05 was considered to be statistically significant.

**Ethics of research:** We presented our study outline before the Department of Zoology in September, 2013. The research results were reported in front of a council including Prof. Dr. Ngo Dac Chung, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tran Quoc Dung and MSc. Bui Thi Chinh, lecturers in the Department of Biology, in May, 2014.

#### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

## 3.1. Knowledge of the term "reproductive health" and "safe sex"

Table 1. The understanding of the term "reproductive health" and "safe sex"

V		Une				
Knowledge		Male Female		Total	P-value	
Reproductive health	Know	70 (87.5%)	339 (92.12%)	409 (91.29%)	$\chi 2 (1) = 1,76;$ $p > 0,05$	
	Do not know	10 (12.5%)	29 (7.88%)	39 (8.71%)		
Sex safety	Know	65 (81.25%)	274 (74.46%)	339 (76.67%)	$\chi^2(1) = 2.78;$	
	Do not know	15 (18.75%)	94 (25.54%)	109 (24.33%)	<i>p</i> > 0,05	

Overall, students had knowledge of the two terms "reproductive health" and "safe sex". There was higher understanding about the term "reproductive health" than about "sex safety." Notably, 24.33% students were not aware of the meaning of sex safety. Thus, despite the new concept, many students from four faculties initially approached the reproductive health.

#### 3.2. Knowledge of the problems related to pregnancy

Table 2. The proportion of students having correct understanding of problems related to pregnancy

The kind of knowledge	Male (n=80)	Female (n=368)	P-value
Sex form leading to pregnancy	73 (91.25%)	362 (98.37%)	$\chi^2$ (1) = 8,90; $p$ < 0,01
Pregnancy symptoms	50 (62.5%)	264 (71.74%)	$\chi 2(1) = 2,68; p > 0,05$

In general, both male and female students understand the issues leading to the possibility of pregnancy as well as common pregnancy symptoms (93.75% and 98.91% respectively). From the data in Table 2, it is very clear that female students have the higher awareness of these issues than male students.

### 3.3. Knowledge of contraception

The result shows that adolescents are generally knowledgeable about contraception. The highest knowledge was observed for condoms (89.06%), followed by contraceptive pills (81.03%), then sterilization (39.96%). This result shows high similarity with the Hoang Thi Tam (2003) [8] study about the current understanding, attitudes and behaviors to reproductive health of high

school students in Hue city (with 90.4%, 78.6% and 46.6% for condom, contraceptive pill and sterilized male/female, respectively). However, these data show higher knowledge than in the Nguyen Quoc Anh (1999) [1] study of young men and women aged from 15 to 25 years old, as well as in contraceptive service providers in rural areas (81.3%, 57.7%, and 69.7%, respectively).

Table 3. The pro	pportion of students	understanding	of contraception

Contraception	Male (n=80)	Female (n=368)	Total (n=448)	P-value	Sex have used contraception (n=53)
1111)	40	288	220 (72.210/)	$\chi 2(1)=26,80;$	
IUD	(50%)	(78.26%)	328 (73.21%)	p< 0,001	0
Controlling	14 (17.5%)	76	90 (20.09%)	$\chi^2$ (1)=3,79;	
menstruation		(20.65%)		<i>p</i> > 0,05	0
Oral contraceptive	53 (66.25%)	310 (84.24%)	262 (01 020/)	χ2(1)=13,80;	8
Oral contraceptive	33 (00.23%)	310 (04.24%)	363 (81.03%)	p< 0,001	(15.09%)
Embryo abortion	10 (12.5%)	86	96	χ2 (1)=4,61;	
Emoryo abortion	10 (12.5%)	(23.37%)	(21.43%)	p < 0.05	0
Emergency	31 (38.75%)	201 (57.07%)	232 (51.79%)	$\chi^2$ (1)= 6,63;	14
contraceptive pill	31 (36.73%)	201 (37.07%)	252 (51./9%)	p< 0,05	(26.42%)
Condom	67 (83.75%)	222 (00 220/)	200 (00 000)	χ2 (1)=2,82;	31
Condom	07 (63.75%)	332 (90.22%)	399 (89.06%)	<i>p</i> > 0,05	(58.50%)
Others	31 (38.75%)	148 (40.22%)	179 (39.96%)	χ2 (1) =0,29;	0
- Circis	J1 (J0./J70)	140 (40.2270)	179 (39.90%)	<i>p</i> > 0,05	U

Moreover, 45.09% of adolescents know 1 to 3 contraceptive types, 39.06% know 4 to 5 contraceptive types, and only 33.04% know more than 6 contraceptive types. Obviously, these numbers are lower than the Hoang Thi Tam (2003) [8]. However, according to research results of Truong Thi Thu Thuy (2011) [9] in boarding secondly school students in the Huong Hoa district, Quang Tri province, only 0.8% student knew from 4 to 6 contraceptives, which is much lower than found in our research.

Obviously, the places where timely contraceptive services are provided are also very important because this efficiently helps adolescent prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. However, the most popular contraceptive for adolescents is the condom (83.75% and 90.22% for male and female student respectively).

Among 53 students having sex (of the total of 448 study students), 50.95% of them used condoms whereas the second most population method used was the emergency contraceptive pill (26.42%), and followed by daily oral contraceptives(15.09%). It is clear that our results are quite low in the comparison with the Nguyen Thanh Luan and Truong Phi Hung (2010) [7] study, in which 16/102 first-year students and 34/101 second-year student had had sex before marriage.

Nowadays, with the international integration, Vietnam is deeply influenced by Western culture. Children have a high demand to know about adolescent health and reproduction but

receive little-detailed guidance from older people. Hence, many children without good knowledge have sex at an early age and develop related problems. According to a 1996 survey at Hung Vuong hospital, only 36.8% of the children who had sex before marriage had used contraceptives. In Hue city, around 0.4% young people have sex before marriage. One case was found in which an adolescent had sex at 17-18 age without any contraception [8].

## 3.4. Knowledge of sexually transmitted disease

Table 4. Knowledge of sexually transmitted disease

Kno	wledge	Male (n=80)	Female (n=368)	P-value	Total
Understanding the	From 4 to 9 diseases	41 (51.25%)	234 (63.57%)	$\chi 2(1) = 4,22;$	275 (61.38%)
disease name	Below 3 diseases	39 (48.75%)	134 (36.41%)	p< 0,05 -	173 (38.62%)

The assessment of knowledge of sexually transmitted diseases was based on the correct listing of the six most common sexually transmitted diseases (syphilis, gonorrhea, herpes, chlamydia, HIV/AIDS) and of other diseases, including ways to prevent HIV/AIDS infection. Generally, students show the less understanding about sexually transmitted diseases. There are more than 20 sexually transmitted diseases; however most of students just have knowledge of HIV/AIDS, syphilis and gonorrhea and few mention hepatitis B or chancroid. Interestingly, arthritis is considered as sexually transmitted disease by 5.8% of students.

Table 5. Knowledge of sexually transmitted disease name

Disease name	% (n=448)
Syphilis	309 (68.97%)
Gonorrhea	297 (66.29%)
Herpes	59 (13.17%)
Flagellate infection	45 (10.04%)
HIV/AIDS	412 (91.96%
Chlamydia	64 (14.29%)
Arthritis	26 (5.8%)

Currently, HIV/AIDS is widely mentioned over the world through mass media and the internet. This is a dangerous disease that has killed many people and with no cure so far. Thus, it is understandable that 91.96% of students know about this disease. However, this result is still lower compared with the research results of Nguyen Thi Thu Ha (2010) [3].

The proportion of student having knowledge about syphilis and gonorrhea disease is much higher in this study than in the study of boarding secondary school students in the Huong Hoa district, Quang Tri province of Truong Thi Thu Thuy (2011) [9] in which only 36.6% and 10.4% student knew about gonorrhea and syphilis, respectively. This result concludes that the study environment has an important influence in the perception of reproductive health issues by students.

These results suggest that propaganda and education play an important role in directing adolescents toward healthy lifestyles. Notably, population education and reproductive health

course is considered the main course for Hue University education students within the Departments of Biology, Geography, Psychology, and Polity. This effectively contributes to the limitation of sex before marriage, unwanted pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases.

### 3.5. Behaviors and attitudes of student about reproductive health

Most adolescents in this study have only had one partner (42.37% in male and 58.49% in female; Table 6). These results are much higher than other authors have found, particularly the finding of Truong Thi Thu Thuy (2011) [9] in which 17.8% student had had a first partner.

Notably, there is a significant difference in the data between male and female students. Male students have sex at younger ages and have more partners than female students. Moreover, the number of male students cohabitating is also higher than for females, with 8.75% of male student in this research cohabiting compared with 1.09% of females.

Table 6. Behavior of adolescents about reproductive health

Knowledge		Male (n=59)	Female (n=212)	P-value
Agree w	ith "cohabitation"	16 (20%)	16 (4.35%)	$\chi 2 (1) = 24.30;$ $p < 0.001$
Were cohabiting		7 (8.75%)	(1.09%)	$\chi^2(1) = 16.10;$ $p < 0.001$
	First lover	25 (42.37%)	124 (58.49%)	$\chi_2(2) = 6.83;$
Had lover	Second lover	17 (28.81%)	59 (27.83%)	p < 0.05
	More than there lovers	16 (27.12%)	30 (14.15%)	
	Talk together	(85%)	358 (97.28%)	$\chi^2(1) = 21.20;$ $p < 0.001$
Common	Go to karaoke shop	19 (23.75%)	52 (14.13%)	$\chi 2 (1) = 4.56;$ $p < 0.05$
behaviors occur when meeting lover	Go to park	14 (17.5%)	(6.52%)	$\chi 2 (1) = 10.02;$ $p < 0.01$
IOVEI	Motel/hotel	6 (7.5%)	(0.82%)	$\chi 2 (1) = 14.90;$ $p < 0.001$
	Others	(26.25%)	77 (20.92%)	$\chi 2 (1) = 5.79;$ $p < 0.05$

#### 3.6. The information sources about reproductive health education for adolescents

Interestingly, students obtained most (92.63%) reproductive health information from mass media (e.g., television, radio, newspapers, magazine, books and the internet), following by school (67.63%), parents (58.71%), and medical officers (54.91%).

Table 7. The information sources about reproductive health education for adolescents

Source	Mass media	School	Medical officer	Parent	Others
Male	67	45	37	34	5
(n=80)	(83.75%)	(56.25%)	(46.25 %)	(42.5%)	(6.25%)
Female	348	258	(	229	13
(n=368)	(94.57%)	(70.11%)	209 (56.79%)	(62.23%)	(3.53 %)
Total	415	303	016 (51030)	263	18
(n=448)	(92.63%)	(67.63%)	246 (54.91%)	(58.71%)	(4.02%)

In comparison, the study of Nguyen Thi Thu Ha (2010) [3] called "Solution for managing the work of reproductive health education for students in the Hue University of Economics" found that 100% of students agreed that they obtained information from their lectures and, therefore, received professional knowledge. Thus, it is very important to provide the reproductive health knowledge for students throughout regular courses in university.

Following the data in Nguyen Quoc Anh (1999) [1] in paper, "Reproductive Health Adolescent - Surveying, assessment of knowledge, attitudes and practices with these problems related to reproductive health in Hai Phong adolescents," most information was obtained from mass media (86.5%), then from friend and family (56.3%), and finally through Young Communist League meetings (24.4%).

Certainly, students of this age are able to fully explore and research the information which they want to know and 92.63% of students surveyed in this study had good knowledge about reproductive health education. However, they were not open or likely to confide in their parent or teachers (58.71%). Hence, they may develop erroneous awareness in adolescents about reproductive health and possibly experience unexpected consequences.

Our results showed that adolescents obtained reproductive health information from people with only average expertise. This showed the low effectiveness of communication activities by the specialized organization. If this subject is integrated into the student curriculum, the effect will be very positive.

#### 3.7. Sexual behavior before marriage

In recent years, because reproductive health information is mentioned more in the media, in books as well as in the high school curriculum, the knowledge about reproductive health in adolescents has been enhanced.

Table 8. Sexual behavior before marriage

Contraception	Male (n=80)	Female (n=368)	S Ranking contr	Sex have used raception (n=41)	
IUD	40	288	3	4	
	(50%)	(78.26%)		(9.76%)	
	14	76		0	
Controlling menstruation	(17.5%)	(20.65%)	6	U	
	53	310	3	7	
Oral contraceptive	(66.25%)	(84.24%)	2	(17.07%)	
Embryo abortion	10 (12.5%)	86 (23.37%)	7	0	

Emergency contraceptive pill	31 (38.75%)	201 (57 070/)	4	11
Emergency contraceptive pm	31 (38./5%)	201 (57.07%)	4	(26.83%)
Condom	67	332	1	27
Condon	(83.75%)	(90.22%)	1	(65.85%)
Sterilized male/ female	31	148	F	
Stermized male/ female	(38.75%)	(40.22%)	5	0
Calculate the menstrual cycle/	No survey	No survey		4
Ejaculation outside the vagina				(9.76%)

Table 8 shows that 9.15% students in our survey had sex before marriage and had used contraception. This data was much higher than the 0.4% finding of Hoang Thi Tam (2003) [8]. Obviously, there is one sad reality in some first and second year students when they showed the open trend in sexual activity. According to Nguyen Quoc Anh (1999) [1], most adolescents in Hai Phong province obtained reproductive health information from the mass media (86.5%), followed by the school curriculum (55.9%), family as well as friends (56.3%), and Young Communist League meetings (24.4%).

#### 4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

#### 4.1. Conclusion

Both male and female student have quite high knowledge about issues related to the possibility and symptoms of pregnancy (93.75% and 98.91% respectively, p<0.01).

The percentage of adolescents knowing from 1 to 3 types of contraceptive was 45.09%, followed by 39.06% knowing 4-5 types of contraception (39.06%) and 33.04% knowing about 6 or 7 types.

Condoms are the most popular contraception among adolescents (89.06%); the second most popular contraceptive is oral contraceptives with 81.03%; this figure is two-fold greater than the sterilization of males/females (39.96%).

Among 53 students having sex (in the total 448 study students), 50.95% used condoms, followed by emergency contraceptive pills (26.42%), and followed by daily oral contraceptives (15.09%).

The result also showed that adolescents have had at least one partner in which most of them had only a first partner (42.37% of males and 58.49% of females).

Students most obtained reproductive health information from mass media (92.63%), followed by school (67.63%), parents (58.71%), and medical officers (54.91%).

#### 4.2. Recommendation

Firstly, we should integrate the content of reproductive health into some subjects for students at universities.

Secondly, accelerating the communication about reproductive health and marketing condoms for adolescents through various media in universities.

Finally, strengthening some services about reproductive health, such as a counseling center about reproductive health for adolescents and enhancing the financial benefits for out-of school activities.

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# NGHIÊN CỨU KIẾN THỨC, THÁI ĐỘ VÀ HÀNH VI VỀ SỰC KHỎE SINH SẢN CỦA SINH VIÊN TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC SƯ PHẠM HUẾ

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Một nghiên cứu cắt ngang mô tả được tiến hành với 448 sinh viên ở độ tuổi vị thành niên muộn (18-19 tuôi) bao gồm các câu hỏi về kiến thức thái độ và hành vi của học sinh liên quan đến sức khỏe sinh sản. Kết quả nghiên cứu cho thấy sinh viên nhận thức được thuật ngữ về sức khỏe sinh sản, quan hệ tình dục an toàn, kiến thức liên quan về các biện pháp tránh thai, các bệnh lây truyền qua đường tình dục. Sự khác biệt này giữa nam và nữ có ý nghĩa thống kê (p<0,05). Các sinh viên trong độ tuổi vị thành niên muộn hầu hết đã có người yêu (42,37% ở nam và 58,49% ở nữ). Trong số 53/448 sinh viên có quan hệ tình dục có đến 15,09% đã sử dụng thuốc tránh thai hàng tháng, 26,42% sử dụng thuốc tránh thai khẩn cấp; 50,95% đã sử dụng bao cao su.

Từ khóa: Bao cao su, sức khỏe sinh sản, tình dục an toàn, thuốc tránh thai khẩn cấp.

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