EARLY SEXUAL INTERACTION IN ADOLESCENCE: PREDISPOSING FACTORS REFERRED TO FAMILY PROCESSES AND PEER PRESSURE

Blerta Peci

Department of Psychology and Pedagogy, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana, Albania, E mail: blerta.peci@yahoo.com

Abstract

This study aims to explore how family processes and peer pressure influence the development of early sexual interactions in adolescence. Focusing research interest involves the study of individual and social factors that influence early sexual interaction in this age group. Development of sexuality that accompanies adolescents, presents fundamental challenges for young people. Sexual and reproductive development are important components of the maturation process for adolescents, but there is considerable disagreement regarding how we best prepare youth to become sexually healthy and responsible adults. A positive youth development approach to adolescent sexuality focuses on the developmentally healthy goals and possibilities for youth and considers what parents and other caring adults can do to help adolescents develop responsible sexual attitudes and behaviors as well as a clear understanding of themselves as a sexual being. Participants in this study will be adolescents aged 11 to 19 years old. The objectives of this study include, exploring the impact of family and peers as predisposing factors influencing Early Sexual Interaction in adolescence, adaptation to changing appearance and operation of a sexually mature body, learning to cope with sexual desires, dealing with sexual attitudes and values and the integration of these feelings, attitudes and experiences in developing a sense of self. The image of adolescents who engage in sexual interactions, has affected health organizations calling for preventive measures against pregnancy, subsequent abortion and sexually transmitted diseases. Adolescent are exposed to sexual information in everyday life but they have an inadequate preparation to respond to these situations. The aim is to help young people and their families to get the information they need to function optimally and to be competent and healthy in the future, which will help in the interpretation of their feelings, responding to social pressure and making the right decisions. Research suggests using of measuring instruments for these behaviors. Information coding and statistical correlations will help in analyzing and interpretation of results. This study will include a descriptive report accompanied by quantitative methods of collecting datas.

Keywords: early sexual interaction, adolescence, family processes, peer pressure, health consequences