

SEXUAL BEHAVIOR DURING PREGNANCY: A DESCRIPTIVE CORRELATIONAL STUDY AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the extent of knowledge, beliefs, attitudes and behaviors on sexuality during pregnancy, and the relationship between the cited variables. The descriptive-correlational study was conducted on 170 pregnant women from the different barangays of Santa Rosa, Laguna, Philippines. A self-administered anonymous questionnaire divided into six sections and pertaining to the sexual knowledge, beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors of women during pregnancy were used. The level of knowledge of the respondents was below average, the impact of the beliefs related to sexuality during pregnancy was weak and the respondents in general had a quite positive attitude toward sexuality during pregnancy. Regarding sexual behavior, there was low sexual desire and a high practice of some non-coital behavior (kissing and cuddling). The mean of sexual intercourse was below average. Desire was correlated with attitude and gestational age; non-coital behavior was correlated with knowledge, attitude, age, and gestational age, while coital behavior was correlated to knowledge level only. Thus, women with a low level of knowledge on sexuality during pregnancy, and who apparently develop a negative attitude toward sexuality in pregnancy should get more attention during antenatal visits, though all pregnant women must be informed about sexuality during pregnancy.

Keywords: knowledge, beliefs, attitude, sexual behavior, pregnancy.