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ASSOCIATION BETWEEN PARENT-CHILD SEXUAL COMMUNICATION
AND THE SEXUAL INTENTION AMONG YOUTH IN MALAYSIA:
SEX DIFFERENCE AS A MODERATOR

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A RESEARCH PROJECT
SUBMITTED IN
PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCE (HONS) PSYCHOLOGY
FACULTY ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITI TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN

AUG. 2021

Association between Parent-Child Sexual Communication and the
Sexual Intention among Youth in Malaysia: Sex Difference as a Moderator

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This research project is submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Social Science (Hons) Psychology, Faculty of Arts and Social Science, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman. Submitted on Aug 2021.

PCSC AND THE SEXUAL INTENTION OF YOUTHS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The completion of this final year project would not be possible without the assistance and participations of many people whose names may not be fully enumerated. We could not express enough thanks to all people who sent us a helping hand that brought us to succeed. Hence, we would like to express our most sincere appreciation and indebtedness particularly to the following individuals:

To Mr Tan Soon Aun, who dedicated and sacrificed his time and effort to ensure our works were proceeded in the right track. As a lecturer who was packed with hectic schedule, he tried his best to carefully checked on the drafts and provided helpful advice for us to make amendments. His selfless assistance deserved to be respected and appreciated.

To our family and friends who shared their supports and understanding regardless physically or mentally throughout the whole journey towards the completion of this project, especially during this pandemic period.

Last but not least, we wanted to send our deepest appreciation to all the participants in our research. Thanks to their patience in completing the questionnaire and willingness to participate in our research. Without their participation, this research would be impossible to be completed.

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APPROVAL FORM

This research paper attached hereto, entitled "Association between Parent-Child Sexual Communication and the Sexual Intention among Youth in Malaysia: Sex Difference as a Moderator" prepared and submitted by Sasha Silva A/P Erolis Silva, Tang Jia Hang and Ong Qian Xing in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Social Science (Hons) Psychology is hereby accepted.

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PCSC AND THE SEXUAL INTENTION OF YOUTHS

Abstract

Throughout these few years, baby dumping cases in Malaysia had been arising and one of the causes of the issue was sexual debut at a young age. The consequences of premarital sex included unwanted pregnancy, child abandonment and an increase in sexual infection transmission. As parents or guardians were regarded as the gateway in children to receive sexual information, this study aimed to investigate the relationship between parent-child sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) and sexual intention among youth in Malaysia. Meanwhile, the sex of children will act as a moderator for the relationships. A total of 454 participants (57 percent females; 62.3 percent Chinese; $M_{age} = 21.84$, $SD_{age} = 1.92$) were recruited through an online survey with the use of the purposive sampling method. The result showed both fathers and mothers tend to deliver more restrictive messages toward their youth children compare to permissive messages. The present study also indicated that the sex of children and sexual intercourse experience significantly predicted the sexual intention of youths in Malaysia but not the restrictive and permissive father-child sexual communication. Besides, there was no moderating effect of children's sex on the relationship between (restrictive and permissive) parent-child sexual communication and sexual intention of youths in Malaysia. The present study has enriched literature regarding the sexual intention of youths in Malaysia. As this study found parent communication does not predict children's sexual intention, authorities were recommended to pay more attention to Internet which is regarded as most received source for sexual information.

Keywords: Sexual Intention, Parent-Child Sexual Communication, Sex of Children, Youth, Malaysia


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DECLARATION

We declare that the material contained in this paper is the end result of our own work and that due acknowledgement has been given in the bibliography and references to ALL sources be they printed, electronic or personal.

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List of Abbreviations

SPSS Statistical Package For The Social Sciences

PCSC Parent-Child Sexual Communication

FCSC Father-Child Sexual Communication

MCSC Mother-Child Sexual Communication

Chapter I

Introduction

Background of Study

According to the former Minister of Women, Family and Community Development Dr. Wan Azizah, there were 1,010 baby dumping cases reported between 2010 and May 2019, and within those cases, 64 percent of the babies were found dead. One of the possible causes of this issue was the sexual debut at a young age (Hamzah, 2020). This statement was supported by the Ministry of Health which the consequences of premarital sexual activity included unwanted pregnancy that leads to abortion, child abandonment such as baby dumping and the increase of sexual infection transmission (Fadhilah, 2012). Premarital sex was known as the activity of sexual intercourse before marriage (Wight, 2014). Based on the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB), a person's behaviour was validated and influenced by the intention to perform or engage in a certain behaviour (Roger, 2017). According to Ajzen (1991), sexual intention motivates a person to perform sexually related actions through combinations of attitude, perceived social norms, perceived abilities and control over the behaviour. Hence, more research on the sexual intention is mandatory to gain more understanding of premarital sexual activity (Muhammad et al., 2017).

The present study targeted youths who were more vulnerable to be involved in sexual issues because they were in the developing stage of sexual experimentation began from their puberty to adulthood (McLeod, 2019). In 2018, the population reported with the highest case of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) (1,479 cases) was the youth within the age range of 20 to 29 years old (Data Hub Satellite Page of Malaysia, 2020). This raised the alarming for attentions on them from the authorities while this population represented a significant group within the HIV cases and premarital sex is one of the causes for HIV. According to a

survey conducted by Perspective Strategies Sdn Bhd supported by Durex included 1,071 youths aged from 18 to 29 nationwide, 35 percent of the participants did not hold the view of women can be pregnant for the first sexual intercourse. At the same time, Chung Mei Fun the Former Deputy Minister of Women, Family and Community Development, mentioned that only 39.5 percent of the participants have an idea of how a baby is born and only 45.5 percent understand the meaning of a womb (Fadzil, 2016; Khoo, 2016). This had shown the inadequacy of sexual knowledge among the youth in Malaysia. Besides, youth represented 45.4 percent of the Malaysian population based on the data released by The National Statistics Department in 2018 (“Others have tech”, 2018). It was the fact that youths were emphasized as the future of a country, the authorities need to devote themselves to implement and design suitable programmes and interventions to educate and increase sexual knowledge.

Parents or guardians were regarded as one of the gateways for children to get information regarding sexuality and sexual knowledge (Flores et al., 2019; Sandra et al., 2020; Widman et al., 2016). Notably, the Malaysian government has to implement and promoting sexual and reproductive health education in the school curriculum. However, different ethnic groups with different values, cultures and socioeconomic backgrounds posed difficulty for the uniformity of sexual and reproductive health education (Khalaf et al., 2014). Thus, the importance of parent-child sexual communication was highlighted in this study. Parent-child sexual communication was two-way communication between parents and their children in discussing the topics regarding sexuality. Edwards and Reis (2014) denoted that youths were highly influenced by their parent in terms of dealing with sexual decisions. Also, Peasant et al. (2016) noted the importance of parental involvement in promoting sexual health to their children. This stand was also supported by Ying et al. (2015) indicated that parenting monitoring and parent-child sexual communication are crucial in preventing premarital sex and promote safer sex. On the other hand, sex difference plays an important role in parent-

child sexual communication. According to Widman et al. (2016), communication between parent and child, especially between mothers and daughters, resulted in safer sexual practices such as condom use. In contrast, this relationship was not found in fathers' communication with children. However, it contradicts the research that showed the significant relationship between father-child communication and children's sexual behaviour (Wright, 2009). The inconsistency of the literature required more research on the fathers' role in sexual communication.

In short, this study aimed to determine the relationship between parent-child sexual communication and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia. The parent-child sexual communication will be divided into two dimensions which are permissive and restrictive to understand the difference between types of messages in sexual communication towards youths' sexual intention and at the same time, sex difference will act as a moderator.

Problem Statement

In recent years, the number of unwanted pregnancies has risen in Malaysia. This can be supported by Joibi (2018) stated the Department of National Registration of Malaysia has shown the statistics, that 4,992 children were born out of wedlock in 2017 and increased to 1,664 cases of bastard children were born in June 2018. In the same year, there were 120 cases of reporting baby dumping. The stigma of society towards unmarried pregnancy and inadequate sexual knowledge among youngsters are the causes of the issue of premarital sex. A study conducted by Health Ministry in 2015 found that 35 percent of females do not believe the first time rolling in the hay will have the likelihood to be pregnant ("Malaysia's problem with teenage pregnancy", 2019). A collaboration programme between Orphan Care and KPJ Specialist Hospital had launched a baby hatch to save the lives of unwanted babies

(Looi, 2010). At the same time the hospital medical director, Datuk Dr. Fadzli Cheah also highlighted the importance of education to the youngster on unplanned pregnancy.

Due to the ineffective school-based sexual and reproductive health education (Khalaf et al., 2014) and the absence of other reliable sources of sex education, parents may deem it important to provide and initiate sexual communication as one of the potential ways to promote safer sex among their child (Flores et al., 2019). As sex-related education was more implemented in schools or educational institutions, parent-child sexual communication was seen less conducted in the Malaysian context.

Besides, studies showed the frequency for parent-child sexual communication was low which may be due to the cultural norms as Malaysia is a conservative country (Muhammad et al., 2017; Tan et al., 2018), and especially in Malay culture, it was not a norm for parents to talk about sexual topics (Amaran et al., 2019). Most of the studies for risky sexual behaviour (Abdullah et al., 2020; Abu Bakar AH et al., 2017; Amaran et al., 2019) or parent-child sexual communication (Shahid et al., 2017; Tan et al., 2018) in Malaysia focused on adolescents who were below the age of 18 rather than youths who are above 18 years old and unmarried. Also, there is a lack of literature on the study of intention towards premarital sexual activity and most of the research focus on sexual attitudes and risky sexual behaviours in general (Abdullah et al., 2020; Amaran et al., 2019; Coakley et al., 2017; Kerpelman et al., 2016; Low, 2009; Morris & Rushwan, 2015).

Despite there were various studies on parent-child sexual communication (Coakley et al., 2017; Diiorio et al., 1999; Flores et al., 2019; Flores & Barroso, 2017; Manu et al., 2016; O'Sullivan et al., 2005; Ritchwood et al., 2017; Tan et al., 2018; Widman et al., 2016; Wright, 2009), but most of the existing research were only looked into the frequency, comfortable and the topic of parent-child sexual communication rather than the attituded

based communication. On top of that, there was a lack of scholarly attention and inadequate study on the messages in terms of permissiveness and restrictiveness delivered from parents to their children regarding sexual topics especially premarital sexual activity. Besides, the study on the sex difference in the relationship of sexual communication between fathers or mothers and their children in the local context was limited (Tan et al., 2018). Therefore, to fill in the literature gap, this study was to identify the association between parent-child sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia.

Research Objectives

1. To identify the difference of parent-child sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) specifically for fathers and mothers among youths in Malaysia.
2. To examine the prediction of parent-child sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) specifically for fathers and mothers on the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia.
3. To explore the moderation effect of sex of children in the association between parent-child sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia.

Significance of Study

The present study aimed to examine the association between parent-child sexual communication and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia. By acknowledging the importance of parent-child sexual communication, the results of the study can provide necessary information for intervention development such as training or programmes that can help the parents to gain more understanding of the ways to have an effective sexual conversation with children. Besides, parents may determine the suitable person among

themselves to engage in a more effective conversation with their children through the identification of the sex difference for both parents and children in parent-child sexual communication. This study also may provide information about how youths perceive the sexual values of their parents from the conversation with them by determining the types of messages whether are permissive or restrictive through parent-child sexual communication.

On the other hand, this study helped to fill in the literature gap regarding the sexual intention among the youth population in the Malaysian context due to the lack of scholarly attention. The results also could contribute data in terms of the permissiveness and restrictiveness of parent-child sexual communication and also the sexual intention which may help in providing insights for other researchers to develop more in-depth studies on this topic.

Research Questions

1. Are there differences in parent-child sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) specifically for fathers and mothers among youths in Malaysia?
2. Do parent-child (fathers and mothers) sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) predict the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia?
3. Does sex moderates the associations between parent-child (fathers and mothers) sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia?

Hypotheses

H₁: The frequency of permissive father-child sexual communication is higher than the frequency of restrictive father-child sexual communication among youths in Malaysia.

H₂: The frequency of restrictive mother-child sexual communication is higher than the frequency of permissive mother-child sexual communication among youths in Malaysia.

H₃: Sex significantly moderates the association between permissive father-child sexual communication and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia.

H₄: Sex significantly moderates the association between permissive mother-child sexual communication and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia.

H₅: Sex significantly moderates the association between restrictive father-child sexual communication and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia.

H₆: Sex significantly moderates the association between restrictive mother-child sexual communication and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia.

Definitions of Terms

Conceptual Definitions

Youths. According to the National Youth Development Policy, the programs and activities regarding youth development should be prioritized for youths ages 18 to 25 (MOYS, 1997).

Sexual intention. Behavioural intention can be defined as the extent of a person to map out a purposeful plan to validate or do not validate a particular behaviour (Warshaw & Davis, 1985). Sexual intention is the action to carry out sexual intercourse (Wight, 2014). Hence, the sexual intention is the extent of a person mapping out a purposeful plan to validate the action of carrying out sexual intercourse.

Parent-child sexual communication. Parent-child sexual communication is two-way communication regarding sexual-related topics and knowledge such as sexuality and the importance of sexual health (Flores & Barroso, 2017).

Sex. Sex is the characteristic of a species as it is differentiated according to the reproductive functions which are male and female (Merriam-Webster, n.d.).

Operational Definitions

Youths. In this study, the targeted participants are youths who will be identified as people aged from 18 to 25 years old and unmarried in Malaysia.

Sexual intention. In this study, the intention will be measured as the intention to carry out sexual intercourse among youths in Malaysia. The Youth Sexual Intention Questionnaire (YSI-Q; Muhammad et al., 2017) will be used to measure the intention of carry out sexual activity. The higher the total score reflects the higher intention of the participants to have sexual intercourse.

Parent-child sexual communication. In this study, parent-child sexual communication will be measured in two dimensions which are permissive and restrictive specifically for father and mother. Permissive messages focus on the open exploration of sex and the pleasure resulted from sex whereas restrictive messages focus on delaying sexual debut and avoid highlighting sexual exploration. Family Sexual Communication Scale (Issacs, 2012) will be used to measure parent-child sexual communication. The higher the score corresponds to the higher the permissive or restrictive messages received from parents.

Sex. In the demographic part of the questionnaire, respondents' will identify their sex whether is male or female.

Chapter II

Literature Review

Parent-child sexual communication

In parent-child sexual communication, parents take the role of educators to provide sensitive messages to their children's questions and needs. Their children's sexual decision-making is most dependent on the information that is delivered by the parents. Therefore, parents play the important role in their children's sexual health (Flores & Barroso, 2017). Other than the factors such as lack of sexual education during school time, smoking, misused of drugs and so on the communication between parents and children about sex-related issues has been considered as the major factor in the emerging adults' sexual behaviour. Sexual behaviour such as premarital sex can place the children at the risk of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) or unwanted pregnancy (Kerpelman et al., 2016; Morris & Rushwan, 2015).

Tan et al. (2018) conducted a quantitative research to examine the frequency of parent-child communication about sex and to identify the association between parent-child communication about sex and adolescent sexual attitude. The research was being conducted in Malaysia and a total number of 241 respondents participated. Scales used in this research were the Parent-teen Sexual Risk Communication Scale and Sexual Attitude Scale. From the result, it showed that there is a significant relationship between mother-child communication and sexual attitude and no significant relationship between father-child communication and sexual attitude. Overall, the result showed that children rarely discuss sex-related issues with their parents.

According to Coakley et al. (2017) in determining the efficiency of parent-youth sexual communication on reducing at-risk sexual behaviours in youths. The research method used was by reviewing a list of articles that included both quantitative and qualitative studies

that paid attention to parent-youth sexual communication about sexual and reproductive health. As discussed in Coakley's study, few barriers had been noticed, such as communication barriers that deterred parents from educating the youths about sexually related topics. For example, the discomfort feeling that stopped parents to talk with their youth children about sexually related topics and particularly, the fathers will usually feel unprepared to discuss sensitive topics with their children. Moreover, mothers who initiated sexual communications had found marginally associated with decreased in using protection from sexual health risks. Also, fathers' roles were discussed in sexual communication with their male children were not that widely studied compared to mothers. As compared to mothers, fathers would have access to more barriers, such as lower self-efficacy in talking sexually related topics, as well as lower confidence as fathers will think that discussing sexually related topics with their youth children may not lead to positive outcomes. Not only that, fathers will feel more capable to discuss particular male-oriented topics, such as male puberty with their sons but feel less appropriate to talk about female puberty related topics with their daughters and most importantly, fathers felt mothers would be the one who had less discomfort to talk about sexuality with the children.

To summarize, there was limited research that has studied the association between the types of messages (permissive and restrictive) and the sexual intention among emerging adults (Hood, 2019), especially in Asian countries such as Malaysia. This situation could be explained that Malaysia is considered a conservative country and the conversation about sex-related issues with their children is not a common practice among Asian parents. With the lack of sexual information and concern derived from the parents, children may have a higher possibility to involve in premarital sex. For example, Tan et al.'s (2018) research showed that overall adolescents are not used to discussing sexuality issues with their parents. As discussed earlier, the studies had indicated mothers would be more active in conducting sexual

communication with their children. However, the fathers' role was less mentioned in some research. Although mothers, in general, were said to be the best model to be involved in parent-child sexual communication, there were studies that argued that sons will still prefer to talk about sexually related topics with their fathers. From the literature review above, most of the research was done in Western countries. Hence, this present study may fill in the knowledge gaps by examining the frequency of parent-child sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) specifically for fathers and mothers to the youth in Malaysia.

The link between parent-child sexual communication and the sexual intention

Premarital sex has been acknowledged as a serious issue in Malaysia (Rahman et al., 2015). Parents and their children's relationships are influential in adolescents (Horstman et al., 2016) and those children's families that discuss more sex-related issues are probably less likely to involve in sexual activity or premarital sex (Pariera, 2016; Powers, 2017). Generally, parents serve as guides to their children about sexuality (You, 2020). However, parents always having some issues when it comes to sexual communication with their children. For instance, doubts about the accuracy of sexual and reproductive health information and having the feeling of inappropriate and discomfort to discuss sexual and reproductive information with their children (Othman et al., 2020). The relationship between parent-child sexual communication and the emerging adults' sexual behaviour has been found in several studies (Coakley et al., 2017; Ritchwood et al., 2017). Sexual behaviour such as premarital sex can place the children at the risk of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) or unwanted pregnancy (Kerpelman et al., 2016; Morris & Rushwan, 2015).

According to the research by Muhammad et al. (2017) to investigate the relationship between family interaction and the intention of sexual activity among youths in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia that involved a total number of 1,200 respondents. Youth Sexual Intention

Questionnaire (YSI-Q) and Parent-Adolescent Communication Scale were used in this research. The result of the study showed a lower-level of parent-child sexual communication. A small portion of male respondents (18 percent) and 1.4 percent of the female respondents said about their intention to present sexual activity. Males have more freedom from their parents and less parent-child sexual communication as compared to females. Which also mean that males will have higher sexual intention as compared to females. Anyway, the result found that the higher the parent-child sexual communication the lower the intention for their youth children to get involved in premarital sex.

According to the Negy et al. (2016) research, the result had shown that there is no significant relationship between the permissive and restrictive messages on parent-children sexual communication and the sexual values and behaviour among young adults. From this research, four national groups of young adults were received restrictive messages about sex-related issues from their parents. However, their young adult children were having more permissive sexual attitudes even though their parents were restrictive on sex-related issues to their young adult children. The result of the study found that young adults think the permissive and restrictive messages on parent-child sexual communication have minimal effect on their sexual values and behaviour. The messages (restrictive and permissive) that parents convey were not related to their young adult children's sexual values significantly. The study also indicated that there was no significant between parents' messages (permissive and restrictive) and the sexual debut age of young adults. This explained that young adults will have the possibility to involve in sexual behaviour due to the limited influence of the parents on sexual values.

According to Mallory (2016) on the study to investigate the relationship between parent-child sexual communication, sexual attitudes and couple communication about sex. This research was conducted at Midwestern university and a total of 441 undergraduate

students was being selected. The Dyadic Sexual Communication (DSCS), The Family Sexual Communication Scale (FSCS), Brief Sexual Attitudes Scale (BSAS) were used in this research. The results showed that permissive messages from their parents were positively related to permissive sexual attitudes from the undergraduate. In contrast, restrictive messages from parents were negatively related to a permissive sexual attitude from the undergraduate. As a result, the messages given by parents about sexuality can impact their undergraduate children's sexual intention.

Behulu et al. (2019) conducted a quantitative research to determine the factors that having association with adolescent students' premarital sexual intercourse in Debre-Markos town. The participants were secondary and preparatory school adolescent students with the age range between 15 years old to 17 years old. From the results, sex of the adolescents was concluded as a significant predictor of adolescent students having practices of premarital sex which male adolescent students were said to have higher engagement in premarital sexual activity. Navi AM et al. (2017) also discussed that gender was one of the predictive factors of Malaysian youths practicing premarital sex. Male youths were claimed to having higher likelihood to be involved in sexual activities compared to female youths. The adventurous attitude of male youths was discussed as a contributor to male youths' high initiation of sexual practices. According to Eze (2014) research studied on the attitude of adolescent towards premarital sex and identified the major factors that contribute to adolescents' premarital sex. In the research, it showed that there was a significant relationship between the gender of adolescents and the adolescents' premarital sex attitude. It concluded that there was same rate of adolescents' permissive attitude toward premarital sex among male and female, but males have higher permissive than females (Eze, 2014). Hence, according to the consistency of the research result, it can be claimed that gender of adolescents is significantly influence adolescents' attitude regarding premarital sex and sexual intention.

According to Ayodele et al. (2012) research on the premarital sex prevalence and the factors that influence premarital sex among students in Nigeria, it showed that there was significant relationship between the age of adolescents and the adolescents' premarital sexual activities. Which mean that the age is determinants to adolescents' premarital sexual activities. This research result has been proved by Philips et al. (2019) research. Philip et al. (2019) conducted a quantitative research to determine the students' knowledge, attitudes and behavior toward premarital sex and the relationship between the factors and the students' attitudes toward premarital sex. In this research, it resulted that there is significant relationship between the age group and the adolescents' premarital sex attitudes. Which also mean that the age group was the related factor that led to practice of premarital sex among adolescents.

On the other hand, in Behulu et al. (2019) research, sexual experiences of the adolescent students were mentioned in the research as well. There were 31.3 percent ($n=188$) of the participants responded that they were in a relationship and had have practiced sexual activities. Behulu et al. (2019) had also mentioned that early exposure to sexual activities is associated with high frequency of premarital sex practices among school youths. Moreover, Caltabiano et al. (2020) had presented that sexual satisfaction resulted from the past sexual experience tend provide a significant influence on later high frequency of conducting sexual intercourse which causes both men and women tend to involve in a higher frequency of sexual intercourse to achieve their sexual pleasure.

To summarize, Asian families particularly in Malaysia infrequently discuss or practice sexual communication (Tan et al., 2018). The lack of sexual information for youth from their parents will put them at a higher risk of negative sexual outcomes. Parents seem to have an important role in educating knowledge about sex to their children. From the review, mixed findings were found. A research stated that the higher the parent-child sexual

communication the lower the intention for their youth children to get involved in premarital sex (Muhammad et al., 2017). In short, the sexual intention of youth can be controlled by their parents through parent-child sexual communication. Mallory's (2016) research found that permissive messages from parents were related to permissive sexual attitudes from their children positively and restrictive messages from parents were related to permissive sexual attitudes from their children negatively. Yet, the other research (Negy et al., 2016) found that there was no significant relationship between parent-child sexual communication and the young adults' sexual values and behaviour. Besides, there is a lack of published research studies on the sexual intention of the youth but mostly discuss attitude or values aspects and most of the research were done in Western countries. Hence, to fill up the knowledge gaps, the present research aims to examine the prediction of parent-child sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) to the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia.

Moderation role of sex of children in relationship of parent-child sexual communication and the sexual intention

Rogers (2017) claimed that parent-child sexual communication is effective in reducing risky sexual behaviour. The study aimed to determine the effect of parent-child sexual communication on youth safer sex behaviour in the United States. Parents were said to play an important role in influencing adolescents' sexual attitudes, values, and risk-specified beliefs. The results of the study claimed that gender could be taken as a moderating factor in the association between parent-child sexual communication and safer sexual behaviour. The relationship between parent-child sexual communication and youth safer sex was significantly stronger for adolescents who had communicated sexual related topics with their mothers but weaker with their fathers. Parent-child sexual communication was said to be more predictive of adolescents' sexual behaviour when the conversation was conducted with

daughters rather than sons. Therefore, Rogers had indicated that the association between communication and safer sex was also moderated by the gender of the parents.

Widman et al. (2016) had also explained parent-child sexual communication could be moderated by the adolescent gender. Girls tend to have a stronger effect from sexual communication with their parents, particularly their mothers compared to their fathers. Also, girls were said to have more sexual communication with their parents compared to boys and parents will most likely talk about the negative impacts of sexual activity with their daughters more but lesser with their sons. It is because parents were said to have lesser relevant topics and information to talk with their male children about safer sex and the communication pattern to be used while discussing with sons was different with daughters. Not only that, mothers are viewed as an effective role in parent-child sexual communication as mothers will talk more about the precautions and protections that needed to be taken to promote safer sex which significantly lead to lower youth intention in engaging in risky sexual behaviour, specifically when the conversation was conducted with the daughters. Fathers and sons were less capable to express themselves verbally and less likely to disclose themselves compared to mothers and daughters.

Cheryl et al. (2006) had also indicated that effective parent-youth sexual communication will lead to delay in youth sexual activity. However, the finding did not mention whether sex could act as a moderation factor in affecting the effectiveness of parent-youth sexual communication. Moreover, Wamoyi et al. (2010) had mentioned that sexual communication in a family is usually conducted on a same-sex basis, such as a mother-daughter conversation but on the other hand, it was rare to see a father-son or father-daughter sexual conversation conducted in a family. However, Tan et al. (2018) had mentioned that male adolescents were more preferred to talk about sexual related topics with their fathers. Therefore, father-specified sexual communication with the children was less focused and

discussed. Although male adolescents were said to put fathers as their preference when it came to parent-child sexual communication, the research finding of Tan et al. (2018) had revealed the fact that adolescents' sexual attitudes were not having a significant relationship with father-adolescent communication as it was explained that the primary sex educators in the family will mostly be the mothers. Hence, it has shown inconsistency in research findings between Western and Eastern studies. Also, research that specifically focused on sex acts as the moderating factor in parent-child sexual communication were limited as well. For instance, Cheryl et al. (2006) had discussed the parents' role in sexual communication with the children, but the difference of messages given between mother and father and the difference in receiving messages between the male and female youth were not discussed.

Therefore, it is crucial to study how sex acts as the moderating role in the association between parent-child sexual communication and sexual intention in the Asia context. It is noted that most of the recent studies are focusing on Western countries but limited local data could be found. Not only that, compared to youth, adolescents seem more frequently to be discussed in the literature. Moreover, there is no research done in studying the sex difference of parents in delivering restrictive or permissive attitude on the sexually related discussion to the youth. Therefore, the research is aimed to determine the moderating role of sex in the association between parent-child (father and mother) sexual communication and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia.

Theoretical Framework

Family Communication Pattern Theory (FCPT) was developed by McLeod and Chaffee in 1972. FCPT describes the families' climates on how the family or parent-child communication could bring effects on children's reality perceptions, relatively, how the families build and share social reality (Koerner & Fitzpatrick, 2006).

According to FCP Theory, families established two communication patterns which were conversation orientation and conformity orientation. The first dimension, conversation orientation means that the family members that are free and open in their family interaction. This type of communication pattern among family members shares a wide range of topics and encourage the children to share any personal thought and feeling with one another and explore their world. These families think that communication is an educational and socializing method. In these families, decision-making is made base on the value of the argument. The second dimension, conformity orientation refers to the families that are more focused on a tendency of homogeneity of beliefs that reflect obedience to the parents. These families used to be hierarchical and only allow authority members to define social reality which the children need to agree with parents' perceptions. These families tend to focus harmony communication and try to avoid interaction that might cause conflict. In these families, decision-making is made by the parents or other adults (Isaacs, 2012). Theoretically orthogonal, these two patterns of orientations determine four types of family which were pluralistic families, protective families, consensual families, and laissez-faire families (Koerner & Fitzpatrick, 2006).

Pluralistic families, families that are high in conversation orientation and low in conformity orientation. These families practice a free and open communication climate among family members. In these families, parents do not control their children in doing decision-making regarding their matters and encourage their children to be involved in a family discussion, accept children's comments and opinions as well as allow children to take part actively in family decision-making. Children in these families tend to value family communication and learn to be independent as well as show confidence in their decision-making (Isaacs, 2012).

Protective families, families that are high in conformity orientation and low in conversation orientation. These families practice obedience to parental authority communication among the family members. In these families, parents tend to make own decision for their children. These families do not value interaction with children and communication skills are not practice frequently. Children are lack confidence in decision-making ability in these families (Isaacs, 2012).

Consensual families, families that are high in both conversation and conformity orientation. These families practice open and free communication and practice parental authority interaction. This means that parents allow their children to express their thoughts and feelings, meanwhile, parents want their children to have the same thoughts and beliefs as them. In these families, parents are always allowing their children to share their social reality, however, parents also believe that they should be the ones to make the final decision for the family as well as for their children, as parents. Children value communication with family members and receive the beliefs of their parents (Isaacs,2021).

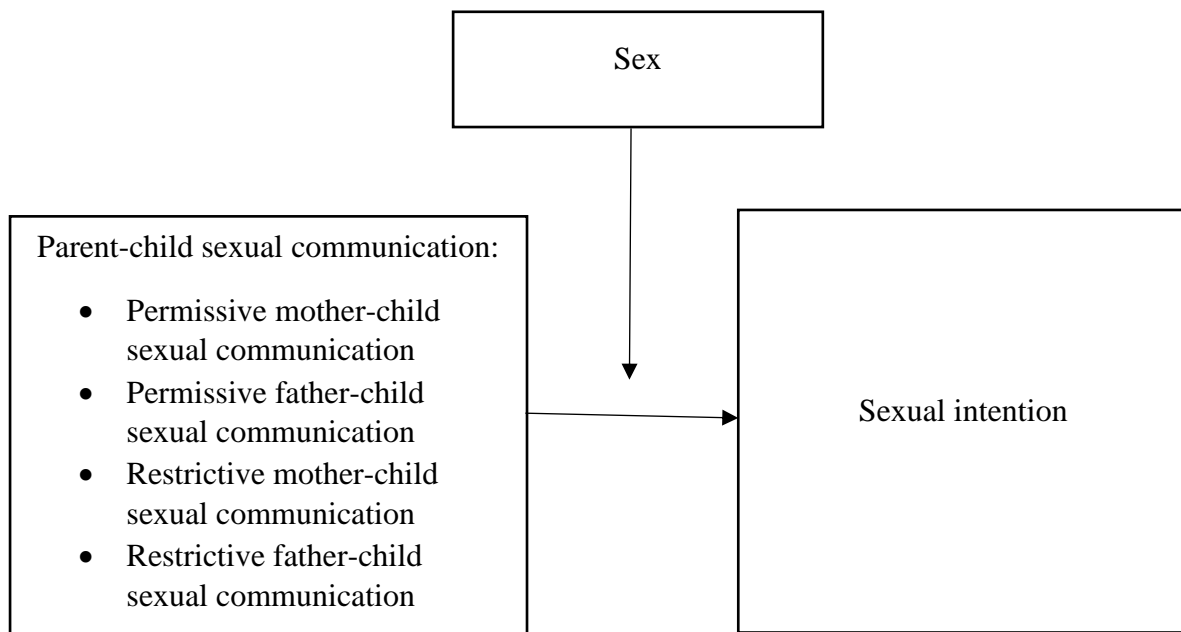
Laissez-faire families, families that are low in both conversation and conformity orientation. These families practice little communication with one another among the family members. In these families, parents tend to do their own decision and have the least interest in their children's decision-making. Therefore, parent-child communication in these families is lacking. Children in these families used to distrust their decision-making ability as they are lacking family support and lack of communication among the family members (Isaacs, 2012).

According to Isaacs (2012), family communication does bring effects to emerging adults' sexual behaviour. Therefore, the Family Communication Patterns Theory is applied in this research to explain the relationship between parent-child sexual communication and youths' sexual intention. In this theory, there are two communication patterns developed

which are conversation orientation (permissive messages) and conformity orientation (restrictive messages). This may imply that the two types of parent-child communication patterns could affect children's sexual intention.

Conceptual Framework

The purpose of this study was to understand the association between parent-child sexual communication and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia. In this study, the independent variable was the parent-child sexual communication (father-child permissive, father-child restrictive, mother-child permissive and mother-child restrictive) while separated as two dimensions which were permissive and restrictive to measure the attitude-based communication between parent and children. The dependent variable was the sexual intention which was to measure the intention of the youths in Malaysia to engage in sexual intercourse. At the same time, the sex difference was taken to be the moderator in this relationship. According to Odenweller & Harris (2018), family communication patterns could reflect different children's outcomes. To illustrate, children might ignore strict parents' beliefs or children keep quiet to parents who encourage children to explore themselves. Family communication patterns can impact the children's socialization process and lead to different outcomes. Hence, the Family Communication Patterns Theory was applied to explain the relationship between parent-child sexual communication and youths' intention of sex.

Figure 2.1*Conceptual Framework***Chapter Summary**

Multiple studies related to the four predicting variables which were the permissive father-child sexual communication, the restrictive father-child sexual communication, the permissive mother-child sexual communication, and the restrictive mother-child sexual communication associated with the youths' sexual intention were reviewed in this chapter. Moreover, a few past studies that had discussed sex as a moderating factor between parent-child sexual communication and youths' sexual intention were also outlined. Besides that, this chapter had also included reviewed materials on sex of children and sexual intercourse experience as predictors for youths' sexual intention. The Family Communication Pattern Theory was applied in the present study to explain the relationship between parent-child sexual communication and the youths' sexual intention. Finally, the conceptual framework was presented with a diagram to provide a clearer view on the relationship between the predictors and the outcomes with inclusive of the moderating factor.

Chapter III

Methodology

Introduction

This chapter introduced the research design, research subject which included the research population, location of the study, sample size, sampling method, and the participant of the study. Besides, research instruments and procedures were also discussed in this chapter included the result of the pilot study and the reliability of scales.

Research Design

The purpose of the research was to study the association between parent-child sexual communication and sexual intention among youths in Malaysia. The quantitative research method was selected which allows the data collected to be tabulated for further analysis. Moreover, a cross-sectional study was used in the research as the research was conducted only one time across the period of study. A correlational research method was employed to describe the association between parent-child sexual communication and sexual intention among youths in Malaysia with sex as a moderator.

Research Subject

Research Population and Location of the Study

The contemporary population of Malaysia was approximately 32.7 million in 2020. (Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2020). As the research was conducted in Malaysia, the population of the study selected was Malaysian youths which consist of 45.4 percent of Malaysian were youths or approximately 14.85 million. The location of the study has not specified whether only a certain region of Malaysia was selected to conduct the research. Particularly, Malaysia's citizens regardless of their origin city or state were welcomed to

participate in the research. Due to the pandemic disaster that happened recently over the world, the designed questionnaire was distributed through social media rather than through physical contact to secure the safety of both researchers and participants.

Sample Size

Out of the total population of Malaysia, 45.4 percent of Malaysians, of which approximately 14.85 million Malaysian were known as youth. The estimated sample size of the population that is greater than 1 million will be 384 according to the specified guideline provided by Krejcie and Morgan (1970) in deciding the sample size. Furthermore, with the consideration of missing data and outliers, the targeted total sample size was added with 15 percent more. Hence, 450 respondents were targeted. As compared to a previous study on the family sexual communication and sexual outcomes of adolescents and emerging adults, the sample size of the study was 326 which could be used to support that the targeted sample size of this research is sufficient (Isaacs, 2012).

Sampling Method

The sampling method that had been selected for the research was the purposive sampling method because few criteria need to be met to take the responses into account. The participants have to be unmarried Malaysian youths aged between 18 to 25 years old. Due to the pandemic disaster that happened recently over the world, the questionnaire was transformed into an online questionnaire and was distributed through social media rather than through physical contact to secure the safety of both researchers and participants. According to the report made in Social Media Stats Malaysia (2020), 84.47 percent of Malaysians were actively using Facebook. Therefore, social media was acknowledged as one of the best ways for questionnaire distribution.

Participants

A total of 454 samples was obtained from the targeted population. 43 percent of the total samples were male ($n = 195$) and 57 percent of the total samples were female ($n = 259$). The age of the participants was between 18 to 25 years old with a mean age of 21.84 and a standard deviation of 1.92. As concerning the ethnicity aspect, 62.3 percent of the total samples were Chinese ($n = 283$), 20 percent were Malay ($n = 91$), 17.2 percent were Indian ($n = 78$), and the rest 1.8 percent was grouped in as other ethnicities ($n = 2$) namely, Lunbawang and one missing data is recorded. Moreover, 72.2 percent of the samples were students ($n = 328$), 21.4 percent were employed ($n = 97$) and the remaining 6.4 percent were unemployed ($n = 29$). Furthermore, in this study, there was 57.3 percent of the samples were single ($n = 260$) and 42.7 percent were in a relationship ($n = 194$). 47.8 percent of the samples were experienced sexual intercourse ($n = 217$) and 52.2 percent have not experienced sexual intercourse ($n = 237$).

Research Instrument

The instruments that had been used in this research were The Youth Sexual Intention Questionnaire (Muhammad et al., 2017) and The Family Sexual Communication Scale (Isaacs, 2012).

Demographic Information

Demographic information of the participants was obtained by asking some questions. Firstly, the sex of the participants was asked then followed by age, nationality, ethnicity, religion, employment status and current relationship status. Then, some subsequent questions were asked “Have you engaged in sexual intercourse?”, “What is your age the first time your parent (father or mother) engaged in sexual communication with you?”, “Who you comfortable to have sexual communication with?” and “Rank (1=most received; 9=least

received) the source of sexually related information (parent, sibling, friend, romantic partner, classes in school, religious leader, movie, internet media and printed media) that you have received from the list below.”. Participants were required to fill in the open-ended questions’ blank space, tick the related answer of close-ended questions and rank the source of sexually related information from 1 to 9 in the blank space.

The Youth Sexual Intention Questionnaire (YSI-Q)

The Youth Sexual Intention Questionnaire (Muhammad et al., 2017) was to measure the sexual intention of unmarried youths (male and female) which was the DV of this present research. There were 20 items included in this scale to measure four main constructs which were the sexual intention, attitude, social norms and self-efficacy. Only items 1 to item 5 were analysed as it measures the youths’ sexual intention. For example, “I expect to have sex with my partner” and “I want to have sex with my partner”. Responses are on a 4-Likert scale from 1- “strongly disagree” and 4- “strongly agree”. A higher score means that youths are having a higher sexual intention. For this scale, the reliability was 0.93 and it showed to have good construct, convergent and discriminant validity ($X^2 = 392.43$, $df = 164$, $p < .001$, $X^2/df = 2.40$, $CFI = .93$, $TLI = .92$ and $RMSEA = .08$). Meanwhile, this scale also has been used in several studies in Malaysia (Abdullah et al., 2020; Muhammad et al., 2017).

The Family Sexual Communication Scale (FSCS)

The Family Sexual Communication Scale (Isaacs, 2012) was to measure the frequency, quality and content of family sexual communication (permissive and restrictive messages). For this present research, only a subscale was used to measure the independent variables which was the content of family sexual communication, father and mother were measured separately (father-youth sexual communication and mother-youth sexual communication).

There were 15 items included in this subscale. 7 items were applied to measure the permissive messages from youths' parents. For example, "My father/mother encouraged me to explore my sexual urges even at a young age" and "My parents told me to always use protection". FSCS is scored based on the responses on a 7-point Likert scale from 1- "strongly disagree" to 7- "strongly agree" and "haven't discussed". In these 7 items, the higher score means that youths receive more parents' permissive messages, and the lower score means that youths receive less permissive messages from their parents.

8 items were applied to measure the restrictive messages from youths' parents. For example, "My parents told me to wait to have sex until I am married" and "My father/mother made it clear that one should never cheat on one's partner". Same as above, response options are on a 7-point Likert scale from 1- "strongly disagree" to 7- "strongly agree" and "haven't discussed". In these 8 items, the higher score means youths receive more restrictive messages from their parents and the lower score means youths receive less restrictive messages from their parents.

Research Procedure

The research procedure of the study that involved human or animal subjects, human tissues and personal data was reviewed and approved by the UTAR Scientific and Ethical Review Committee (SERC) before the data collection of the study (refer to Appendix C). The questionnaire has been made available online using Qualtrics.com, an online application that allows researchers to digitalize the questionnaire. The survey link and QR code were generated and circulated on social media platforms. The information sheet that consists of the title of the study, the objective of the study, the estimated duration of answering the questionnaire and the procedure of the study was presented to the participants. The respondents were asked to provide their consent to participate in the study voluntarily. The

purpose of the study, the confidentiality procedure and protection and the contact of the person-in-charge were available in the consent part to provide a detailed information getaway to the participants.

Pilot Study

A pilot study was done on 11th January 2021 by recruited 30 students from the psychology course of Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman batch Oct 2018. The age range of the students was 20 to 25 years old. The survey link was distributed through WhatsApp due to the pandemic.

Reliability

According to table 3.1, the reliability of instruments used in the pilot study for the sexual intention, restrictive father-child sexual communication, permissive father-child sexual communication, restrictive mother-child sexual communication and permissive mother-child sexual communication were .93, .91, .85, .93, and .84 respectively.

The reliability of the actual study for the sexual intention, restrictive father-child sexual communication, permissive father-child sexual communication, restrictive mother-child sexual communication and permissive mother-child sexual communication were .94, .92, .88, .92 and .77 respectively.

Table 3.1

Reliability of Sexual Intention, Restrictive FCSC, Permissive FCSC, Restrictive MCSC, and Permissive MCSC

Scale	Cronbach's alpha, α			
	Number of items	Previous study	Pilot study (n=30)	Actual study (n=454)
Sexual Intention	5	.93	.93	.94
Restrictive FCSC	8	.84	.93	.92

Permissive FCSC	7	.85	.85	.88
Restrictive MCSC	8	.84	.93	.92
Permissive MCSC	7	.85	.84	.77

Data Processing and Analysis

In this present research, IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 26.0 was used to describe the research result after the data collection. Three analyses were conducted to test the research hypothesis which is Paired Sample T-Test Analysis, Hierarchical Multiple Linear Regression Analysis and Moderation Analysis. Paired Sample T-Test was used to indicate the differences in parent-child sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) specifically for both parents among Malaysian youths. Hierarchical Multiple Linear Regression was used to examine the prediction of parent-child sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) on the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia. Lastly, Hayes SPSS Macro PROCESS was employed for moderation analysis to investigate sex moderates the association between parent-child (fathers and mothers) sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) and the sexual intention among Malaysian youths.

Chapter Summary

In this present research, quantitative research method, cross-sectional study and purposive sampling method were used. The Youth Sexual Intention Questionnaire and The Family Sexual Communication Scale were used to measure the variables in this present research. Furthermore, a pilot study had been carried out to determine the reliability of the instruments. Results of the pilot study had shown that the instruments obtained high reliability. IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 26.0 was used to conduct Paired Sample T-Test Analysis and Hierarchical Multiple Linear Regression Analysis. Hayes SPSS Macro PROCESS was employed for Moderation Analysis.

Chapter IV

Result

Introduction

This chapter presented the descriptive statistics and frequency distribution which included demographic data such as the background info of the participants. Besides, preliminary findings were presented before the discussions of the main findings. The statistical results and interpretation of results for paired-sample *t*-test, hierarchical multiple linear regression, and moderation analysis by using Hayes SPSS Macro PROCESS were presented in this chapter.

Descriptive Statistics

Missing Data

A total of 514 participants were collected and 454 participants were remained after filtering out the ones with incomplete data as well as those who did not fulfilled the selection criteria. According to Fincham (2008), the acceptable response rate is 60 percent hence the data with a response rate lower than 60 percent were excluded from the present study. For the father-child and mother-child sexual communication scales, the option of hadn't been discussed at all will be considered as not applicable hence it will not be included in the analysis. 53 participants were excluded for the analysis of restrictive and permissive father-child sexual communication scale, 23 participants were excluded for the analysis of restrictive and permissive mother-child sexual communication. Hence, there will be 401 data to be analysed for father-child sexual communication and 431 data for mother-child sexual communication.

Demographic Information

As postulated in Table 4.1, a total amount of respondents was 454, particularly there were 195 males (43 percent) and 259 females (57 percent). The age of participants was ranged from 18 to 25 years old ($M = 21.84$, $SD = 1.92$). A high proportion of respondents were Chinese (62.3 percent) followed by Malay (20.1 percent), Indian (17.2 percent) and others which included 1 Lunbawang (0.2 percent) and 1 not stated (0.2 percent). Within the respondents, 50.4 percent were Buddhist, 20 percent were Muslim, 12.8 percent were Hindus, 15 percent were Christians and 1.8 percent of others in religion. Most of the respondents were students (72.2 percent) while 21.4 percent of them were employed and 6.4 percent were unemployed. Furthermore, 194 respondents were currently in a relationship (42.7 percent) whereas the rest were single (57.3 percent). Besides, 217 respondents had experience in sexual intercourse (47.8 percent) and 237 respondents haven't (52.2 percent).

Table 4.1

Demographic Information of Respondents (n = 454)

	<i>n (%)</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Min</i>	<i>Max</i>
Age		21.84	1.92	18	25
Sex					
Male	195 (43)				
Female	259 (57)				
Ethnicity					
Malay	91 (20.1)				
Chinese	283 (62.3)				
Indian	78 (17.2)				
Lunbawang	1 (0.2)				
Not stated	1 (0.2)				

Religion	
Islam	91 (20)
Buddhism	229 (50.4)
Hinduism	58 (12.8)
Christianity	68 (15)
Other	8 (1.8)
Employment status	
Employed	97 (21.4)
Unemployed	29 (6.4)
Student	328 (72.2)
Current relationship status	
Single	260 (57.3)
In a relationship	194 (42.7)
Sexual intercourse experience	
Yes	217 (47.8)
No	237 (52.2)

Note. *SD* = Standard Deviation; Min = Minimum ; Max = Maximum

Frequency Distribution of Variables

Table 4.2 indicated the frequency distribution of the sexual intention, restrictive father-child sexual communication, permissive father-child sexual communication, restrictive mother-child sexual communication, and permissive mother-child sexual communication. The table also indicated the mean score and standard deviation of the variables respectively. For the sexual intention, the mean score was 14.43 (*SD* = 3.88) while 44.1 percent of respondents scored below the mean. Followed by the mean score of 30.92 (*SD* = 9.61) for the restrictive father-child sexual communication which 198 respondents (49.4 percent) scored

below the mean. Permissive father-child sexual communication had a mean score of 23.33 ($SD = 7.67$) while 54.1 percent of the respondents scored below the mean. On the other hand, restrictive mother-child sexual communication had a mean score of 31.88 ($SD = 10.18$) while 213 respondents (49.4 percent) scored below the mean. For permissive mother-child sexual communication, the mean score was 24.24 ($SD = 7.74$) and 236 respondents (54.8 percent) scored below the mean.

Table 4.3 indicated the ranking of the sources of sexual information arranged by the participants. The Internet had the highest frequency as the most received source for sexual information ($n = 430$), followed by friends ($n = 109$) and movies ($n = 167$) which both sources had the highest frequency for ranking in 2nd place. Parent scored the highest frequency in the ranking of 6th place as a source of sexual information ($n = 88$).

Table 4.2

Frequency Distribution of the Variables

Scale	<i>n</i> (%)	Mean	<i>SD</i>	Min	Max
Sexual Intention ($n = 454$)		14.43	3.88	5	20
Below mean (5 – 14.43)	200 (44.1)				
Above mean (14.44 – 20)	245 (55.9)				
Restrictive FCSC ($n = 401$)		30.92	9.61	8	56
Below mean (8 – 30.92)	198 (49.4)				
Above mean (30.93 – 56)	203 (50.6)				
Permissive FCSC ($n = 401$)		23.33	7.67	7	49
Below mean (7 – 23.33)	217 (54.1)				
Above mean (23.34 – 49)	184 (45.9)				
Restrictive MCSC ($n = 431$)		31.88	10.18	8	56
Below mean (8 – 31.88)	213 (49.4)				

Above mean (31.89 – 56)	218 (50.6)				
Permissive MCSC ($n = 431$)		24.24	7.74	7	49
Below mean (7 – 24.24)	236 (54.8)				
Above mean (24.25 – 49)	195 (45.2)				

Note. n = Sample Size; SD = Standard Deviation; Min = Minimum; Max = Maximum.

Table 4.3

Frequency Distribution for the Ranking of Each Sources for Sexual Information

Sources of Sexual Information	Ranking n (%)								
	1 (Most Received)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 (Least Received)
Parent ($n =$ 443)	24 (5.4)	17 (3.8)	45 (10.2)	48 (10.8)	58 (13.1)	88 (19.9)	77 (17.4)	41 (9.3)	45 (10.2)
Sibling ($n =$ 441)	3 (.7)	13 (2.9)	15 (3.3)	28 (6.3)	76 (17.2)	73 (16.5)	72 (16.3)	73 (16.1)	88 (19.4)
Friend ($n =$ 446)	41 (9.2)	109 (24.4)	102 (22.9)	104 (23.3)	62 (13.9)	11 (2.5)	10 (2.2)	4 (.9)	3 (.7)
Romantic partner ($n =$ 440)	35 (7.9)	61 (13.8)	132 (29.9)	84 (19.0)	44 (10.0)	17 (3.8)	18 (4.1)	16 (3.6)	33 (7.5)
Classes in school ($n =$ 443)	15 (3.4)	14 (3.2)	23 (5.2)	31 (7.0)	53 (12.0)	65 (14.7)	90 (20.3)	102 (23.0)	50 (11.3)
Religious Leader ($n =$ 435)	14 (3.2)	7 (1.6)	9 (2.1)	20 (4.6)	31 (7.1)	33 (7.6)	32 (7.3)	57 (13.0)	232 (53.1)
Movie ($n =$ 440)	17 (3.9)	167 (38.0)	33 (7.5)	45 (10.2)	45 (10.2)	57 (13.0)	45 (10.2)	12 (2.7)	19 (4.3)
Internet media ($n =$ 444)	340 (76.6)	31 (7.0)	20 (4.5)	14 (3.2)	16 (3.6)	8 (1.8)	4 (.9)	7 (1.5)	4 (.9)

Printed	4 (.9)	7 (1.6)	41	33	59	50	46	70	127
Media (<i>n</i> = 437)			(9.4)	(7.5)	(13.5)	(11.4)	(10.5)	(16.0)	(29.0)

Preliminary Findings

Prior to conduct parametric tests, the assumption which the normality test was conducted and assessed. The normality assessment check on the histogram, Q-Q plots, skewness, kurtosis and Kolmogorov-Smirnov test.

Normality Test

Table 4.4 indicated the results of the normality test which included the mean, standard deviation, skewness and Kurtosis of each variable. The skewness and kurtosis for all variables were within the acceptable range which is ± 2 (George & Mallery, 2010). Histogram and Q-Q plot for each variable also shown normally distributed data (refer to Appendix D & E). Although according to Table 4.3 the results for the K-S test were not significant, the other four indicators which are histogram, Q-Q plot, skewness and kurtosis were met.

Table 4.4

Normality Test Results of All Variables

Scale	<i>n</i>	Mean	<i>SD</i>	Skewness	Kurtosis	Statistic	Sig. of KS Test
Sexual intention	454	14.43	3.88	-.27	-.52	.19	< .001
Restrictive FCSC	401	30.92	9.61	-.06	.15	.07	< .001
Permissive FCSC	401	23.33	7.67	.20	.01	.07	< .001
Restrictive MCSC	431	31.88	10.18	.13	-.03	.10	< .001

Permissive MCSC	431	24.24	7.74	.41	.53	.08	< .001
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Note. n = Sample Size; SD = Standard Deviation

Inferential Statistics

The results of the paired-sample t -test, hierarchical multiple linear regression and Hayes SPSS Macro PROCESS were presented in this section according to the research questions.

Paired-Sample t-Test

Research Question 1: Are there differences in parent-child sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) specifically for fathers and mothers among youths in Malaysia?

H₁: The frequency of permissive father-child sexual communication is higher than the frequency of restrictive father-child sexual communication among youths in Malaysia.

A paired-sample t -test was conducted to test whether there are differences in parent-child sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) specifically for fathers and mothers among youths in Malaysia. The results (Table 4.5) indicated that the mean score of restrictive father-child sexual communication ($M = 30.92$, $SD = 9.61$) was significantly higher than the mean score of permissive father-child sexual communication ($M = 23.33$, $SD = 7.67$), $t(400) = 9.58$, $p < .001$. Hence, the result signified H_1 was not supported as fathers delivered more restrictive sexual messages.

H₂: The frequency of restrictive mother-child sexual communication is higher than the frequency of permissive parent-child sexual communication among youths in Malaysia.

Based on Table 4.5, the mean score of restrictive mother-child sexual communication ($M = 31.88$, $SD = 10.18$) was significantly higher than the mean score of permissive mother-

child sexual communication ($M = 24.24$, $SD = 7.74$), $t(430) = 9.94$, $p < .001$. This result supported H₂ which mothers delivered more restrictive sexual messages to their children.

Table 4.5

Results of Paired-Sample t-test

Variable	Mean	SD	t	p
Father-Child Sexual Communication				
Restrictive messages	30.92	9.61	9.58	< .001
Permissive messages	23.33	7.67		
Mother-Child Sexual Communication				
Restrictive messages	31.88	10.18	9.94	< .001
Permissive messages	24.24	7.74		

Hierarchical Multiple Linear Regression

As a prior for conducting hierarchical multiple linear regression, some assumptions that needed to be tested. The assumptions included multicollinearity, independence of errors, normality, linearity and homoscedasticity of residuals.

Multicollinearity. Multicollinearity appeared when there were high correlations between the independent variables. Pearson's product-moment correlation coefficient was used to analyse the presence of multicollinearity. According to Table 4.6, only two independent variables were significantly related to sexual intention which was restrictive and permissive father-child sexual communication. Both of the independent variables were not highly correlated ($r = -.69$, $p < .001$) which did not violate the assumption of collinearity. Sex of children, and sexual intercourse experience will act as the control variables for the first

level of hierarchical multiple linear regression and both variables do not correlate strongly with restrictive and permissive father-child sexual communication.

Besides, the Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) and tolerance also act as an indicator for multicollinearity. Multicollinearity does not appear while the VIF value was below ten and tolerance value is higher than .10 (Dauod, 2017). Referring to Table 4.7, the tolerance value ranged from .52 to .97 and the VIF were ranged from 1.03 to 1.93. Hence, the assumption for multicollinearity was not breached.

Table 4.6

Correlation Coefficient between Sexual Intention, Restrictive FCSC, Permissive FCSC, Restrictive MCSC, Permissive MCSC, Sex of Children and Sexual Intercourse Experience.

Variable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Sexual Intention	1						
2.Restrictive FCSC	-.11*	1					
3. Permissive FCSC	.12*	-.69***	1				
4. Restrictive MCSC	-.01	.23***	-.17**	1			
5. Permissive MCSC	.05	-.16**	.23***	-.58***	1		
6. Sex of Children (0 = Female, 1 = Male)	.17***	.11*	-.06	-.04	.03	1	
7. Sexual intercourse experience (0 = No, 1 = Yes)	-.27***	.07	-.17**	.10*	-.13**	-.13**	1

Note. * $p < .05$ (1-tailed); ** $p < .01$ (1-tailed); *** $p < .001$ (1-tailed)

Table 4.7*Collinearity Statistics Table*

Variable	Tolerance Value	VIF
Restrictive FCSC	.53	1.90
Permissive FCSC	.52	1.93
Sex of Children	.97	1.03
Sexual Intercourse Experience	.95	1.05

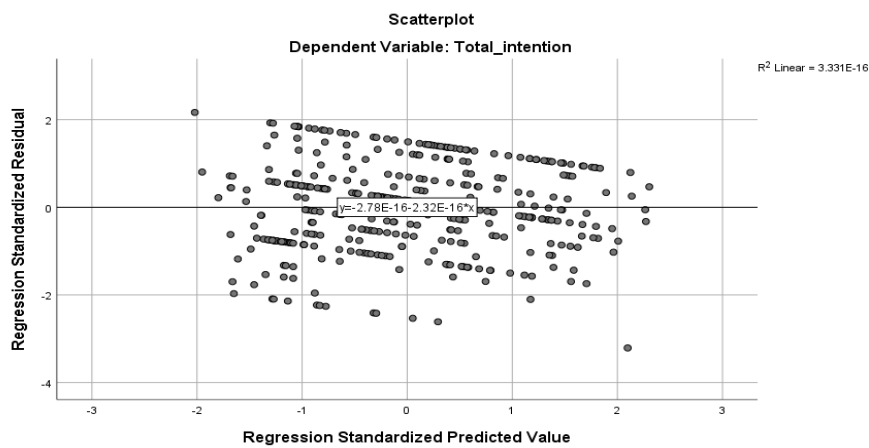
Independence of Errors. Based on table 4.8, the value of the Durbin-Watson test is 1.48 which is within the acceptable range of 1 to 3. Hence, this assumption was not breached as well.

Table 4.8*Durbin-Watson Test*

Model	Durbin-Watson
2	1.48

Predictors: (Constant), Sex of Children, Sexual Intercourse Experience, Restrictive Father-Child Sexual Communication, Permissive Father-Child Sexual Communication

Normality, Linearity and Homoscedasticity. Based on Figure 4.1, the distribution of residuals on scatterplots was randomly and evenly distributed. Hence, the assumptions were not breached.

Figure 4.1*Normality, Linearity and Homoscedasticity of Residuals*

Research Question 2: Do parent-child (fathers and mothers) sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) predict the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia?

A hierarchical multiple linear regression was used to assess if the restrictive and permissive father-child sexual communication significantly predicts the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia while the sex of children, and sexual intercourse experience are the controlling variables for this model. Restrictive and permissive mother-child sexual communication were not included in the model because these variables did not significantly correlate with sexual intention (refer to Table 4.6). According to Table 4.9, the Model 1 was statistically significant, $F(2,39) = 18.55, p < .001$ and accounted for 8.5 percent of variance. Moreover, sex of children ($\beta = .14, p = .004$), and sexual intercourse experience ($\beta = -.24, p < .001$) were found to be significant predictors of the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia. By addition of both restrictive and permissive father-child sexual communication in Model 2, it accounted for a significant 1.5 percent of the increase in the variance of the sexual intention, $\Delta F(2,395) = 3.10, p < .05$. The Model 2 was a statistically significant model, $F(2,395) = 10.92, p < .001$. However, only the sex of children ($\beta = .16, p = .001$), and

sexual intercourse experience ($\beta = -.22, p < .001$) were remained as the significant predictors for the sexual intention but not for restrictive and permissive father-child sexual communication.

The effect size was calculated with the formula of $f^2 = R^2 / 1 - R^2$. According to Allen and Bennett (2007), the effect size .02 will be viewed as small, .15 as medium and .35 will be large. For level 1, the effect size is .09 and for level 2 is .11 both of the effect sizes can be considered as small.

Table 4.9

Hierarchical Multiple Linear Regression in Predicting the Sexual Intention among Youths in Malaysia (n = 401)

Predictor	B	SE B	β	t	p
Model 1					
Sex of Children (0 = Female, 1=Male)	1.12	.38	.14	2.93	.004
Sexual Intercourse Experience (0 = No, 1 = Yes)	-1.87	.38	-.24	-4.90	< .001
Model 2					
Sex of Children (0 = Female, 1=Male)	1.23	.38	.16	3.22	.001
Sexual Intercourse Experience (0 = No, 1 = Yes)	-1.77	.39	-.22	-4.57	< .001
Restrictive FCSC	-.04	.03	-.10	-1.48	.141
Permissive FCSC	.02	.03	.03	.47	.640

Note. B = Unstandardized Coefficient; SE B = Standard Error; β = Standardized Coefficients; p = p-value; For Model 1: $R = .29$ $R^2 = .09$ Adjusted $R^2 = .08$ $F(2,397) = 18.55, p < .001$; For Model 2: $R = .32$ $R^2 = .10$ Adjusted $R^2 = .09$ $F(2,395) = 10.92, p < .001$.

Moderation Analysis

Research Question 3: Does the sex of children moderates the associations between parent-child (fathers and mothers) sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia?

H₃: Sex significantly moderates the association between permissive father-child sexual communication and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia.

Hayes SPSS Macro PROCESS was used to determine the moderation effect of sex of children on the association between permissive father-child sexual communication and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia while sexual intercourse act as the control variable. Based on Table 4.10, the model was statistically significant, $F(4,395) = 10.34$, $p < .001$ and accounted for 9.5 percent of the variance. The interaction between sex of children and permissive father-child sexual communication was not significant $b = .02$, $t(395) = .24$, $p = .811$. Hence, H₃ was not supported.

Table 4.10

Hayes SPSS Macro PROCESS Moderation Analysis of Sex of Children on the relationship of Permissive FCSC and the Sexual Intention

Model	<i>b</i>	<i>SE b</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
Constant	-.34	.08	-4.50	<. 001
Permissive FCSC	.09	.07	1.24	.217
Sex of Children (0 = Female, 1 = Male)	.31	.10	3.11	.002
Interaction	.02	.10	.24	.811
Sexual Intercourse Experience (0 = No, 1 = Yes)	.45	.10	4.47	<. 001

Note. $R = .31$, $R^2 = .10$, $F(4,395) = 10.34$, $p < .001$; b = coefficient ; SE = Standard Error

H4: Sex significantly moderates the association between permissive mother-child sexual communication and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia.

Table 4.11 presents the model of moderation effect of the sex of children on the association between permissive mother-child sexual communication and the sexual intention while sexual intercourse experience as the control variable. The model was statistically significant $F(4,425) = 11.28, p < .001$ and accounted for 9.6 percent of the variance. Nevertheless, the interaction between sex of children and permissive mother-child sexual communication was not significant $b = .03, t(425) = .26, p = .794$. In conclusion, there was no moderation effect from sex of children on the association between the sexual intention and permissive mother-child sexual communication hence the H₄ was not supported.

Table 4.11

Hayes SPSS Macro PROCESS Moderation Analysis of Sex of Children on the relationship of Permissive MCSC and the Sexual Intention

Model	<i>b</i>	<i>SE b</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
Constant	-.36	.07	-5.02	< .001
Permissive MCSC	.00	.06	.04	.965
Sex of Children (0 = Female, 1 = Male)	.30	.09	3.18	.002
Interaction	.03	.09	.26	.794
Sexual Intercourse Experience (0 = No, 1 = Yes)	.51	.09	5.42	< .001

Note. $R = .31, R^2 = .10, F(4,425) = 11.28, p < .001$; b = coefficient ; SE = Standard Error

H5: Sex significantly moderates the association between restrictive father-child sexual communication and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia.

Table 4.12 presents the model for moderation effect of the sex of children on the association between restrictive father-child sexual communication and the sexual intention

while sexual intercourse experience as the control variable and the model was statistically significant, $F(4,395) = 11.05, p < .001$ and accounted for 10 percent of the variance, but the interaction between sex of children and restrictive father-child sexual communication was not significant, $b = -.08, t(395) = -.82, p = .413$. As there was no moderation effect, therefore the H_5 was not supported.

Table 4.12

Hayes SPSS Macro PROCESS Moderation Analysis of Sex of Children on the relationship of Restrictive FCSC and the Sexual Intention

Model	<i>b</i>	<i>SE b</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
Constant	-.35	.08	-4.60	< .001
Restrictive FCSC	-.08	.07	-1.14	.256
Sex of Children (0 = Female, 1 = Male)	.32	.10	3.23	.001
Interaction	-.08	.10	-.82	.413
Sexual Intercourse Experience (0 = No, 1 = Yes)	.46	.10	4.65	< .001

Note. $R = .32, R^2 = .10, F(4,395) = 11.05, p < .001$; b = coefficient ; SE = Standard Error

H₆: Sex significantly moderates the association between restrictive mother-child sexual communication and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia.

Table 4.13 illustrated the model for moderation effect of the sex of children on the association between restrictive mother-child sexual communication and the sexual intention while sexual intercourse experience as the control variable and the model was statistically significant, $F(4,425) = 11.59, p < .001$ and accounted for 9.8 percent of the variance yet the interaction between sex of children and restrictive mother-child sexual communication was not significant, $b = -.09, t(425) = -.97, p = .334$. Consequently there was no moderation effect found, H_6 was not supported.

Table 4.13

Hayes SPSS Macro PROCESS Moderation Analysis of Sex of Children on the relationship of Restrictive MCSC and the Sexual Intention

Model	<i>b</i>	<i>SE b</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
Constant	-.37	.07	-5.13	< .001
Restrictive MCSC	.06	.06	1.02	.309
Sex of Children (0 = Female, 1 = Male)	.30	.09	3.20	.002
Interaction	-.09	.09	-.97	.334
Sexual Intercourse Experience (0 = No, 1 = Yes)	.52	.09	5.57	< .001

Note. $R = .31$, $R^2 = .10$, $F(4,425) = 11.59$, $p < .001$; b = coefficient ; SE = Standard Error

Chapter Summary

Table 4.14

Results Summary

Research Question	Hypothesis	Result	Decision
1. Are there differences in parent-child sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) specifically for fathers and mothers among youths in Malaysia?	H1: The frequency of permissive father-child sexual communication is higher than the frequency of restrictive father-child sexual communication among youths in Malaysia.	Mean of restrictive FCSC is higher than permissive FCSC, $t(400) = 9.58$, $p < .001$	Hypothesis was not supported
	H2: The frequency of restrictive mother-child sexual communication is higher than the frequency of permissive mother-child sexual communication among youths in Malaysia.	Mean of restrictive MCSC is higher than permissive MCSC, $t(430) = 9.94$, $p < .001$	Hypothesis was supported

sexual communication among youths in Malaysia.

2. Do parent-child (fathers and mothers) sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) predict the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia?

Restrictive and permissive FCSC do not predict the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia.

3. Does sex moderate the associations between parent-child (fathers and mothers) sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia?

H3: Sex significantly moderates the association between permissive father-child sexual communication and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia.

Interaction was not significant $b = .02$, $t(395) = .24$, $p = .811$

Hypothesis was not supported

H4: Sex significantly moderates the association between permissive mother-child sexual communication and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia.

Interaction was not significant $b = .03$, $t(425) = .26$, $p = .794$

Hypothesis was not supported

H₅: Sex significantly moderates the association between restrictive father-child sexual communication and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia. Interaction was not significant $b = -.08$, $t(395) = -.819$, $p = .413$ Hypothesis was not supported

H₆: Sex significantly moderates the association between restrictive mother-child sexual communication and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia. Interaction was not significant, $b = -.09$, $t(425) = -.97$, $p = .334$ Hypothesis was not supported

Chapter V

Discussion

Introduction

With the support of the past studies, the discussion based on the analyzed results was presented in this chapter. In addition, the implication of the study, limitations and recommendations for future research have also been concluded in this chapter.

Discussion

The purpose of conducting the present study was to investigate the association of the predictors of father-child sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) and mother-child sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) on the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia. Meanwhile, sex was acted as a moderator in this study. The discussion will be arranged based on research questions.

Research Question 1: Are there differences in parent-child sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) specifically for fathers and mothers among youths in Malaysia?

From the research findings, respondents of the study tend to report a higher restrictive father-child sexual communication than permissive father-child sexual communication. Coakley et al. (2017) found that fathers' involvement in sexual communication with their children was less effective as compared to mothers. Fathers were said to be grounded by the barriers, such as communication barriers and lower self-efficacy when it came to sexual communication with their children. Wright (2009) had supported that the fathers tend to deliver more restrictive messages to educate the children regardless of male or female on condom use and sexual abstinence. Besides, with consideration of Malaysia as a conservative

country and have strong opposition with sexually related issues due to the practices of cultures, fathers may deliver more restrictive sexually related information to the youths, such as the puberty process with their sons as according to certain religious education, some sexually related topics were not appropriate to communicate openly even in the family setting.

Moreover, the frequency of permissive mother-child sexual communication and restrictive mother-child sexual communication was analyzed as well. The result has shown that the frequency of restrictive mother-child sexual communication was higher than permissive mother-child sexual communication which supported the second hypothesis of the present study. Widman et al. (2016) had once mentioned that mothers were more likely to discuss the negative consequences of practicing unsafe sex with their daughters. Moreover, mothers were also taken as an effective role in parent-child sexual communication as they tend to deliver the importance of using proper precautions and protection while having sex. Flores et al. (2018) mentioned that HIV-infected mothers tend to deliver information about risky sex to their children to prevent them from involving in unsafe sexual activity. Hence, mothers tend to deliver more restrictive sexually related information as the role of a mother was to protect the children from participating in unsafe sexual activity.

In addition, with consideration of the cultural diversity in Malaysia, fathers in some cultures may be restricted to discuss such sensitive topics with their youth children. For instance, as mentioned by Sudan (2015), Muslim parents were not ready to communicate such sensitive topics with their children due to a sense of embarrassment, having difficulty initiating the conversation and lack of sexually related knowledge, especially the Malay fathers who acted as the patriarch in the families. Moreover, Edward et al. (2015) had also proved that Chinese parents who held traditional Chinese beliefs may be hesitant when it

came to discussing with children on sexually related topics. As discussed by Kim and Ward (2007), male and female youths from Asian American families claimed that they have received restrictive messages from their parents. Hence, it was believed that regardless of the sex of the parents, they will tend to deliver more restrictive sexually related messages than permissive sexually related messages due to the cultural sensitiveness and the parenting role defined in a particular context.

Research Question 2: Do parent-child (fathers and mothers) sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) predict the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia?

The second research question of the present study was to determine whether parent-child (fathers and mothers) sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) predicts the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia. The results of the study found that sex of children and sexual intercourse experience was presented as the significant predictors for the sexual intention among youths in Malaysian even after controlling its effect. Unfortunately, none of the four main predictors (permissive father-child sexual communication, restrictive father-child sexual communication, permissive mother-child sexual communication, and restrictive mother-child sexual communication) were significantly predicted the sexual intention of the youths. The results of the study were in line with Negy et al. (2016), that the permissive and restrictive messages on parent-child sexual communication has no significant relationship with the sexual value and behaviour of young adults. However, Tan et al. (2018) had claimed that only mother-child sexual communication but not father-child sexual communication was linked with adolescent sexual attitude which indicated an inconsistency with the present study. From the additional research findings of the present study, Internet sources, friends and romantic partners were ranked as the most received sources of sexually related information obtained by the participants, and parents were placed after these few sources. Hence, it may

be concluded that parents may not be the important sexual socialization agent for youths. As in this generation, youths tend to find sources from the Internet or peers rather than the parents when it came to discussion related to sexually related topics. This is also evidenced in Soh et al. (2018) study who found that parental influence was stronger only when the parents were actively engaged with their children. Thus, from what has obtained from the present study, parents were concluded having no significant predicting effect on youths' sexual intention may be due to lack of parent-children engagement in sexual communication.

On the other hand, the sex of children and sexual intercourse experience was found to have significant associations with the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia. The results of the study was supported by Behulu et al. (2019) that found sex of the school youths was a significant predictor of premarital sex practices where male youths were said to have higher premarital sexual engagement compared to female youths. Moreover, Navi AM et al. (2017) also provided the supporting point that male youths were claimed to having a higher likelihood to be involved in sexual activities. A similar finding was also found from Eze's (2014) study that there was a significant relationship between the gender of adolescents and the adolescents' premarital sex attitude. It concluded that there was some rate of adolescents' permissive attitude toward premarital sex among males and females, but males have higher permissiveness than females. Thus, male youths were said to have higher sexual intention compared to female youths as they were claimed to be the initiator of sexual intercourse as it may be due to the adventurous attitudes that most of the males possessed that caused them to explore their sexual needs at a young age (Behulu et al., 2019).

Other than the sex of the children, the sexual intercourse experience was also presented as one of the predictors of the youths' sexual intention. By employing the research findings of Behulu et al. (2019), early exposure to sexual activities was associated with a high

frequency of premarital sex practices among school youths. In addition, Caltabiano et al. (2020) proved that sexual satisfaction resulted from the past sexual experience tend to provide a significant influence on a later high frequency of conducting sexual intercourse, indicated that both men and women tend to involve in a higher frequency of sexual intercourse to achieve their sexual pleasure. Hence, the research findings of the present study were in line with the past studies as sex of children and sexual intercourse experience were significantly predicted the youths' sexual intention.

Research Question 3: Does the sex of children moderates the associations between parent-child (fathers and mothers) sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia?

From the present research findings, the sex of children was concluded to have no moderating on the association of parent-child (fathers and mothers) sexual communication (permissive and restrictive) and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia. The present research finding has shown inconsistency with the past studies as Rogers (2017) and Widman et al. (2016) had revealed that gender may act as a moderator in the association between parent-child sexual communication and the practice of sexual activity. Widman et al. (2016) had concluded that parent-child sexual communication could be moderated by the adolescent gender that female adolescents will tend to gain stronger effect and benefit from the sexual communication with their parents, particularly their mothers. To explain the inconsistency, parents' influence in predicting the sexual intention of the adolescents may be obvious for those adolescents who aged below 18, as the respondents of the present study were within the age of 18 to 25, the influence of parenting on the sexual intention for the participants will not be effective. In addition, based on Table 4.3, the Internet and peer were mentioned as the most received sources of youths' sexual information. For instance, Tan et al. (2018) had

discussed that high discovery of sexual-explicit Internet media tend to increase adolescents' sexual intention. Also, peers are regarded as having a significant impact on females' sexual intention (Barman-Adhikari et al., 2014). Therefore, it was believed that the female youths in this current study had higher sexual intention compared to female adolescents in Tan et al. (2018) and Barman-Adhikari et al. (2014) was influenced by Internet and peers. On the other hand, males were said to have higher sexual intention than females in most of the past studies. However, from the present study result, male and female youths were both concluded to have high sexual intention. Hence, the effect of parent-child communicates on sexual intention have no effect across gender, as parents in Malaysia may not practice sexual communication in general regardless with which gender of the children. Although the present study had shown an inconsistent result with the past studies, sex as the moderator in the association of parent-child sexual communication and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia was still considered as a discoverable topic in the Asia context.

Implication of the study

Theoretical Implication

Family Communication Pattern Theory (FCPT) was used to frame the research framework for this study. This theory described the families' climates on how the family or parent-child communication pattern impacts children's reality perceptions, relatively, how the families build and share social reality (Koerner & Fitzpatrick, 2006). In this theory, there are two communication patterns developed which are conversation orientation (permissive messages) and conformity orientation (restrictive messages). According to this present study, the result and the Family Communication Pattern Theory were not aligned. This research found that parent-child sexual communication does not significantly predict sexual intention

among youths in Malaysia. Hence, the construct of the Family Communication Pattern Theory (FCPT) may not fitted well to the context of the study.

This result could be explained as FCP Theory is created based on the western context and the cultural differences between the Western and Asian contexts may not be well captured in this theory. As Malaysia is considered a conservative country and sexually related conversation is not well conducted in the families as parents and their children tend to not discuss and talk about sex-related issues. Furthermore, FCP theory may not be suitable for the participants in this present research, youths in Malaysia. This is because parents may not be the first influence of youths and youths may not receive sex-related information from their parents. Moreover, this present research was focus on the youths' aspects instead of parents' perspective thus it may have biases regarding the parents' communication patterns.

On top of that, this present research has filled in the literature gap of parent-child sexual communication (permissive and restrictive messages) and its association on the sexual intention of children within the Malaysian context. This result has provided new insight as it presented different findings from other similar research. Hence, it enriches the literature regarding sexual intention. This present research may also provide new insight for future research to explore more on the sexual intention of youths in the Malaysian context. Based on the result of this study, the FCP Theory may also take in the consideration of cultural differences especially the Asian culture which is more conservative and traditional when dealing with sexual-related communication.

Practical Implication

This present study found that there were more than half of the participants showed high sexual intention. Hence, the related authorities should pay more attention to this issue and looking into other aspects besides the parenting factor. Relevant authorities and agencies

may organise interventions or prevention programs on preventing this issue. For example, organise awareness campaigns regarding sex-related information in university. Through the interventions and prevention programs, youths have been educated and it may result in the decrease of baby dumping cases and unwanted premarital pregnancy in Malaysia.

Furthermore, relevant authorities and agencies as well as the government sectors may organize training programs for parents on how to communicate with their children regarding sex-related issues. Since the present research showed that the type of messages is not impactful to their children's sexual intention, the training programs may teach parents the methods of conducting effective sex-related communication with their children. On the other hand, since parents' communication does not affect children's sexual intention and through this research, found out that the Internet is the most received source for sex-related information. Thus, the authorities, agencies, and government may focus more on the Internet rather than focusing on the parenting factor. For example, by promoting safer sex behaviour information, sharing knowledge regarding reproductive health through social media platforms.

Limitations and Recommendations

There are few limitations found in this study. This present study was using the purposive sampling method as some criteria need to be met. The participants must be unmarried Malaysian youths aged between 18 to 25 years old. Therefore, in this study, the sexual intention of other age groups may remain unknown. Future research may consider widening the age groups and study the sexual intention of the vulnerable groups such as adolescents in Malaysia.

Moreover, the majority of the participants were Chinese ($n=238$). Hence, this may affect the result in this present study as it could increase the difficulty to be representative of

the Malaysian population. Future research may consider the ratio of ethnicities in Malaysia. According to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (2021), in Malaysia, the majority of the population was Bumiputera (67.4 percent), then followed by the Chinese population (24.6 percent), Indian population (7.3 percent) and others ethnicity (0.7 percent).

In addition, instead of the parent's point of view, the inventories that have been used in this study were only based on the youths' perspective. In this situation, youths may give biased answers where the participants may follow the social norm and misunderstand their parents' communication patterns to answer the questionnaires. Future research may consider focusing on both parents' and their children's perspectives to more accurately recorded the actual and perception received of parent-child sexual communication. This is because parents may have different perspectives as compared with their children's points of view.

Furthermore, this study was only examining the type of messages from parents to their children, permissive messages and restrictive messages. Many other predictors can correlate with the sexual intention of youths. Future research may consider studying the frequency of parent-child sexual communication, style of parent-child sexual communication, and quality of parent-child sexual communication as they may bring different effects on youths' sexual intention.

Conclusion of the study

In this research, the purpose of the research was to study the relationship between parent-child sexual communication and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia. At the same time, sex was the moderator in this research.

There were 454 participants obtained in this present study. The majority of the participants were Chinese (62.3 percent), then followed by Malay (20 percent), Indian (17.2

percent) and others (1.8 percent). The mean age of the participants was 21.84, between 18 to 25 years old. The majority of the participants were students (72.2 percent). Furthermore, there were 57.3 percent of the participants were single and 42.7 percent were in a relationship. 47.8 percent of the samples were experienced sexual intercourse and 52.2 percent have not experienced sexual intercourse.

The quantitative research method was being used in this research. Furthermore, a cross-sectional study was used as this research was conducted only one time across the period of study. A correlational research method was employed to describe the association between parent-child sexual communication and the sexual intention among youths in Malaysia with sex as a moderator. The purposive sampling method has been used as the sampling method because few criteria need to be met to take the responses into account. The participants must be unmarried Malaysian youth aged between 18 to 25 years old. The questionnaire was transformed into an online questionnaire and was distributed through social media.

Finally, this result showed that parent-child sexual communication does not predict the sexual intention of youths in Malaysia. Furthermore, sex of children does not moderate the relationship of parent-child and sexual intention of youths in Malaysia.

Chapter Summary

In this chapter, the result of the research has been discussed. Moreover, the implications of the study, limitations and recommendations have been included.

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Appendix A: Questionnaire

Personal Data Protection Statement

In accordance with Personal Data Protection Act 2010 (“PDPA”) which came into force on 15 November 2013, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (“UTAR”) is hereby bound to make notice and require consent in relation to collection, recording, storage, usage and retention of personal information.

Notice:

1. The purposes for which your personal data may be used are inclusive but not limited to:-

- For assessment of any application to UTAR
- For processing any benefits and services
- For communication purposes
- For advertorial and news
- For general administration and record purposes
- For enhancing the value of education
- For educational and related purposes consequential to UTAR
- For the purpose of our corporate governance
- For consideration as a guarantor for UTAR staff/ student applying for his/her scholarship/ study loan

2. Your personal data may be transferred and/or disclosed to third party and/or UTAR collaborative partners including but not limited to the respective and appointed outsourcing agents for purpose of fulfilling our obligations to you in respect of the purposes and all such other purposes that are related to the purposes and also in providing integrated services, maintaining and storing records. Your data may be shared when required by laws and when disclosure is necessary to comply with applicable laws.

3. Any personal information retained by UTAR shall be destroyed and/or deleted in accordance with our retention policy applicable for us in the event such information is no longer required.

4. UTAR is committed in ensuring the confidentiality, protection, security and accuracy of your personal information made available to us and it has been our ongoing strict policy to ensure that your personal information is accurate, complete, not misleading and updated. UTAR would also ensure that your personal data shall not be used for political and commercial purposes.

Consent Form for Research Participation and Personal Data Protection

Title of Project: Association between Parent-Child Sexual Communication and the Sexual Intention among Youth in Malaysia: Sex Difference as a Moderator

NOTE: This consent form will remain with the UTAR researchers for their records.

I understand I have been asked to take part in the research project specified above by UTAR students for the purpose of their UAPZ3031 Final Year Project. I have had the project explained to me, and I have read the Explanatory Statement, which I keep for my records.

I will be asked to complete a questionnaire/undergo an interview/focus group session about Parent-child sexual communication and the sexual intention.	
My participation is voluntary, that I can choose not to participate in part or all of the project, and that I can withdraw at any stage of the project without being penalised or disadvantaged in any way.	
I may ask at any time for my data to be withdrawn from the project.	
No information I have provided that could lead to the identification of any other individual will be disclosed in any reports on the project, or to any other party.	
I will remain anonymous at all times in any reports or publications from the project.	
It is my sole responsibility to look after my own safety for the above project. In the event of any misfortune or accidental injury involving me, whether or not due solely to personal negligence or otherwise, I hereby declare that UTAR shall not be held responsible.	

By submitting this form I hereby authorise and consent to UTAR processing (including disclosing) my personal data and any updates of my information, for the purposes and/or for any other purposes related to the purpose.

I acknowledge that if I do not consent or subsequently withdraw my consent to the processing and disclosure of my personal data, UTAR will not be able to fulfil their obligations or to contact me or to assist me in respect of the purposes and/or for any other purposes related to the purpose.

Acknowledgment of Personal Data Protection Notice

I have been notified by you and that I hereby understood, consented and agreed per UTAR above notice.	
I disagree, my personal data will not be processed.	

Youth Sexual Intention Questionnaire (YSI-Q)

The following statements are about **sexual activities among unmarried youths**. Please read each statement carefully and **choose the answer best indicates** how much you **agree or disagree** with the statement. There is no right or wrong answer. Please give your **honest response** for all the items.

No.	Statements	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Agree (3)	Strongly Agree (4)
1.	I expect to have sex with my partner.				
2.	I want to have sex with my partner.				
3.	I intend to have sex with my partner.				
4.	I would like to have sex to see what it is like.				
5.	I would have sex now if I could find a partner who would do it with me.				
6.	I believe a sexual encounter that lasts only once is all right.				
7.	I believe youths who have never been involved in sexual intercourse before marriage are old-fashioned.				
8.	Youths should have sex before their marriage to see whether they are suited to each other.				
9.	Youths can have sex provided they use methods to stop pregnancy.				
10.	Youths can have sex if they are unable to control their sexual desire.				
11.	Most of my friends are practicing sex before marriage.				
12.	Most of my friends think it is mature to practice sex at my age.				
13.	Most of my friends think female youths do not have to maintain their virginity.				
14.	Most of my friends think male youths are allowed to practice sex before marriage.				

7	My father said that sex isn't necessarily only for marriage but must be saved for someone you love.								
8	My father made it clear that we all make mistakes when it comes to being faithful to one partner								
9	My father directly or indirectly encouraged me to "play the field".								
10	My father directly or indirectly said it was okay for me to have sex for the pleasure and joy of it								
11	My father discouraged me from engaging in sexual activities until I am married								
12	My father directly or indirectly encouraged me to explore my sexual urges even if they are unconventional (i.e. certain sexual positions, multiple sexual partners, one night stands).								
13	My father made it clear that sex is only appropriate in marriage.								
14	My father discouraged me from engaging in sexual activities until I am older.								
15	My father directly or indirectly made it clear that there are appropriate and inappropriate types of sexual behavior (regarding things such as sexual positions, multiple sexual partners, one night stands, etc).								

Restrictive Messages: items 1, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 14, 15

Permissive Messages: items 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12



15.	My mother directly or indirectly made it clear that there are appropriate and inappropriate types of sexual behavior (regarding things such as sexual positions, multiple sexual partners, one night stands, etc).								
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Restrictive Messages: items 1, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 14, 15

Permissive Messages: items 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12

Appendix B: Letter seeking permission to use questionnaire tool

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Letter seeking permission to use questionnaire tool  

 **SILVA A/P EROLIS SILVA SASHA** <sashasilva125@tutar.my> Nov 26, 2020, 6:02 PM ☆ ↩️ ⋮
to drazimah ▾

Name: Sasha Silva A/P Erolis Silva, Tang Jia Hang, Ong Qian Xing
Institution: Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman
Department: Psychology and Counselling
Address: Jalan Universiti, Bandar Barat, 31900 Kampar, Perak

Dear Assoc Professor Dr Noor Azimah Muhammad:

We are the undergraduate students of Bachelor of Social Science (Hons) Psychology from Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman writing our final year project titled, Association between parent-child sexual communication and intention of premarital sexual activity among youths in Malaysia: Sex difference as a moderator.

We would like to get your permission to use the **Youth Sexual Intention Questionnaire (YSI-Q)** as it is reliable and valid. We would like to use your tool under the following conditions:

- We will use the tool only for our research study and will not sell or use it with any compensated or curriculum development activities.
- We will include the copyright statement on the online Qualtrics questionnaire.

If these are acceptable terms and conditions, please indicate so by replying to us through e-mail: sashasilva125@tutar.my. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,
Sasha Silva, Tang Jia Hang, Ong Qian Xing

Appendix C: Ethical Approval Letter



UNIVERSITI TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN

Wholly Owned by UTAR Education Foundation (Company No. 578227-M)

Re: U/SERC/201/2020

9 December 2020

Dr Chie Qiu Ting
Head, Department of Psychology and Counselling
Faculty of Arts and Social Science
Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman
Jalan Universiti, Bandar Baru Barat
31900 Kampar, Perak.

Dear Dr Chie,

Ethical Approval For Research Project/Protocol

We refer to the application for ethical approval for your students' research projects from Bachelor of Social Science (Hons) Psychology programme enrolled in course UAPZ3023. We are pleased to inform you that the application has been approved under expedited review.

The details of the research projects are as follows:

No	Research Title	Student's Name	Supervisor's Name	Approval Validity
1.	The Dark Triad Personality Trait in Predicting Intentions Towards Infidelity Among Married Couples in Malaysia	1. Cheah Al Kaid 2. Chen Hui Yi 3. Muhamad Sharfudin Bin Abdul Kader	Mr Tan Soon Aun	9 December 2020 - 8 December 2021
2.	Association Between Parent-Child Sexual Communication and Intention of Premarital Sexual Activity Among Youth in Malaysia: Sex Difference as a Moderator	1. Sasha Silva a/p Erolis Silva 2. Tang Jia Hang 3. Ong Qian Xing		

The conduct of this research is subject to the following:

- (1) The participants' informed consent be obtained prior to the commencement of the research;
- (2) Confidentiality of participants' personal data must be maintained; and
- (3) Compliance with procedures set out in related policies of UTAR such as the UTAR Research Ethics and Code of Conduct, Code of Practice for Research Involving Humans and other related policies/guidelines.

Kampar Campus : Jalan Universiti, Bandar Barat, 31900 Kampar, Perak Darul Ridzuan, Malaysia
Tel: (605) 466 8888 Fax: (605) 466 1313
Sungai Long Campus : Jalan Sungai Long, Bandar Sungai Long, Cheras, 43000 Kajang, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia
Tel: (603) 9086 0288 Fax: (603) 9019 8868
Website: www.utar.edu.my



Should the students collect personal data of participants in their studies, please have the participants sign the attached Personal Data Protection Statement for records.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

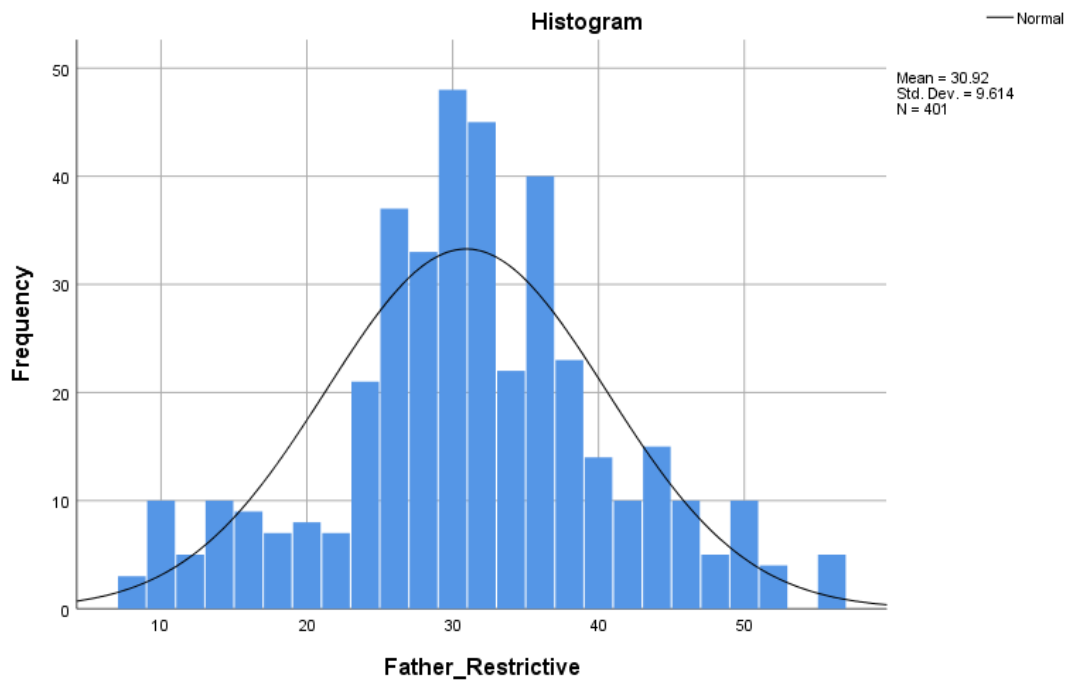
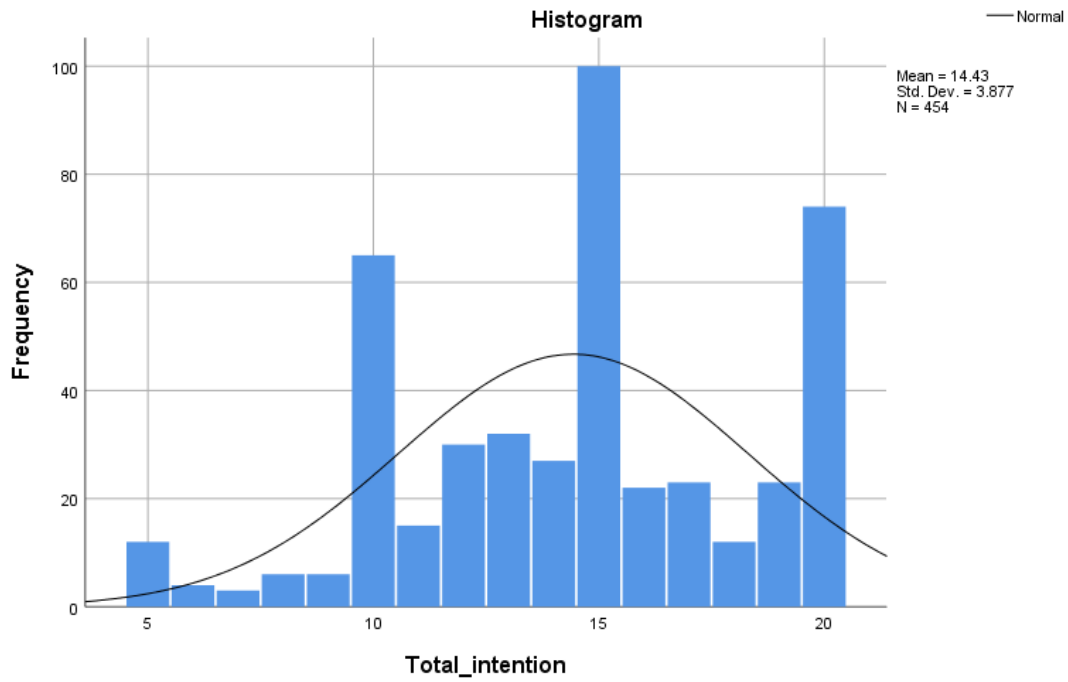


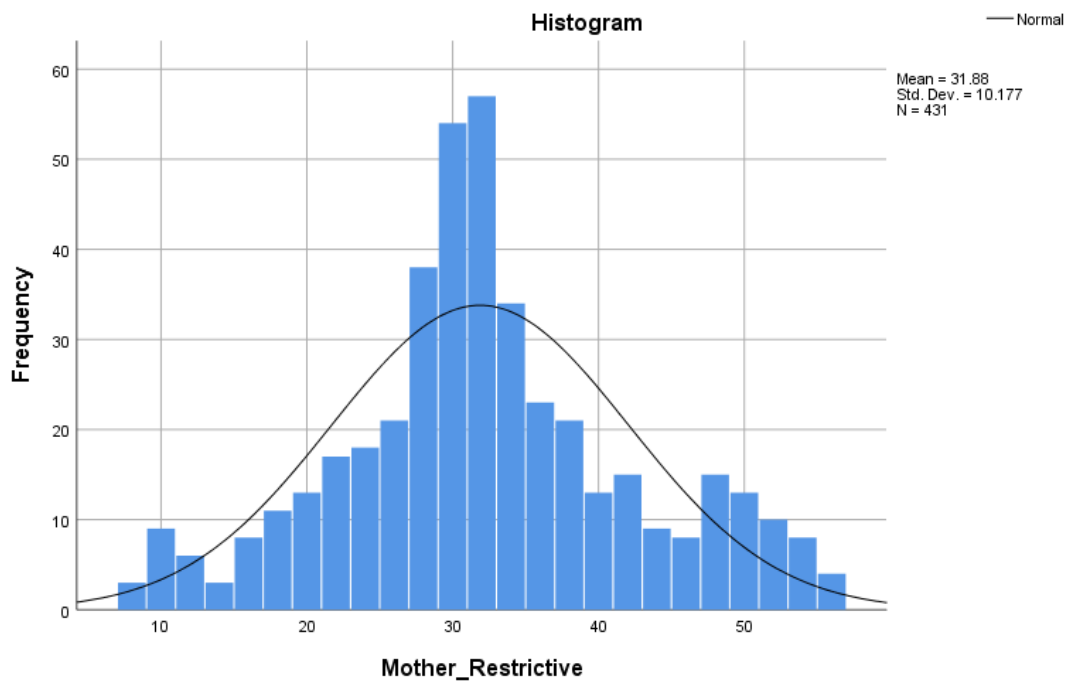
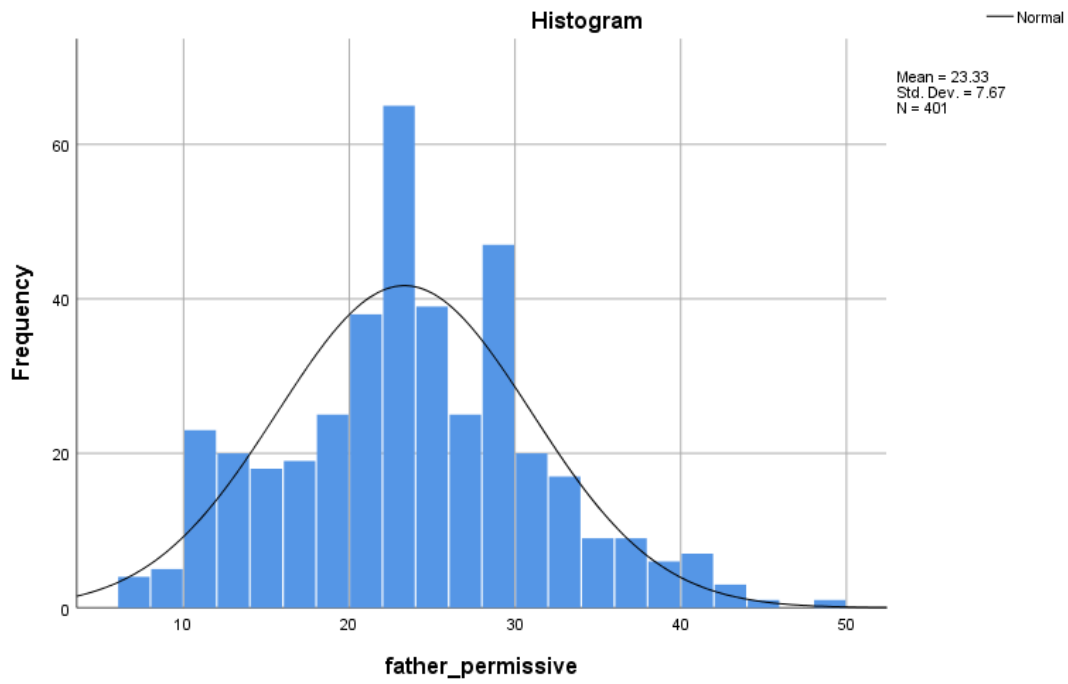
Professor Ts Dr Faidz bin Abd Rahman
Chairman
UTAR Scientific and Ethical Review Committee

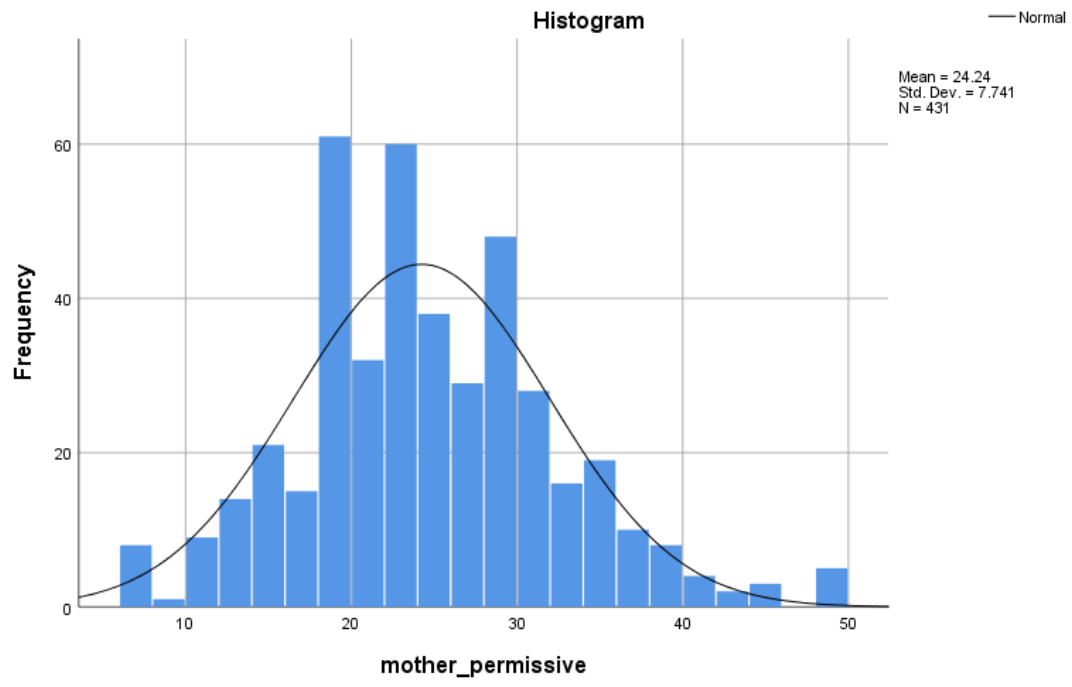
c.c Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Science
 Director, Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research



Appendix D: Histogram of All Variables







Appendix E: Q-Q Plots of All Variables

