



Navigating Taboos: Malaysian Undergraduates' Lived Experiences and Decision-Making Around Premarital Sex and Abortion

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Abstract

The decision-making process about circumstances as sensitive as abortion and premarital sex can be complex and influenced by various factors. This research explores the factors that shape the decision-making process for these sensitive issues and the lived experiences of Malaysian undergraduates. This research specifically focuses on the influences of cultural and religious beliefs, access to information and resources, social stigma, and individual values when it comes to making sensitive decisions. In Malaysia, where premarital sex is generally considered taboo and abortion is illegal in most cases, cultural and religious beliefs play a significant role in these decision-making processes. Social stigma and pressure surrounding these topics can create challenges for individuals seeking information and support. Access to accurate information and resources is crucial in making informed decisions, yet there is a huge lack of such agencies. Additionally, the research explores the effect of peers and individual values and beliefs on today's youth while navigating through these decisions. Findings highlight the need for improved sex education, access to accurate information, and a shift in cultural practices to create a more inclusive and informed society around these topics. By understanding the factors influencing decision-making and the challenges faced by Malaysian undergraduates, recommendations can be made for future improvements and support systems related to these sensitive topics. This research aims to shed light on the decision-making processes of Malaysian undergraduates concerning premarital sex and abortion, with the goal of contributing to a deeper understanding of their lived experiences and informing the development of effective interventions, as well as improving access to accurate information and supportive resources.

Keywords: Misinformation; sexeducation; reproductive rights; stigma; support-systems

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