

Sexual Behaviour and its Determinants among Young Never-married Male Factory Workers in a South Indian Knit City

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INTRODUCTION

In India, there has been a sudden surge of interest during the last decade, mainly on account of threat of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, in studying the matters related to sexuality and sexual behaviour among special groups in general and among never-married youth in particular. In addition to this, there have been incidences of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) from unsafe sexual and multi-partner relations. In this context, it is widely argued that the attitudes and beliefs of young people towards sexuality are becoming more liberal and as they lack correct knowledge about sexuality, contraception and STDs, including HIV/AIDS, the likelihood of high-risk sexual behaviour is increasing, especially among never married men. Moreover, studies on abortion and the prevalence of STDs in India, though very few confirm that much premarital sex is unprotected.

Youth, generally the stage falls between childhood and full manhood or womanhood, roughly the ages of 15-24, is distinct and crucial phase of development of human being. Specific attributes attached to this phase of life includes rapid physical growth and development, social and psychological maturity, but not all at the same time, sexual maturity and the onset of sexual activity experimentation, development of adult mental process and adult identity, and transition from total socio-economic dependence to relative independence (WHO, 1999). According to 2001 Census, in India, young men (15-24 years of age) occupy a substantial proportion, about 18.5 percent, who are said to be more vulnerable to participate in sexual activities as compared to their young girl counterparts. Moreover, during the recent

past, the age at marriage, after which sexual relations are culturally accepted, among these young men is comparatively higher, as they are mostly either in the college or in search of employment so as to marry and establish a family, and thereby, such young men are more likely to be exposed to pre-marital sexual relations. Among young men, those working in factories are more at risk, since they have ample chances of interaction with young girls, in addition to peer group interaction.

Earlier studies in India demonstrate that substantial proportions (about 20-25%) of young never-married men are sexually experienced before marriage and such proportions are still higher among those working and economically independent, especially in urban areas. However, except a few, most of such studies significantly differ from each other in their objectives, approaches and methodologies and therefore, they have cautioned that their findings cannot be generalized, as those studies are based on very small and/or convenience samples. Moreover, the major focus of those studies was to investigate the extent of sexual behaviour among youth rather than correlates of such behaviour. Obviously, most of these studies are restricted by their statistical methodology, and often do not proceed beyond the univariate or bivariate descriptive level. Therefore, this study builds on existing research by using a more analytic methodology with fairly sufficient large sample size of young factory workers, who are more vulnerable to pre-marital sexual behaviour.

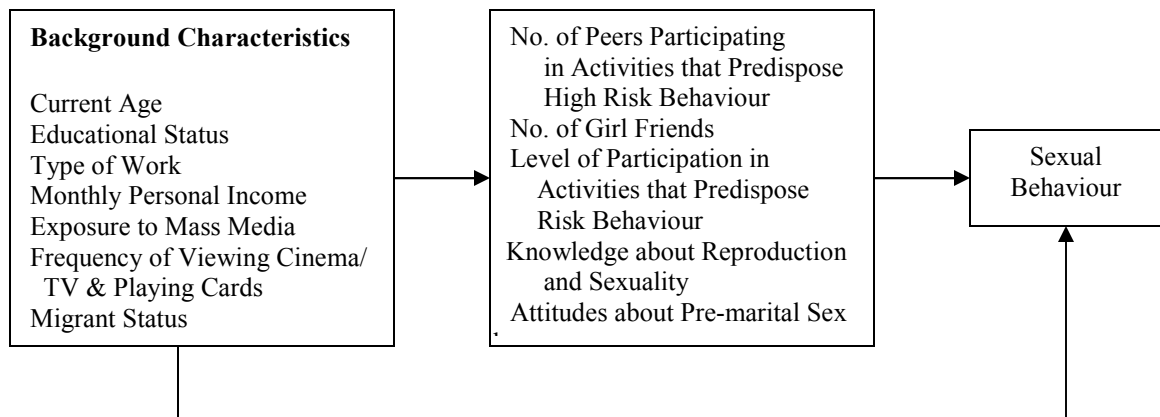
Theoretical Framework and Earlier Research

It has been noted that contact with western societies influenced the economy, urbanization, migration, education and religion in many African and Asian societies and cultures. These changes altered the religious customs and practices, which in turn led to a gradual change in sexual norms and behaviour. Consequently, there were changes in marriage customs, especially later ages at marriage, the abandonment of formal polygamy

and non-marital (both pre-marital and extra-marital) sexual activity (Billet, 1993). Based on the theoretical understanding and earlier research, the following simple conceptual framework has been proposed for empirical examination in this research work.

Figure 1

Theoretical Framework showing the inter-relationships between Young Men Workers' Background Characteristics and Sexual Behaviour



It has been widely mentioned and empirically examined that a variety of individual characteristics of the young men like their own age, education, type of work, exposure to mass media, monthly personal income, frequency of participation in watching TV/Cinema & playing cards and migrant status would not only have large independent effects on their sexual behaviour, but also exercise net effects through the (intermediate) variable like number of peers exposed to high risk behaviour, their level of participation in activities that predispose risk behaviour like smoking, use of alcohol and drugs, etc., knowledge about reproduction and sexuality and attitudes towards pre-marital sex (Reddy et al., 1983; Rakesh, 1992; Bhende, 1994; FPAI, 1995; Sharma and Sharma, 1996; Rangaiyan, 1996). Further, in India, some studies have conclusively proved that the intermediate variables specified here would determine to a great extent the sexual behaviour of the young men (Goparaju, 1994; Savara and Sridhar, 1994; Rangaiyan, 1996; Sharma and Sharma, 1997; Sachdev, 1997;

Awasthi and Pande, 1998; Abraham and Kumar, 1999; Sankaranarayanan, 1999. Collumbien et al., 2001; Verma and Lhungdin, 2004; Ramakrishna, 2004; Ghule, 2004).

The Setting

Tirupur (well-known as Knit City in this part of the country), one of the fastest growing cities in Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu, has been selected purposively as the study area for this research. This city is situated about 55 kms. in northern direction of Coimbatore city, which is popularly known as the Manchester of South India, the district headquarters. The Knit city is well connected with railway and bus transportation. According to 2001 Census, Tirupur Municipality (urban centre) has a population of 344,543 with a sex ratio of 915, in addition to 196,202 in the surrounding urban area (Director of Census Operations, Tamil Nadu, 2004). This city is prominent for hosiery and as an export centre for hosiery products. It has more than 5000 units and about 85 percent of its products are sold in other states of India / countries of the World. The most important input is yarn, which is in abundance, besides the other products like sewing thread, labels, alkathens bags, elastic tapes, lace card box, etc. It is also on the rise in the export oriented power loom industry, which may overtake the cotton hosiery industry.

Generally, for most of these industrial establishments children and youth, irrespective of their gender background, are in great demand as workers to extend their labour and services, and thereby, such people are large in number in this town. However, in the recent past, with the Government's strict enforcement of Child Labour Abolition Act, children (aged 14 years or less) are not entertained to work in the factories. Therefore, young people aged 15-24 years, especially boys, in considerable number migrate to this city from other districts of Tamil Nadu and even from other neighbouring states like Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka, in addition to the daily commuters from nearby villages and natives of the

same town so as to meet the demand of labour. These boys are mostly pass-outs and/or dropouts from high schools. Of course, some do have education up to higher secondary level and/or a degree (Under Graduate or Post Graduate). They will come over to this city, leaving behind their family members, to earn money by working one or the other industrial establishments. They generally live in small rented rooms mostly with peers. Initially, they work on daily wage basis, at times even work in two shifts (the duration of each shift is 8 hours), and get reasonably good income. Such environment is somewhat conducive to them to participate in activities that predispose risk behaviour viz., gambling, smoking, drinking of alcohol, use of drugs, viewing blue films / porno sites, reading pornographic literature, etc, in addition to working with girl colleagues, which in turn may motivate the young workers to participate in various forms of sexual activities. Therefore, the present study aims to concentrate only on the young men who work in the hosiery companies / establishments of Tirupur city.

DATA AND METHODS

Data for the present study was collected from 995 never-married young male workers of Tirupur City, Tamil Nadu during 2003 as part of a research project entitled “Youth Sexuality Project”. The sample young men were in the age group of 15-24 years, working in hosiery establishments only and who had working experience of at least one year (or more). They were selected (on census basis) from 5 clusters (streets or part of streets) of 52 wards (smaller administrative units in the city), which were selected on the basis of simple random sampling technique (Audinarayana, 2005).

The analysis is done at three stages. Firstly, the patterns of sexual behaviour among the young males working in the hosiery companies are analysed with the help of uni-variate analysis. At the second stage, the percent of young men who ever had experience in any

sexual activity and the percent of young men participated in sexual (vaginal) intercourse (indicators of sexual behaviour) are examined across their background characteristics (differentials) through cross-tabular analysis and the associations have been tested with the χ^2 – test of significance. Lastly, the determinants of the young men ever having experience in any sexual activity and participating in sexual intercourse are analysed adopting the logistic regression analysis (Kendall, 1975, for details see Appendix).

Description of the Variables

Dependent Variables – Young Men Ever Had Experience in Any Sexual Activity = 1, and
If Not = 0

Young Men Ever Participated in Sexual Intercourse = 1, and
If Not = 0

Independent Variables

Young Men Workers' Current age (in completed years)
Educational status (no. of years of schooling)
Type of Work (Tailor and Related, and Supervisor and Other
White collar workers)
Monthly Personal Income (Actual Monthly Income in Rupees)
Frequency of Exposure to Mass Media (Index - Pooled scores)
Time Spent in Viewing Cinema / TV & Playing Cards
(Actual time spent in hours per day)
Migrant Status (Whether migrant or not)
No. of Peers Participating in Activities that Predispose
High Risk Behaviour (Index – Pooled Scores)
Number of Girl Friends (Actual Number)
Level of Participation in Activities that Predispose
Risk Behaviour (Index – Pooled Scores)
Knowledge about Reproduction and Sexuality
(Index – Pooled Scores)
Attitudes about Pre-marital Sex (Index – Pooled Scores)

All the independent variables are used as categorized form. The details of the indices are provided in Appendix and the descriptive statistics of the background characteristics of young men workers are provided in the last column of Table 2.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Patterns of Sexual Behaviour

Information about young men workers' experience in various forms of sexual behaviour is provided in Table 1. About 73 percent of never-married factory workers ever had experience with self masturbation, whereas substantial proportions of them (21-29%) had experience in other sexual acts like deep kissing, biting neck, hugging, etc., caressing of breast, and caressing hips / thighs. Only 19 percent of the young men workers reported to have participated in vaginal intercourse. Very few had experience in sexual activities like masturbation/oral/anal sex and sex between thighs with person(s) of same /opposite gender. In all, 78 percent of the young men workers had the experience in one or the other form of sexual act.

Results based on Bivariate Analysis on Sexual Behaviour

Results provided in Table 2 reveal that among the major background characteristics of the respondents, the percent who ever had experience in any sexual act as well as the percent participated in sexual intercourse found to be higher (χ^2 – results also turn out to be highly significant) among those young men workers who ever participated (at lower and higher level) in activities that predispose risk behaviour, closely followed by their higher level of knowledge on reproduction and sexuality aspects, and earning better monthly personal incomes (moderate and higher levels) than their counterparts. Likewise, the two patterns of sexual behaviour under consideration are also found to be higher among those who are little older in age (20-24 years) and migrant workers as against among those younger in age and non-migrants.

The percent of young men participated in sexual intercourse is noted to be higher (and highly significant) among those who are educated (middle school level and high school &

above), working as supervisors and other office workers, and also among those who have comparatively higher number of peers participating in activities that predispose high risk behaviour, whereas such percent is found to be lower among those who are liberal in their attitudes towards pre-marital sex compared to their counterparts. On the other hand, the percent of young men ever had experience in any sexual activity is seem to be comparatively higher among those who are exposed to mass media to a moderate level and also among those who have few (1-5 in number) girl friends than their counterparts. The χ^2 – results also turn out to be highly significant (at different levels) in this regard. Though rest of the variables showed mostly consistent patterns of associations with the two indicators of sexual behaviour under consideration, the results did not turn out to be significant.

Results based on Multiple Regression Analysis on Sexual Behaviour

Multivariate results suggest that the odds of young men ever having experience in any sexual activity as well as in hetero-sexual intercourse are significantly higher, controlling for other factors used in the model, among those young men who are participating at large as well as some extent in activities that predispose risk behaviour than those who did not participate in such activities. Likewise, the likelihood of participation in any sexual act as well as in sexual intercourse is found to be significantly higher among those young men whose level of knowledge about reproduction and sexuality related issues is found to be higher than among whom such knowledge is comparatively less. While the odds of ever having experience in any form of pre-marital sex are comparatively higher among those who earned higher and moderate level of incomes than among those who are earning less incomes (significant at different levels), such pattern exist in the case of heterosexual intercourse in an insignificant manner. On the other hand, though young migrant workers, by and large, had experience in any sexual act as well as exhibited higher tendency to participate in sexual

intercourse than their non-migrant counterparts, the results turn out to be significant only in the case of latter one. Having some girl friends appears to increase the odds of having experience in any sexual activity (significant to a moderate extent) as well as sexual intercourse, but having large number of girl friends showed differential and negligible net effects on the indicators of sexual behaviour.

Some of the background characteristics of young male workers have exhibited inconsistent associations with their patterns of sexual behaviour. For instance, it is conspicuous to note that young workers who are progressive in their attitudes towards premarital sex tend to participate in premarital heterosexual intercourse to a significant extent, whereas such young men had lesser experience in any sexual act than their counterparts. It is interesting to note that the odds of ever had experience in any sexual activity are noted to be significantly lower among those who are little older in age (20-24 years) than their counterparts (15-19), but the pattern is reversed in the case of sexual intercourse. Young workers who are able to spend more time (2 hours and more per day) in viewing TV/movie and playing cards, and who are working in supervisory and office related works have a tendency to participate in any sexual activity to a lower extent (at different levels of significance) than their respective counterparts. On the other hand, the likelihood of participating in sexual intercourse is noted to be higher among those who had education up to middle school level (significant at higher level) and high school and above as against to those who are educated up to primary school or less. Conspicuously, the likelihood of having experience in any sexual activity is found to be higher among those who are exposed to mass media to a moderate (significant at a moderate level) as well as higher extent than those who are exposed to a lower level.

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

Among young male hosiery workers of Tirupur city, Tamil Nadu, India, as high as 78 percent of them ever had experience in some form of sexual act, whereas 19 percent had hetero-sexual intercourse. Bivariate analysis, by and large, shows that young male workers comparatively higher in age, earning better income, participated in activities that pre-dispose high risk behaviour, better knowledgeable about reproduction and sexuality, and migrated to the city have exhibited higher percent of having experience in any sexual activity as well as pre-marital sexual intercourse than their counterparts. Curiously, young workers who are better educated and working as supervisors and other office workers have confirmed with higher participation in sexual intercourse than those who have little education and are working as tailors and related workers. Conversely, the never-married young workers who are comparatively liberal in their attitudes as against conservatism in nature have showed a higher tendency to indulge in pre-marital sex.

Through logistic regression analysis, it is reiterated that young male workers who participated in activities that predispose high risk behaviour and whose level of knowledge about reproduction and sexuality related issues is higher tend to have experience in any sexual activity as well as in hetero-sexual intercourse at a higher extent. While there is a theoretical support for both the propositions, the reverse causation may not be ruled out in the case of latter one. While young never married male workers with higher income as well as migrant workers, by and large, have shown higher odds of indulging in sexual behaviour (significantly in any sexual activity in the case of former one and in sexual intercourse in the case of latter one) than their counterparts, having some girl friends has a propensity to increase the odds of having experience in any sexual activity only (significant to a moderate

extent). It is also conspicuous to note that young workers who are comparatively liberal in their attitudes towards pre-marital sex tend to participate in hetero-sexual intercourse to a significantly lower extent, of course the reverse pattern is noted in the case of having any sexual experience (significant at lower extent) than their counterparts. Contrary to the expectation, young male workers who are little older in age (20-24 years) as against very young (15-19 years) have exhibited higher propensity to have experience in any sexual activity, whereas the likelihood of participating in sexual intercourse is noted to be higher among those who had education up to middle school level (significant at higher level) and high school and above as against those who are educated up to primary school or less. Interestingly, young workers who could spend more time (2 hours and more per day) in viewing TV/movie and playing cards, and who are working in supervisory and office related works have a tendency to participate in any sexual activity to a lower extent (at different levels of significance) than their respective counterparts.

Based on the findings, following policy and programme implications can be suggested so as to improve the sexual and reproductive health of the young men workers.

1. There is an urgent need to educate the young never-married workers in general and those working in hosiery establishments, in particular about the dangers involved in participating in risky lifestyles and unsafe pre-marital sexual behaviour. Such attempts have to be taken up at the family, community and factory levels through social education and informal education involving parents, relatives/neighbours, and non-governmental organizations as well as through professionals engaged in counseling.

2. Reliable and scientific information about the human reproduction and sexuality, consequences of unprotected sex and need for safe sex may be imparted to all young men through different mass media channels, in addition to special programmes at the factory premises so as to increase their knowledge, which may motivate them to avoid risky sexual behaviour.
3. Under the umbrella of RCH programme in India, adolescent girls of those attending high schools are being informed with issues related to menstruation, anatomy of reproductive organs and related issues. Similar attempts may be devised and carried out for boys in high schools and colleges, youths who are out-of-school and factory workers so as to disseminate the information about the anatomy and physiology of male and female reproductive systems, and consequences of unprotected sex and the need for safer sex. For this purpose, weekly meetings / lectures may be conducted at schools, colleges and community and factory establishments by the Family Planning workers and/or by officials of Medical Colleges / Health Departments.
4. It is recommended that participatory, interactive and informal programmes may be designed for youth in general and for young male workers in particular focusing on clarification of values related to pre-marital sex, and decision-making skills so as to clarify the confusion with respect to sexual attitudes and values, and increased understanding about the use of condoms with a positive sense of care for the partner.

Table 1

Percentage Distribution of the Young Men Workers by Whether they Ever Had Sexual Experience in Various Sexual Activities

N= 995

Sexual Activities	Ever Had Sexual Experience	
	%	No
Deep Kissing	28.7	286
Biting Neck, Hugging, etc.	26.5	264
Self Masturbation	73.4	730
Masturbation with same Gender	3.8	38
Masturbation with Opposite Gender	3.5	35
Caressing of breast	24.4	243
Caressing hips / thighs	20.8	207
Sex between thighs	1.5	15
Oral Sex with Same Gender	0.4	4
Oral Sex with Opposite Gender	1.2	12
Anal Sex with Opposite Gender	0.3	3
Anal Sex with Same Gender	0.8	8
<i>Vaginal Intercourse</i>	<i>18.8</i>	<i>187</i>
Had Any Sexual Experience	77.9	775

Note: Percentages would not add up to 100 because of multiple answers.

Table 2

Percentage Distribution of the Young Men Workers by their Experience in Any Sexual Act and Sexual Intercourse across their Background Characteristics

Background Characteristics of the Respondents	Experience in Any Sexual Act		Participation in Sexual Intercourse		No. of Young Men	
	%	No.	%	No.	No.	%
Current Age						
15 – 19	73.5	285	10.8	42	388	39.0
20 – 24	80.7	490	23.9	145	607	61.0
χ^2 - Value; p-level	7.267; 0.01		26.466; 0.001			
Education						
Up to Primary School	77.7	174	10.3	23	224	22.5
Middle School	77.2	335	21.0	91	434	43.6
High School and above	78.9	266	21.7	73	337	33.9
χ^2 - Value; p-level	0.342; NS		13.829; 0.001			
Type of Work						
Tailor and Related works	77.4	577	16.5	123	745	74.9
Supervisors/White Collar Workers	79.2	198	25.6	64	250	25.1
χ^2 - Value; p-level	0.333; NS		10.134; 0.001			
Monthly Personal Income (in Rs.)						
< 2000	66.9	162	12.4	30	242	24.3
2000 – 2999	79.4	371	17.8	83	467	47.0
3000 +	84.6	242	25.9	74	286	28.7
χ^2 - Value; p-level	25.008; 0.001		16.202; 0.001			
Exposure to Mass Media (Index)						
Lower	76.8	179	20.2	47	233	23.4
Moderate	84.0	241	18.5	53	287	28.8
Higher	74.7	355	18.3	87	475	47.8
χ^2 - Value; p-level	9.061; 0.01		0.381; NS			
Time Spent on Viewing TV/ Movie and Playing Cards (Index)						
< 2 hours per day	81.8	311	19.7	75	380	38.2
2 hours or more per day	75.4	464	18.2	112	615	61.8
χ^2 - Value; p-level	5.557; 0.01		0.358; NS			
No. of Girls Friends						
0	77.4	428	17.7	98	553	55.6
1 - 5	83.4	196	19.1	45	235	23.6
6 +	72.9	151	21.3	44	207	20.8
χ^2 - Value; p-level	7.165; 0.05		1.258; NS			
No. of Peers Participating in Activities that Predispose High Risk						
0	75.0	294	14.0	55	392	39.4
1 - 4	80.5	285	22.9	81	354	35.6
5 +	78.7	196	20.5	51	249	25.0
χ^2 - Value; p-level	3.409; NS		10.168; 0.01			

(Continued...)

(Continued...)

Background Characteristics of the Respondents	Experience in Any Sexual Act		Participation in Sexual Intercourse		No. of Young Men	
	%	No.	%	No.	No	%
Participation in Activities that Predispose Risk Behaviour (Index)						
Not Participated	45.7	86	1.6	3	188	18.9
Participated to Some Extent	79.4	390	13.8	68	491	49.3
Participated to a Large Extent	94.6	299	36.7	116	316	31.8
<i>χ^2 - Value; p-level</i>	<i>164.836; 0.000</i>		<i>110.753; 0.000</i>			
Knowledge about Reproduction/ Sexuality and Related Issues (Index)						
Lower	69.1	363	9.7	51	525	52.8
Higher	87.7	12	28.9	136	470	47.2
<i>χ^2 - Value; p-level</i>	<i>49.372; 0.001</i>		<i>60.037; 0.001</i>			
Attitudes towards Premarital Sex (Index)						
Conservative	75.9	324	24.4	104	427	42.9
Liberal	79.4	451	14.6	83	568	57.1
<i>X^2 - Value; p-level</i>	<i>1.757; NS</i>		<i>15.162; 0.001</i>			
Migrant Status						
Non-Migrant	75.0	339	9.7	44	452	45.4
Migrant	80.3	436	26.3	143	543	54.6
<i>X^2 - Value; p-level</i>	<i>4.015; 0.05</i>		<i>44.541; 0.001</i>			
Total	77.9	775	18.8	187	995	100.0

Note: The percentages of those ever had experience in any sexual activity and sexual intercourse have been calculated for each category of the variables (row-wise).

In the last column, the total number of sample in each category of the variable and their percent has been presented (column-wise).

Chi-square values which ever are significant at least 0.10 level and above have been marked as *Italics*.

Table 3

Results of Logistic Regression Analysis on Young Men Workers' Experience in Any Sexual Activity and Sexual Intercourse

Explanatory Variables	Odds Ratios	
	Ever Had Any Sexual Experience	Participated in Sexual Intercourse
Current Age (<i>Ref: 15-19 years</i>)	1.000	1.000
20-24 years	0.536***	1.329
Education (<i>Ref: Up to Primary School</i>)	1.000	1.000
Middle School	0.751	2.029**
High School and above	0.801	1.372
Type of Work (<i>Ref: Tailor and Related works</i>)		
Supervisors / Other White Collar Workers	0.684 ⁺	1.184
Monthly Personal Income (<i>Ref: Rs. <2000</i>)	1.000	1.000
2000 – 2999	1.649*	1.176
3000+	1.555 ⁺	1.251
Exposure to Mass Media (Index) (<i>Ref: Lower</i>)	1.000	1.000
Moderate	1.788*	0.886
Higher	1.099	0.740
Time Spent to view TV/Movie and Playing Cards (Index) (<i>Ref: <2 hours per day</i>)	1.000	1.000
2 or more hours per day	0.587**	1.043
No. of Girl Friends (<i>Ref: 0</i>)	1.000	1.000
1 - 5	1.590*	1.156
6 +	0.888	1.441
No. of Peers Participating in Activities that Pre-dispose High Risk (<i>Ref: 0 –2</i>)	1.000	1.000
3 - 5	0.967	1.293
6 +	0.963	1.197
Level of Participation in Activities that Predispose Risk Behaviour (Index) (<i>Ref: Not Participated</i>)	1.000	1.000
Participated to Some Extent	4.416***	6.394***
Participated to a Large Extent	20.934***	19.085***
Knowledge of Reproduction / Sexuality and Related Issues (Index) (<i>Ref: Lower</i>)	1.000	1.000
Higher	2.261***	2.513***
Attitudes towards Premarital Sex (Index) (<i>Ref: Conservative</i>)	1.000	1.000
Liberal	1.356 ⁺	0.485***
Migrants Status (<i>Ref: Non Migrant</i>)	1.000	1.000
Migrant	1.265	2.690***
-2 Log Likelihood	837.133	
Chi-Square (d.f.), Level of Significance	214.191 (18), 0.000	
N	995	

Note: +, *, **, and *** = t-values are significant at 0.10, 0.05, 0.01, and 0.001, respectively.

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APPENDIX:

Level of Exposure to Mass Media (Index): Pooled Scores of young workers exposure to four mass media channels with frequency such as: Reading Newspapers / Magazines, Watching Movies, Watching TV / Cable TV and Listening to Radio. A score of '0', '1', and '2' have been assigned for those who are exposed to Never, Occasionally and Frequently for each of these channels. Based on the pooled scores for each respondent, they have been classified into three levels of exposure to mass media viz., Lower (Scores 0-6), Moderate (Scores 7-8) and Higher (Scores 9-10).

Level of Participation in Activities that Predispose Risk Behaviour (Index): Pooled scores of young workers' participation with frequency in activities such as Playing Cards for Gambling, Drinking Alcohol, Use of Drugs, Reading Pornographic Literature and Viewing Blue Films / Pornographic Sites. A score of '0' for Never Participated in any of these Activities, '1' for those who Participated Occasionally in these Activities, and '2' for those who Participated Frequently in these Activities have been assigned. Based on the pooled scores for each respondent, they have been classified into three levels of participation in activities that predispose risk behaviour viz., not participated in any risk activity (Scores 0), participated to some extent (Scores 1-4) and participated to a large extent (Scores 5-12).

Knowledge about Reproduction and Sexuality (Index): Pooled scores of Young workers' knowledge about various items (12 in number) of reproduction and sexuality viz., Reproductive age for boys, Reproductive age for Girls, Bodily Changes after Attainment of Age among Boys like Growth of Mustache / Beard, Bodily Changes after Attainment of Age among Girls like Growth of Breast, No. of days each Menstruation lasts among Girls, Day of Releasing Egg in a Menstrual Cycle, Knowledge of Safe Period, Age attainment for Boys, Age attainment for Girls, Wearing Dhoties by Boys, Wearing Sarees by Girls and Using Condom for Safe Sex. Scores of '1' and '0', respectively for the responses of 'Correct knowledge' and 'Otherwise' have been assigned. Based on the pooled scores for each respondent, they have been classified into two groups viz., Lower level of knowledge (scores 0-4) and Higher level of knowledge (5-10).

Attitudes about Pre-marital Sex (Index): Pooled scores of young workers' attitudes about four items of pre-marital sex viz., Boys have to taught about sex before marriage, It is right for boys to Masturbate, Boys should have experience in sex at least once before marriage and Boys can have multiple sex partners. A score of '1' and '0', respectively have been assigned for those who expressed 'Agree / Neutral', and 'Disagree' for each of these responses to these attitudes. Based on the pooled scores for each respondent, they have been classified into two groups, viz., 'Conservative' (scores 0-2) and 'Liberal' (scores 3-4).

Logistic Regression Technique: To understand the influence of each explanatory variable on the dependent variable, which is dichotomous, it is preferable to use logistic regression. The logistic regression technique can be used not only to identify the risk factor but also to predict the probability of success (Kendall, 1975). The logistic of the probability of occurrence (p) is expressed as a function of explanatory variables:

$$\text{Logit (P)} = \log (P/1-P) = \beta_0 + \sum \beta_i x_i$$

Where x_i 's are the explanatory variables and β_i 's are the coefficients. Logistic regression coefficients and also the level of significance have been estimated for each of the dependent variables separately.