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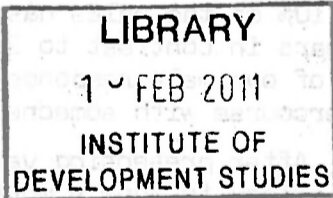
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YOUTH ATTITUDES TOWARDS
SEX IN KENYA.

by

J. Mugo Gachuhi

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ABSTRACT

Data is presented on 1852 Young people from all over Kenya and East Africa concerning their sexual behaviours and attitudes towards sex. 49% of the male respondents has had sexual intercourse before they reach the age of 15 years in contrast to 7% of the females who have sex before this age. Only 10% of the males has had no sexual intercourse by the time they reach 20 years in contrast to 38% of the females who claim to have had no sex. 69% of our male respondents and 88% of the female have their first sexual intercourse with someone much older than they.

After presenting various data the paper concludes by calling the adult society to show a more genuine concern for the youth and advocate some lines of approach.

The 1960's will be remembered in Western history as the decade of Youth revolutions, a period that the youth attempted, and to a considerable degree succeeded, in fighting against the establishment. It is a decade when youth took to the streets to demonstrate their displeasures against what their parents and Society was asking them to do—the wars, disenfranchisement, discrimination and the like. It will be remembered most of all as the period when sexual freedom — freedom in the sense of sexual intercourse—almost became a reality to many young people who disagreed with the traditional — mostly middle class value systems of their parents. We say almost because, even though the western youth enjoyed their sex with little restraints, this behaviour was short lived, at least publicly. Nevertheless, walls of hypocrisy and double standards did come tumbling down and perhaps it will take the western society sometime to adjust itself to the new morality.

It was also during the closing years of this decade that the western women, headed by the United States started to also demand equal rights in sexual responsibility, freedom and in employment as well as in other sectors where women felt they were being not only discriminated but also exploited by the males. Following in the United States the examples of the black Americans, the females demanded and got equal rights Registration; they went as far as trying to pick up the men — a traditionally reserved right for the males — they demonstrated, they wrote and organized themselves against the male — run and determined society. Their war against the men is still going on. Like the youth, they too will leave a marked impact on their society. Never can the West be the same in the area of morality or in these areas which have traditionally been reserved for either of the sexes.¹

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For the youth activities and changes which have either occurred or predicted to occur see especially. Charles Reich The Greening of America.

The Con III Controversy: Philip Nobill (ed) New York, The Pocket Books Publishers, 1971., Alvin Toffler, Future Shock Bantan Books, New York, 1971, See Erick Erickson, The Challenge of Youth.

For the Western Woman's complaints, talkticks and demand, see, Robin Mirgon (ed.) Sisterhood is Powerful, New York, Vintage Books, 1970.

During the decade of the 1960's, Africa was too busy trying either to free itself from colonial powers or trying to consolidate the recently won independence, determine her future or was in political turmoil. There was indeed little time to worry about the youth as such or for that matter the women. The states concentrated on the economic and political development - education, health, politics, etc. The sixties in Africa, and even the 70's will be remembered as the period of nationhood and nation-building. The youth of Africa was preoccupied and still is occupied with problems of getting school spaces and employment after school. There has been no time to worry about the Africa's Centuries' old traditions some of which to worry about the Africa's Centuries' old traditions some of which may not be in keeping with the ideals and aspirations of the present youth. Even though, the African Youth in keeping with some of their parents behaviour and emulation of the western society, did copy most of the behaviours manifested by the western youth. Though our youth, and especially the urbanized youth, has not taken as drastic a measure as the western society in terms of their sexual attitudes and behaviour e.g., pot smoking communal living and other such behaviours, they have, to a very considerable degree emulated the western youth's behaviour in clothings, hair styles, general unrulyness and in matters of sex, though in constrained manner.

In almost all the dailies, bi-monthly, weeklies and magazines, one is almost bound to read about the youth and their positive or negative attitude towards this or that. Letters to Sussanah, to Malimoto and so forth talk of problems that the youth is having with their love affairs or non-affairs. Adults are generally heard complaining about the loose morals of our youth and lamenting about their past. What they forget is that times are changed and will continue to change. As they change so will attitudes and behaviours.

The purpose of this paper is to present data on Kenya's youth concerning their attitudes, knowledge and practices towards sex, as well as their fears about sex.

The Study.

The data presented here is only a small part of a larger study on the Kenyan youth centered around their knowledge, attitudes and practices in matters of family planning as well as sex. Reports of these studies will be forthcoming. In the present report we shall also include data which is based on separate study of prostitutes in Kenya who were asked some of the questions that we asked the Youth.

The data on the prostitutes ^{is} included because most of the prostitutes in Kenya are rather young generally under the age of 25 and would therefore fall within the category we are calling the youth in this study. Partially also, we include it because it points something that the youth data does not have.

Sample and Methodology.

The method of data collection for the youth study was that of a questionnaire. The author administered a prepared questionnaire to 1352 young people in 8 schools. The Schools were as follows: 3 were Teachers Colleges which prepared students for a teaching career in the nations' primary schools. Some of the students in these schools had completed 7 years of primary education while others had completed 2 years of secondary education. The rest of the students in the Teachers' colleges had completed the 4 year Secondary school curriculum. The total student body interviewed from the three Teachers' colleges were 625, something roughly 46 per cent of all the interviews conducted for the study in the schools.

Out of the 625 students interviewed from the teachers' college, breakdown by sex was as follows: males 376, females: 242. 7 respondents refused to give their sexes. Respondents ages were between 16 and 36 years. 2 schools were also for professional training with one exception. In one college, the students were being trained in the sciences of biology, physics and mathematics. All the students in this school had completed secondary school education and they were either in their first, second or third year of their required three year training at the college in preparation for teaching in the secondary schools. In the other college, the students were training basically in agriculture and related sciences. The training is also for a period of three years. Upon completion, the majority of the graduates from this college would either join Government services as agriculturists or they would join private firms or become teachers. The total number of students from these two schools was 291 or roughly 21% of the total sample size. The number of females in the first college was 76 while that of the male was 215. In the second college there were 38 males and 14 females.

The third category of schools in which our survey was conducted was in the secondary schools. These are school which give both the secondary school curriculum as well as higher school curriculum —

2 years past the 4 years high school curriculum. Both these schools are all boys secondary schools. The total sample from these schools was 343. Another 25% of the total sample size with ages of between 13 and 22.

The fourth and final type of school was a secretarial college.

In this school the all girls student body train for secretarial professions for a period varying from one year to 18 months. All of the students had already completed secondary school curriculum at the time of the interview. The total sample size of the respondents from this school was 50 or nearly 4% of the total sample size. Their ages were from 16 years to 29 years.

All the Districts of Kenya were represented in addition to a very heavy representation from the two East African Community Countries of Tanzania and Uganda, the neighbouring countries of the Sudan, Zaire, Burundi and Zambia were also represented in the sample. India and Pakistan, U.K. U.S.A. and Italy had 2 representative each. To this extent, a claim that this study is representative of Eastern Africa youth would not be out of order. However since our intention was to interview those youths who were attending Kenyan schools, our comments shall be confined to the Kenyan youth only, even though there is a strong possibility that attitudes, knowledges and behaviours pertaining to sexual knowledge such as reported here could be representative of the youth in these parts of Africa.

Questionnaire was administered to the students at their respective schools. No lecture on sex education or on family planning was given before the interview. Only after the completion of the questionnaire were respondents asked if they had any question or were given a lecture on sexology/family planning or shown some family planning films. Any contermination of information, and thus sequing the data should not be attributed to the lectures which were given after the questionnaires were collected. At any rate the data reported herein has nothing to do with the lectures provided, since it reports an activities and values which the respondents already had and continue to have even now.

Questions such as when the respondent has ~~her~~ first Coitus cannot be changed by any lecture, no matter whether the questionnaire is administered before or after the lecture.

The sample size on those people who were interviewed while they had come for clinical check-up and or treatment for venereal diseases was 87. There were 13 men and 74 women between the ages of 19 and 28 for the males, and ages 17 and 28 for the females. As already mentioned only those questions which we asked to the youth and also to the venereal disease respondents will be presented here.

The Results.

Question 9 of our youth study asked the marital status of the respondent. Table I gives the marital status of the respondents.

RESPONDENTS MARITAL STATUS.

	MALES	FEMALES
SINGLE	918 (95%)*	327 (86)*
MARRIED	41 (4)	53 (14)
DIVORCED	1 (0.1)	1 (0.3)
N.A. ⁽¹⁾	11 (1)	- -
Total	971 (100.)	381 (100.)

* Figures in brackets a percentages computed as the percent of the base which for the males is 971 and for the females 381.

1) N.A. in this table refers to those who did not give their marital status, viz., a viz., those who refused to answer this item.

2) Percentages may add up to more or less than 100 because of rounding.

Table I clearly shows that the majority of our respondents are single (92.9 or nearly 93%) of the totals. Those who are married many of them did so after 1970 which makes them fall within the youth category. At any rate their ages are such that they fall under the age of 25 years which is the age of the majority of the respondents.

Question 28 of the youth study asked the respondents to state what they thought the ideal age was to start having sexual intercourse.

Table 2 gives the responses as to the ideal age when females should start having sexual intercourse and Table 3 gives the ideal age for the male to start sexual intercourse.

TABLE 2.

Ideal Age for females to start having sexual intercourse

Ideal age	males		females	
	No.	%	No.	%
Below 14 years	112	12	13	3
14-19 "	528	54	118	31
20-24 "	105	11	80	21
25-29 "	25	3	13	3
Don't know	88	9	132	35
Refused to answer	107	11	16	4
when she marries	6	0.6	9	2
Totals	971	101.	381	99

12% of the males believe that girls should start sexual intercourse before they reach their 14th birthday. This is in comparison to only 3% of the females who think that the ideal age to start sexual intercourse should be before the age of 14 years.

To the majority of the male respondents, however, the best (ideal) age for the females to start sexual activity is during their adolescence and in late teens. Thus 54% of the males believe that girls should start having intercourse while they are between the ages of 14 and 19 years. The total percent of the males who think girls should have sexual intercourse before their 19th birthday is 66.

For the females nearly one third (31%) think that girls should ideally have their first sexual intercourse between the ages of 14 and 19. It is interesting to note that girls are more concerned

about when they have their first sexual contact than boys are. Thus only 34% of the female respondents believe that girls should have their first sexual intercourse by the time they celebrate their 19th birthday.

When one looks at the next age cluster in Table 2, we note that 11% of the males think that the ideal age for the girls to have their first sexual contact is at the age of between 20 and 24. For the females, nearly twice as many as the boys (21%) believe that this period is the best age to have first sexual intercourse for them. Explanation for the high female "don't know" will be found further on in this paper. For now the point to make is that, as has been demonstrated before¹, by the time girls have reached ^{their} twentieth birthday, the majority of them (over 70%) will have married, an act which surely involves coitus. Whether the desire to have sexual intercourse late for the females is a reflection of their knowledge that they will be at least 19 years by the time they finish school or training for their careers, and therefore they would not want to become pregnant before hand, or whether it is a reflection of the traditions from which these young people come from is not clear. It is clear, from our data however that females prefer to have their first sexual intercourse at a much later age than the boys would want them to.

Before proceeding further we present data on the idealized time for the males to start having sexual intercourse.

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1. See the 1969 Kenya Population Vol. 1. Nairobi, Ministry of Finance and Planning.
also J. Mugo Gachuhi "Who Needs Family Planning?" in Henry P. David (editor). Proceedings of the Conference on Psychology and Family Planning. Transnational Family Planning Research Institute, 1972.

- 8 -
TABLE 3.

Ideal Age for Males to Start
 having Sexual Intercourse

Ideal Age	male		female	
	No.	%	No.	%
Below 14 years	116	12	16	4
14 - 19 "	489	50	96	25
20 - 24 "	159	16	64	17
25 - 29 "	37	4	20	5
30 - 34 "	15	2	11	3
35 years or more	11	1	11	3
D.K.	70	7	103	27
R.A.	68	7	55	14
When he marries	6	0.6	5	1
Totals	971	99.6%	381	99%

In Table 3 we note that the males are almost consistent in terms of their ideal age for first sexual encounter. Thus in Table 2 we noted that 12% of the males consider the ideal age for a girl to start her first sexual intercourse to be below 14 years. The same percentage, (12%) of the males consider age below 14 years to be their ideal age to start having sexual intercourse. The females are also consistent on this point as 3% do believe that males should start having sexual intercourse by the time they reach their 14th birthday.

For ages 14-19 years, 50% of the male believe that this is the ideal time for having sexual intercourse. This percentage is only 4% off (Table 2) where 54% of the males thought that the ideal age for sexual intercourse for the girls should be between the ages of 14 and 19 years. For the females (Table 3) 25% believe that men should have their first Coitus when they are between the ages of 14 and 19 years. This is 6% points lower than the same female population ideal for a girl to start having sexual intercourse - 25% vs 31%.

According to the majority of the males (78%) a young man should have had his first sexual experience by the time he reaches

his 24th birthday. This is in contrast to the females (46%) who hold the same view. With the exception of the "Don't know" categories, (27% female in contrast with 7% male) who don't know when the ideal age is¹ the other interesting figures in our Table besides the "Refused to Answer" is the category called "When he marries". This is interesting because apparently the smallness of the percentages for both males and females seem to indicate that marriage has nothing to do with having sex. Virginity on the part of either the males or the females does not seem to matter very much. Thus only 1% female and 0.6% of the males thought that males should have their first sexual intercourse after they marry. In contrast to this (Table 2) 2% of the female respondents and 0.6% of the male respondents thought that girls should have their first sexual contact when they marry.

Ideals are of course one thing and realities are another. We wanted to know (Question 29) when in actual fact the respondents had their first sexual experience. The results are very interesting. (Table 4).

At what age did you the first sexual intercourse?

Table 4.

Age first had sexual intercourse	male		female	
	No.	%	No.	%
Below 15 years	478	49	28	7
16 - 19 "	297	31	118	31
20 - 24 "	27	3	28	7
25 - 29 "	1	0.1	4	1
NEVER HAD	95	10	146	38
Don't/know/Don't Remember	9	0.9	3	0.8
Refused to Answer	64	6	54	14
Totals	971	100%	381	98.8(99)

As we mentioned above, ideals very really approximate the actual situation. Thus whereas 12% of the males (Table 2 and 3) had

1. The "dont know" category in Table 3 should be compared with those of Table 2. Thus while 27% and 7% of the females and males respectively said they don't know the ideal age for the males to start sexual intercourse, in Table 2, the figures were 35% and 9% Female and males respectively.

said that ideally a girl or boy should have their first sexual intercourse by the time they celebrated their 14th birthday. We note in Table 4 that nearly half (49%) of the boys in actual fact had their first sexual experience by the time they were 15 years old! Likewise though the percentage of the girls who have sexual experience by the time they are 15 years, is still much less than that of the boys, and, therefore approximates the ideal, we nevertheless find that by age 15, 7% of the girls have had their first Coitus.

31% of the males in Kenya have their first sexual experience between the age of 15 and 19 years while an equal number of females (31%) have their first experience between these ages.

By the age of 20 years for the boys, chances are that they will have had a sexual experience (80%) while for the the girls, by this age 38% will have had the experience.¹ What is particularly striking is the female figure (Table 4) in the "NEVER HAD" Category. If in fact the 38% of the females who claim to "have never had" sexual experience is correct, then Kenya would be one of the few countries to claim to have "high virginity rate". Note also that we have a 10% of the males who had had no sexual experience at the time of the interview.

What the 38% female claim for virginity may also mean is that traditional taboos concerning sex might still be in operation. It may also mean that actually, virgins are only a small number but because virginity is a highly priced commodity by many people in many Societies, many of our respondents might have claimed to be virgins even though they were not. This is the type of data which, while interesting, it does not tell us much. It is particularly so when we recall that we had no way of verifying the claim to virginity. Likewise as usually is the case with the boys, a high claim of sexual exposure (49%) by the age of 15 might again be an exaggeration.

1. It should be recalled that we are dealing with only those Youths who are in school. We don't know whether these figures would change had we included the out of school youth. Chances are that they would be higher than the ones we are using here.

As in the case of the virgin girls, we can only take the figures at their own face-value. Boys are known-world-wide to boast of sexual knowledge even though they have had none.

Leaving this argument aside, and confining ourselves to the data, it seems that the majority of Kenyan Youth, especially the males, have sexual experience by age of 19 years. That by this age only 38% of the female population has had any sexual experience raises an important question as to who the youth's sexual partners are?

We did not, unfortunately, ask our respondents who their sexual partners were or indeed whether these partners were younger or older than themselves at the time of the first Coitus. Though data is lacking from this particular study we have other data from another study which had asked the respondents the age of their first sexual partners. From this study (table 5) it seems that the majority of the males (69%) as well as the majority of the females (88%) had had their first Coitus with someone older than themselves. In our Prostitution/V.D. study we had asked the following question:

Q. 17a Was the person you had sex with first time older or younger than you were?¹

TABLE 5
AGE OF PARTNER AT FIRST
COITUS

AGE CATEGORY	Male	Female
OLDER	69	88
YOUNGER	31	11
Don't know	0	1
Percent	100	100
Base	13	74

Undoubtedly the percentage base in Table 5 is small. While this

1. Data from this study has not been published as yet. The study was done by the present Author in late 1972 and early 1973.

is not the place to discuss why it is small² the data can be used as a pointer to the ages of first sexual partners that the youth is likely to have. Thus we note in Table 5, that females are much more likely to have their first sexual intercourse with an older male than men are likely to. This is not inconsistent with the practice where one finds that in almost all societies, women usually marry someone who is much older than they. This being true, we are not fully able to explain the reasons why a majority of the males (69%) have their first sexual intercourse with some older women. Perhaps the socio-cultural factors involved are those that in some African Societies, boys are usually expected to have their first sexual intercourse from an older person. This is usually considered to be part of the boy's training in sexual matters and it is expected that such boys will have had the necessary sexual training before they meet their brides for the first time. This privilege however, apparently is not extended to the girls presumably because women are expected to take a passive role in sexual as indeed in many other matters.

If the foregoing argument is current, it would seem therefore, that results reported in Table 4 are consistent. That is, most of the male population will have had sexual intercourse by the time they reach certain age while the females will not have had, at least not to the same degree, a similar experience.

SEXUAL INTERCOURSE: YOUTH'S FEARS.

Besides the usual sermons of "Thou shall and shall not do", besides the general and western middle class exhortation to their teenagers not to have sex because it may result to unwanted pregnancy or venereal diseases, the fears of the Kenyan Youth about sexual intercourse seem to vary abit. That pregnancy and sin take only a small share of the fears of youth concerning sexual intercourse. Before presenting an argument on the issue of morality of youth, which many commentators everywhere seem to think that it is abhorrent, we present data on the questions of fear and the nature of this fear in matters of youth and sex.

2. This argument will be presented in forthcoming papers on the subject. It can be said now that the nature of the study (venereal disease and Prostitution) itself was a limitation as to the number of interview one could get.

To those respondents who had answered that they had had sexual intercourse at the time of the interview, we asked them the following question:

Were you afraid the first time you had sex?

Table 6 gives the results.

TABLE 6.

Afraid First Time you had Sex	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	294	30	127	33
No	377	39	22	6
Don't Remember	148	15	48	13
Refused to Answer	57	6	38	10
Never Had	95	10	146	38
	971	100	381	100

From Table 6 we note that 30% of the males and 33% of the females were afraid the first time they had sexual intercourse. These percentages are nearly the same for both sexes and as we shall see in Table 7 the reasons for fear are also nearly the same. We note in Table 6 however that only 6% of the females in contrast to 39% of the males who were not afraid of anything related to their first coitus experience. 15% of the males could not remember at the time of interview, whether they had been afraid or not when they had their first sexual intercourse. Interesting enough, 13% of the females could not remember either, indicating one of two things. Firstly it is possible for both the sexes that could not remember their first experiences to be the one that generally is worried - sinful, pregnancy fear etc., that it has tried to block this experience and of its mind. Secondly it is possible that this group might not have had any sex and merely marked the don't remember category on the questionnaire.

No matter what the case may have been, we contend that females are much more likely to remember experiences of their first coitus than are men. In fact it is very likely that most women do remember the man with whom they had their first sexual relation.

On the assumption that those respondents who had had sexual intercourse at some point before the interview had some fears, we asked what they had been afraid of. Table 7 gives the response breakdown.

Question 25a: If Yes (to the previous question) what were you afraid of?

TABLE 7
Types of Youth's Sexual Fears.

Types of sexual Fears	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
Pain	17	2	24	6
Pregnancy/Fear of getting into the unknown	78	8	56	15
Lack of experience/manage the game/Never done it	84	9	18	5
Thickness of the penis/ Penis Snake-like	4	0.4	15	4
Bleeding/injure the girl	12	1	3	0.78
Loss of virginity	1	0.1	1	0.26
Sinful/parent punishment	42	4	4	1
Inability to satisfy	11	1	-	-
Flow of Seminal fluid	28	3	-	-
Don't know	10	1	2	0.52
Refused to answer	9	1	14	4
Not applicable	677	70	108	28
Never Had	95	10	146	38
Totals	971	100.5	381	101

Among the women, their major fear at the time of their first sexual intercourse was pregnancy and or "getting into the unknown". The expression of "getting into the unknown" is rather interesting because Kenyan youth, as has been demonstrated before¹ know very little if anything about their bodies. Thus, for the females, as indeed the males (8%) virgins, at least internally, is something that is unknown to the majority of the youth.

Another important fear that our youth has in matters of sex

1. J. Mugo Gachuhi "Youth, Reproduction and Population" I.D.S. Discussion Paper No. 159 1972.

is the apparent "lack of experience", "inability to ~~manage the game~~" since they had had no prior experience and therefore what they were doing was unfamiliar. 9% of the males and 5% of the females said this was their main reasons for fear. Fear of pain accounts for 6% for the female and 2% for males. 4% of the females in contrast to 0.4% of the males, were afraid of the penis because "it looked like a snake" and or "it was too thick. This type of fear again points to the inadequate knowledge that some of our youth has concerning human sexual organs. More males than females (4% and 1%) were afraid of their first sexual act because they considered it to be a sin or because they were afraid of parental punishment.

The question of ~~impotency~~ apparently is not of great worry to the males - at any rate not at the first intercourse - as only 1% of the male respondents was afraid they might not be able to satisfy their sexual partner. Loss of virginity was of concern to only 0.1% of the males and about 0.3% of the females. The premium that was once put on virginity by the various East African Societies seem to have been lost. It is interesting to note from Table 7 that 3% of the males were afraid of the flow of the seminal fluid, a fear which the female respondents did not show any concern for. We suspect that ~~menstrual~~ flow was confused with the seminal fluid by the males. If this is indeed true, it further demonstrates the general ignorance our youth has about sexual matters. For if they had known anything, including the traditional customs concerning sex, they would have known that it is not easy to have sexual intercourse during the time that a woman has her period. All in all, our young people have some sexual fears though those who are afraid in the case of the males are in the minority. The large figure of girls who are afraid (Table 6) would seem to indicate that girls are afraid of what will happen to them after sexual intercourse than boys are about what will happen to them or for that matter to the girls.

Interesting enough, no one mentioned the often voiced reason for abstaining from sex - namely venereal diseases. Non-mention of this disease as a reason for fear might perhaps be attributed to the general ignorance prevailing in the country concerning the transmission of venereal diseases.

That is most people don't know that venereal diseases are sexually transmitted nor in fact do they know the symptoms of such dis-

case. The saying that "nice people do not get venereal diseases" might also be a factor in non-mention of these diseases.

The point to make however is that at least based on our data, our youth does seem to have sexual anxieties - anxieties in the sense of the resultant state of their having had sexual intercourse. What we don't know for sure is how deep-rooted these anxieties are, whether they are a result of tradition, religious beliefs or general ignorance. Further studies in this area are needed to determine what these roots are and whether or not they are on the increase - which we suspect they might be - or not. The aim of such studies would be in effort to help the youth overcome their fears on matters about sex and thus helping to prepare ^{them} to lead a wholesome life. This in our opinion can only be done through education which is not deeply involved in condemnation of the ~~moral~~ behaviour of the youth but on sound educational principles.

Question 25b asked the respondents, what their experiences during their first sexual intercourse had been. Table 8 gives the results.

What was your experience of the first sexual intercourse?

TABLE 8.

YOUTH'S FIRST SEXUAL EXPERIENCE

TYPE OF EXPERIENCE	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
Painful	41	4	105	28
Guilty Conscience	151	16	33	9
Pleasurable	524	54	23	6
Not good	49	5	15	4
Don't know	47	5	16	4
N A	11	1	6	2
R A	56	6	38	10
NEVER HAD	95	10	146	38
Total	971	101%	381	101%

By far, the most memorable experience for our females is that the first sexual act was painful (28%) something which is not

really ^{startling} since breaking of the membrane (hymen) involves ~~procedures~~ this initial experience might be related to the fears as were expressed by the female respondents of the penis being thick or snakelike. 4% of the males apparently experienced pain during their sexual intercourse.

For the females their next most memorable experience is that they were guilty ^{of conscience} 13% of the male respondents was also guilty of conscience. The most important memory for male respondents is that their first Coitus was "pleasurable". This is compared to 6% of the female respondents who thought the encounter was pleasurable. The 54% figure for the males, who claim that their first Coitus was pleasurable is not very startling, as indeed we cannot be surprised by the low figure of 6% females whose experience was also pleasurable.

In Africa, and also in other parts of the world, it is generally claimed that the majority of women take a passive role in sex matters. That is, few women enjoy sexual intercourse as such in the sense of experiencing ~~orgasm~~. If this is true, as we think it is, it does raise several important issues which are of socio-psychological nature. Before discussing these issues, however, it is well to remember that among many African societies the purpose of sexual intercourse has not been one ^{of} "pleasure" but for procreation purposes. Thus, there are few if any recorded cases of couples separating or quarreling because of sexual incompatibility. Traditionally also young people such as we are reporting on here were not supposed to ^{be} involved sexually since they had no business of begetting children. Youth was a period of growing and training in preparation for adult roles, one of which included marriage and procreation.

These days however, when and where change has brought about disruption of societies' social order, we find that relationships have changed. Marriage for many young people who have had western education, who have adopted western values, seen western romantic films, pictures and the like, to many of them marriage is no longer a matter of procreation alone. It is now an economic necessity, a companionship with rights and obligations. Couples expect each other to give and be given that special understanding. In the area of sex, to the woman it is no longer a question of her passively participating but rather her being equally involved and desiring the pleasures of sex as much as the man. Thus, these days couples are heard

quarreling ^{over} importable sex relationship. Lack of satisfaction for one partner may mean his looking around for someone who can give him the satisfaction which he needs - both physical and emotional. Marriages then in the African society have an added & new dimension for their stability which is one of mutual satisfaction with each other.

The attitudes of how males look at women have not fully changed. That is, though we have argued that marital relationships are changing from one of inequality, most of our males still consider females, sexually at least, to be there for the pleasures of the man. Thus it is not surprising that 54% of the male respondents had pleasurable experience at their first sexual contact as compared to the 6% of the females who had similar experience. Looking at Table 8 again, we note that 5% and 4% male and female respectively did not think their first sexual experience was good.

CONCLUSION: TOWARDS A CONCERN FOR YOUTH.

We have presented data on the sexual participation of the Youth in Kenya. We have seen that the majority of our youth have had sexual intercourse at sometime during their teen years and before marriage. We have also seen that despite popular belief that youth is "all sex", some of our young people have never had sex in their lives. What we have not presented in this paper is data on frequency of sexual intercourse - since we did not raise the question - nor whether our youth uses any form of contraceptives to prevent a possible pregnancy.¹ We noted that pregnancy on the part of the girl or impregnating on the part of the boy is not the only worry youth have. In fact it is only one of the many worries they have, thus, perhaps indicating that public castigation of the youth about their morals; parental and friend's advise which tries to create fear of pregnancy, venereal diseases, sinfulness and the like cannot have an important and lasting impact. Yet, youth must get the proper advice concerning their sexual selves.

¹The questionnaire asked the respondents about their contraceptives history - past and present. Data on these items will be presented in future reports after they have been analyzed.

We are convinced, after repeated studies involving the youth and the adults, that the young people know very little about their bodies.¹ They know enough about contraceptives through many have never used any,² yet they are very much involved in sexual plays.

The fundamental thing to remember is that as the society has changed, as children and young people no longer get the training, information and the advice they want for growing up at home, parents and in general the society at large, has abandoned its responsibility of training the youth. Schools and youth organizations have replaced societal and parental responsibilities of having the youth not only in preparation for formal occupation but also for moral being. We doubt whether the schools, themselves a product of a changing society, are in a position to impart the necessary knowledge to the youth.

When one looks at the schools he sees very little in the way of preparing the youth for living. Occasionally one hears of schools girls who have been expelled from schools because they have become pregnant. One also hears unconfirmed rumours that some school girls have gone as far as attempting to perform an abortion on themselves - a far riskier job than if they carried their pregnancy to term. No one really knows how widely or how serious this is true. The fact though must remain that it is going on. The physical and psychological damage this can bring to the individual, his family and if widely practiced to the society as a whole, should not be underestimated.

These are some of the reasons why advocates of sex and population education believe that schools must accept their responsibility and impart factual knowledge to the youth. We can't assume that there is no problem when in fact we know that it is widespread. Nor can we assume that the problems will go away if we do not do anything to eliminate it. The Society has the choice: to help the youth grow sexually and morally responsibly or accept the consequences of ignorance - which could be eliminated - and which consequences will be far more costly in human life, material etc., than the cost of correcting the situation now.

1. See J. Mugo Gachuhi "Youth Reproduction and population". op. cit.

2. Ibid op cit. It will be interesting, when data is available, to see how many of the respondents have used or are using contraceptives.

Youth, as indeed members of the Society at large, will continue to have sex both before and after marriage. There is no law, no degree of moral condemnation will prevent this from happening. The one possible alternative is for the society to accept that this is a fact, and as in many other realms of life, society should do something to the lessen the pains and anxieties of the youth. A genuine concern for the youth, a concern which at the present is best approached educationally, ought to be among the high priorities for the development of the nation. A nation is as healthy as its youth.