

DEVELOPING A MANUAL TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF EARLY
INVOLVEMENT IN SEX AMONG TEENAGERS IN SHALOM BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION, IBADAN

N B T S
D. MIN.
BO-687

A Project in the Faculty of Theological Studies
Submitted to the School of Postgraduate Studies,
Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary,
Ogbomoso

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Award of the Degree

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

2013-0758

GIDEON OYELEKE BOLAJI

MATRIC NO: 09/0220

JUNE 2013

ABSTRACT

This research set out to identify the reasons why some teenagers in Shalom Baptist Association, Ibadan, were involved in early sex. It was also intended to assist the teenagers in overcoming the problems of early exposure to sexual intercourse. Furthermore, the project aimed at sensitizing pastors, parents and members of the church on the reality of early involvement in sex by teenagers. In addition, the study intended to help the Christian young people in general by guiding them, through the suggestions to be offered, to live for Christ. It was also the intention of the project to develop a manual which would be used to teach teenagers on various aspects of sexuality. In carrying out the research, a manual on the subject matter was developed and taught. The contents of the manual aimed at enlightening the teenagers of Shalom Baptist Association, Ibadan, on the implications of being involved in early sex, in view of its far-reaching consequences. The studies placed premium on the need to avoid early involvement in sex, and embrace reserving sexual intercourse for marriage. The manual contained five studies. The five studies were taught by this researcher in two sessions: morning session, and afternoon session. The instruments used in carrying out the research were two sets of questionnaire. The first set, which was a pre-test questionnaire was administered to determine the previous knowledge of the respondents in the area of sexuality. The second set, which was the post-test questionnaire, was equally administered to test the new knowledge acquired by the respondents, after being exposed to the studies in the manual. From the findings of study, it was discovered that many of the participants had heard about sex before, majorly from school. It was also discovered that some of the teenagers, about 6.6 percent in the pre-test and 10.8 percent in the post-test, of the respondents, had had the experience of sexual intercourse. This finding confirmed the claim that there was the problem of early involvement in sex among the teenagers of Shalom Baptist Association, Ibadan. The study also brought into limelight, the factors which engender early involvement in sex. The research further showed that sex education was not given adequate attention by parents, the school and the church. It was also shown by the study that Senior Pastors have not been showing interests in the affairs of teenagers, regarding it as an affair of early ministry. The issue of indecent dressing among teenagers was also identified as a major stimulant of early involvement in sex. It was, therefore, recommended that the factors which foster early involvement in sex be noted by parents, teachers, pastors and other care givers for proper guidance. Also, teenagers were advised to take caution in the way they interface with the factors identified. It was also recommended that adequate attention be paid to sex education by the parents, the school and the church. In addition, it was recommended that Senior Pastors should show keen interest in the affairs of teenagers, not abandoning them to young ministers. Furthermore, it was recommended that students in theological institutions be exposed to sex education, so as to be effective ministers in the area of sexuality. In view of the remarkable impact which the manual had on the teenagers, it was recommended that it be used as a reference material by handlers of teenagers in Shalom Baptist Association, Ibadan, in particular, and the local churches of Nigerian Baptist Convention in general.

Conclusion

From the theological basis, it was concluded that sex was an act of God in creation, and it was meant to take place between a married man and a married woman. Sexual intercourse is reserved for marriage only. Early involvement in sex among teenagers

amounts to sexual immorality which is punishable under God's law and could prevent any person involved from entering the Kingdom of God.

Further more, it was concluded from the review of related literature that early involvement in sex among teenagers had devastating effects on the teenagers, the parents, the church and the society at large. In this regard, efforts should be made to avoid the factors that engender early involvement in sex among teenagers. Also, precautionary measures should be taken against the occurrence of early involvement in sex, so as to avert the far-reaching consequences. In addition, stake-holders should be up and doing in playing their roles by responding adequately to the challenges of early involvement in sex. Furthermore, it was concluded in the study that out of the stakeholders, the church has vital roles to play in ministering to the teenagers through the various ministries of the church.

The pre-test and post-test revealed that the purpose for which the research was carried out was achieved. The factors which engender early involvement in sex were discovered. The teachings exposed the teenagers to how they could overcome sexual sins. Also, the results of pre-test and the post-test sensitized the pastors and members of the church on the reality of early involvement in sex among teenagers, and the need to stand up to the challenge was emphasized. The awareness created by the teachings would remain evergreen in the minds of the teenagers. Exposure to the effects of being involved in early sex and the benefits of reserving sex for marriage would enable the teenagers to exercise restraint in the way they conduct themselves. This was reflected in the post-test where majority of them decided to lead holy lives that glorify the Lord. Those who had messed up were encouraged to start from a clean slate.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made on the basis of the results obtained from the research findings.

1. Through this study, it has been revealed that certain factors foster early involvement in sex among teenagers. It is, therefore, recommended that such factors be noted by the parents, teachers, pastors and other care givers, for proper guidance. Also, it is recommended that teenagers should be cautious in the way they interface with those factors, so as to prevent them from being lured into early involvement in sex.
2. This study has also shown that early involvement in sex has some far-reaching consequences. It is, therefore, recommended that parents, teachers, and pastors should intimate the teenagers with the consequences discussed in this study so as to enable them know the implications of their actions.
3. It has also been revealed in the course of the study that some Senior Pastors have not been showing keen interest in the affairs of teenagers, regarding it as an affair of early ministry. It is, therefore, recommended that Senior Pastors should start to show interest in the affairs of teenagers by being with them at their meetings. Also, sexual issues should be brought up for discussion from time to time.
4. The study also talked about the issue of indecent dressing which is prevalent among teenagers. It is recommended that parents, especially women, should show good examples to their daughters by putting on decent dresses. Teenagers, especially girls, should be discouraged from putting on dresses that would expose the erotic parts of their bodies. Also, boys should be discouraged from putting on trousers that would expose their underwears (sagging).
5. The study has also revealed that the issue of sex education has not been given the adequate attention it deserves at home, in the school and the church. It is, therefore, recommended that parents should find time to educate their wards on sexual issues. Likewise, sex education should be taught in schools by mature teachers. The church should also utilize its various ministries in exposing the teenagers to sex education. Seminars, Health talks, Retreats and Workshops should be organized for teenagers.

