

Public Display of Affection – Views of Students in Khammam, Telangana

S. Ramya Reddy¹, K. V. N. R. Pratap², T. Madhavi Padma³, V. Shiva Kalyan⁴, P. Srikanth⁵

¹Student (BDS), Department of Public Health Dentistry, Mamata Dental College, Khammam, India

²Professor & HoD, Department of Public Health Dentistry, Mamata Dental College, Khammam, India

³Professor, Department of Public Health Dentistry, Mamata Dental College, Khammam, India

⁴Reader, Department of Public Health Dentistry, Mamata Dental College, Khammam, India

⁵Lecturer, Department of Public Health Dentistry, Mamata Dental College, Khammam, India

Abstract: Public display of affection has been a taboo in India. However, with changing trends and westernization the thinking and perspective of people toward PDA is changing. It is interesting to know the attitude of students towards PDA.

This study can be used to know the attitude of students, and to compare the results with other studies performed across various parts of the world and among various age groups. A cross-sectional study was performed on students in Khammam, Telangana. Self-structured questionnaire was prepared and data collection was done.

Majority of the students think display of affection in public is OK within limits and it helps in keeping the relationship long lasting.

Keywords: public display of affection

1. Introduction

In recent times, a substantial amount of research has examined sexual behavior and especially sexual behavior associated with drug use and intoxication. There is a body of research that examines why and how such behavior occurs; yet there seems to be less research that examines the prevalence of such behavior within college environment. People from more liberated countries might find PDA'S normal but those from more religious and conservative nations might trigger negative reactions [1].

Romantic actions make someone think of love and involve doing things to show that you love someone. The actions included in this factor does not involve intimate actions but gestures that are a sign of love [2].

Affectionate is defined as the feeling of liking or caring for someone [Webster-Merriam dictionary]. Affectionate gestures can serve as routes to object attachment and can generate emotional attachment. It is also defined as a disposition or rare state of mind that is associated with a feeling or type of love [2].

Physical affection in romantic relationships has rarely been studied, despite its potential contribution to the relationship quality. This study focuses on students approval and disapproval on certain behaviors done or displayed by couples in public places.

It is interesting to know the student's attitude on PDA, whether they approve of it or not. Despite few studies about this topic, further studies could focus on a larger population and a variety of culture to be able to generalize or discriminate. This study could counter the belief that students are too conservative and it would be a disgrace if couples are seen exchanging affection in public places.

The output of this study may also be utilized by people who want to determine the attitude of people on PDA, also as a reference if they want to improve a study or create a new one. The results of the survey may also be used to generalize a sample population and determine which factors affect their perception, as well as to retrieve samples from different parts of the world to compare attitudes across cultures.

2. Methodology

A cross-sectional study was performed on a sample of 200 interns of Mamata medical and dental college, from 5th May, 2019 to 10th May 2019.

A self-structured questionnaire with the title "views of students on public display of affection" was prepared. The questionnaire included demographic data of the participants like age, gender, year of study. The participants name was not included in the demographic data, to minimize the ability to identify a particular individual's responses. The questionnaire was pre-tested and necessary modifications were done and finalized before data collection. Consent is taken from study objects prior to the study.

Permission was taken from the Head of the department of Public Health Dentistry to conduct the study.

All the interns in the Mamata Medical College, present between the dates 5th May, 2019 to 10th May, 2019 were included in the study.

The interns in the Mamata Medical College who were absent between the dates 5th May,2019 to 10th May,2019 and the students who were not willing to participate in the study were excluded.

Statistical analysis was done by using SPSS25.Descriptive

statistics were performed. Chi square test was used to find the association among categorical variables.

3. Results

Of the 200 students participated in the survey, 123 were female and 77 persons were male. The mean age of the participants was 23.10, standard deviation (1.190).

	N	Min.	Max.	Mean	Std. deviation
Age	200	21	27	23.10	1.190
Valid N	200				

60% participants in study thinks that PDA is OK upto some extent, while 27% participants think that it is good and 12% participants think that it is bad, with a statistically significant difference of (P=0.031). PDA is

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Good	52	27	27	27
Bad	24	12	12	38
OK up to some extent	120	60	60	98
Total	200	100	100	100

66% participants have answered “No” for the question, if they are distracted when they see their colleagues do PDA and 34% participants have answered “yes”.

Are u distracted when you see your schoolmates/classmates doing PDA?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Yes	68	34	34	34
No	132	66	66	100
Total	200	100	100	

Majority of the participants (72%) thinks if someone is conservative they would be disgusted with students doing PDA.

If someone is Conservative, do you think they would be disgusted with students doing PDA?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Yes	144	72	72	72
No	56	28	28	100
Total	200	100	100	

Majority of the participants disagreed with the statement that “PDA helps to keep the relationship long lasting”

Do you think PDA helps to keep the relationship long lasting?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Agree	56	28	28	28
Disagree	96	48	48	76
Strongly disagree	36	18	18	94
Strongly agree	12	6	6	100

50% of participants think that kissing in public is too much

of Public Display of Affection.

PDA-How much is too much according to you?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Holding hands	28	14	14	14
Posting intimate pictures on social media	68	34	34	48
Hugging	4	2	2	50
Kissing	100	50	50	100
Total	200	100	100	

4. Discussion

Majority of the students think that PDA is “Ok Upto some extent” most of them agreed that they are not distracted when they are see their schoolmates/classmates doing PDA. 52% of the participants said that they would support PDA on social media upto some extent, while 40% of them said that they would not support PDA on social media. Most of the participants disagreed to the statement that PDA helps to keep the relationship long lasting.

56% of the participants think that if genuine feelings or affection exist between people, they might not have to refrain themselves from PDA. 80% of participants accepts that PDA draws more attention from people in India.

The Indian Penal Code Section 294(a) states that “Whoever to the annoyance of others does any obscene act in public, shall be punished with imprisonment of three months or with a fine or both” 70% of the participants think that kissing in public is an obscene act & 16% of participants think none of the holding hands, posting intimate pictures on social media, kissing in public or hugging in public is obscene. However, there is no particular Definition of “Obscene Act” in Indian Penal Code.

5. Conclusion

This results from the study shows that students in Khammam, Telangana approve PDA upto some extent. Therefore, this study counters the belief that students are too conservative and that it would be a disgrace if couples are seen exchanging affection in public places. This study was conducted between the students of age group 21 to 27 years. Further studies can be performed on larger population and variety of cultures and on various age groups to be able to generative or discriminate.

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