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**CULTURAL DIMENSIONS OF CONTROL AND PROTECTION OF  
SEXUAL LIFE : THE CASE OF FEMALE ADOLESCENTS IN  
URBAN POOR COMMUNITY OF BANGKOK**

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#### ABSTRACT

The vital problem confronting female adolescents in the urban poor community of Bangkok is the lack of knowledge of how to prevent sexually transmitted diseases and premarital pregnancies as well as understanding the impulses and the youths sexual behaviors. This study examined the cultural and social aspect of urban slum adolescents to control and protect their sexual health and lives. Effective methods of circulation of information about female adolescents sexuality will create awareness and aid policy makers of government and non-governmental organization in successfully implementing sexuality, sexual behavior and reproductive health programs for female adolescents in urban poor communities.

A qualitative research design which is a main research technique employed in this study, incorporated an ethnographic approach and exploratory research type to generate hypothesis on the behavior of adolescent sexuality in the context of their own social lives. This study utilized naturalistic methods of inquiry which included participant observation, focus group discussions and individual in-depth interviews. A total of 20 female adolescents from one Bangkok urban poor community were interviewed. Findings are presented in qualitative summaries and narrative explanation. Recurrent themes showed that the circumstance surrounding the urban poor communities had impacted on female adolescents sexual behavior. The results of study indicate that components of control and protection of sexuality consist of four features: 1) sexual meaning, 2) sexual activities, 3) sexual partnerships, 4) sexual drive and knowledge of the female body. These features affected females adolescents who were victims of illiteracy and lacked knowledge about control and protection pertaining to active sexual life. Values of both parents and community project

regarding sexuality influence the female adolescents in their ability to cope with their sexual behaviors and sexual health problems, such as being infected with STDs, HIV and AIDs, unwanted pregnancies and sexual violence.

Recommendations are made for policy makers concerned with organizations working with these adolescent issues for providing appropriate sex education and creating new value of gender roles for controlling and protection of sexual life to the target group. Their target group are those who live in urban poor communities and are concerned about receiving appropriate information regarding personal control and active sex lives .

