Activity

56

"Normal" Sex

Concept and Goal
This activity demonstrates the different attitudes that the sexes have about normal sexuality and discusses the concept "normal" sexual behavior. This is a class activity. You should individually complete the items of the scale, and then analyze and discuss the results and the discussion questions with the class.

Instructions
The following measure assesses your attitudes about "normal" sex. Rate each of the following activities as representing normal sexual behavior in your view by placing either a "yes" or "no" in the blank.

What is your sex?  _____ Male  _____ Female

1. Watching X-rated movies several times a week.

2. Having sex with more than one person at the same time.

3. Preferring oral sex over intercourse.

4. Having intercourse with a member of the same sex.

5. Fantasizing about having sex with a member of the same sex.

6. Fantasizing about a person other than one's partner during sexual intercourse.

7. Masturbating in front of a partner.

8. Having sex somewhere other than a bed (e.g., floor, shower, kitchen, outdoors).


12. Being unable to achieve orgasm.

13. Enjoying being physically restrained during sex (e.g., bondage).

14. Becoming aroused by voyeurism (e.g., Peeping Toms).
15. Playing with food (e.g., fruit and whipped cream during sex).
16. Dressing in the clothing of the other sex.
17. Preferring that one’s partner initiates sex.
18. Inflicting pain during sex.
19. Receiving pain during sex.
20. Using sex toys (e.g., a vibrator) during sex.
22. Masturbating after marriage.
23. Not being aroused by a nude member of the other sex.
24. Being aroused by receiving an obscene phone call.
25. Being aroused by making an obscene phone call.
26. Engaging in sex with animals.
27. Deriving sexual pleasure from seeing or touching dead bodies.
28. Becoming aroused by being urinated on.
29. Becoming aroused by soiling the clothing of the other sex.
30. Becoming aroused by viewing or touching feces.

Your instructor will give you instructions to complete the assignment.

Discussion Questions

1) Research indicates that we use three criteria in deciding whether a sexual behavior is normal:

   a) cultural conventions—what society tells us is appropriate,
   b) psychological acceptability—what seems and feels comfortable to us, and
   c) moral conventions—what religion or our conscience tells us is appropriate.

   What criteria(s) did you use in determining what is “normal” sex behavior?
2) Did the class’s results support the idea that males and females differ in their ideas of what constitutes “normal” sex behavior? If so, why do you suppose that was found?

3) If gender differences were not found in the class’s data, give possible reasons why.

4) Can you think of other social groups that might differ in what is considered “normal” sex behavior? Explain your answer.

5) Do you think the terms “normal” vs. “abnormal” sex behavior create an evaluation of what is appropriate sex behavior? Explain your answer.

References

