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Factors affecting the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours among junior high school students in lower-northern region of Thailand

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ABSTRACT
This study investigated factors affecting the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours among junior high school students in lower-northern region of Thailand. A cross-sectional study was conducted. Stepwise regression model was used to run multiple linear regression. Self-awareness was the best predictor of the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours for having the biggest coefficient (Beta coefficient equal to 0.696, t = 19.183, P = 0.001). Self-awareness had positive and significant effect on preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviour. High education levels of parents had more positive and significant effects on the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviour compared to low levels of education. Consulting parents had more positive and significant effect on premarital sexual behaviours compared to not consulting any person. Thai sexual education needs to be extended to parents of students to induce the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours among junior high school students.

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Preventive intention; premarital sexual behaviours; self-awareness; students

Introduction
According to the World Health Organization (WHO) 340 million people get ill of sexually transmitted infections in the world annually (Fuchs & Brockmeyer, 2014). Sexually transmitted diseases are common among adolescents (Matkins, 2013) and infect at early age in Thailand (Fongkaew, Udomkhamsuk, Viseskul, & Guptaruk, 2017). Up-to-date, the sexual behaviours remain the principal route of being infected with sexually transmitted diseases. The premarital sexual behaviours referred to sexual activities assessed among junior high school students. Junior high school students referred to 3 years of lower secondary students between the grades of 7–9 and between the ages of 12–15 years in Thai Education System.

The premarital sexual behaviour was included on agenda of international committee in terms of rolling back sexual transmitted infections to reach millennium development goals (Wellings et al., 2006). Although sexual behaviours were not worldwide encouraged, they were widespread. They happened for some reasons including poverty, biological transformation of the body, delay in the marriage, population displacement, globalization, social transformation and low education level (Wellings et al., 2006).

More than one factors affected the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours. These factors were of socio-demographic background, lifestyle, planned behavioural backgrounds etc.
Factors were studied for the reason of identifying the dominants ones and for formulating the associated policy.

The actions recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) towards preventive intention on the premarital sexual behaviour and the associated adverse outcomes, such as teenage pregnancy, led to setting guidelines. This guidelines focused on behavioural change. For example, establishing regulation (control over indecent documentation provoking sexual emotion), changing social norms or culture (teenage marriage, coercive sexuality etc.), enforcing law against coercive sex, allocating the financial support and educating on the risks of premarital sexual behaviours (Chandra-Mouli, Camacho, & Michaud, 2013).

More than one factors affect the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours. Among those factors, self-awareness, also known as self-efficacy was one of the dominants. One of the ways of acquiring the self-awareness was sexual education. Self-efficacy referred to capability and ability to perform a given behaviour (Leon, Modeste, & Lee, 2012; Muhammad, Shamsuddin, Mohd Amin, Omar, & Thursamy, 2017). The ability or capability was empowered by positive or adverse outcomes.

According to the theory of planned behaviour, intention was born of attitude, social norms and self-efficacy and then produced behaviour (Ajzen, 1991). The theory of planned behaviour was developed as a setoff of predicting person’s behaviour (Asare, 2015). Additionally, studies in psychology and sociology explained that intention caused behaviour (Webb & Sheeran, 2006) and that the stronger the intention was engaged in an actual behaviour, the more likely it accomplished that behaviour (Asare, 2015). Attitude, a subjective norm, and perceived behaviour were the sets which influenced person’s belief to engage in a given behaviour (Leon et al., 2012). Remarkably, attitude, social norms and self-efficacy induced sexual intention, which create sexual behaviour (Muhammad et al., 2017). Empirically, self-efficacy predicted significantly ($P < 0.001$) the preventive intention on sexual behaviours among youth in China (Guo et al., 2014).

Studying factors was important to identify predicting factors on the preventive intention on sexual behaviours so that the associated policy should be properly assimilated. Factors were not exhaustive and under-studied in Thailand. This study aimed to investigate the factors affecting the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours among junior high school students in Muang District, Thailand.

Methodology

A cross-sectional survey was used to collect data to determine the factors affecting the preventive intention towards premarital sexual behaviours among 354 junior high school students of grades 7–9 aged between 13 and 15 at three junior high schools in lower-northern region of Thailand.

Sample size

We employed a multistage sampling technique in 10 government junior high schools located in lower-northern region of Thailand. We used stratified random sampling technique to choose three schools amongst 10. Following the stratification, we obtained three strata comprised of small, medium, and large schools. We then applied simple random sampling technique to choose one junior high school from every stratum. We used the systematic random sampling (SRS) to choose every 5th student from the sampling frame of the list of grades 7–9. We definitely had a sample size of 354 junior high school students.

Research instrument

We employed self-administered questionnaire to determine factors affecting the preventive intention towards premarital sexual behaviours. Socio-demographic factors included: Age, gender, religion, grade of students, living status (students live with), education level of parents, marital status of students, family income, family education level, height, weight, exercise, smoking, and alcohol. The study was conducted from September 2017 to March 2018. The data was analyzed using the statistical package of social sciences (SPSS) version 18.0.
parents, students had a boyfriend or lover, students currently had closer friends, what students spent most of their free time on, what activities students did in their leisure time, pocket money supply for students, who students consulted the most, parenting styles of parents or guardians. Lifestyle factors included smoking, alcohol, drugs use and Internet use, and was measured on 4 points of Likert scale of frequency questionnaire ranging from 1 (never) to 4 (Regularly). Participants were asked to respond to three-item four-facet questionnaire to measure how often they were involved in drinking, and drugs use behaviour. Additionally, Internet use to view pornography was measured on 4 points of Likert scale of frequency questionnaire ranging from 1 (never) to 4 (regularly). Participants were asked to respond to four-item four-facet questionnaire to measure how often they were involved in Internet use to view pornographic material. Self-awareness and preventive intention towards pre-marital sexual behaviours were measured on 5-point Likert scale of agreement. Participants were asked to fill out the 15-item 5-facet Likert scale agreement questionnaire ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agreed).

**Data collection**

Prior data collection, we carried a pilot test among 30 junior high school students. We sought the consent from the directors of the schools and parents of students. We approached participants through the directors of schools to whom we explained the significance and the purpose of study. Following the consent, the directors arranged and set the convenient dates for data collection. The consent of the participants was sought prior the participation.

**Reliability**

This study used Cronbach’s Alpha to assess the reliability of questionnaire. The findings illustrated Alpha of Cronbach coefficient was 0.868 with all 44 items, concerning lifestyle, self-awareness and the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours questionnaire, with each item coefficient Alpha above 0.70.

**Data analysis**

We employed Pearson correlation coefficient to compute the strength of association between predictors and predicted variable, used stepwise regression model to run multiple linear regression, employed the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software version 20 to analyse the data, and we computed score means of lifestyle, self-awareness and the preventive intention towards premarital sexual behaviours.

**Results**

The Table 1 presented the socio-demographic factors of the preventive intention towards premarital sexual behaviours.

**Assessing lifestyle of students regarding the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours**

The Table 2 showed frequency distribution of the lifestyle of students. The results suggested that nearly a half percentage (49.4%) of students had ever drunk, nearly 21.2% of students had ever smoked cigarette and 10 (3.6%) students reported that they ever smoked to attract attention from opposite sex. Nearly 5% of students had ever used drugs such as glue, thinner, amphetamines. Fourteen (3.9%) students reported that they had ever used drugs to stimulate sexual desire. Nearly 28.6% of students had ever used their phones to view pictures or pornography. Approximately 24.9%
| Variables                  | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Male                       | 146       | 41.2    |
| Female                     | 208       | 58.8    |
| **Total**                  | **354**   | **100** |
| Age                        |           |         |
| 13                         | 143       | 40.4    |
| 14                         | 118       | 33.3    |
| 15                         | 93        | 26.3    |
| **Religion**               |           |         |
| Christ                     | 4         | 1.1     |
| Islam                      | 1         | 0.3     |
| Buddhist                   | 349       | 98.6    |
| **Total**                  | **354**   | **100** |
| **Grade**                  |           |         |
| Year 1                     | 109       | 30.8    |
| Year 2                     | 121       | 34.2    |
| Year 3                     | 124       | 35.0    |
| **Total**                  | **354**   | **100.0**|
| **Students live with**     |           |         |
| Parents                    | 270       | 76.3    |
| Relatives                  | 81        | 22.9    |
| Friends                    | 1         | 0.3     |
| Others (specify)           | 2         | 0.6     |
| **Total**                  | **354**   | **100.0**|
| **Financial status**       |           |         |
| Low                        | 63        | 17.8    |
| High                       | 291       | 82.2    |
| **Total**                  | **354**   | **100.0**|
| **Students currently have lovers** |     |         |
| No                         | 272       | 76.8    |
| Yes                        | 82        | 23.2    |
| **Total**                  | **354**   | **100.0**|
| **Students have close friends** |     |         |
| No                         | 21        | 5.9     |
| Yes                        | 333       | 94.1    |
| **Total**                  | **354**   | **100.0**|
| **Play sport during free time** |     |         |
| No                         | 246       | 69.5    |
| Yes                        | 108       | 30.5    |
| **Total**                  | **354**   | **100.0**|
| **Students read book during free time** |     |         |
| No                         | 333       | 94.1    |
| Yes                        | 21        | 5.9     |
| **Total**                  | **354**   | **100.0**|
| **Students play music during free time** |     |         |
| No                         | 333       | 94.1    |
| Yes                        | 21        | 5.9     |
| **Total**                  | **354**   | **100.0**|
| **Students watch TV during free time** |     |         |
| No                         | 295       | 83.3    |
| Yes                        | 59        | 16.7    |
| **Total**                  | **354**   | **100.0**|
| **Students listen to music or sing during free time** |     |         |
| No                         | 228       | 64.4    |
| Yes                        | 126       | 35.6    |
| **Total**                  | **354**   | **100.0**|
| **Student watch movies during free time** |     |         |
| No                         | 310       | 87.6    |
| Yes                        | 44        | 12.4    |
| **Total**                  | **354**   | **100.0**|

(Continued)
| Variables                                           | Frequency | Percent |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Students do others activities during free time      |           |         |
| No                                                  | 303       | 85.6    |
| Yes                                                 | 51        | 14.4    |
| Total                                               | 354       | 100.0   |
| Students like sport activities during free time      |           |         |
| No                                                  | 264       | 74.6    |
| Yes                                                 | 90        | 25.4    |
| Total                                               | 354       | 100.0   |
| Students read book during free time                 |           |         |
| No                                                  | 346       | 97.7    |
| Yes                                                 | 8         | 2.3     |
| Total                                               | 354       | 100.0   |
| Students play music during free time                |           |         |
| No                                                  | 337       | 95.2    |
| Yes                                                 | 17        | 4.8     |
| Total                                               | 354       | 100.0   |
| Students watch TV/VCD during free time              |           |         |
| No                                                  | 291       | 82.2    |
| Yes                                                 | 63        | 17.8    |
| Total                                               | 354       | 100.0   |
| Students listen to music or sing during free time   |           |         |
| No                                                  | 183       | 51.7    |
| Yes                                                 | 171       | 48.3    |
| Total                                               | 354       | 100.0   |
| Students watch movies during free time              |           |         |
| No                                                  | 300       | 84.7    |
| Yes                                                 | 54        | 15.3    |
| Total                                               | 354       | 100.0   |
| Students do home activities during free time        |           |         |
| No                                                  | 338       | 95.5    |
| Yes                                                 | 16        | 4.5     |
| Total                                               | 354       | 100.0   |
| Students meditate during free time                  |           |         |
| No                                                  | 350       | 98.9    |
| Yes                                                 | 4         | 1.1     |
| Total                                               | 354       | 100.0   |
| Students do other activities                        |           |         |
| No                                                  | 324       | 91.5    |
| Yes                                                 | 30        | 8.5     |
| Total                                               | 354       | 100.0   |
| Students ever received information about teen sexuality? |       |         |
| No                                                  | 36        | 10.2    |
| Yes                                                 | 318       | 89.8    |
| Total                                               | 354       | 100.0   |
| Radio                                               |           |         |
| No                                                  | 334       | 94.4    |
| Yes                                                 | 20        | 5.6     |
| Total                                               | 354       | 100.0   |
| Television                                          |           |         |
| No                                                  | 203       | 57.3    |
| Yes                                                 | 151       | 42.7    |
| Total                                               | 354       | 100.0   |
| Video movies                                        |           |         |
| No                                                  | 281       | 79.4    |
| Yes                                                 | 73        | 20.6    |
| Total                                               | 354       | 100.0   |
| Post                                                |           |         |
| No                                                  | 331       | 93.5    |
| Yes                                                 | 23        | 6.5     |
| Total                                               | 354       | 100.0   |
| Newspaper                                           |           |         |
| No                                                  | 303       | 85.6    |

(Continued)
of students had ever used Internet to view pornography. Sixty-seven (19%) students expressed that they had ever liked watching pornography. Eighty-eight (24.9%) students reported that they had ever used the Internet to view pornographic pictures. Ninety-five (26.9%) students reported that they had ever viewed pornography with friends.

Assessing self-awareness of students regarding the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours

The Table 3 showed the frequency distribution of self-awareness of students about the preventive intention towards premarital sexual behaviour. The findings suggested most of students were uncertain of having a lover at the age of 20 years, walking out of a group of friends when they had a conversation about sex, not viewing pornography because it was not suitable for their age,
refusing to go to a party with friends at night, not allowing fans or lovers to touch them and having sex when married. Most of students strongly agreed on studying high before deciding to get married. Most of students strongly agreed on when going with friends, they had to tell parents. Most of students were undecided about going to the night club with friends. Most of students were undecided about going for entertainment. Most of students strongly disagreed wearing short clothes to attract sex. Most of students strongly agreed on doing leisure activities such as exercising, raising animals, planting trees etc. Most of students strongly agreed on helping parents at home. Most of students were unsure on meeting lovers when they had free time.

Assessing preventive intention on the premarital sexual behaviours

The Table 4 showed the frequency distribution of the preventive intention towards premarital sexual behaviours. The results showed that most of students were undecided on the intention to have a girlfriend at the age of 20 years. Most of students were undecided on the intention to choose to walk out of a group of friends when friends had a conversation about sex. Most of students were undecided on the intention to not to view pornography. Most of students were undecided on the intention to refuse to go to a party with friends at night. Most of students were unsure on the intention to not to allow fans or lovers to touch them. Most of students were unsure on the intention to have sex when married. Most of students were unsure on the intention to not to stay together in secret place with a girlfriend or lover. Most of students strongly agreed that when they intended to go with their friends, they had to tell their parents. Most of students were unsure on the intention not to like to hang out with friends at night. Most of students were unsure about the intention not to go to visit the fun place or entertainment. Most of students strongly agreed on the intention to do leisure activities such as exercising, raising animals, planting trees etc. Most of students strongly agreed on the intention to help parents with work at home.

Table 4 showed relationship between factors and preventive intention towards premarital sexual behaviour. The coefficients of correlations were interpreted as followed, 0.705–0.187 strong correlation; 0.147–0.10 moderate correlation; 0.068–0.001 weak correlation. The results suggested that self-awareness had strong and positive correlation with preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours. High education levels of parents moderately and positively correlated with preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours compared low levels of education. Having ever received information about sexuality from pamphlets moderately and positively correlated with preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours compared to having never received information on

| Statement                                                                 | Regularly | Often | Rarely | Never |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------|--------|-------|
| Drinking alcoholic beverages                                             | 7(2.0)    | 15(4.2)| 153(43.2)| 179(50.6) |
| 1. You drink alcoholic beverages                                         | 7(2.0)    | 15(4.2)| 153(43.2)| 179(50.6) |
| 2. You drink alcoholic drinks to relieve stress                          | 5(1.4)    | 16(4.5)| 82(23.2) | 251(70.9) |
| 3 You drink alcoholic drinks When there is a party or festival           | 14(4.0)   | 26(7.3)| 134(37.9)| 180(50.8) |
| Smoking                                                                  | 4 You smoke                                      | 11(3.1)  | 10(2.8) | 54(15.3) | 279(78.8) |
| 5. You smoke to attract attention from opposite sex                      | 3(0.8)    | 2(0.6) | 7(2.0)  | 342(96.6) |
| 6. You smoke to relieve stress                                           | 11(3.1)   | 7(2.0) | 35(9.9) | 301(85.0) |
| Drug use                                                                 | 7. You use drugs such as glue, thinner, amphetamines | 3(0.8)  | 3(0.8) | 12(3.4) | 336(94.9) |
| 8. You use drugs to relieve stress                                       | 3(0.8)    | 3(0.8) | 12(3.4) | 336(94.9) |
| 9. You use drugs to stimulate sexual desire                              | 3(0.8)    | 2(0.6) | 9(2.5)  | 340(96.0) |
| Using the Internet                                                       | 10. You can use your phone to view pornography as you like | 12(3.4) | 18(5.1)| 71(20.1) | 253(71.5) |
| 11. You like to watch pornography                                        | 5(1.4)    | 14(4.0)| 48(13.6) | 287(81.1) |
| 12. You use your Internet at any time                                    | 112(31.6)| 85(24.0)| 74(20.9) | 83(23.4) |
| 13. You use the Internet media to view pornography                       | 8(2.3)    | 12(3.4)| 68(19.2) | 266(75.1) |
| 14. You see pictures or pornography with friends                         | 13(3.7)   | 11(3.1)| 71(20.1)| 259(73.2) |
Table 3. Self-awareness of students regarding the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours (*n* = 354).

| Statement                                                                 | Frequency (%) |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Have a girlfriend at the age of 20 years                              |               |
| Strongly disagree: 32 (9.0), Disagree: 30 (8.5), Unsure: 136 (38.4), Agree: 85 (24.0), Strongly agree: 71 (20.1) |
| 2. Walk out of a group of friends when my friends had a conversation about sex |               |
| Strongly disagree: 26 (7.3), Disagree: 59 (16.7), Unsure: 172 (48.6), Agree: 57 (16.1), Strongly agree: 40 (11.3) |
| 3. Do not view pornography because it is not suitable for my age       |               |
| Strongly disagree: 39 (11.0), Disagree: 51 (14.4), Unsure: 119 (33.6), Agree: 60 (16.9), Strongly agree: 85 (24.0) |
| 4. Refuse to go to a party with friends at night                         |               |
| Strongly disagree: 28 (7.9), Disagree: 50 (14.1), Unsure: 144 (40.7), Agree: 63 (17.8), Strongly agree: 69 (19.5) |
| 5. Do not allow fans or lovers to touch me                              |               |
| Strongly disagree: 34 (9.6), Disagree: 54 (15.3), Unsure: 152 (42.9), Agree: 58 (16.4), Strongly agree: 56 (15.8) |
| 6. Having sex when married                                              |               |
| Strongly disagree: 26 (7.3), Disagree: 39 (11.0), Unsure: 131 (37.0), Agree: 76 (21.5), Strongly agree: 82 (23.2) |
| 7. Study high before deciding to get married                            |               |
| Strongly disagree: 8 (2.3), Disagree: 11 (3.1), Unsure: 90 (25.4), Agree: 68 (19.2), Strongly agree: 177 (50.0) |
| 8. Not being together in secret with a girlfriend or lover             |               |
| Strongly disagree: 33 (9.3), Disagree: 35 (9.9), Unsure: 133 (37.6), Agree: 51 (14.4), Strongly agree: 102 (28.8) |
| 9. When going with friends, have to tell parents                        |               |
| Strongly disagree: 12 (3.4), Disagree: 12 (3.4), Unsure: 70 (19.8), Agree: 58 (16.4), Strongly agree: 202 (57.1) |
| 10. Do not go out with friends at night                                 |               |
| Strongly disagree: 25 (7.1), Disagree: 40 (11.3), Unsure: 126 (35.6), Agree: 58 (16.4), Strongly agree: 105 (29.7) |
| 11. Excursion or entertainment                                          |               |
| Strongly disagree: 96 (27.1), Disagree: 75 (21.2), Unsure: 115 (32.5), Agree: 40 (11.3), Strongly agree: 28 (7.9) |
| 12. Dress like wearing shorts to attract sex                            |               |
| Strongly disagree: 141 (39.8), Disagree: 70 (19.8), Unsure: 98 (27.7), Agree: 28 (7.9), Strongly agree: 17 (4.8) |
| 13. Doing leisure activities such as exercising, raising animals, planting trees etc. |               |
| Strongly disagree: 10 (2.8), Disagree: 11 (3.1), Unsure: 73 (20.6), Agree: 86 (24.3), Strongly agree: 174 (49.2) |
| 14. Help parents work at home                                          |               |
| Strongly disagree: 5 (1.4), Disagree: 11 (3.1), Unsure: 67 (18.9), Agree: 84 (23.7), Strongly agree: 187 (52.8) |
| 15. Meet a girlfriend or lover when they have free time                 |               |
| Strongly disagree: 81 (22.9), Disagree: 58 (16.4), Unsure: 142 (40.1), Agree: 30 (8.5), Strongly agree: 43 (12.1) |
### Table 4. Preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours ($n = 354$).

| Statement                                                                 | Frequency (%) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Will have a girlfriend at the age of 20 years                          | 29 (8.2)      |
| 2. I chose to walk out of a group of friends when my friends had a conversation about sex | 25 (7.1)      |
| 3. Do not view pornography because it is not suitable for my age           | 36 (10.2)     |
| 4. Refused to go to a party with friends at night                         | 27 (7.6)      |
| 5. Do not allow fans or lovers to touch me                                | 29 (8.2)      |
| 6. Will have sex when married                                            | 28 (7.9)      |
| 7. Will study high before deciding to marry                               | 9 (2.5)       |
| 8. Do not stay together in secret with a girlfriend or lover             | 31 (8.8)      |
| 9. When I go with my friends, I have to tell my parents                   | 8 (2.3)       |
| 10. Do not like to hang out with friends at night                          | 29 (8.2)      |
| 11. Do not go to visit the fun place or entertainment                      | 55 (15.5)     |
| 12. Wearing shorts to attract sex                                          | 85 (24.0)     |
| 13. Doing leisure activities such as exercising, raising animals, planting trees | 9 (2.5)       |
| 14. Help parents with work at home                                        | 7 (2.0)       |
| 15. Do not meet friends or lovers when there is free time                  | 59 (16.7)     |
sexuality. Nevertheless, having both of the parents dead negatively and moderately correlated with preventive intention compared to having both of the parents alive.

Table 6 showed factors affecting the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviour among junior high school students. The results indicated that nearly 56.4% ($R^2 = 0.564$) of dependent variable was explained by independent variables.

Self-awareness was the best predictor of preventive intention towards premarital sexual behaviours for having the biggest coefficient (Beta coefficient equal to 0.696, $t = 19.183$, $P = 0.001$).

A unit increase in self-awareness increased the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours by 69.6% ($P = 0.001$), high levels of education of parents had more positive and significant effect on the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours compared to low levels of education ($P = 0.001$), consulting parents had more positive and significant effect on preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours compared to not consulting any person ($P = 0.001$), a unit increase in pocket money supply of Thai Baht increased the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours by 9% ($P = 0.010$), having ever received information about sexuality on pamphlet had more positive and significant effect on the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours compared to having never received information on pamphlet ($P = 0.043$), and consulting other people had more positive and significant effect on the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours compared to not consulting any person ($P = 0.025$) and receiving formation about sexuality on video had more positive and significant effect on the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours compared to having never received information on video ($P = 0.026$).

However, having both of parents dead had less effect on preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours compared to having both of parents alive ($P = 0.011$). Spending most of their free time watching movies had a negative effect on the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours ($P = 0.036$).
time watching movies had less effect on preventive intention towards premarital sexual behaviours compared to not spending most of the time watch movies ($P = 0.006$).

**Discussion**

The results suggested that 23.2% of students had lovers. More than a half percentage (51.7%) of students received information about sexuality on social media such as Facebook, Tweeter etc. Most of students were unsure about having boy/girlfriends at the age of 20 years, having sex when married. However, most of them strongly agreed to study high before they get married. Most of students were unsure about preventive intention towards premarital sexual behaviour such as intending to have boy/girlfriends at the age of 20 years, intending to have sex when married. However, most of them strongly agreed on the intention to study high before they go for marriage.

This study highlighted that self-awareness was the top predictor of the preventive intention towards premarital sexual behaviours. Regarding self-awareness of the preventing premarital sexual behaviours, the results suggested that a unit of increase in scores of self-awareness resulted into an increase of 69.6% in score of the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours. Self-awareness explained acquired ability to change the sexual belief of the students to go for sex. The acquired ability or capability are usually empowered by knowledge, basically by sexual education (Leon et al., 2012; Muhammad et al., 2017). The need assessment proposed by Boyle, Hills, Winton, and Barre (2010) for responding to a sexual behaviour included access to sexual education, health services, sportive activities and hobbies.

Additionally, high levels of education of parents increased the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours by 11.9% compared to low levels of education of the parents. Education of the parents explained the knowledge of parents to discuss sexual reproductive health with child (Mlunde et al., 2012). Education of parents/guardian induced the communication with children, which influenced self-awareness of children about the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours. Indeed, consulting parents increased the score of the preventive intention towards premarital sexual behaviours by 12.9%, compared to not consulting any person. A meta-analysis revealed that consultation between parents and children related to sexual reproductive health of child had incredible effect on self-awareness on the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours (Wang et al., 2014). Parents being one of the best sources of receiving the information about the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours, the more parents were educated on the preventive intention on sexual behaviours, the more their children were likely to develop preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours.

Moreover, supplying pocket money or financial support to students had positive impact on the preventive intention towards premarital sexual behaviours. A unit of Thai Baht supply for pocket

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**Table 6.** Factors affecting the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours among junior high school students ($n = 354$).

| Variables                                                                 | $R^2$ | Adj. $R^2$ | $R^2$ change | $\beta$ | Beta | $t$     | $P$ value |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------|---------------|--------|------|--------|-----------|
| Self-awareness to prevent intention on premarital sexual behaviours        | 0.497 | 0.496 | 0.497 | 0.852 | 0.696 | 19.183 | 0.001     |
| High education of parents (Reference = Low education)                     | 0.510 | 0.507 | 0.013 | 0.030 | 0.119 | 3.260  | 0.001     |
| Students consult parents (Reference = Do not consult any person)          | 0.520 | 0.516 | 0.010 | 0.047 | 0.129 | 3.533  | 0.001     |
| Students receive money for personal expenses                              | 0.529 | 0.524 | 0.009 | 0.001 | 0.093 | 2.577  | 0.010     |
| Students had both of the parents dead (Reference = Both parents alive)    | −0.537| 0.530 | 0.008 | −0.023| −0.092| −2.571 | 0.011     |
| Students had ever received information about sexuality on post             | 0.544 | 0.536 | 0.007 | 0.037 | 0.074 | 2.027  | 0.043     |
| (Reference = Had never received)                                          |       |         |       |       |       |        |           |
| Students spend most of their free time watching movies                     | −0.551| 0.542 | 0.007 | −0.036| −0.102| −2.787 | 0.006     |
| (Reference = Do not)                                                      |       |         |       |       |       |        |           |
| Students consult others (Reference = Do consult any person)               | 0.557 | 0.547 | 0.006 | 0.041 | 0.082 | 2.257  | 0.025     |
| (Reference = Do not)                                                      |       |         |       |       |       |        |           |
| Students had ever received information about sexuality on video            | 0.564 | 0.552 | 0.006 | 0.026 | 0.083 | 2.240  | 0.026     |
| (Reference = Had never received)                                          |       |         |       |       |       |        |           |

$R^2 = 0.564$; adjusted $R^2 = 0.552$. 

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money increased the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviour by 9.3%. This result was consistent with the result of study conducted in Kenya. The study aimed to weigh whether transferring money to orphan children by the government of Kenya could decrease premarital sexual initiations. The results suggested that premarital sexual initiations were decreased by 31% among orphan children after 20 USD per month supply intervention (Handa, Halpern, Pettifor, & Thirumurthy, 2014). Likewise, the policy of financial support needs to target mostly vulnerable children such as orphans (Handa et al., 2014) in northern region of Thailand. Indeed, students having both parents dead decreased preventive intention towards premarital sexual behaviours by −9.2% compared to those having both of the parents alive.

Having ever received information about sexuality on post increased preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours by 7.4% compared to students who had never received information on pamphlet. Apart from receiving information from parents, teachers health personals. Having ever received information about sexuality on video increased preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours by 8.3% compared to having never received information about sexuality on video.

However, children also learn from informal sources which can alter their sexual belief and the results of this study revealed that spending most of free time watching movies decreased preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours by −10.2% compared to not spending free time watching movies. Additionally, 67 students confessed that they had ever liked watching pornography. Ninety-five students reported that they had ever viewed pornography with friends. The study conducted in Ethiopia revealed that children viewing pornographic documentation had connection with premarital sexual behaviours (Mulugeta & Berhane, 2014). The study conducted in Nigeria explained that Internet use allowed young people to access pornographic documentations (Arulogun, Ogbu, & Dipeolu, 2016), which induced negatively on the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours.

**Conclusion**

Thai sexual education needs to be extended to parents of students to induce the preventive intention on premarital sexual behaviours among junior high school students. The next study in future will assess the impact of the knowledge of parents about the preventive intention on sexual behaviours, believing that the knowledge of parents will induce the preventive intention on the premarital sexual behaviour among students.

**Approval**

This research obtained approval of proposal to conduct research from Institute of Review Board, Graduate School, Naresuan University-Phitsanulok. The approval was registered under No: 074/2019.

**Conflict statement**

Authors did not report any potential conflict of interest.

**Disclosure statement**

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

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Data availability statement

The data described in this article are openly available in the Open Science Framework at doi.org/10.7910/DVN/KT1USL.

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