

ATTITUDES TOWARD SEXUALITY

Nine Interconnected Factors

Culture

Personal History

Zeitgeist

Religious/Ethic Beliefs

Gender

Personality

Significant Relationships

Chronological Age and Cohort Effect

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Generally people hold the view that in a marriage:

1. Sexual intercourse is considered normal
2. Marital sex is assumed to be exclusive sex
3. Decisions about sex and reproduction were the responsibility of the male spouse.

Culture

Inis Beag

Mangaia

Mehenaku

Personal History

Social Learning Theorists - Albert Bandura

Zeitgeist
“Spirit of the Time”
Victorian Era
Clelia Mosher, M.D.

Religious/Ethic Beliefs

Gender
Sexual Permissiveness

Personality
Narcissistic propensity

Socioeconomic Factors

Significant Relationship

Interactionist

Principles of Social Exchange

Principle 1: Maximize rewards, minimize costs

Principle 2: Relationships are dynamic and change over time

Principle 3 Evaluations influence relationship development

Principle 4: Evaluations influence relationship satisfaction

Equity

Principle 5: Inequity causes distress.

Each couple must create their own unique norms

Personal Role Conceptions

(Peplau, 1983 as cited in Brown and Amatea)

Here are some questions from a Premarital Couples Manual that allow each partner to exam their and their partner's sexual attitudes

- 1. What characteristics (desired or required) does my partner possess?**
- 2. Is my partner sexually appealing to me? If not, what is lacking?**
- 3. Do I like my partner's sexual attitudes? How do they compare with my own?**
- 4. How often would I like to have physical closeness without sex? What other expressions of affection or physical attention are important to me? To my partner?**
- 5. What are necessary components of a good sex life for me? For my partner?**
- 6. Are there any sexual or affection problems?**

Chronological Age and Cohort Effect

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