

## SUMMARY

The objective of this descriptive cross sectional study was to describe some socio demographic factors, sexual behaviours, knowledge on condoms and to describe the clinical presentation of men voluntarily attending the Central STD clinic, Colombo.

The study sample was selected by the consecutive sampling method within a period of 3 months. A face-to-face interview was used to gather information using a precoded questionnaire with open and closed-ended questions. The study sample consisted of 257 male patients with a mean age of 30.9 years. The majority was in the age group of 25 – 29 years [31.1%], 56.4% were unmarried, and 90.3% had an educational level above Grade 5. Majority [95%] belonged to the major ethnic group Sinhala.

Many were from the Western Province [79.4%]. However there were patients from all the other provinces except from the Northern province.

A 9.3% of the total males were unemployed, while 25% employed as drivers and labourers and 16.7% were employed in the sales services and 13.3% were from the Armed forces and Police. Of the total 44.7% were staying away from their homes to attend to their profession.

The mean age at first sexual intercourse of the study group was 22 years. The first sexual intercourse for 40% of males was at the age between 20 to 24 years. Premarital sex was

common, 82.1% of men had their first sex with someone other than the wife. Having a stable partner at the time of attending the clinic was reported by 29% of males. Among the married men 39.0% had a stable partner other than the married partner, while 55.6% of the unmarried males had a stable partner [Annexure 1].

Female partner was preferred by 88.4% and the peno-vaginal intercourse was the most preferred sexual act. Differences in the reported number of sexual partners during any given time varied. Most males had one partner. Fifty-eight males reported 6 or more than 6 partners up to the time of their attendance to the clinic. These partners included stable and casual [male or female] and commercial sex workers.

When the last sexual encounter was concerned 47.1% had sex with casual female partners and only 23.3% had it with commercial sex workers. Sexual encounters with unknown partners were reported by 53.7% of males at their last sexual encounter. Private venues had been the choice for the last sexual encounter by 64.6% males. Majority [71.7%] had not used alcohol in relation to last sexual encounter. An amount of between Rupees 500 to Rupees 1000 had been paid by 44.6% of males for the commercial sex workers. Rest had paid less than Rupees 500 or more than Rupees 1000.

Knowledge on Condom and its use is an important factor to study in sexually transmitted diseases and its prevention. There were 93.3% of males who had heard of condoms [N = 240] and 17 males [6.7%] had not heard of condoms. There was no statistically significant difference in the distribution of persons according to age, marital status and

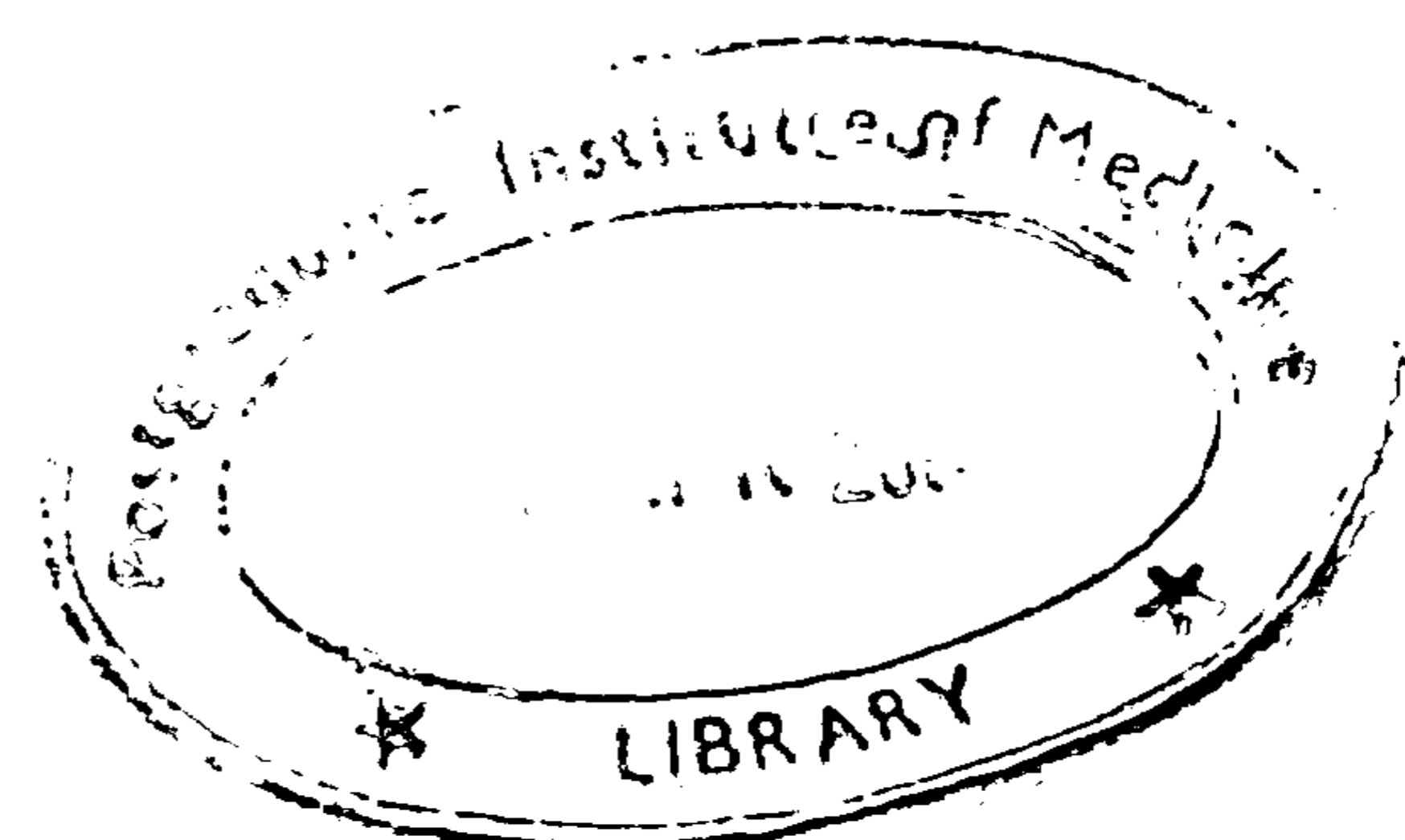
ethnicity and knowledge of condom [ $P > 0.1$ ]. Where the education was concerned a statistically significant difference was observed [ $P < 0.001$ ]. Majority of males knew that the condom could not be reused [72.4%]. A brand name of a condom was mentioned by 64.1%.

Condom was used by 132 males [51.4%] and not used by 125 [48.6%] males among the total sample. There was no statistically significant difference in the distribution of persons according to age, marital status, ethnicity and education [ $P > 0.1$ ]. There was a statistical significance with the age at first sexual intercourse, between condom used group and condom not used group [ $P = 0.0016$ ]. The distribution of number of partners within past three months between the condom used and not used groups was statistically significant [ $0.001 > p > 0.005$ ].

Only 34 males had used condoms at the last sexual encounter [14.1%]. Most males had used condoms with an unknown partner [67.7%]. A few [ $N = 18$ ] had used condoms with commercial sex workers. Majority of males 27 [79.4%] had used it as a barrier against diseases. Of all the males who used a condom at the last sexual encounter [17] 50% had an infection.

Among the males who attended the clinic, 59.9% had not taken any treatment before attending the clinic.

A wide spectrum of infections was seen among the sample of men studied. Of the total, 116 [45.1%] males had infections. Some males had multiple infections. The majority had



genital herpes infection [16.7%]. There were 8.9% infections of gonorrhoea, 7.0% of late latent syphilis and 8.1% of genital warts. Other infections were Chlamydia [1.9%], nonspecific urethritis [4.4%] and candida balanitis [8.9%].

The results indicated that males who attended the Central STD Clinic for treatment had multiple partners, first sex at an early age, sexual intercourse with unknown partners, less knowledge of condoms and used condoms on fewer occasions.

Interventions aimed at minimizing these deficiencies are recommended.