

**LOVE AND SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS A DECADE LATER:
A longitudinal quantitative study of the Experiences and Plans Of
Wealthier Young People Regarding Valentine's Day
In Phnom Penh, 2009 - 2019**



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Executive Summary

This study seeks to answer the research question: *“What plans do wealthier young people in Phnom Penh have for sexual activity on the upcoming Valentine’s Day?”* This study follows up on 2 quantitative studies conducted in 2009 and 2014, using a cross-sectional survey design with cluster sampling to survey wealthier young people aged 15-24 years old in Phnom Penh (N=1176) broken down by gender in four categories, with 502 males (42.7%) and 674 females (57.3%).

Results from the 2019 survey show that compared to 2009, young people were less interested in the upcoming Valentine’s Day (2009: 61.2% vs 2019: 33.8%) as a special day; especially, among young people in a couple (2009: 81% vs 2019: 42.5%). Many of them still plan to hang out on the upcoming Valentine’s Day, but have switched venues from karaoke lounges / Bak Khaeng / Kean Svay/ Koh Dach / Guest houses/hotel to malls and cinemas (44.0%) of total respondents. The new venues are more positive ways as love and romantic expressions and less chance for sexual relationships.

The giving of gifts decreased by nearly two thirds (2009: 56.3% vs 2019: 21.6%); especially give flowers as example, the trend of young couples is to buy increasingly expensive gifts for their sweethearts. There was not much change in young couples’ dating plans for Valentine’s Day from the previous study.

Significantly, the percentage of young people who think they will be able to have sex on the upcoming Valentine’s Day has decreased by more than half compared to ten years ago (2009: 12.4% vs 2019: 5.4%). The intention to have sex on Valentine’s Day correlates with the perception that it is a “a special day”; both this perception and the intention to have sex on the day have fallen by more than half from 2009 – 2019.

In this cohort, the percentage of young couples who do not plan to use a condom with their sweetheart or partner has increased by more than twice (2009:15.6% vs 2019: 37.5%). The proportion experiencing first sex is approximately the same (around 40 percent in both studies, n=64 in 2019).

The proportion of young males who plan to engage in non-consensual sex (i.e. said they will still have sex if their girlfriend / new girlfriend does not agree) has decreased (2009: 17, n=25 vs 2019: 12, n=40). Some men who said they would not engage in non-consensual sex said *“No, I will ignore sex, and just hang around for fun”*. However the distribution of pretexts for persuading their partners to have sex with them has broadened, with *“I will say to her if we don’t have sex we don’t really love each other, to*

try to get her to agree”, and “I will pressure her by taking her far from town to try to have sex with her”, only appearing in the Valentine’s Day surveys for 2014 and 2019.

At least half (50 %) of young males in couple and non-couples (n=40) who expected to have sex on Valentine’s Day stated an intention to buy expensive gifts in order to pressure their girlfriends or partners to sleep with them.

Low levels of parental awareness as to their children’s intentions have changed little over the past ten years. The findings also reveal an alarmingly low proportion of young people who plan to use condoms with their partners, and a vague knowledge of sexual rights. This suggests that interventions should focus on sexual rights and condom use education in general, and specifically before Valentine’s Day:

- Increase awareness-raising on the gendered issues surrounding Valentine’s Day, and SRH in general, including sexual consent and safer sex.
- SRH and HIV programs among young people should target interventions before and on Valentine’s Day in accordance with this study’s findings, at popular urban locations, as well as schools and universities in Cambodia.

**ស្នេហា និងទំនាក់ទំនងដ៏រឹងមាំ ១ ទសវត្សរ៍ក្រោយមក ៖
ការសិក្សាបែបបរិមាណវិស័យមួយដើម្បីពិនិត្យឡើងវិញ នូវបទពិសោធន៍ និងការរៀបចំ
ផែនការរបស់យុវវ័យ ដែលមានទ្រព្យសម្បត្តិបង្កើតឡើងនៅរាជធានីភ្នំពេញ
សម្រាប់ថ្ងៃនៃក្តីស្រឡាញ់
ឆ្នាំ២០០៩ - ២០១៩**

លោកតុង សុប្រាជ្ញ អនុបណ្ឌិតផ្នែកសុខភាពសាធារណៈ
អ្នកសិក្សាស្រាវជ្រាវឯករាជ្យ ផ្នែកសុខភាពសាធារណៈ
រាជធានីភ្នំពេញ ខែកុម្ភៈ ឆ្នាំ២០១៩

របាយការណ៍សង្ខេប

ការសិក្សានេះគឺស្វែងរកនូវសំណួរស្រាវជ្រាវជាក់លាក់មួយ៖ *តើផែនការអ្វី ដែលយុវវ័យដែលមានទ្រព្យសម្បត្តិបង្កើតនៅរាជធានីភ្នំពេញមានគម្រោងរួមភេទ ក្នុងការរួមភេទនៅទិវានៃក្តីស្រឡាញ់នឹងមកដល់ក្នុងពេលឆាប់ៗនេះ?* ការសិក្សាស្រាវជ្រាវនៅពេលនេះត្រូវបានរៀបចំដើម្បីធ្វើការពិនិត្យតាមដានបែបបរិមាណវិស័យដើម្បីប្រៀបធៀបលទ្ធផលនៃការស្រាវជ្រាវចំនួន២ កាលពី១០ឆ្នាំមុននៅឆ្នាំ២០០៩ និងពី៥ឆ្នាំមុននៅឆ្នាំ២០១៤។ គម្រោងស្រាវជ្រាវក្នុងកំឡុងពេលណាមួយកំណត់ ត្រូវបានជ្រើសរើសសម្រាប់ការសិក្សាបែបបរិមាណវិស័យបែបពិពណ៌នា ក្នុងការជ្រើសរើសជាកម្រង និងកំណត់ទីតាំងជាក់លាក់សម្រាប់ជ្រើសរើសសំណាក ដើម្បីធ្វើការស្រាវជ្រាវទៅលើយុវវ័យដែលមានទ្រព្យសម្បត្តិបង្កើតដែលមានអាយុពី ១៥ ទៅ២៤ឆ្នាំ រស់នៅទីក្រុងភ្នំពេញ។ ចំនួនយុវវ័យសរុបក្នុងការសិក្សាស្រាវជ្រាវគឺ ១១៧៦នាក់ មានប្រុសចំនួន៥០២ (៤២,៧%) និងស្រីចំនួន៦៧៤ (៥៧,៣%)។

លទ្ធផលពីការស្រាវជ្រាវឆ្នាំ២០១៩នេះ បានបង្ហាញពីការប្រៀបធៀបជាមួយនឹងលទ្ធផលកាលពីឆ្នាំ២០០៩ បង្ហាញថាយុវវ័យមានការចាប់អារម្មណ៍តិចជាងមុនជិតពាក់កណ្តាល ចំពោះថ្ងៃនៃក្តីស្រឡាញ់ខាងមុខនេះ ថាជាថ្ងៃពិសេសមួយ(២០០៩: ៦១,២% ទល់នឹង ២០១៩: ៣៣,៨%) ជាពិសេសក្នុងចំណោមយុវវ័យដែលមានគូរសង្សារ(២០០៩: ៨១% ទល់នឹង ២០១៩: ៤២,៥%)។ ភាគច្រើននៃពួកគេមានផែនការចេញក្រៅដើរលេងនៅថ្ងៃនៃក្តីស្រឡាញ់ដូចធម្មតា បន្ថែមមានការផ្លាស់ប្តូរគោលដៅដែលត្រូវទៅដែលពីមុនធ្លាប់ទៅលេងដូចជា ទៅច្រៀងខាងអូរខេ ទៅបាក់ខែង ទៅគៀនស្វាយ ទៅកោះដាច់ និងចូលផ្ទះសំណាក់ ឬក៏សណ្ឋាគារ បែរជាទៅលេងនៅផ្សារទំនើប និងទៅមើលកុន(៤៤%)នៃយុវវ័យផ្តល់សម្ភាសន៍សរុប។ កន្លែងទីតាំងថ្មីទាំង២នេះ គឺមានលក្ខណៈបែបវិជ្ជមានបញ្ចេញនូវក្តីស្រឡាញ់ និងបែបរ៉ូម៉ង់ទិចដែលមានលក្ខណៈស្រីបស្រាលផ្លូវភេទតិចជាង។

ការទិញវត្ថុអនុវត្តយុវវ័យការដូរឲ្យគ្នាការក៏មានការធ្លាក់ចុះជាង២ភាគ៣ដែរ (២០០៩: ៥៦.៣% ទល់នឹង ២០១៩: ២១,៦%) ជាពិសេសការឲ្យផ្កាតែម្តងមានការធ្លាក់ចុះជាងគេ។ ប៉ុន្តែនិន្នាការយុវវ័យដែលមានគូរគឺមានការកើនឡើងនូវការទិញវត្ថុជាភ្នំដូរថ្លៃៗ ដូចជាខោអាវ តុក្កតា និងគ្រឿងអលង្ការឲ្យមិត្តស្រី និងមិត្តប្រុសរបស់ពួកគេទៅវិញ។ វាមិនមានការផ្លាស់ប្តូរទេចំពោះយុវវ័យដែល ធ្វើសកម្មភាពរូមភេទ ដូចជា ញ៉ាំបាយថ្ងៃត្រង់ និងពេលល្ងាច និងទៅភ្លឹបកម្សាន្តនានា នៅទិវានៃក្តីស្រឡាញ់ពីការសិក្សាស្រាវជ្រាវលើកមុន។

អ្វីដែលគួរឲ្យកត់សម្គាល់នោះគឺទំនាក់ទំនងផ្លូវភេទក្នុងចំណោមយុវវ័យ ដែលអាចនឹងរួមភេទនៅថ្ងៃនៃក្តីស្រឡាញ់ខាងមុខនេះមានការធ្លាក់ចុះជាងពាក់កណ្តាល បើប្រៀបធៀបជាមួយនឹងការសិក្សាកាលពី១០ឆ្នាំមុន (២០០៩: ១២,៤% ទល់នឹង ២០១៩: ៥,៤%)។ ការដែលមានបំណងរួមភេទនៅថ្ងៃនៃក្តីស្រឡាញ់នេះ មានទំនាក់ទំនងគ្នាយ៉ាងជាក់លាក់គឺការដែលនិយមថ្ងៃនៃក្តីស្រឡាញ់នេះថា ជាថ្ងៃពិសេសសម្រាប់យុវវ័យនោះគឺមាននិន្នាការធ្លាក់ចុះជាងពាក់កណ្តាលដូចគ្នាប្រៀបធៀប កាលពីការសិក្សាស្រាវជ្រាវ១០មុនពីឆ្នាំ២០០៩ ដល់ឆ្នាំ២០១៩។

នៅក្នុងក្រុមនេះ ភាគរយនៃយុវវ័យដែលមានគូ ដែលមិនមានផែនការប្រើប្រាស់ស្រោមអនាម័យមានការកើនឡើងពីរដង (២០០៩: ១៥,៦% ទល់នឹង ២០១៩: ៣៧,៥%)។ ផែនការនៃការរួមភេទលើកទីមួយដូចគ្នាលើកមុនដែរ (ប្រហែលជា៥០%)នៃចំនួនសរុបយុវវ័យដែលមានបំណងរួមភេទn=៦៤ នៃឆ្នាំ២០១៩។

សមមាត្រនៃយុវវ័យប្រុសមានបំណងរួមភេទដោយ មិនមានការយល់ព្រមក្នុងចំណោមយុវវ័យប្រុស គឺភាគរយនៃពួកគេមានផែនការក្នុងការរួមភេទ ប្រសិនបើមិត្តស្រីរបស់គេ ឬក៏មិត្តស្រីថ្មីរបស់ពួកគេ មិនយល់ស្របក្នុងការរួមភេទមានការធ្លាក់ចុះ (២០០៩: ១៧នាក់នៃចំនួនសរុប២៥នាក់ ទល់នឹង ២០១៩: ១២នាក់នៃចំនួនសរុប៤០នាក់)។

តែទោះយ៉ាងណាក៏ យ៉ាងហោចណាស់ជាង៥០ភាគរយនៃយុវវ័យប្រុស(n=៤០) ដែលរំពឹងទុកថានឹងអាចរួមភេទនៅថ្ងៃនៃក្តីស្រឡាញ់ បានលើកឡើងថាពួកគេមានបំណងទិញរបស់មានតម្លៃដើម្បីដាក់សម្ពាធនៅមិត្តស្រី ឬក៏ដៃគូរបស់ពួកគេដើម្បីរួមភេទជាមួយនឹងនាង។

យ៉ាងណាមិញនៅមានកម្រិតទាបនៅឡើយ ដែលចំណេះដឹងរបស់ឪពុកម្តាយចំពោះថ្ងៃនៃក្តីស្រឡាញ់នេះ ដើម្បីឲ្យកូនៗមានការផ្លាស់ប្តូរបំណងរបស់កូនមានប្រែប្រួលតិចតួចប៉ុណ្ណោះអស់រយៈពេលជាង១០ឆ្នាំទៅហើយនោះ។ របកគំហើញនេះ ធ្វើឲ្យមានការពញាក់ស្មារតីយុវវ័យមានការប្រើប្រាស់ស្រោមអនាម័យមានកម្រិតទាបនៅឡើយទេ និងមិនទាន់មានចំណេះដឹងនៅទូលំទូលាយនៅឡើយនោះទេទាក់ទិនទៅនឹងសិទ្ធិក្នុងការរួមភេទ។

ហេតុដូច្នេះហើយ បទអន្តរាគមន៍គួរតែផ្ដោតការអប់រំទូទៅចំពោះសិទ្ធិក្នុងការរួមភេទជាមួយនរណាម្នាក់ និងការប្រើប្រាស់ស្រោមអនាម័យ ជាពិសេសគឺការផ្សព្វផ្សាយឲ្យបានមុនថ្ងៃនៃក្តីស្រឡាញ់។

- ការបង្កើនចំណេះដឹង បញ្ហានៅជុំវិញថ្ងៃនៃក្តីស្រឡាញ់ និងការអប់រំសុខភាពផ្លូវភេទទូទៅ រួមមានការយល់ដឹងការយល់ដឹងនៃការរួមភេទ និងសុវត្ថិភាពផ្លូវភេទ។
- បន្តកម្មវិធីសុខភាពបន្តពូជ និងអេដស៍ក្នុងចំណោមយុវវ័យក្រុមគោលដៅមុន និងថ្ងៃនៃក្តីស្រឡាញ់ តាមរយៈលទ្ធផលនៃការសិក្សានេះ ទីតាំងរាជធានី និងតាមសាលារៀន និងសាកលវិទ្យាល័យនៅប្រទេសកម្ពុជា។

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List of Abbreviations and Glossary of Khmer Terms

List of Abbreviations:

AIDS:	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BSS:	Behavioral Sentinel Survey
CDHS:	Cambodian Demographic Health Survey
EU:	European Union
FHI:	Family Health International
FSW:	Female Sex Worker
GAD/C:	Gender and Development for Cambodia
GDP:	Gross Domestic Product
HIV:	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HSS:	HIV Sero-surveillance Survey
KYA:	Khmer Youth Association
MOEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
MOWA	Ministry of Women’s Affairs
NCHADS:	National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology, and STDs.
NGO:	Non-Government Organization
PHD:	Population Health Development Association
PE:	Peer Ethnographic
PER:	Peer Ethnographic Researcher
PS:	Playing Safe Project
PSI:	Population Services International
RHAC:	Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia
RHIYA:	Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in Asia.
SRH:	Sexual and Reproductive Health
STD:	Sexually transmitted disease
STI:	Sexually transmitted infection
SW:	Sex Worker
UNESCO:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA:	United Nation Population Fund
UNICEF:	United Nation Children’s Fund
WAC:	Womyn’s Agenda for Change
WHO:	World Health Organization

Glossary of Khmer Terms:

<i>Bak Khaeng:</i>	Around 10 km from Phnom Penh on the No. 6A road.
<i>Kean Svay:</i>	Around 15 km from Phnom Penh on road No. 1
<i>Khmer:</i>	Cambodian people and language
<i>Ktey:</i>	Ladyboy
<i>Mahop-del-ker:</i>	Similar to food that has already been eaten. Refers to a young man mocking a woman who has lost her virginity
<i>Nhy:</i>	[female word for animal] a man whose character is feminine
<i>Preak Leap:</i>	Around 5 Km from Phnom Penh on the No. 6A road
<i>Tea Kouch shop:</i>	Chinese bubble tea shop
<i>Psar Thmei:</i>	“New market” but often referred to as the Central Market in Phnom Penh
<i>Wat Phnom:</i>	The name of a hill in Phnom Penh

Author's Biography

This research has been undertaken by Tong Soprach, a Cambodian public health consultant and social affairs columnist for The Phnom Penh Post's Khmer Edition. He graduated from the University of Cambodia in 2008 with a Master's Degree in Public Health. He has over 15 years of professional experience, including 8 years working with youth on gender and other relevant issues. He worked 2 years with GAD/C and 3 years with CARE International, focusing on sexual and reproductive health among young people. He has completed several studies on the behavior of young people both independently and while working at these organizations:

- **Author (2014):** LOVE AND SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS: A longitudinal study of the Experiences and Plans Of Wealthier Young People Regarding the Upcoming Valentine's Day in Phnom Penh, 2009-2014, (A Quantitative Study): Independent Research Study
- **Author (2010):** *Love and Sexual Relationships: Experiences and Plans of Wealthier Young People Regarding the Upcoming Valentine's Day in Phnom Penh in 2009* (A Quantitative Study): Independent Research Study
- **Author (2009):** *Young People Talking about Valentine's Day in Phnom Penh in 2008, Phnom Penh* (A Qualitative Study): Independent Research Study.
- **Author (2008):** *The Impact of Premarital Sex Among Young People in Cambodia.* Phnom Penh: University of Cambodia.
- **Coordination and Analysis (2006):** *Experiences and Changes in Sex, Relationships and RH Among Young Urban Men*, Phnom Penh: PS/CARE/KYA/EU/UNFPA.
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- **Author (2004):** *GANG RAPE: The Perspective of Moto-Taxi Drivers across Cambodia.* Phnom Penh: Playing Safe Project, CARE Cambodia, EU/UNFPA.
- **Primary researcher (2003):** *Paupers and Princes: Youth Attitudes Toward Gangs, Violence, Rape, Drugs, and Theft.* Phnom Penh: GAD/C.

The researcher designed this upcoming Valentine's Day study as a follow-up to the findings of his quantitative study (Soprach 2010) on Valentine's Day in 2009, and has talked to several academics who gave comments and advice, including suggestions on the questionnaire design.

The researcher finalized the study report with contributions from University of Western who organized their students as research assistants in field data collection. The data entry volunteers were managed by Uch Enimith, data entry and analysis specialist who was also in charge of data management in the 2009 study. The research and data entry volunteers for this study received training from the researcher, who also received technical assistance from academics and friends in the form of comments and feedback and the English editing of earlier iterations of this report. This report will be published online on 11 February 2019 in English, with a summary in Khmer.

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I. Introduction

1.1. Background of the research

Cambodia's socio-economy has changed from a socialist to capitalist regime during the 1990s.¹ Over the last two-and-a-half decades, Cambodia has achieved high rates of economic growth and a rise in national living standards between the first national household survey in 1993/4² and the most recent one in 2012.³ Economic growth has averaged around 7 percent per annum,⁴ and the Gross Domestic Product per capita rose to 1,382 US dollar in 2017.⁵ The 2008 Cambodian Census reports the largest population cohort to be aged 9-18 (24.5 per cent total population)⁶. This is the group the researcher chose for the first phase of this study. This group is currently 15-24 years of age. This population is experiencing rapid change both emotionally and physically, and many individuals in this age group are involved in high-risk activities, including in sexual relationships. In certain respects, legal standards in Cambodia do draw a line between a child and an adult. The legal age of marriage is 18 for women and 20 for men.⁷ A recent national study indicated that men marry at a median age of 22.6 and start to be sexually active just before marriage, at a median age of 22.1; whereas women get married at a median age of 20.3. The median age at first marriage has been stable for the past 20 years. Women generally begin having sexual intercourse at about the same time as the average age to be married, at a median age of 20.8.⁸ Qualitative research undertaken in 2008 by the author showed that many young people are having sexual experiences at a much younger age. This includes numerous stories of non-consensual sex and group rape. Study participants reported that pressure for sex, and the number of consensual

¹ Tarr, C.M. (1996b). *People in Cambodia don't talk about sex, they simply do it: A study of the Social and Contextual Factors Affecting Risk-Related Sexual Behavior among Young Cambodians*. Phnom Penh: University of Fine Arts. p. 68.

² World Bank. (2007). *Cambodian Sharing Growth: Equity and Development Report 2007*. Phnom Penh. p. ii

³ NIS/MOP. (2013). *Supplementary note, complementary results of the Cambodian Socio-Economic Survey 2012*. Phnom Penh.

⁴ World Bank. (2018). *High Growth in Cambodia Expected to Continue: World Bank*. Retrieved February 9, 2019: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2018/05/10/high-growth-in-cambodia-expected-to-continue-world-bank>

⁵ NIS/MOP. (2018). National Index Report 2018: <https://www.nis.gov.kh/index.php/en/>

⁶ NIS/MOP. (2009). *General Population Census of Cambodia 2008*, National Report, Phnom Penh

⁷ ព្រឹត្តិបត្រមជ្ឈមណ្ឌលនៃរដ្ឋកម្ពុជា (ឆ្នាំ១៩៨៩) ច្បាប់ស្តីពីអាពាហ៍ពិពាហ៍ មាត្រាទី៥ ជំពូក២ ត្រូវបានដកស្រង់ចេញពីសៀវភៅកម្រង ឯកសារច្បាប់ បោះពុម្ពលើកទី ៣ (ឆ្នាំ២០០១) នៃការិយាល័យឧត្តមស្នងការ អង្គការសហប្រជាជាតិ ទទួលបន្ទុកសិទ្ធិមនុស្សប្រចាំកម្ពុជា ធ្វើនៅភ្នំពេញ។ ទំព័រទី ៦៤៤ ។

Degree of State Councils of Cambodian State (1989). *Marital Law, Article 5, Chapter 2*. Cited by 3rd edition Legal Document Braid. (2001), United Nations Cambodia Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Phnom Penh. p. 644.

⁸ National Institute of Public Health and National Institute of Statistics. (2011). *Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey (CDHS) 2010*. Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

and non-consensual sexual experiences, was high on and around Valentine's Day. This motivated the current series of longitudinal research. The initial quantitative studies prior to Valentine's Days in 2009 and 2014 was followed up this year in 2019, to understand people's attitudes towards sex and how these may have changed.

Valentine's Day and sex:

There are varying opinions as to the origin of Valentine's Day. Some experts state that it originated from St. Valentine, a Roman who was martyred for refusing to give up Christianity. He died on February 14, 269 A.D., the day that later became devoted to love. Gradually, February 14 has become a date to exchange messages of love, and St. Valentine has become the patron saint of lovers. The anniversary of his death is often marked by sending poems and simple gifts such as flowers.⁹ And other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl--possibly his jailor's daughter--who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and--most importantly--romantic figure. By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France. St. Valentine's Day is now a day for sweethearts. It is the day that you show your friend or loved one that you care.¹⁰

Valentine's Day is acknowledged throughout the world. Valentine's Day in Cambodia has only recently become popular, especially among young teenagers who buy and give flowers, gifts and cards to each other, and hang out with their sweethearts or friends.¹¹ Generally young men in Cambodia have more of an opportunity to hang out in groups and to socialize than young women who often stay at home. Young women have a chance to hang out during the Khmer New Year and other festivals.¹² Young

⁹ Retrieved February 12, 2008 from http://www.pictureframes.co.uk/pages/saint_valentine.htm

¹⁰ Retrieved February 12, 2008 from <http://www.history.com/content/valentine/history-of-valentine-s-day>

¹¹ "...Meeting with a few young men, in the front of Preah Monivong high school in town of Battambang province, who are buying flowers for their girl who are classmates to express their love. At the evening, there were a traffic jams along the Sankae river because young people bought flowers on the streets." Kranhong. (2008, Feb. 15). This Valentine's Day There Were Not A Group of Students Who Sold Flower To Support Orphanages. *Reak Smey Kampchea*, p. 2b.

¹² Wallquist, L. (2002). *Youth in Cambodia: Organizations, Activities and Policies*. Phnom Penh: Forum Syd. p. 10.

Cambodians are being introduced to notions of individuality and materialism, and are experiencing a greater level of urban wealth and sexual freedom than ever before.¹³

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Cambodia is recognized for its success in combating HIV and AIDS. It is estimated that the prevalence rate among adults, aged 15 to 49 years, declined from 1.2% in 2003 to 0.6% in 2015 and continues to fall.¹⁴ The 100% condom use program is playing an important role in the reduction of HIV prevalence. More men in the Sentinel groups reported sex with girlfriends than in the previous years of Behavioral Sentinel Survey and condom use with sweethearts is on the rise. However, condom use with sweethearts still remains low. Consistent condom use with sweethearts was 39.4 percent in 2010, amongst those with one or two partners.¹⁵ 11.9% of students reported that they ever had sexual intercourse. Among students who ever had sexual intercourse, three in ten of them had most of the time or always used a condom.¹⁶

STI prevalence among high-risk populations is the same as in 2005 despite national and multilateral efforts to increase female sex workers' access to STI prevention and care services.¹⁷ Tarr's study strongly suggested that many interventions ignore other contexts where young people, including young, unmarried females, are also involved in risk-related sexual behavior.¹⁸ New opportunities and greater freedoms for young people appear to have resulted in changing social norms as well, with young men turning more to sweethearts rather than paid partners for sexual relationships.¹⁹ Unsafe abortion in

¹³ Fordham, G. (2003). *Adolescent Reproductive Health in Cambodia: Status Policies, Programmes and Issues*. Phnom Penh: POLICY Project. p. 3. Retrived December 23, 2008 from http://www.policyproject.com/pubs/countryreports/ARH_Cambodia.pdf

¹⁴ NCHADS/NAA. (2018). *Towards achieving the Country Targets of the Political Declarations on Intensifying efforts to eliminate HIV and AIDS*. Phnom Penh.

¹⁵ NCHADS. (2011). *BSS Estimation of the HIV Prevalence among General Population in Cambodia, 2010*. Phnom Penh: NCHADS,MOH.

¹⁶ PRAK P. R, & CHHER T. (2014): *Global School Based Student Health Survey in Cambodia 2013*, MOH, MOYES, WHO, US-CDCP.

¹⁷ NCHADS. (2008). *2005 Cambodian STI Prevalence Survey: Integrated Biological and Behavioral Survey*. Phnom Penh: MoH. p. 44
Retrieved February 12, 2008 from <http://www.nchads.org/Publication/SSS/SSS%202005.pdf>

¹⁸ Tarr, C.M. (1996b). *Op. cit.*, p. 2

¹⁹ Wilkinson, D.J. and Fletcher, G. (2002). *Sweetheart Relationship in Cambodia: Love, Sex & Condoms in the time of HIV*, Phnom Penh: PSI. p.1

Cambodia remains one of the most common causes of maternal death (20-29%)²⁰, despite the legalization of abortion in 1997.²¹

A quantitative study, conducted by Assumption University in Bangkok, stated that one fifth of teenagers surveyed will have sex on Valentine's Day.²² A panel discussion on sexuality among young people on Valentine's Day in Phnom Penh organized by the NGO, Population Health Development Association, raised questions about risky sexual activity of young people on Valentine's Day, and possible negative impacts.²³

The author's 2008 Valentine's Day²⁴ qualitative study findings reveal that young couples did not understand clearly the origins of Valentine's Day, now popular among wealthier young people in urban areas of Cambodia, although they recognized that it comes from foreign cultures via the media. The results show that more than half of the interviewees in the study were happy to engage in sex on that day and at least a few of them lost their virginity. Although most reported using condoms, perhaps reflecting increased awareness of sexual and reproductive health issues, several instances of coercion were also reported. There seems to be a general lack of parental understanding about their children's sexual activity and a corresponding lack of open communication. The study also recommended a quantitative survey among wealthier young people.²⁵ A year later, the quantitative survey on Love and sexual relationships: experiences and plans of wealthier young people regarding the upcoming Valentine's Day in Phnom Penh in 2009 found that 12.4 percent of young people surveyed stated that they expected to have sex, and 14.3% of young people in a couple stated that they expected to have sex

²⁰ WHO. (2004). *Unsafe abortion: Global and Regional Estimated of the Incidence of Unsafe Abortion and Associated Mortality in 2000*. Geneva. Cited by MoH. (2006). National Strategic for Reproductive and Sexual Health in Cambodia (2006-2010). Phnom Penh. p. 7-8

²¹ រដ្ឋសភាជាតិ (ឆ្នាំ ១៩៩៧) ច្បាប់ស្តីពីការរំលូត មាត្រាទី៨ ជំពូក២ ត្រូវបានដកស្រង់ចេញពី សៀវភៅកម្រង ឯកសារច្បាប់ បោះពុម្ពលើក ទី ៣ (ឆ្នាំ២០០១) នៃការិយាល័យឧត្តមស្នងការអង្គការសហប្រជាជាតិ ទទួលបន្ទុកសិទ្ធិមនុស្សប្រចាំកម្ពុជា ធ្វើនៅភ្នំពេញ ។ ទំព័រទី ៨៩៨ ។

National Assembly. (1997). *Abortion Law, Article 8, Chapter 2*. Cited by 3rd edition Legal Document Braid. (2001), United Nations Cambodia Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Phnom Penh. p. 898.

²² Ann. (2008, Feb. 11). One fifth of teenagers will have sex on Saint Valentine's day in Bang Kok. *Nation*, Retrieved February 12, 2008 from <http://www.asiaone.com/News/Education/Story/A1Story20080211-49118.html>

²³ Chansy, C. (2008, Feb. 15). Panel Tells Youths To Use Valentine's Day Caution. *Cambodia Daily*, p. 20.

²⁴ Soprach, T. (2009). *Young People Talking About Valentine's Day in Phnom Penh in 2008 (A Qualitative Study)*. Phnom Penh: Independent Research Study.

²⁵ *Ibid*. pp. 23-24.

with their sweethearts on the upcoming Valentine's Day.²⁶ A follow-up study before Valentine's Day in 2014 showed that 11.3% of young people surveyed stated that they would be having sex on that day.

The current study is designed to follow up on the quantitative study to compare the initial survey with results 10 years later. This seeks to answer the research question:

“What plans do wealthier young people in Phnom Penh have for sexual activity on the upcoming Valentine's Day?”

1.3. The Objectives of the Study

The key objectives of this 2019 study are:

- To learn more about wealthier young people's relationships and sexual behavior, and plans with regard to the upcoming Valentine's Day, and on their spending and consumption related to celebrating the event
- To understand young people's perception of their parents' attitudes towards the upcoming Valentine's Day.
- To compare for differences with the 2009 study findings and identify new behavioral trends or attitudes

1.4. Significance of the Study

This quantitative survey was completed with a large sample (N=1,176) of wealthier young people in Phnom Penh, who completed questionnaires about their experiences and their perspectives on the upcoming Valentine's Day. Findings and recommendations will be shared with stakeholders such as local authorities, media, parents, and sexual and reproductive health programmers who can design interventions targeting Valentine's Day, and young people more widely. It is also a blueprint for researchers to design further, more detailed studies about the sexual behavior of young people. These findings will also inform young people and help them to understand their sexual behavior in relation to this event.

²⁶ Soprach, T. (2010). *Love and sexual relationships: experiences and plans of middle class young people regarding the upcoming Valentine's Day in Phnom Penh in 2009*. Independent Researcher.

1.5. Scope and Limitations of the Study

Time Constraints

This quantitative study was designed to further explore the findings of the previous study. As the author is busy with consultancy work and column writing, the sheer time-constraints have prevented a more thorough review of the existing literature on youth and sexuality in Cambodia.

Financial Constraints

This study was supported by the author's own budget derived from private consultancies and his column in the Phnom Penh Post. Hence, the budget was limited and the researcher was not able to hire professional enumerators or highly qualified researchers for this study.

Target Population:

Wealthier 15-24 year-olds who hang out in the parks of Phnom Penh, as in the previous 2009 study. The study follows the WHO/UNICEF (1998) definition of youth as 15-24 years old.²⁷ This survey did not target lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) couples.

Structured Questionnaires were designed including informed consent

The researcher designed a structured questionnaire in English which contained 18 questions for respondents falling into four categories: young male in a couple, young male not in a couple, young female in a couple, and young female not in a couple. This was the same as the previous study format, but a few questions were revised. The questionnaires were then translated into Khmer.

Separate survey sheets were prepared, as some questions applied only to specific participants (e.g. young male/female in a relationship). Dating questions were asked only to young people in a couple. Males who answered 'yes', to planned sexual activity on Valentine's Day were specifically asked what they would do if their girlfriend did not agree with their request for sex. Other questions directed towards young males include those about "sex with sex worker" and "bauk" (gang rape). Males were asked if they were involved in *bauk* in the last 3 months. This was designed to follow up on previous data about male youth participation in *bauk*, and to find out if wealthier young males would attempt to force their girlfriend to "bauk".

²⁷ Ramage, I. (2004). *Cambodia Baseline Survey*. Phnom Penh: RHIYA Project, EU/UNFPA. p.5.

For this study, the researcher is also interested in how young people spent their money for the past Valentine's Day.

Training

All research assistants were trained for field data collection and they were given strategies on how to approach potential respondents in Phnom Penh. With this in mind, the researcher provided refresher training, covering the objectives of the study, and pre-tested the questionnaire before commencing field work. Although some data entry volunteers already had experience with data entry into SPSS Version 23.0, the researcher provided further training and coaching by a team leader who is an data management and analysis specialist.

The Research Assistants' Shared Lessons Learned After Collecting Data

All research assistants reported approaching several people who did not agree to participate in the study (a total of 36 people). The reasons given for declining to participate included: they went on to refuse an interview also; some were in a rush to go home; others said they didn't want to answer the questions, they preferred to relax and be left alone. Others said they had no time to complete the questionnaire, or were busy talking or eating.

Interviewers also found it difficult to approach several couples who were seated very close together, embracing and kissing. Some groups that were approached included people who were over the target age.

At least several interviewees could not read the questionnaire, so, the research assistants interviewed them. In one case the respondent's friend read the questions out to him and he ticked the appropriate boxes himself.

Data Entry Into SPSS and Data Cleaning

During data entry and cleaning, 10 percent of the total data collected (131 out of a total of 1,307 observations) were found to be incomplete and/or over the target age range. This may reflect a higher rate of incomplete questionnaires when using the self-administered method. Finally, the total number of respondents who completed all questions for analysis was a sample size of 1,176.

Translation

As English is not the researcher's first language, translation between Khmer and English is always problematic and it is easy to lose meaning. In order to avoid this problem, the researcher checked his translations with native English speakers.

1.6. Definitions of key terms

Songsar: *Three meanings used in this study:* A term used for a woman who has already been engaged or has been in a relationship. Nowadays, this term is used to refer to a sexual relationship. Around 25% lead to marriage. **[Male student]**²⁸

This is the term used to address the man with whom we have mutual love. Generally speaking, when the term *sangsar* is used, marriage is sometimes possible. **[Female student]**²⁹

Songsar: used for sweetheart/*mith pros* for boyfriend/*mith srey* for girlfriend.³⁰

Wealthier Young People: Young people's wealth status was identified through their (expensive) clothes, their gestures and characteristics (looking 'cool' as individuals or in a group), and by their mode of transport (usually a motorbike or a car).

The concept of "trust" or "trustworthiness": describes a quality of relationship with their partner. "This includes: faithfulness, meeting through family or friends, passing informal assessments, social status, employment, financial support, avoiding bars, appearance, and virginity. It is important to note that youth appear to evaluate partners on a combination of traits in order to deem partners trustworthy. Although youth use criteria to judge trust, they seem to overlook other criteria that could further decrease their risk for STIs/HIV."³¹

Non-consensual sex: includes rape or attempted rape, unwanted touching or fondling/molestation, non-contact forms of abuse such as verbal harassment, forced viewing of pornography, flashing, assault, forced sex...etc.³²

Bauk/bowk/baowk (Gang rape) – known colloquially as *bauk* (Khmer for 'plus').

Bauk in a slang terms:

1. *Bauk* generally occurs after one (or two) youth(s) negotiate a price with a sex worker, or solicit a woman's affection and arrange a proposed destination for sexual intercourse.
2. Then the woman is taken to a hotel or guest-house, where numerous other young men are waiting, or will soon arrive.

²⁸ Wilkinson, D.J. and Fletcher, *Op cit.*, p. 9.

²⁹ *Ibid.* p. 10

³⁰ The researcher decides to use all these words are the same meaning for this study.

³¹ Longfield, K., Klein, M. and Berman, J. (2002). *Working Paper No. 51: Criteria for trust and how trust affects sexual decision-making among youth*, Washington, DC: PSI Research Division, p. 5. Retrieved December 24, 2008 from <http://www.psi.org/research/wp/WP51.pdf>

³² Jejeebhoy, J.S. and Bott, S. (2003). *South & East Asia: Non-consensual sexual experiences of young people: A review of the evidence from developing countries*, No.16. New Delhi: Population Council. pp. v-3.

3. The youths coerce the woman into having sex with them all without permission, often accompanied by violence.
4. Almost all of the young men say that it is not rape because they have already paid for sex.³³

II. Literature Review of Previous Studies of Sexual Behavior

Generally speaking, western culture assumes a degree of equity between the sexes and an equal right to choose a sexual partner. Western culture is perceived as individualistic and encouraging of independence, so men and women are thought to have equal opportunity to do what they want. Meanwhile, some practicing Christians will wait until they get married and are virgins when they are married and remain faithful to their spouse.³⁴ In the United States, teen pregnancy rates have declined sharply since 1991 but remain high compared to other industrialized nations. Nearly 1 million girls aged 15 to 19 years old become pregnant each year, which is about 20 percent of sexually active females in that age group. Most of the pregnancies were unplanned and young mothers are more likely to quit school, require public assistance and live in poverty.³⁵ Over 41 percent of male and 23 percent of female study participants reported being sexual active. Age differences with first sexual partner varied according to gender with males reporting no age difference, and females' first partners being on average five years older.³⁶

The Assumption University teenage sexual behavior survey covered 2,384 teenagers in Bangkok in 2008. It showed that one fifth of the teenagers surveyed said they will likely end up having sex and about 15.4 per cent had previous sexual experiences. Some 58.8 per cent of these said that they practiced safe sex sometimes while 21.1 per cent said they had never used condoms before.³⁷ Valentine's Day celebrations in Cambodia do not happen only in Phnom Penh by young people, but also in Battambang province. As one article describes: "*groups of young people gave a rose or any gifts to their sweethearts or friends on the streets and they may go to guest-houses. These are mostly young people and students*

³³ Wilkinson, D.J., and Fletcher, G. (2002). *Sweetheart Relationship in Cambodia: Love, Sex & Condoms in the time of HIV*, Phnom Penh: PSI.

Bearup, L.S. (2003). *Paupers and Princeslings : Youth Attitudes Toward Gangs, Violence, Rape, Drugs, and Theft*. Phnom Penh: GAD/C.

Soprach, T. (2004). *GANG RAPE: The Perspective of Moto-Taxi Drivers across Cambodia*. Phnom Penh: Playing Safe Project, CARE Cambodia, EU/UNFPA.

³⁴ Soprach, T. (2008). *The Impact of Premarital Sex Among Young People in Cambodia*. Phnom Penh: University of Cambodia. p. 8.

³⁵ Stern, A. (2008, November 3). Study Links Teen Pregnancy To Sexy TV Shows in US. *Reuters*. Retrieved December 10, 2008 from <http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSTRE4A20HL20081103>

³⁶ MOEYS. (2011). *Most at risk young people survey in Cambodia 2010*. Phnom Penh

³⁷ Ann. (2008, Feb. 11). *Op cit*.

aged from 15 to 20. According to the guest-house and hotel prices for “Krab Teuk Khmom” a scene of sex for one or two hours charged up to 15,000 to 20,000 riels (around US\$5). However, a young man recognized that the Valentine’s Day was a really foreign influence and some girls lost their virginity on that day. He saw his friends liked that activity. Whereas guest-house managers, they also said that on February 14, there were many guests since the morning for Krab Teuk Khmom a sexual scene and Guest-house managers also informed us that there are 2 years the price increase when the Valentine’s Day arrival.”³⁸

The WHO released new findings of an estimated 42 million induced abortions among women aged 15-44 years old in 2003. 48% of all abortions worldwide were unsafe, and more than 97% of all unsafe abortions were in developing countries.³⁹ Unsafe abortions were associated with increasing maternal mortality rates among women aged 15-49 years in Cambodia; 170 deaths per 100,000 live births.⁴⁰ Meanwhile, the WHO estimated the abortion mortality rate in Cambodia as 130/100,000 per live births. 45% of abortions took place at home.⁴¹ This issue was personalized by the reported experience of a couple of young people who had sex before marriage, with the young woman becoming pregnant and having an unsafe abortion as a result. The story “My wedding day ... the day my fiancée died.” demonstrates the danger of unsafe abortions.⁴²

Another case deals with a girl who tried to speak out about an experience in which she was subject to non-consensual sex by her *sangsar* because she trusted him and then her ‘*sangsar*’ abandoned her. The 17 year old first had sex with her boyfriend at 15 years old, this is what she described:

‘I found out that my boyfriend was not honest with me, he only wanted to sleep with me for pleasure...at first I refused his sexual advances and he became quite violent. Actually he raped me... however, he persisted, taking off my shirt completely. He was trying to

³⁸ Bopea. (2009, Feb. 16). Guest-house room prices were raised to welcome the Valentine’s Day in 2009, Battambang province. *Koh Santhepheap*. pp. 1-5.

³⁹ Sedgh, G. et al (2007, October 13). Induced Abortion: Estimated Rates and Trends Worldwide. *Lancet*, Vol. 370, p. 1338

⁴⁰ NIS and NIPH (2014): Cambodian Demographic Health Survey 2014,

⁴¹ *Ibid.* p. 76.

⁴² Cambodian Midwives’ Association. (1999). Cited by Gender Watch No. 4 (2001). “My wedding day ... the day my fiancée died”. Phnom Penh: GAD/C. p. 2

*penetrate me...we had sex, there was a trace of blood and I was very sore afterwards. Not long after this he abandoned me.*⁴³

According to Cambodian socio-cultural norms, if her '*sangsar*' speaks openly about this to his friends or other people about breaking up after having sex, she would be judged as '*mahop-del-ker*'. This euphemism refers to food which has been eaten to describe women who have already had sex and that no one then wants to marry. While conducting research on 'professional girlfriends' and women employed in the entertainment sectors, Heidi Hoefinger (2013) found that some young women who had been involved in intimate sexual relations with both their Cambodian and/or foreign boyfriends had either harmed themselves, or even attempted suicide, by cutting their wrists or overdosing on medicine after the boyfriends cheated on them or left them for another woman. She explained that this self-harming behavior was related to various factors such as depression over a 'broken-heart', pain of rejection, fear over lack of future security, complete desperation, depression over losing virginity to that particular partner, or in some cases, a desire to 'hurt him back'.⁴⁴ Though this was not experienced by all sexually active young women in her study, it does reveal some of the psycho-behavioral consequences that result from challenges, conflicts and misunderstandings that arise within some intimate relationships.

At least two case studies discuss the impact of sexual intercourse among youths on Valentine's Day the past few years. In the first case, the girl sought help to get a safe abortion after a botched attempt as she described to the physicians at Marie Stopes (an organization that offers safe abortions to pregnant woman in Phnom Penh):

"...I could no longer afford my school fees so I had to stop my studies. Now I cannot fulfill my dream to work as a finance officer in a bank. Now I have to work hard selling groceries at the small stand in front of my parent's house to support my parents who are getting old," said the pregnant young woman.⁴⁵

Another youth study related to *bauk* found that it is not only occurring amongst sex workers but also with students. A 20 year old high school student stated:

⁴³ Tarr, C.M. (1996d). *Study of Contextual Factor Affecting Risk-Related to sexual Behavior among Young Cambodia*. Phnom Penh: University of Phnom Penh. p. 185.

⁴⁴ Hoefinger, H. (2013). *Sex, Love and Money in Cambodia: Professional Girlfriends and Transactional Relationships*, London: Routledge. Correspondence: hoefinger@iseaa.org

⁴⁵ Cockroft M., Svaypich S. and Thara M. (2012, Feb. 15). Remorse on Valentine's Day. The Phnom Penh Post. Retrieved February 7, 2014. <http://www.postkhmer.com/component/content/article/73233?lang=en>
Please find the Appendix 1 of the case study 1 and Appendix 2 of case study 2 of this report.

*'For me and my friends we also use bank with students. I just have sex with that girl like a sweetheart, two or three times. After that I call my friends to bank her and then I break up with her.'*⁴⁶

Recently, a PSI and FHI study titled, 'Let's Go for a Walk...' stated that many men view sweethearts, including sweethearts who are non-brothel-based entertainment workers, as safe (or at least safer), meaning not having a sexually transmitted infection. Other men have begun to perceive sweethearts who are beer promoters or karaoke workers to be unsafe, but still perceive virgins, students, and women from the countryside as safe. So long as men's sex-seeking focus is on finding safer partners with whom they believe they do not need to use condoms, the search for "safe sex" will go on.⁴⁷

With respect to the attitudes of the older generation towards today's Cambodian youth, conservative parents of young Cambodians who wish to preserve Khmer culture often feel that most young Cambodians are out of control and ignore all cultural rules. A 67-year-old rural peasant expresses his sentiments:

*'Today children have no respect for the teacher or the monks ... but as for sexual knowledge, particularly associated with sexual activity, young people learn from one another. If one of my sons were to get an unmarried girl pregnant, I would disown him if he refused to get married or paid some form of monetary compensation to her family ... it is better to disown such a child.'*⁴⁸

The RHIYA project recently completed a qualitative study which included this new generation's parents' opinions on premarital sex. A 48 year old married man in Phnom Penh stated:

'Parents will not allow their daughter to date before marriage. However, in terms of equal rights this is not correct. Girls need to have sex as well. In Khmer tradition, this may not be correct, but in terms of equal rights, men and women should be given the same

⁴⁶ Bearup, L. S. (2003). *Paupers and Princelings: Youth Attitudes Toward Gangs, Violence, Rape, Drugs, and Theft*. Phnom Penh: GAD/C. p. 91.

⁴⁷ Smith, R. (2007). *Let's Go for a Walk: Sexual Decision-Making among Clients of Female Entertainment Service Workers in Phnom Penh*. Phnom Penh: PSI and FHI, p. 26.

⁴⁸ Tarr, C. M. (1996b), *Op. cit.*, p. 69.

*treatment. We can provide the girls with training and some knowledge on how to protect themselves if they wanted to have sex, like using condoms and contraceptives.*⁴⁹

However, Valentine's Day is not limited only for research studies on sexual relationships among young people in Phnom Penh. It was addressed in the novel 'Regret,' which was issued before Valentine's Day in 2009 by the conservative Amara Publisher⁵⁰ and also features in the award-winning film "Diamond Island" ("*Koh Pich*" in Khmer) .⁵¹

III. Methodology

3.1. Research Design

A cross-sectional survey design was chosen for this survey, replicating the designs of the previous studies in 2009 and 2014. This accomplishes the aim of exploration or descriptions, and can also be used for explanatory studies since background information and retrospective data can be related to current statuses, and current statuses to future expectations and aspirations.⁵² Therefore, the structured questionnaire was designed to gather information on the background of respondents, and their expectations on social activity, love and sexual relationships in light of the upcoming Valentine's Day; and also their sexual behavior in the last three months. The questionnaire included questions designed to gauge the respondents' awareness about consensual sex. The questionnaires are separated into four categories of the population aged 15-24 years old whom enumerators identified as being wealthier young people in Phnom Penh: young males in a couple, young males not in a couple, young females in a

⁴⁹ Vuthy, B. (2006). *RHIYA Cambodia Endline Qualitative Survey*. Phnom Penh: EU/UNFPA. p. 47

⁵⁰ Kho, T. (2009). *REGRET: Souvenir on St. Valentine's Day*, Roman. Amara publisher. Phnom Penh. described that the novel on 'Regret' was issued before the upcoming Valentine's Day in 2009 by the conservative Amara Publisher in 2009 to raise awareness among young people on impact of premarital sex or sexual involvement during the Valentine's Day. The novel described: "A 16-year-old young female Liny who is a middle wealthy kid was studying at high school. Her girlfriends pressured her to hang out on the Valentine's Day, February 14. She asked her mother who doesn't know Valentine's Day well, and her mother just warned her... 'This is European culture'. She also argued with her mother that she didn't have any boyfriend, but just wanted to hang out with her classmates. At the morning of that day, Liny received a flower branch from her girlfriend Nary who also got from a young man Kulen who was a very rich kid and studied at the same school. Nary persuaded Liny for Kulen and then all of them passed the Japanese bridge and relaxed a small hut, and after that Nary left Liny and Kulen to have sex by putting sexual arousal and sleeping substances inside coconut water and gave it to Liny to drink; meanwhile, Liny suffered from having sex by Kulen... Kulen got in an road accident after leaving that place. Liny got sick in a hospital and when she came back home, her parents were dead and all the things of her heritage were stolen by her relatives with fraud documentation. Liny got nothing, she became a karaoke girl, drug addicted and finally she got infected with HIV/AIDS."

⁵¹ Chou, D. (2006). *Diamond Island "Koh Pich"*. The film introduced tells the story of an adolescent who leaves rural Cambodia to become a construction worker only to be reunited with his missing older brother. Retrieved on 9 February 2019: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5689590/>

⁵² Baker, L.T. (1994). *Doing Social Research*. California State University, San Marcos: McGraw-Hill, Inc. p. 106

couple and young females not in a couple. Because an additional objective of this year's study is to look at expenditure and consumption around Valentine's Day, 2 questions on Valentine's Day 2018 were added to the survey: Did you celebrate Valentine's Day last year? If so, how much did you spend?

Because of the sensitive nature of the subject matter of this study, self-administered questionnaires are used and are given directly to respondents to complete. Very little assistance was made available except in instances where respondents did not understand a question.⁵³ However, this method makes interviewees confident enough to share their experiences and their plans regarding upcoming Valentine's Day. It also gives enough time for interviewers to approach and check up on other potential participants or groups of interviewees.

While respondents were given more privacy and informed that they need not complete any question that they did not want to, the self-administered questionnaire method results in a lower completion rate, so the total number of each variable is lower than the total number of respondents. Missing data was not analyzed, calculated or reported.

3.2. Sample Size Calculation and Additional Adjustments in Computing the Sample Size

For this study, proportion formula is calculated using statistics to determine the sample size as follows:⁵⁴

$$N = (Z / e)^2 p (1-p)$$

Where N = sample size;

Z = the standard score corresponding to a given confidence level;

"e" = the proportion of sampling error; and

p = estimated proportion or incidence of cases.

- Z table 95% = 1.96
- If "e" = 5%
- p = 0.30

$$N = (1.96 / 0.05)^2 0.3 (1-0.3) = \underline{323}$$

Sample design effect

⁵³ Fink, A. and Kosecoff, J. (1985). *HOW TO CONDUCT SURVEYS: A Step-by-Step Guide*. The United States of America: Sage Publications, Inc. p. 45

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

The original sample size is $N = 323$, therefore to adjust for sample design effect:

$$N = 323 \times 1.3 = 420$$

Expected response rate

The researcher estimated that perhaps only 80% of the sample would respond to the survey, therefore:

$$N = 420 / 0.8 = 525$$

Expected proportion of eligible respondents

The researcher estimated that perhaps only 90% of the sample would be eligible to complete the survey, therefore:

$$N = 525 / 0.9 = \underline{584}$$

Expected data discard

The researcher estimated that perhaps 5% of the data collected would need to be discarded

$$N = 584 / 0.95 = \underline{615}$$

Finally, the total sample size, adjusted for this survey is 615.

3.3. Sampling

The target population of this study is wealthier young people aged 15-24 years old who are in Phnom Penh at the time of data collection. Study locations were based on the qualitative Valentine's Day in Phnom Penh in 2008 study where almost all respondents said that they always hang out at certain places near the riverfront on the weekends and special days as well: *"On Valentine's Day this year, we hung out at the Riverfront park, then had dinner together and went back home. I think that day is when all couples show their love with each other."*⁵⁵ Thus, cluster sampling is used here primarily for administrative convenience.⁵⁶

Due to Phnom Penh's urban development and the emergence of new public spaces, the geographic cluster sampling locations from 2014 were revised: Aeon Mall "1", Aeon Mall "2" and TK (Toul Kork Avenue) were added. Four parks around the riverfront were selected: Independence Park, Wat Botum Park, the park in the front of the Royal Palace and Koh Pich island. By observation, the target population is estimated to be around 300 people, including couples, at each park during weekend evenings, with

⁵⁵ Soprach, T. (2009). *Op cit.*, p. 15

⁵⁶ Fink, A. and Kosecoff, J. (1985). *Op cit.*, p. 57

the highest number of people at Koh Pich. These populations move every 15 to 20 minutes. Therefore, the total population of 615 was divided into 4 areas. The interview teams (a male and a female) were asked to give questionnaires to four categories of people in these locations: young male in a couple, young male not in a couple, young female in a couple and young female not in a couple.

3.4. Data Collection Method

All the research assistants were trained for half a day on Saturday, January 31, 2019. The interviewers were trained on the study's objectives, methodology, simple sampling, data collection technique of self-administered questionnaire, role play of face-to-face interview with the same sex (in case the respondent cannot read the questionnaire) and pre-test with drafted questionnaire (See Appendix 4 for the four final questionnaires). During data collection, interviewers worked in pairs of one male and one female, with males interviewing males, and females interviewing females. The interviewers were assigned to male-female partnerships for four reasons: it is easier to ask sensitive questions of the same sex; for support when approaching and interviewing couples; for support or verification if respondents have any questions; and for safety. However, due to the higher number of female research volunteers, some of them supported male teams to provide self-administered questionnaires to male interviewees.

Four points defined acceptable data collection, including: the name of the interviewer, the signature of the respondent in the informed consent section guaranteeing anonymity and confidentiality, the age of respondent in the target population age-group, (not lower than 15 or over 24 years old) and all completed questionnaires placed in a sealed envelope.

The original quantitative study took place over two days. For this study, the author decided to add one more day (Friday) to enable a larger sample size. Data collection occurred on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, January 31 January to 02 February, 2014 from 4:30pm to 7:30pm. The researcher recruited two field team leaders with experience in survey methodology, and the author acted as supervisor for all research assistants in field data collection.

In the field, each research assistant was given 100 questionnaires (50 for respondents in a relationship and 50 for non-coupled respondents). 300 pens were used as a gift for interviewees who completed the questionnaire, and 2 plastic bags for storage of completed questionnaires in opaque folders were used to ensure anonymity of respondents.

Before interviewing, all research assistants had to complete the name code, location and the interviewer name in the informed consent section. And then they explained the objectives of the survey. If the prospective interviewee agreed to take part, the interviewer issued a questionnaire and an envelope to the interviewee, explaining about confidentiality, and allowed the interviewee to read it carefully. Before starting to complete the questionnaire, the research assistants ensure that the interviewee completed the informed consent and age.

After completing the questionnaire, interviewers allowed the interviewees to put the completed questionnaire in an envelope themselves; interviewers then stapled it in front of interviewees and put it into the plastic bags. The interviewers helped the interviewees to answer any question that they didn't understand. In any case where the interviewee couldn't read, the research assistant either interviewed them or allowed a friend to read the questionnaire for them, and asked them to tick the relevant box themselves.

The supervisor collected all the completed questionnaires in envelopes from research assistants each day after 7:30pm and also received any feedback from the field.

3.5. Data Entry and Cleaning

A day after data collection, the researcher designed variables in SPSS version 23.0, and trained a data manager to coach the data entry assistants on entering the data. Data was rejected if even one of the crucial criteria data was missing (the name of interviewer or signature of respondent in the informed consent form, if the age of respondent was not in the required age range, or if any completed questionnaires were not in sealed envelopes). Of 1,307 respondents, around 10 percent (131 questionnaires) were removed. Thus, the final number of respondents was 1,176. The author checked quality control for the data entry team to verify that data entry was correct.

3.6. Data Analysis

The author was responsible for the analysis of data. However, the data manager helped to produce the frequency and cross-tab correlation tables in MS Excel after running the data through SPSS.

IV. Results

This study aims to compare the activities of young people prior to Valentine’s Day 2009, 2014 and 2019 in the hope of drawing attention to gender and sexual health issues happening at that time. The total number of valid respondents in 2019 was 1176, compared to 458 respondents in 2009 and 715 respondents in 2014 respectively. Table 1 shows the total population (N=1176) broken down by gender in four categories, and males (502: 42.7%) and females (674: 57.3%). The number of females not in a couple (32.8%) is higher than other categories. The total observations were broken can also be classified into two categories of young couple (male/female) and young people not in a couple (male/female) (Table 2). The sample population aged 15-24 years old revealed normal distribution with the variance of average age 19.8 years in 2019 compared to 20.6 years in 2009 (Table 3).

Table 1: Gender and relationship categories

No.	Gender and relationship status	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Male in a couple	112	24.5	181	25.3	197	16.8
2	Male not in a couple	128	27.9	195	27.3	305	25.9
3	Female in a couple	105	22.9	166	23.2	288	24.5
4	Female not in a couple	113	24.7	173	24.2	386	32.8
Total		458	100	715	100	1176	100

Table 2: Couple and non-couple categories

No.	Couple and Non-couple	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Male in a couple and Female in a couple	217	47.4	347	48.5	485	41.2
2	Male not in a couple and Female not in a couple	241	50.6	368	51.5	691	58.8
Total		458	100	715	100	1176	100

Table 3: Average age of respondents

No.	Age of Respondents	2009	2014	2019
1	Average	20.60	20.98	19.81
Total number		458	715	1176

Table 4 shows that half (50.0%) of the data collected in 2019 was from Koh Pich island and Aeon 1, where wealthier young people currently like to go. Koh Pich island was not included in 2009 as it was

not as developed and qualitative analysis showed that many young people at that time liked to go to other parks in the city.

Table 4: Location of the data collection

No.	Location	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Wat Botum Park	85	19	117	16	108	9
2	Riverfront park (in the front of the Royal Palace)	65	14	112	16	146	12
3	Independence Monument Park	118	26	76	11	46	4
4	Koh Pich island	0	0	410	57	295	25
5	Hun Sen Park (across from Naga World)	135	29	0	0	0	0
6	New National Assembly Park	55	12	0	0	0	0
7	Aeon 1	0	0	0	0	296	25
8	Aeon 2	0	0	0	0	171	15
9	TK Avenue	0	0	0	0	114	10
Total		458	100	715	100	1176	100

4.1. Routine Activities of Wealthier Young People

Table 5 shows that routine activities reported were similar in 2009, 2014 and 2019. More than two thirds (2009: 67.1%, 2014: 67.3% and 2019: 70.7%) of respondents replied that they always go to the target parks, but sometimes go to others parks; especially, Koh Pich island nearby. The majority of respondents who stated that they do not always come here said they usually go elsewhere, such as restaurants, shopping, or karaoke joints, or stay at home, among others (Table 6).

Table 5: Do you always come here with your sweetheart/friends to relax?

No.	Relax here	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Yes	282	67.1	460	67.3	831	70.7
2	No	138	32.9	224	32.7	345	29.3
Total		420	100	684	100	1176	100

Table 6: If no, where else do you and your sweetheart/friends go for relaxation?

No.	Elsewhere	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Mall/Supermarket/Cinema /Shopping/Restaurant	93	84.6	63	39.4	0	0.0
2	At home	0	0.0	47	29.4	0	0.0
3	Koh Pich island	0	0.0	28	17.5	34	9.9
4	University/School/Library	0	0.0	12	7.5	0	0.0
5	Province	0	0.0	5	3.1	0	0.0
6	Cafe Shop	0	0.0	4	2.5	0	0.0
7	Royal Palace Park/other parks	17	15.4	1	0.6	0	0.0
8	Independence Monument Park	0	0.0	0	0.0	87	25.2
9	Wat Botum Park	0	0.0	0	0.0	121	35.1
10	Riverfront park (in the front of Royale Palace)	0	0.0	0	0.0	21	6.1
11	Aeon 1	0	0.0	0	0.0	24	7.0
12	Aeon 2	0	0.0	0	0.0	35	10.0
13	TK Avenue	0	0.0	0	0.0	23	6.7
Total		110	100	160	100	345	100

For this study, the researcher was interested in Valentine's Day spending, if young people took part in the event last year. At least 10 percent (n=118) of the respondents reported that they spent some money on that date. Average Valentine's Day 2018 spending was \$35 and the highest expenditure was \$200 (Tables 7 & 8).

Table 7: Did you spend for Valentine's Day last year?

No.	Spend for Valentine's Day Last year	2019	
		Number	Percent
1	Yes	118	10.0
2	No	1060	90.0
Total		1176	100

Table 8: Spending for Valentine's Day last year

No.	Spend for Valentine's Day Last year	2019
		Currency (US \$)
1	Mean	35
2	Minimum	3
3	Maximum	200

4.2. Wealthier Young People’s Plans for the Upcoming Valentine’s Day

Tables 9 and 10 show that the number of young people and young couples who said they consider Valentine’s Day to be a special day decreased nearly 50 percent in 2019 compared to 2009 (2009: 61.2% Vs 2019: 33.8%). This downward trend was observed both in young people in a couple and those not in a couple (Figure 1).

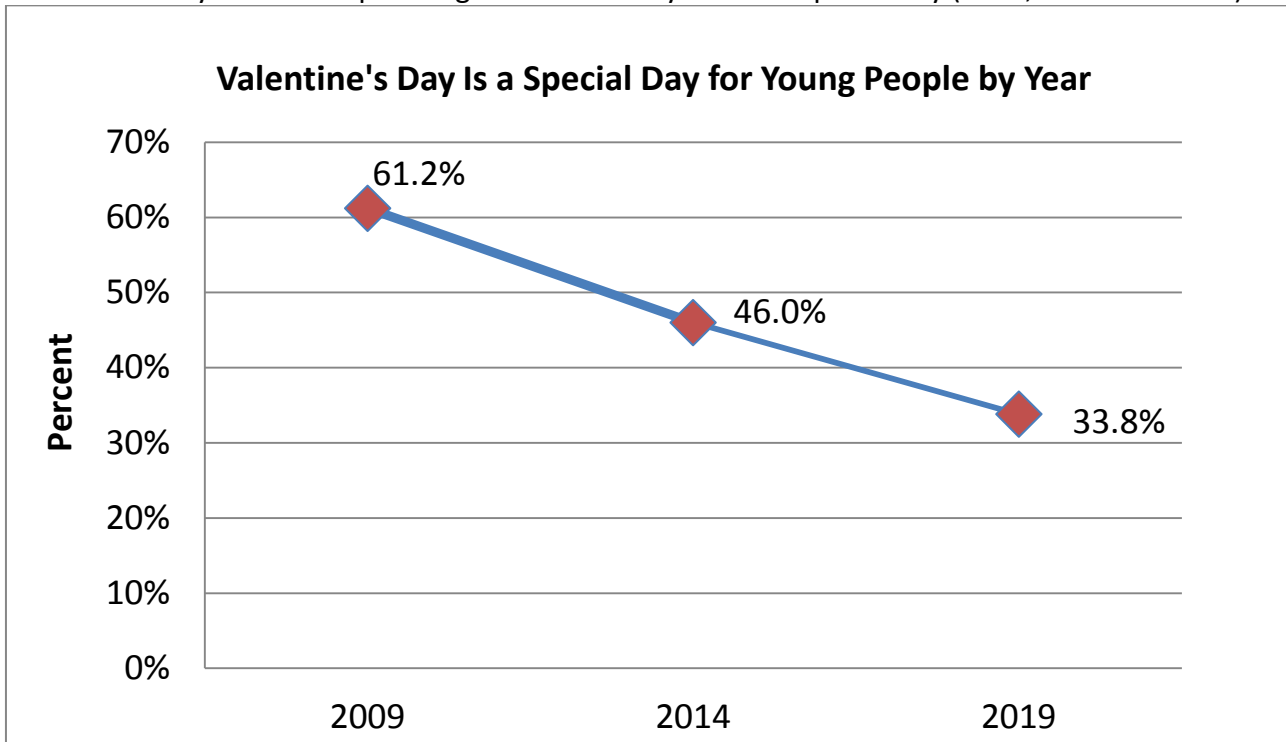
Table 9: Do you think the upcoming Valentine’s Day on February 14 will be a really special day for you and your sweetheart and your friends?

No.	Special day for young people	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Yes	271	61.2	326	46.0	397	33.8
2	No	168	38.8	382	54.0	779	66.2
Total		439	100	708	100	1176	100

Table 10: Do you think the upcoming Valentine’s Day on February 14 will be a really special day for you and your sweetheart?

No.	Special day for a couple	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Yes	170	81.0	193	55.9	206	42.5
2	No	40	19.0	152	44.1	279	57.5
Total		210	100.0	345	100	485	100

Figure 1: Comparison of wealthier young people on whether they think the upcoming Valentine’s Day will be a special day (2009, 2014 and 2019)



More than a third (37.1%) of all respondents plan to give a gift to their sweetheart or someone this upcoming Valentine’s Day 2019, a 10% decrease from 2014 (Table 11). Within this group, the number of people in couples who plan to give gifts to each other had declined by 30% (2009: 76.6% vs 2019: 46.2%) (Table 12). Figure 2 shows the trend of giving gift went down parallel amongst both singles and young people in a couple.

Table 11: Will you give a gift to your sweetheart or someone this upcoming Valentine’s Day?

No.	Giving any gift	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Yes	255	58.5	331	47.2	436	37.1
2	No	181	41.5	370	52.8	740	62.9
Total		436	100	701	100	1176	100

Table 12: Will you give any gift to your sweetheart on the upcoming Valentine's Day?

No.	Gift for sweetheart	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Yes	160	76.6	208	61.2	224	46.2
2	No	49	23.4	132	38.8	261	53.8
Total		209	100	340	100	485	100

Figure 2: Comparison of wealthier young people and young couples regarding whether they plan to give any gift to their sweetheart and/or someone on Valentine’s Day (2009, 2014 & 2019)

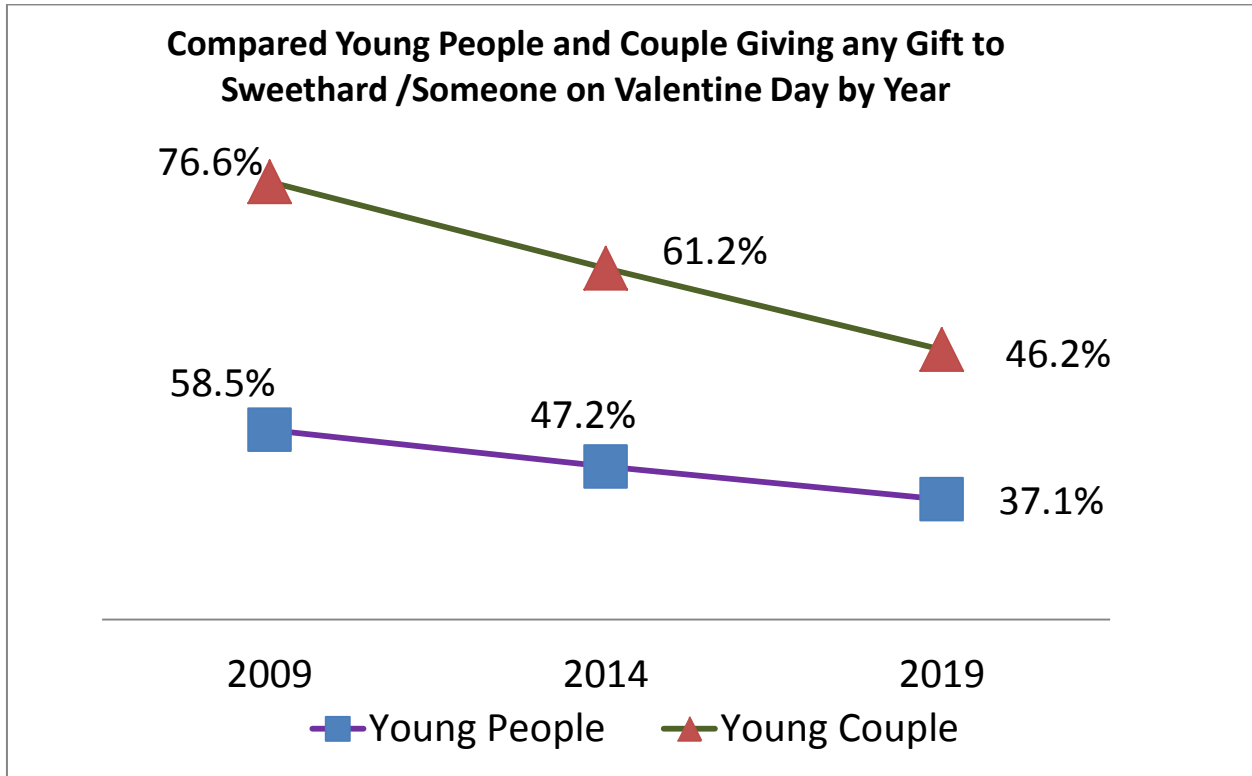


Table 13 shows the kinds of gifts that young people planned to give their sweethearts/someone. Flower gift giving fell by two-thirds (2009: 56.3% vs 2019: 21.6%), as with expensive gifts such as clothes, toys and jewelry,. Young men planning to give flowers to their girlfriends or someone special decreased significantly (2009: 71.7% vs 2014: 27.0%) compared to young females who plan to give flowers to their boyfriend or someone else (2009: 27.7% vs 2014: 16.1%) (Table 14). Amongst both males and females, expensive gift-giving decreased.

Table 13: Kind of gifts that young people intend to give their sweetheart/someone on the upcoming Valentine's Day

No.	Kind of gifts	2009	2014	2019
		Percent	Percent	Percent
1	Gift as flowers	56.3	34.3	21.6
2	Gift as clothes	25.0	40.2	32.1
3	Gift as toys	23.1	28.0	22.8
4	Gift as jewelry	15.0	23.4	12.9
5	Gift as Candy	0.0	0.0	1.8
6	Gift as Others	10.6	8.7	8.7
Total Number		255	331	428

Table 14: Kinds of gifts that young males and females intend to their sweetheart/someone on the upcoming Valentine's Day (broken down by gender)

No.	Kind of gift for male and female	2009		2014		2019	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1	Gift as flowers	71.7	27.7	52.2	10.2	27.0	16.1
2	Gift as clothes	8.2	44.7	25.0	60.6	26.2	38.3
3	Gift as toys	30.8	13.8	37.5	15.3	23.0	22.6
4	Gift as jewelry	17.1	8.5	25.0	26.3	14.8	10.9
5	Gift as Candy	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	2.0
6	Gift as Others	6.9	17.0	8.2	9.5	7.4	10.1
Total number		255		331		428	

The places where young people hang out with their sweetheart or someone changed in some ways since 2009 (Table 15). But nearly half of them (44.0%) were more likely to go to the mall and cinema on the upcoming Valentine's Day in 2019 compared to 2009 (40.3%); this has not changed much. Meanwhile, young people's plans to go to a Karaoke / Bak Khaeng / Kean Svay/ Koh Dach /Guest house/hotel with their sweetheart/someone have declined significantly, compared to 10 years ago.

Table 15: Where do you (Young people) want to go with your sweetheart/someone on the upcoming Valentine's Day?

No.	Where to go	2009	2014	2019
		Percent	Percent	Percent
1	Parks	28.1	25.0	10.6
2	Mall/ Modern Market	30.1	35.2	24.7
3	Club/entertainment center	14	9.1	1.8
4	Bubble tea	14.4	10.5	5.4
5	Cinema	10.2	21.2	19.3
6	Karaoke	10	9.8	2.7
7	Stay at home	18.4	29.9	25.5
8	Bak Khaeng / Kean Svay/Koh Dach	15.2	10.5	2.1
9	Hut/Guest house/hotel	2.6	2.3	0.7
10	Other (Kirirom, Sihanoukville)	11.2	1.2	7.1
Total number		428	684	1144

Table 16 indicates that young couples who plan dates to have lunch or dinner with their sweetheart on the upcoming Valentine's Day have declined by almost 20 percent (2009: 64.1% vs 2019: 46.4%). But those who intended to hang out at a Karaoke Club or Club or entertainment center with their

sweetheart has also steadily decreased over the years (2009: 32.2%; 2014: 22.6% & 2019:9.1). (Table 17)

Table 16: Special dating for young people in a couple (lunch or dinner)

No.	Dating with lunch or dinner	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Yes	132	64.1	188	61.0	225	46.4
2	No	74	35.9	120	39.0	260	53.6
Total		206	100	308	100	485	100

Table 17: Special Dating for Young people in a couple (Karaoke club or club/entertainment)

No.	Dating with club	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Yes	66	32.2	70	22.6	44	9.1
2	No	140	67.8	240	77.4	441	90.9
Total		206	100	310	100	485	100

When young people were asked if they think they will be able to have sex on the upcoming Valentine's Day, positive responses decreased by more than half in 2019 compared to 2009 (2009: 12.4% vs 2019: 5.4%) (Table 18). Young people in a couple who stated they would be able to have sex on that day decreased by more than half as well (2009: 14.3% vs 2019: 6.6%); especially over the last five years. (Table 19 and Figure 3)

Table 18: Wealthier young **people** who think they will be able to have sex on the upcoming Valentine's Day

No.	Able to have sex	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Yes	57	12.4	79	11.3	64	5.4
2	No	401	87.6	618	88.7	1112	94.6
Total		458	100	697	100	1176	100

Table 19: Wealthier young **couples** who think they will be able to have sex with their sweethearts on the upcoming Valentine's Day

No.	Able to have sex with sweetheart	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Yes	31	14.3	53	15.8	32	6.6
2	No	186	85.7	282	84.2	453	93.4
Total		217	100	335	100	485	100

Figure 3: Comparison of wealthier young people and young couples regarding whether they think they will be able to have sex on the upcoming Valentine's Day (2009, 2014 & 2019)

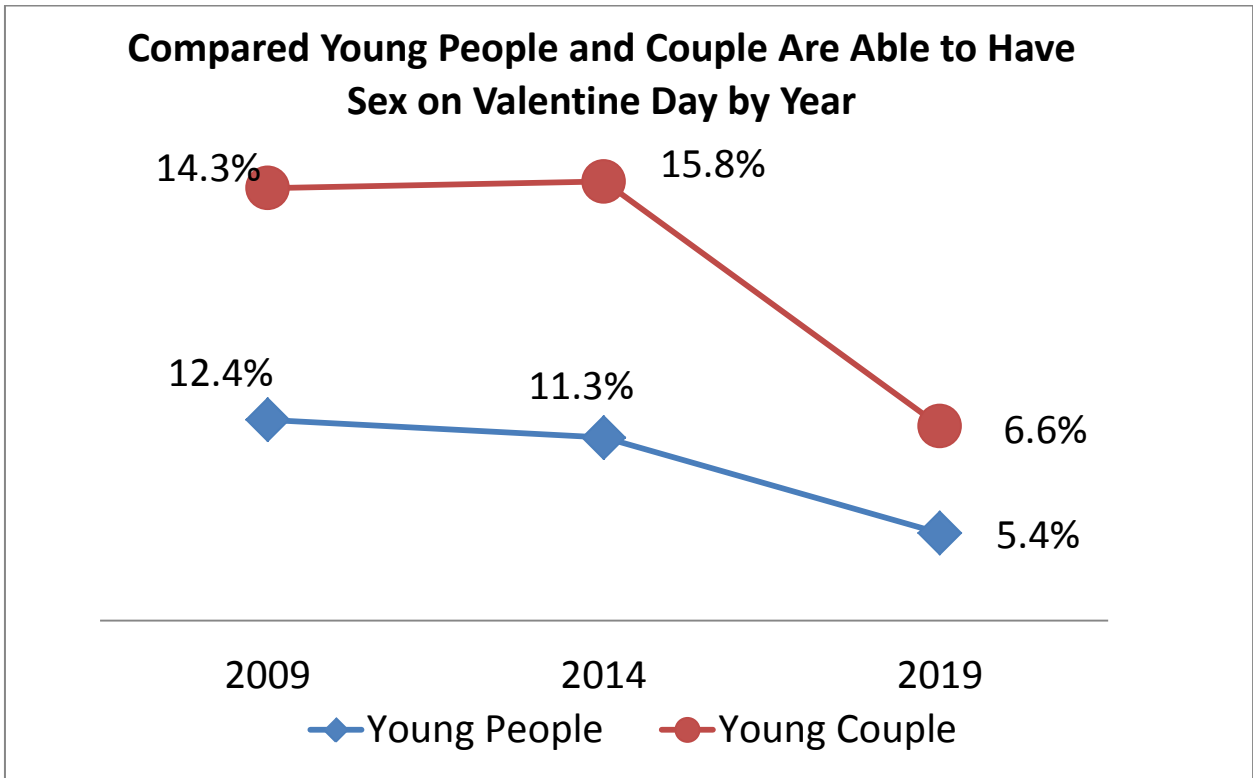
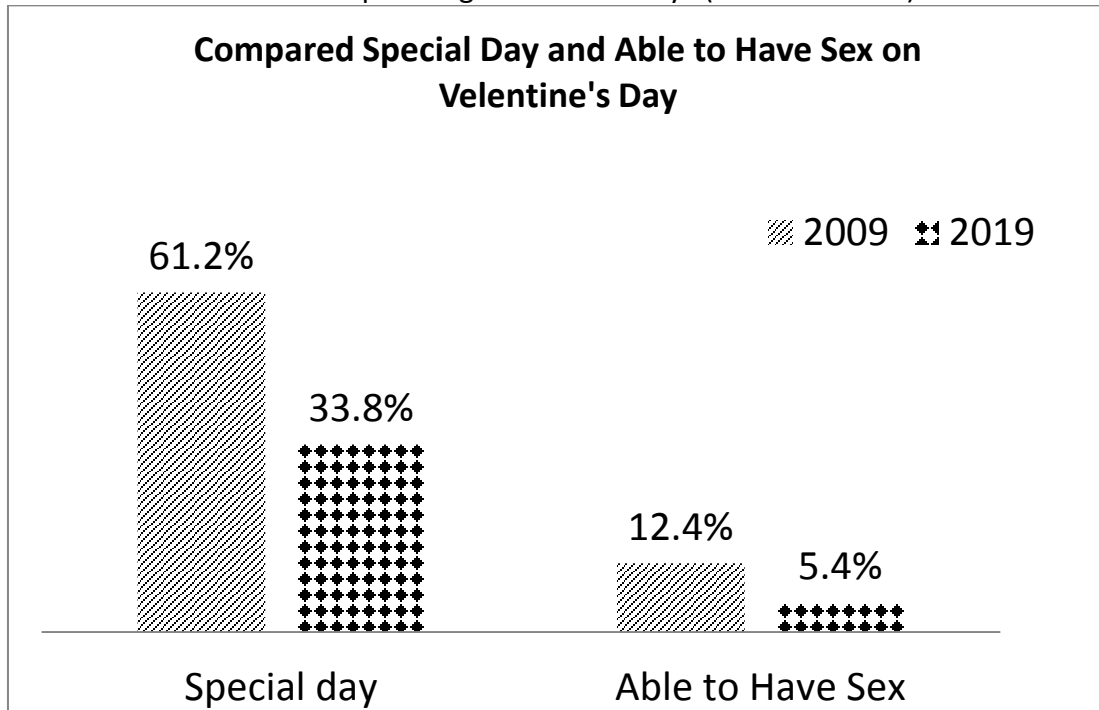


Figure 4 shows the correlation between the belief that Valentine's Day is a special day (2009: 61.2% vs 2019: 33.8%) and on be able to have sex on the upcoming Valentine's Day (2009: 12.4% vs 2019: 5.4%) which has roughly halved in each category over the last 10 years.

Figure 4: Comparison: Young People think that “Valentine’s Day is a special day” and “Be able to have sex on the upcoming Valentine’s Day” (2009 and 2019)



When this question is broken down by gender, young males in a couple who plan to have sex on that day decreased from five to ten years ago (2009: 50.9% & 2014: 48.1% vs 2019: 17.2%). However, within the category of males not in a relationship, the percentage of respondents expecting to have sex on Valentine’s Day has increased by a third (2009: 33.3% vs 2019: 45.3%) (Table 20).

Table 20: Wealthier young people (by sex category) who think they will able to have sex with their sweethearts/someone on the upcoming Valentine's Day

No.	Able to have sex by sex category	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Male in a couple	29	50.9	38	48.1	11	17.2
2	Male not in a couple	19	33.3	23	29.1	29	45.3
3	Female in a couple	7	12.3	15	19.0	21	32.8
4	Female not in a couple	2	3.5	3	3.8	3	4.7
Total		57	100	79	100	64	100

People who answered that they thought they would have sex on Valentine’s Day were asked if it would be their first time to have sex. Around 40 percent of respondents said it would be their first time, in 2009, 2014 and 2019 (Table 21). Similarly around 40 percent of young couples reported it being their first time in every five years of the study. (Table 22)

When these respondents were asked if they would use a condom, those in couples who were not planning to use a condom has increased by two times (2009:15.6% vs 2014: 30.2% & 2019:37.5%) (Table 23).

Table 21: If Yes for young people (Will be able to have sex), will it be your first time for you and your sweetheart/others (sweethearts or sex workers) on the upcoming Valentine’s Day?

No.	First sex	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Yes	25	49.0	33	43.4	32	50.0
2	No	26	51.0	43	56.6	32	50.0
Total		51	100	76	100	64	100

Table 22: If Yes for young couple (Will be able to have sex), will it be your first time for you and your sweetheart/others (sweethearts or sex workers) on the upcoming Valentine’s Day?

No.	First sex with sweetheart	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Yes	15	39.5	23	44.2	13	40.6
2	No	23	60.5	29	55.8	19	59.4
Total		38	100	52	100	32	100

Table 23: If Yes for young couple (Will be able to have sex), will you use a condom with your sweetheart on the upcoming Valentine’s Day?

No.	Condom use with sweetheart	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Yes	27	84.4	30	69.8	20	62.5
2	No	4	15.6	13	30.2	12	37.5
Total		31	100	43	100	32	100

Table 24 shows that the number of young men stating they would find a new girlfriend/someone to have sex with on Valentine’s Day if their girlfriend denied them decreased slightly (2009: 55% vs 2019: 40.0%); plans for sex with sex workers by these young males increased to 42 percent compared to 2009 and 2014. Almost half of them will not use a condom with their alternate sexual partner (46.9%, n=40). 2014 statistics on *bauk* is not reported as there was no quantifiable data from the surveys on it (Table 25).

Table 24: If Yes for young males (Will be able to have sex): If your new/girlfriend will not have sex with you, with whom will you be able to have sex on this upcoming Valentine’s Day?

No.	Other girlfriend	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Other / New girlfriend who might be found the upcoming Valentine’s Day	11	55	28	65.1	16	40.0
2	Sex worker	5	25	4	9.3	17	42.5
3	<i>Bauk</i>	4	20			2	5.0
4	Others	0	0	11	25.6	5	12.5
Total		20	100	47	100	40	100

Table 25: If Yes for young males (Will be able to have sex): If your new / girlfriend does not want to have sex with you, with whom will you use a condom with other sexual partners on the upcoming Valentine’s Day?

No.	Condom use with other girlfriend	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Yes	10	91	19	86.4	17	53.1
2	No	1	10	3	13.6	15	46.9
Total		11	11	22	100	32	100

4.3. Young Males and Non-consensual Sex

Table 26 indicated that the young men’s plans for non-consensual sex on Valentine’s Day has fallen by 5 (2009: 17 vs 2019: 12) as some men who were against non-consensual sex said *“No, I will ignore sex, and just hang around for fun”*. The data for 2009 and 2019 are difficult to compare on this question, as the answer options for 2019 have been adapted. However the distribution of reasons attempted for sex narrowed markedly: *“I will say to her if we don’t have sex we don’t really love each other, to try to get her to agree”*, *“I will pressure her by taking her far from town to try to have sex with her”*.

The 2019 survey found that a new answer was alarming; 50 percent of young males said: *“I will give her more expensive gifts with the aim of having sex with her”*. (Table 27)

Table 26: If yes (young male in couple will able to have sex), but if your girlfriend does not agree, what will you do on the upcoming Valentine’s Day 2019

No.	Non consensual sex	2009	2014	2019
		Number	Number	Number
1	Yes	17	29	12
2	No	8	32	28
Total Number		25	61	40

Table 27: Comparison: If yes (young male and young male in couple will able to have sex), but if your girlfriend/other/new girlfriend does not agree, what will you do on the upcoming Valentine’s Day 2019

No.	I will	2009	2014	2019
		Young Males	Young Males	Young Males
		Percent	Percent	Percent
1	I will ignore sex, and just hang around for fun	32	52.6	20.0
2	I will give her more expensive gift with the aim of having sex with her	0	29.7	50.0
3	I will say to her if we don’t have sex we don’t really love each other, to try to get her to agree	32	21.1	2.5
4	I will pressure her by taking her far from town to try to have sex with her	0	13.5	2.5
5	I will trick her by staying out till very late, and use a story like I have no key to get into my house, or no one can open the door for me, to try to have sex with her	16	13.2	2.5
6	I will take her to a Karaoke club and do what I want to try to have sex with her	16	10.8	10.0
7	I will pressure her to watch pornography to try to have sex with her	0	5.4	0.0
8	I will force her to have sex	0	5.4	2.5
9	Stay at home	4	5.4	10.0
Total number		25	61	40

4.4. Recent Sexual Experiences among Wealthier Young People

The number of young couples who had sex with their sweetheart before, and plan to have sex on the upcoming Valentine’s Day remained around 40 percent of n=32 in 2019. One third of couples were still not planning to use a condom with their sweetheart.

Table 28: If not to plan to have sex on the upcoming Valentine's Day, have you (young couple) had sex with your sweetheart before with condom use

No.	Condom use with sweetheart	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Yes	27	84.4	30	69.8	20	62.5
2	No	4	15.6	13	30.2	12	37.5
Total		31	100	43	100	32	100

Turning to sex with sex workers, approximately 4.6 percent of young males had sex with sex workers in the last three months prior to the study. This has fallen by 5 percent compared to the previous studies in 2009 and 2019 (Table 29). Condom use among these young males also remained at similar levels (close to 90 percent). (Table 30)

Table 29: Have you (young male) had sex with a sex worker in the last 3 months?

No.	Sex worker in the past 3 months	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Yes	25	10.4	26	8.8	23	4.6
2	No	215	89.6	268	91.2	479	95.4
Total		240	100.0	294	100	502	100

Table 30: If yes (sex with sex worker), did you (young male) use a condom?

No.	Condom use with sex worker	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Yes	21	84.0	22	88.0	20	87.0
2	No	4	16.0	3	12.0	3	13.0
Total		26	100.0	25	100	23	100

Approximately 4 percent of young males (n=502) had participated in "bauk" in the last three months. This has fallen by 6 percent compared to the the 2009 and 2014 study findings (Table 31). Condom use among these young males was also the same as the previous study (around 90 percent). (Table 32)

Table 31: Have you (young male) had bauk with a sex worker in the last 3 months?

No.	"Bauk" in the past 3 months	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Yes	26	10.8	30	10.6	18	3.6
2	No	214	89.2	227	79.9	425	84.6
3	Don't Know	0	.0	27	9.5	59	11.8
Total		240	100.0	284	100	502	100

Table 32: If yes to *bauk*, did you (young male) use a condom?

No.	"Bauk" with condom use	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Yes	23	88.5	23	88.5	15	83.3
2	No	3	11.5	3	11.5	3	16.7
Total		26	100	26	100	18	100

Among young females, 4 percent of them (n=674) said they had sex at some point in the last 3 months. At least one third of them (n=27) did not use a condom. (Table 33 and Table 34)

Table 33: Have you (young female) had sex with anyone before in the last 3 months?

No.	Female sex in the last 3 months	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Yes	0	.0	9	3.4	27	4.0
2	No	0	.0	254	96.6	647	96.0
Total		218	100	263	100	674	100

Table 34: If yes (sex with anyone before in the past 3 months), did you (young female) use a condom?

No.	Female sex with partner's condom use	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Yes	0	.0	4	57.1	19	70.4
2	No	0	.0	3	42.9	8	29.6
Total		218	100.0	7	100	27	100

4.5. Awareness and Perspectives on *bauk*

Young people were asked their perspectives on *Bauk*. The proportion of respondents who recognized that *bauk* is gang rape increased (2009: 22.7% vs 2019: 28.1%). However, it decreased significantly for the statement "*Bauk* is not rape if it is with a sex worker, because we already paid for and she agreed with us to have sex" (2009: 30.8% vs 2019: 4.1%). The comparison of knowledge about *bauk* is broken down by gender (Table 35). The following Table 36 indicates knowledge of *bauk* for young males and young females. Young males reported knowledge of *bauk* has hovered around 30 percent since the 2009 study, but knowledge of *bauk* increased among young females (2009: 15.5% vs 2019: 26.6%). However, young males' (45.8 percent) perception of *bauk* as "not rape if it is with a sex worker, because we already paid for it, and she agreed with us to have sex" has drastically reduced over the last 10 years

(2009: 45.8% vs 2019: 6.4%). However, these results are not directly comparable because another 'Don't Know' option was added to the answer list in 2014.

Table 35: Statements about "bauk" which respondents agreed with

No.	"Bauk" awareness	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	<i>Bauk</i> is gang rape	104	22.7	157	28.1	331	28.1
2	<i>Bauk</i> is not rape if it is with a sex worker, because we already paid for and she agreed with us to have sex	141	30.8	77	13.8	48	4.1
3	Don't know	213	46.5	309	55.3	783	66.6
4	Other (Specify.....)	0	.0	16	2.9	14	1.2
Total		458	100	559	100	1176	100

Table 36: Male and female statements about "bauk" which respondents agreed with

No.	"Bauk" awareness between male and female	2009		2014		2019	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1	<i>Bauk</i> is gang rape	29.2	15.6	30.7	25.0	30.3	26.6
2	<i>Bauk</i> is not rape if it is with a sex worker, because we already paid for and she agreed with us to have sex	45.8	14.2	14.9	12.5	6.4	2.4
3	Don't know	25.0	70.2	51.8	59.4	62.4	69.7
4	Other (Specify.....)	0.0	0.0	2.6	3.1	1.0	1.3
Total Number		458		559		1176	

4.6. Wealthier Young People Perspective on Sexual Relationships and Personal Rights

Table 37 shows whether or not young people feel it is normal and their personal right for them to engage in sexual relationships. More than half (51.4%) of them agreed that it is normal and their personal right to have sex as young people, dropping slightly from 2009 (2009: 59.8% vs 2019: 51.4%).

Table 37: Do you think sex is your personal right?'

No.	Sex as a personal right	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Agree	241	59.8	344	53.8	539	51.4
2	Disagree	162	40.2	295	46.2	510	48.6
Total		403	100	639	100	1049	100

4.7. Parents' Perspectives on their Children regarding the upcoming Valentine's Day

Table 38 shows that all wealthier young people were interviewed about whether their parents or anyone in their family talked with them about sexual issues in the past 3 months. Almost three quarters (73.9%) answered that their parents or someone in their family had not done so. This has increased since the first study in 2009 (63.8%). Table 39 reveals that all the interviewees were asked if their parents or anyone in their family think they know what young people will be doing on the upcoming Valentine's Day. Approximately half of them thought that their parents or anyone in their family do not know what young people will be doing on the upcoming Valentine's Day (2009: 53.7% vs 2019: 59.4%).

Table 38: Have your parents or anyone in your family talked with you about sexual issues in the past 3 months?

No.	Talked about sexual issues	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Yes	147	36.2	222	34.2	275	26.1
2	No	259	63.8	427	65.8	780	73.9
Total		406	100	649	100	1055	100

Table 39: Do you think your parents or family know what young people will be doing on the upcoming Valentine's Day?

No.	Parents know about V-Day activity	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Yes	189	46.3	347	54.8	429	40.6
2	No	219	53.7	286	45.2	628	59.4
Total		408	100	633	100	1057	100

4.8. Wealthier Young People Don't Know the History of Valentine's Day

All wealthier young people were asked where Valentine's Day comes from. Approximately two thirds (53.1%, 2019) of them stated that they knew Valentine's Day comes from the West or Europe, compared to the 2009 study (61.6%), however the percentage of respondents who said they "Don't

know” (2009: 15.1% vs 2019: 32.2%) (Table 40) doubled. Table 41 reveals where all the respondents had heard about Valentine's Day – from the calendar (33.6%), through friends (25.9%) and business advertising (26.7%). Knowing about Valentine’s Day from the calendar is the most popular source of awareness of the day in every five-year study; except for the 2009 study which did not know through calendar.

Table 40: Where does Valentine's Day come from?

No.	Where V-Day comes from	2009		2014		2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Western/Europe	262	61.6	437	66.4	624	53.1
2	Hong Kong / South Korea	37	8.6	15	2.3	25	2.1
	Thailand	0	0.0	0	0.0	27	2.3
3	Don't know	64	15.1	202	30.7	379	32.2
4	Other	62	14.6	4	0.6	121	10.3
Total		425	100	658	100	1176	100

Table 41: How did you hear about Valentine's Day?

No.	Heard about Valentine's Day	2009	2014	2019
		Percent	Percent	Percent
1	Calendar	0.0	50.3	33.6
2	Through my friends	37.1	37.0	25.9
3	Magazine	15.8	26.8	11.4
4	Business advertising	18.0	21.5	26.7
5	From the title of the movie:.....	0.0	13.0	7.0
6	Don't know	10.6	6.5	8.9
7	Other (movie, TV, Study English, Calendar...)	9.7	6.9	4.2
Total number		423	665	1176

V. Discussion

This study provides insight into the intentions of wealthier young people regarding love and sexual relationships on Valentine's Day, extending findings from a 2008 qualitative study and 2009 quantitative study. Between this period, a 2014 study surveyed the intentions of 715 wealthier young people related to sexual activity on Valentine's Day.

The results show many changes from the 2009 quantitative study. Young people are less interested in the upcoming Valentine's Day as a 'special day'; especially, among young people in a couple. Some of them still plan to hang out on the upcoming Valentine's Day, but at least one third of young people indicated a preference for staying at home, an increase from 2009.

Many of them still plan to hang out on the upcoming Valentine's Day, but have switched venues from karaoke lounges / Bak Khaeng / Kean Svay/ Koh Dach / Guest houses/hotel to malls and cinemas (44.0%). The new venues are more positive ways as love and romantic expressions and less chance for sexual relationships.

Gift giving is also decreasing; especially of flowers. The trend of young couples is to buy increasingly expensive gifts for their sweethearts such as clothes and toys. There have been some changes in young couples' planned dating behaviors on the upcoming Valentine's Day from the 2009 study.

With respect to sexual behavior, the percentage of young people who said they intended to have sex on Valentine's Day has decreased by more than half compared to a decade ago (2009: 12.4%, N= 458 vs 2019: 5.4%, N=1176). The increasing widely sample size is also a little affect the data. The intention to have sex on Valentine's Day correlated to sense that it was a "special day"; both have declined significantly since 2009. However, the declining of the intended to have sex on that day may be a consequence of the number of the female non-couple respondents who constituted the highest proportion of all four gender and relationship status (single or in a couple) category combinations, as only three of them (female, not in a couple) reported that they expect to have sex on that date. On the other hand, more than half of young people in a couple who plan to have sex on the Valentine's Day have experience in having sex with their sweethearts or sex workers (2009: 60.5%, n= 38 vs 2019: 59.4%, n=32).

In the group of young people in a couple, the percentage of people who do not plan to use a condom with their sweetheart or sexual partner has increased by two times.

This study shows that the potential for non-consensual sex persists. The proportion of young men who plan for sex even if their girlfriend on Valentine's date does not agree to it remains higher approximately 40 percent among young males in relationships with new girlfriend or sex worker.

The ways in which young men intended to pressure their girlfriends for sex was is more varied than in the 2009 study. For example, *"I will say to her if we don't have sex we don't really love each other, to try to get her to agree"*, and *"I will pressure her by taking her far from town to try to have sex with her"*, only appeared this upcoming Valentine's Day 2019. Among young males and young males in a couple, many respondents affirmed that *"I will give her a more expensive gift with the aim of having sex with her"*.

Condom use remains a challenge among young people who do not plan to, or have no experience of using them.

Parents do not talk to their children about sex, or Valentine's Day - there is still an intergenerational culture of silence about sexual matters within families. At least a third of young people still do not know where Valentine's Day comes from.

VI. Conclusion and Recommendations

This pre-Valentine's Day quantitative study gives more concrete data for comparison with the 2009 findings. The new data suggest that wealthier young people still do not understand the background of Valentine's Day. Some "visible" activities surrounding consumption and leisure on Valentine's Day, including the proportion of young people who consider it a 'special day', the intention to exchange gifts, and people's intentions to hang out has decreased.

However, at least half (50 %) of young males from both couple and non-couple (n=40) who expected to have sex on Valentine's Day stated an intention to buy expensive gifts in order to pressure their girlfriends or partners to sleep with them. Low levels of parental awareness as to their children's intentions have changed little over the past ten years. The findings also reveal an alarmingly low proportion of young people who plan to use condoms with their partners, and a vague knowledge of

sexual rights. This suggests that interventions should focus on sexual rights and condom use education in general, and specifically before Valentine's Day:

- Increase awareness-raising on the gendered issues surrounding Valentine's Day, and SRH in general, including sexual consent and safer sex.
- Sexual Reproductive Health and HIV programs among young people should target interventions before and on Valentine's Day in accordance with this study's findings, at popular urban locations, as well as schools and universities in Cambodia.

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Telling Story 1: Remorse on Valentine's Day

WEDNESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2012

MELISSA COCKROFT AND SIV SVAYPICH

THE PHNOM PENH POST'S KHMER EDITION

Phnom Penh: Nowadays, Valentine's Day is celebrated by a lot of Cambodian youth as a day for fun, hanging out with your friends and love. But what does love mean? Some Cambodian youth confuse love as meaning having sex with their boyfriend or girlfriend for the first time on Valentine's Day to prove they really love each other. But is this real love?

Srey Leak (not her real name) is a young woman who called Marie Stopes International Cambodia hotline, and she wants to share her Valentine's Day story with you, to avoid you having the same fate as her.

"My name is Srey Leak. I want to tell you my past experience of Valentine's Day. I moved to Phnom Penh in 2009 from Kampong Speu province. My parents had worked hard to save money for me to come to Phnom Penh to study finance at university. I was considered a beautiful girl with big brown eyes, and shiny long hair. Everyone said I looked like Sokun Nisa. I was popular among the students and I had a lot of friends. I also had a boyfriend who was a student at my university. Sometimes he asked me to have sex with him, but he was a gentle and when I always refused he never forced me.

On Valentine's Day in 2010, my friends and my boyfriend and I arranged to meet at Soriya Mall and then drive our moto bikes around and stop in the park to sit and chat. Then we all went together to have suki soup for dinner, my boyfriend stopped to buy me a rose on the way. It was a lot of fun, laughing and joking with my friends and my boyfriend. At the end of the dinner after my friends had gone home and it was just my boyfriend and I left, my boyfriend told me he loved me and gave me a present. It was a small diamond necklace. It was the most beautiful thing I had ever received. No one had ever given me such a beautiful gift. I thanked him very much for the gift. It was then that he told me that he wanted for us to express our love for each other by spending the night at the guesthouse. I felt afraid and didn't want to go. I told him I wanted it to be special to wait until I was married but he said that we loved each other and it was Valentine's Day. I tried to refuse but then he became angry and sad and threatened to break up with me. I didn't want to break up. I loved him. So I agreed to go to the guest house with him and spend the night together.

I didn't like that he had forced me to spend the night at the guesthouse but this was love, right? And he never forced me to do it again so I didn't think about it anymore. Things carried on as normal after that night. I continued with my studies and we would occasionally meet for dinner or sometimes even a movie at Lux Cinema.

One or two months after Valentine's Day I began to miss my period. Sometimes I would also feel tired and sick. I began to worry. My friends suggested I should go to the pharmacy and buy the pregnancy test kit. It was then that I found out that I was pregnant.

I didn't know anything about pregnancy or contraception. I had heard about Number 1 condom but when I asked my boyfriend at the guest house on Valentine's Day he said if we really loved each other, we didn't need to use condom and I should stop worrying and I should trust him. I felt so ashamed that now I was unmarried and pregnant. When I told my boyfriend that I was pregnant he became angry. He told me that he didn't love me anymore, he didn't want a baby and that he couldn't support me. I felt very alone. I didn't know what to do. I went to the pharmacy and bought some unregistered pills to make me have abortion. The pharmacist did not tell me how I should take the medicine. After I took the medicine it made me very sick and I had heavy bleeding for many days and I got a fever and infection. I learnt about the Marie Stopes hotline from a friend and called the hotline to see what I should do. The friendly operator on the phone told me where to go to get a health service. When I got to the hospital the infection was so bad that I had to stay for 1 week in the hospital. Afterwards I felt very weak and found it difficult to concentrate. Because I had to spend a lot of money on health care I could no longer afford my school fees so I had to stop my studies. Now I cannot fulfil my dream to work as a finance officer in a bank. Now I have to work hard selling groceries at the small stand in front of my parents house to support my parents who are getting old," said Srey Leak.

Mrs La Somaly, midwife and hotline counsellor at Marie Stopes International Cambodia, says that Srey Leak's story is common among Cambodian youth today. "I feel great pity for Srey Leak and other young Cambodian women because if they had learned that they had choices, they could have protected themselves against unwanted pregnancy and unsafe abortion on Valentine's Day if they had known. Marie Stopes International Cambodia has a Pregnancy Options and Advice Hotline that women can call to get information and advice if they become pregnant. Wherever you are located in Cambodia, you can call to the confidential Marie Stopes International Pregnancy Advice and Options hotline and our friendly hotline counsellors can help you and answer your questions about how to prevent unwanted pregnancy and find safe health service.

Srey Leak has a final bit of advice for all readers: “I want to share my story with other Cambodian women to provide you with advice so that your life will not be difficult like mine and so that you can follow your dreams. I want to advise young Cambodian women that not everything in life always goes to plan and that you should be prepared if things don’t go to plan. Cambodian women should be strong and not allow their partners to force them to have sex. If your partner really loves you he will wait because true love can wait. But if you and your partner both think it is really the right time to have sex, make sure you are prepared to protect yourself from unplanned pregnancies and sexually diseases. To be a smart Cambodian woman you should empower yourself by informing yourself about your sexual and reproductive health options. That way you can protect yourself and plan for a bright and happy future.”

For further information of Pregnancy Advice and Options or to locate one of Marie Stopes centre please contact Marie Stopes hotline on: 012 999 002 (Monday - Friday 8am – 8pm, Saturday-Sunday 8am-5pm).

Fleeting Valentine’s Day trysts in the confines of cheap guesthouses are not the Cambodian way, and young couples should love every day – provided they make a life-long commitment to their partners, Prime Minister Hun Sen said yesterday. “It is not our culture,” he said. “In Cambodia, we don’t have only February 14 as a day for loving, we have 365 days, not just boyfriend and girlfriend, but also their parents” he said.⁵⁷

Additional reporting by May Thara.

⁵⁷ Retrieved February 7, 2014. <http://www.postkhmer.com/component/content/article/73233?lang=en>

Telling Story 2: Nightmare on Valentine's Day

WEDNESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2013

SET KIMSOEUN

THE PHNOM PENH POST'S KHMER EDITION

Phnom Penh: "Being too happy and obsessed for only a moment destroyed what I had kept since I was a baby, and left an unforgettable remorse I will feel my whole life". These are the words of a young girl who fell into a pitfall of love with a boyfriend this past Valentine's Day. Vatey (not her real name) said she was a stupid girl for what happened, and that she hated herself for losing her virginity due to only a few sweet words from her boyfriend.

Vatey, who is preparing to take the grade 12 high school-leaving examination this year, said she had exchanging love notes with the boy, a similar age youth who studies at a different high school, since mid-November 2012. They were introduced by friends who asked them to have a meal together at a restaurant. She recounts her story below:

After we met each other, we began communicating closely in only a few months. He showed feelings that he loved me so much. He always tried to do everything to make me happy and I started to be interested in him more and more.

We went out together often and about two weeks before Valentine's Day, he spoke frankly to me, saying that he loved me as much as his life, and he wanted me to live with him for his whole life. When I heard that, I was so excited and my feelings were flying in the sky because I had never heard such a word or love confession before. Suddenly my mind become completely soft and showed my feelings of love toward him too. We became closer and closer, unable to be separated for even a minute. We spent all our time chatting together and went out to have meals together almost non-stop. Even at night, we phoned and chatted until midnight.

Not so long after this, Valentine's Day came. I was nervous because I didn't know what to do on that day. Every day, he and I became sweeter and sweeter, and on the last few days before Valentine's Day, my boyfriend looked very strange. He said he wanted to stay with me without anyone else. I didn't know what he was imagining. He asked me to go to the provinces with only him. He told me that he wanted to build our love stronger and stronger, and that he would come to propose to me to be his wife in accordance with the tradition and law.

I kept refusing, and this made him angry. In fact, I wanted to spend time with him, but I thought it would not be appropriate. I told him that I would spend the whole day on Valentine's Day with him. When Valentine's Day arrived, he reminded me of my promise, which made it too difficult for me to refuse.

On Valentine's Day he told me that he loved me so much and asked me whether I loved him back. And if I loved him, to what extent? He said he wanted to see the extent of my love to him. At first I didn't understand his words, but then he said honestly that he wanted to sleep with me. He wanted me to make love to him. When hearing this word, I was so surprised and didn't dare to reply to his request at all, although he asked me several times.

On February 14, he brought me to a party to drink with his friends. He asked me to keep drinking, until I was so drunk. He asked again for me to make love to him. He asked me to sleep with him at a guesthouse but I refused. He seemed to be so unhappy with me. He wouldn't talk to me. Then, seeing that I was so drunk, he carried me to sleep in his friend's room and he seized that opportunity to hug and kiss me forcefully, even with my refusal. That day was the day I lost my virginity, which I had maintained for almost 20 years.

Now, even though he still loves me, I have so much remorse. At the moment, my feelings are very complicated. I don't know what to do. I am afraid that when my parents know about this, they will be angry. What would they think about me? I am afraid he will leave me because he has already got my body. Most serious, I am afraid of being pregnant. What is the best way should I deal with this?⁵⁸

⁵⁸ Retrieved February 7, 2014. <http://www.postkhmer.com/index.php/lifestyle/culture/94256-2013-02-27-02-47-54>

Appendix 2: Timeframe and Activity Plan

Activities	Jan. 2019			Feb. 2019								
	25-26	31 Jan. - 2 Feb.		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Literature review and protocol was continue from quantitative research on Valentine's Day 2019												
Design questionnaires (draft in Khmer for training)												
Training research volunteers and pre-test												
Design questionnaires (final both English and Khmer)												
Data collection												
Design variable in SPSS and Data entry												
Data cleaning and recode new variable relations												
Data Analysis, Report writing, Translation												
Presentation at The Western University												
Final Report and Publish in English versions	February 11, 2019											

Appendix 3: INFORM CONSENT AND QUESTIONNAIRES
Follow up: Activity, Love and Sexual Relationships and Experiences
of Young People Regarding Valentine’s Day in Phnom Penh,
Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 31 January- 02 February, 2019
Independent Research Study

Code Number of Respondent:

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(Office use only)

CONFIDENTIAL

Park / Place name:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table>		

	1 st attempt	RESULT				
Date	/ / 19					
Finished up to question number(s) in case termination	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table>					
Interviewer ID Code	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table>					

Result Code	
- Completed.....	1
- Incomplete-respondent termination.....	2
- Incomplete-third party (third-person) interruption.....	3
- Respondent refusal.....	4

Introduction:
Hello, I am (use your name)..... working as a research volunteer for an independent research study about the upcoming Valentine’s Day, February 14, 2019.

We are here to interview young people who are aged 15-24 in Phnom Penh. We want you to answer some questions about your love and sexual relationships and the experience of your life. Please do not be scared or worried because this is only about youth behavior. Everything you say will be confidential. We will not let anybody know your personal information.

You can refuse to give answers to any questions you don’t want to answer, or you can ask me to clarify anything I would like to say thank you for your cooperation. The questionnaire should only take 5 minutes.

I want to remind you that all your answers are very important. So, I would like to ask you to answer truthfully. This will allow me and my team to get good information for our independent research study. Do you have any questions for me?

If you agree to proceed, please sign here:

Your signature is very important to confirm your agreement.

Thanks very much again. You can start completing the questionnaire now.

Questionnaire: Self-administered for young couple male
(One of four questionnaires – young couple male, young non-couple male, young couple female & non-couple female as a sample)

1. How old are you?
2. Do you always come here with your girlfriend to relax?
 Yes (*Please skip to No. 4*) No
3. If no, where else do you and your girlfriend go for relaxation?
 - Did you join the Valentine's Day last year? Yes No
 - How much you spend for the Valentine's Day last year in Riel or Dollar
4. Do you think the upcoming Valentine's Day February 14 will be a really special day for you and your girlfriend? Yes No
5. Will you give any gift to your girlfriend on the upcoming Valentine's Day?
 Yes No (*If no, skip to No. 7*)
6. If yes, (*Please tick answers which can be more than one*)
 Flowers Clothes Jewelry Toys
 Others (Specify.....)
7. Where you want to go with your girlfriend on the upcoming Valentine's Day?
(*Please tick answers which can be more than one*)
 Modern market cinema Bak Khaeng Kean Svay
 Bubble tea Karaoke Club/entertainment Parks
 Hut/Guest house/hotel Stay at home Other (Specify.....)
8. Will you have lunch or dinner with your girlfriend on the upcoming Valentine's Day?
 Yes No
9. Will you go to any Karaoke club or club/entertainment with your girlfriend on the upcoming Valentine's Day? Yes No
10. Will you be able to have sex with your girlfriend on the upcoming Valentine's Day?
 Yes No (*If no, skip to No. 18*)
11. **Continuing question No. 10.** If yes, will it be your first time for you and your girlfriend on the upcoming Valentine's Day?
 Yes No
12. **Continuing question No. 10.** If yes, but if your girlfriend does not agree, what will you do?
(*Please tick answers which can be more than one*)
 I will give her more expensive gift with the aim of having sex with her

- I will pressure her by taking her far from town to try to have sex with her
- I will trick her by staying out til very late, and use a story like I have no key to get into my house, or no one can open the door for me, to try to have sex with her
- I will say to her if we don't have sex we don't really love each other, to try to get her to agree
- I will take her to a Karaoke club and do what I want to try to have sex with her
- I will pressure her to watch pornography to try to have sex with her
- I will force her to have sex
- No, I will ignore sex, and just hang around for fun
- Other (Specify.....)

13. **Continuing question No. 10.** If yes, will you use a condom with your girlfriend on the upcoming Valentine's Day?

- Yes No

14. **Continuing question No. 10.** If yes, but your girlfriend denies not having sex with, with whom will you be able to have sex on this upcoming Valentine's Day? *(Please tick only one)*

- Other girlfriend who might be found the upcoming Valentine's Day
- Sex worker *(Skip to No. 16)*
- Bauk* *(bauk Srey or York Srey Teuv, Take to a female sex worker to, bauk with your friends)* *(Skip to No. 17)*
- Other (Specify.....)

15. **Continuing question No. 14.** If you are able to have sex with your other girlfriend that day, will you use condom? Yes No

16. **Continuing question No. 14.** If you are able to have sex with sex worker that day, will you use condom? Yes No

17. **Continuing question No. 14.** If you are able to "Bauk Srey" that day, will you use condom?

- Yes No

18. **Continuing question No. 10.** If yes, have you had sex with your girlfriend before?

- Yes No *(If no, skip to No.20)*

19. If yes, did you use a condom the last time you had sex with your girlfriend?

- Yes No

20. Have you had sex with a sex worker in the last 3 months?

- Yes No *(If don't know, skip to No. 22)*

21. If yes, did you use a condom with sex worker? Yes No

22. Have you had *Bauk* with a sex worker in the last 3 months?

- Yes No (*If don't know, skip to No. 24*) Don't know (*If Don't no, skip to No. 24*)

23. If yes, did you use a condom? Yes No

24. Please tick which statement you agree with: (*Please tick only one*)

- Bauk* is gang rape.
- Bauk* is not rape if it is with a sex worker, because we already paid for and she agreed with us to have sex.
- Don't know
- Other (Specify.....)

25. Please tick which statement you agree with: (*Please tick only one*)

- Sexual relationships between young people is normal and their personal right

- Agree Disagree

26. Have your parents or anyone in you family talked you about sexual issues in the past 3 months?

- Yes No

27. Do you think your parents or family know what young people will be doing on the upcoming Valentine's Day?

- Yes No

28. Where does Valentine's Day come from? (*Please tick only one*)

- Western/Europe Hong Kong South Korea Thailand
- Other (Specify.....) Don't know

29. How did you hear about Valentine's Day? (*Answers can be more then one*)

- Magazine/news
- Calendar
- Business advertising
- Movie (tell the title of the movie:.....)
- Through my friends
- Don't know
- Other (Specify.....)

30. Telling your story or your friend story which involved in Valentine's Day in the past 5 years, please write down or (*If you want to tell, please give us your phone number or call this number for young males.....*)

THANK YOU FOR GIVING YOUR TIME TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS SURVEY