

Model of Safe Sexual Behavior in Adolescents From an Indigenous Community in Mexico

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OBJECTIVE

To evaluate a model based on Social Cognitive Theory that includes relationships between biological, affective, and cognitive personal factors; interpersonal environmental factors; and the safe sexual behavior of Nahua's adolescents in Mexico.

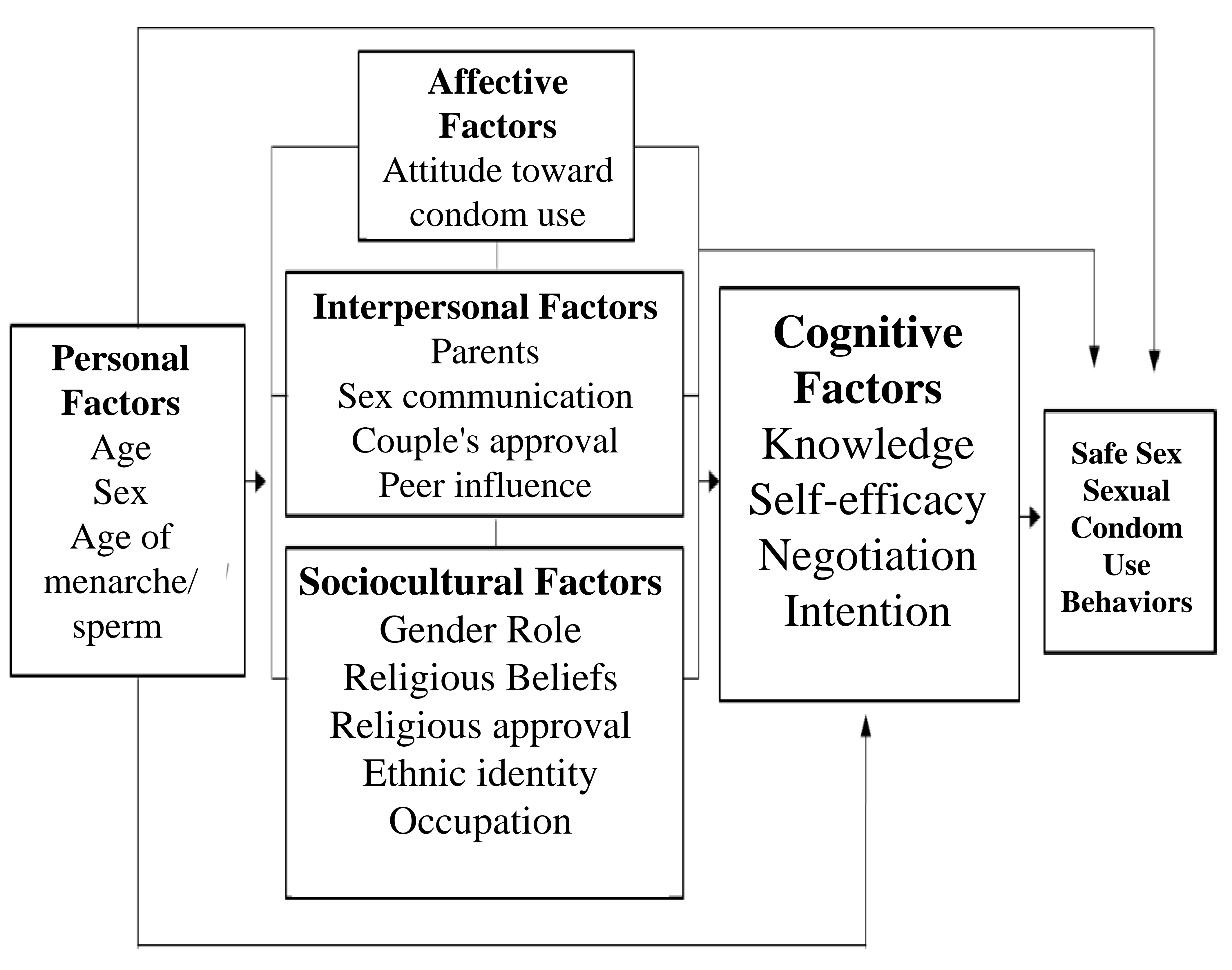
METHODS

Cross-sectional and correlational model-testing study design. The sample was 419 randomly selected adolescents of both sex aged 15 to 19 from Las Lomas, Puebla. The instruments presented acceptable reliability and validity

RESULTS

- 56.8% were female with an average age of 17.50+.97.
- In the analysis of biological personal factors, male sex was found to have an effect on safe sexual behavior ($\beta=-7.45$, $t=-4.38$, $p<.001$), and condom use ($\beta=-7.21$, $t=-3.32$, $p<.001$).
- Attitude toward condom use was predictive of safe sexual behavior ($\beta=.20$, $t=5.50$, $p<.001$) and condom use ($\beta=.25$, $t=5.29$, $p<.001$).
- The personal cognitive factors model showed that knowledge about STIs, condom use and pregnancy ($\beta=.15$, $t=3.70$, $p<.001$), self-efficacy for condom use ($\beta=-.14$, $t=-3.86$, $p<.001$), ability to negotiate condom use ($\beta=.21$, $t=5.40$, $p<.001$), and intention to use condom ($\beta=.06$, $t=2.25$, $p=.025$) were predictors of safe sexual behavior.
- Knowledge about STIs, condom use and pregnancy ($\beta=.14$, $t=2.71$, $p=.007$), self-efficacy in condom use ($\beta=-.15$, $t=-3.21$, $p<.001$), ability to negotiate condom use ($\beta=.28$, $t=5.50$, $p<.001$) and intention to use condom ($\beta=.07$, $t=2.09$, $p=.037$) showed effect on condom use.
- Sexual communication with parents had an effect on safe sexual behavior ($\beta=.06$, $t=2.54$, $p=.011$) as well as condom use ($\beta=.08$, $t=2.44$, $p=.015$).
- The couple's approval to use a condom had an effect on safe sexual behavior ($\beta=-.07$, $t=-2.32$, $p=.021$).
- Ethnic identity ($\beta=.22$, $t=6.70$, $p<.001$) and disagreed opinion of religious approval of condom use ($\beta=-6.00$, $t=-2.78$, $p=.006$) were predictors of safe sexual behavior.
- Ethnic identity ($\beta=.23$, $t=5.39$, $p<.001$) and disagreed opinion on the approval of religion on condom use ($\beta=-3.88$, $t=-2.33$, $p=.020$) were predictors for condom use.
- Therefore, being male, positive attitude toward condom use, ethnic identity, and the ability to negotiate condom use had a predictive effect on safe sexual behavior ($R^2=29.8$).
- For condom use, age of menarche/sperm, attitude toward condom use, ethnic identity, and ability to negotiate condom use were predictive variables ($R^2=22.3$).

SOCIAL COGNITIVE THEORY (BANDURA, 1986) AND CULTURAL VALUES CONCEPT (LEININGER, 1970)



CONCLUSION

Social Cognitive Theory was useful to guide the present study where it was proven that biological, affective and cognitive personal factors; interpersonal environmental and sociocultural influence the safe sexual behavior of Nahua's adolescents. It is important to highlight that the ethnic identity variable predominated in the final models, which was a protective factor in this population.