The study was undertaken with an aim to investigate the ecological correlates of sexual behavior in adolescence. In order to accomplish this aim, the specific objectives framed were: To identify the nature of sexual behavior in adolescents, to find out the relationship between the urban and rural life setting in the sexual behavior of adolescents, to find out the relationship between the male and female adolescents in their sexual behaviour, to find out the relationship between occupation of parents and sexual behaviour of adolescents, to find out the relationship between education of father and sexual behaviour of adolescents, to find out the relationship between education of mother and sexual behaviour of adolescents, to find out the Correlation of sexual abuse in childhood with sexual behavior in adolescence, to find out the Correlation of religious adherence with sexual behavior in adolescence, to find out the Correlation of parenting style with sexual behavior in adolescence, to find out the Correlation of exposure to media with sexual behavior in adolescence, to find out the correlation of academic interest with sexual behavior in adolescence, and to find out the Correlation of peer influence with sexual behavior in adolescence.

In view of accomplishing the objectives of the study, the investigator selected the descriptive method. The target population of the study consisted of adolescents from three districts of Kerala namely Kottayam, Pathanamthitta and Alappuzha. The study focussed on boys and girls of high schools and higher secondary classes in the government and private institutions of urban and rural areas in Kottayam, Pathanamthitta and Alappuzha districts of Kerala. Stratified sampling technique was utilised to draw sample units for the study. The sample for the survey consisted of 1500 children of age group ranging from 13-19. The non-availability of adequate and valid tools to measure the variables included in the study prompted the investigator to go in for the construction of tools. After the consolidation, coding, and scoring of the data collected from the sample of children, they were subjected to various statistical techniques to enable testing of the various hypotheses formulated. These statistical procedures included: (1) Reliability test (Cronbach’s Alpha) (2) t-test (3) Pearson’s correlation test, and (4) Chi-square test.

It is found from the study that the male adolescents have higher frequency of engaging in sexual behaviour while they are compared to the female adolescents. The study proved that the adolescents living in urban life setting have higher frequency in engaging in sexual behaviour than the adolescents living in rural life setting. The adolescent children of fathers who are more educated involve more frequently in the sexual behaviours than the adolescents whose fathers are less educated. It is found in the study that there is no significant relation between the education level of the mother and the sexual behaviour of adolescents. The occupation of parents is not significantly related to the sexual behaviour of adolescents. It is found that the academic interest is negatively correlated to the sexual behaviour and there is a positive correlation between the peer influence and the sexual behaviour of adolescents. The findings prove that there is a significant negative correlation between the religious adherence and the sexual behaviour and there is a significant positive correlation between the media exposure and the sexual behaviour. There is a significant positive correlation between the sexual abuse and sexual behaviour in adolescence. The study reveals that the frequency of involving in sexual behaviour is significantly varied in relation to the styles of parenting.

The ecological approach considers factors from both biological and environmental realms to form a more complete picture of adolescent behaviour. Studies on the sexual behaviour and the ecological correlates of sexual behaviour in adolescents will definitely enlighten the professionals and parents in helping the adolescent in developing a healthy sexuality.