

OVERVIEW OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT FREE SEX AND EARLY MARRIAGE OF TEENS

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Abstract

Data from BKKBN for 2023 shows worrying adolescent sexual behavior in Indonesia. 60% of Indonesian teenagers are involved in sexual relations at the age of 16-17 years. In addition, 20% of teenagers have sex at the age of 19-20 years and 20% even have sex at the age of 14-15 years. This free sexual behavior will trigger an increase in the occurrence of early marriages caused by marriage by accident. Early marriage at the age of less than 19 years will cause various reproductive and psychological health problems in teenagers. This study aims to determine the description of knowledge related to free sex and early marriage in adolescents using a cross-sectional method. As a result, the majority (49.7%) of respondents had poor knowledge about free sex, a small portion (9.2%) had poor knowledge about free sex. Regarding early marriage, the majority (41.6%) of respondents had poor knowledge regarding the concept of early marriage and a small portion (4.3%) had poor knowledge.

Keywords: Early Marriag, Free Sex, Knowledge

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1. Introduction

The emergence of increased interest and desire for sexuality is one of the most prominent phenomena in adolescent life. Referring to data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in 2023, it reveals worrying facts about adolescent sexual behavior in Indonesia. According to the data, the majority of Indonesian adolescents, as many as 60%, have been involved in sexual relations at the age of 16-17 years. In addition, the BPS data also highlights that 20% of adolescents have sex at the age of 19-20 years and 20% even engage in sexual activity at a younger age, namely 14-15 years [1]. The causes of increased sexual desire in adolescents are due to hormonal changes, physical and psychological development, socio-cultural influences, peer influences and self-exploration and identity. This

can happen because adolescents experience problems and try to express their sexual urges in various forms of sexual behavior, such as dating, making out, dating, and having sexual contact^[1]. Any behavior driven by sexual desire, whether for the opposite sex or the same sex, is called sexual behavior. There are many forms of sexual behavior, ranging from attraction to dating, making out, and intercourse. The sexual object can be another person, a person in a dream, or oneself. Many teenagers cannot control their sexual urges which then triggers them to have premarital sex [2].

As the behavior of sexual freedom increases every year, sexual relations carried out by teenagers today are increasingly concerning. According to the 2017 Indonesian Demographic and Health Survey (SDKI), around 2% of

female teenagers aged 15-24 years and 8% of male teenagers of the same age admitted to having had sexual relations before marriage, and 11% of them experienced unwanted pregnancies. Among women (59%) and men (74%) who had had sexual relations before marriage, and reported starting sexual relations for the first time at the age of 15-19 years [3].

Teenagers who engage in premarital sex, whether oral or penetrative, may result in "married by accident". An accidental marriage is a marriage between a man and a woman that occurs due to an illicit relationship, where the woman becomes pregnant before they are officially a couple [4]. Married by accident is also one of the causes of the increasing number of early marriages. Early marriage will increase the risk of reproductive problems in women due to unpreparedness of reproductive organs, stunting, domestic violence, financial unpreparedness and high divorce rates. According to Law Number 16 of 2019, the minimum age for women to marry is the same as the age of men, which is 19 (nineteen) years [5]. Data from the Central Statistics Agency in 2023 showed that 18.87% of teenagers had their first marriage at the age of 16-18 years. In fact, there are still around 2.32% whose first marriage was at the age of less than 16 years [6].

This early sexual behavior of teenagers can be caused by many things. First, the rapid increase in the speed of technology affects the way teenagers interact with each other. Second, the impact of globalization through social media and online content, which does not always provide accurate information about sexuality [7][8]. Sexuality and gender relations education still need guidance and monitoring. Ignorance about healthy and responsible sexuality can trigger risky behavior at a young age. This is the basis of this study with the aim of finding out the level of knowledge of adolescents about free sex and early marriage.

2. Methods

This research is a descriptive study, namely research related to existing variables without making comparisons or relationships and only explaining research problems. The problem to be described is the level of knowledge of adolescents regarding free sex and early marriage. This study uses a cross-sectional method that observes several populations at the same time. The study was conducted on grade X students of SMKN 2 Malang in May 2024. The students will be given a questionnaire containing 20 questions about free sex and early marriage. The results of filling out the questionnaire are then divided into 4 categories, namely:

- a. Good if the value is 76 to 100%
- b. Sufficient if the value is 56 to 75%
- c. Not good if the value is 40 to 55%
- d. Not good if the value is less than 40%

3. Results and Discussion

General Data

Gender and age are the characteristics of respondents studied in this study.

Respondent Characteristics Based on Gender

Table 1. Frequency Distribution of Adolescents by Gender

Gender	Amount	
	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Man	112	60,5
Woman	73	39,5
Total	185	100

Table 1 presents data from 185 respondents, 60.5% of whom were male and 39.5% were female. So the respondents with the largest number were male, namely 60.5% or 112 people.

Respondent Characteristics Based on Adolescent Age Classification

Table 2. Frequency Distribution of Adolescents Based on Adolescent Age Classification

Age Classification	Amount	
	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
15 years	73	39,5
16 years	67	36,2
17 years	45	24,3
Total	185	100

Table 2 presents data from 185 respondents, 39.5% of whom were teenagers aged 15 years, 36.2% of whom were teenagers aged 16 years and 24.3% of whom were 17 years old.

Specific Data

1. Teenagers' Knowledge about Free Sex

Table 3. Frequency Distribution of Respondents Based on Teenagers' Knowledge About Free Sex

Knowledge Category	Amount	
	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Good	32	17,3
Enough	44	23,8
Not Good	92	49,7
Not Good	17	9,2
Total	185	100

Table 3 presents data from 185 respondents, 49.7% of respondents with poor knowledge, 23.8% of respondents with fairly good knowledge, 17.3% with good knowledge and 9.2% with poor knowledge. So most (49.7%) of respondents have poor knowledge about free sex, a small portion (9.2%) have poor knowledge about free sex.

2. Teenagers' Knowledge of the Concept of Early Marriage

Table 4. Frequency Distribution Table of Respondents Based on Teenagers' Knowledge of the Concept of Early Marriage at SMKN 2 Malang

Knowledge Category	Amount	
	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Good	33	17,8

Enough	67	36,2
Not Good	77	41,6
Not Good	8	4,3
Total	185	100

Table 4 presents data from 185 respondents, 41.6% of respondents have poor knowledge, 36.2% have fairly good knowledge, 17.8% have good knowledge and 4.3% have poor knowledge. So most (41.6%) of respondents have poor knowledge about the concept of early marriage and a small portion (4.3%) have poor knowledge about the concept of early marriage.

The results of the study related to knowledge of free sex and after tabulating the data, it can be seen that from 185 respondents, the majority (49.7%) of respondents have poor knowledge about free sex, a small portion (9.2%) with poor knowledge about free sex. The level of knowledge possessed by each person is different. All levels of knowledge consist of knowing, understanding, application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation. A person's ability to assess an object or material is positively correlated with their level of knowledge. Factors such as education, age, environment, and socio-culture are the basis for action that can affect a person's level of knowledge. The higher the level of education and social status of a person, the higher their level of knowledge. With age, a person's knowledge also increases. The level of knowledge and behavior are correlated. Children with good knowledge tend to behave well too [9][10].

Factors that influence knowledge about free sex and early marriage

Based on the information obtained, the most influential factor in the level of respondent knowledge is the media. Media is a factor that influences a person's level of knowledge. Both social media, electronic media, print media and other educational media. The initial stage of the urge to have free sex is usually due to high curiosity [7]. Teenage age is an age where curiosity about something is increasing. Based on what teenagers see from the media, especially social media that shows

affection between the opposite sex openly which triggers curiosity to do such intimacy to themselves and their partners. Teenagers usually have free sex because of emotional ties. Many teenagers consider that sex is proof of love and affection for their partners [11]. In addition, the unstable age condition makes it easier to engage in actions that are contrary to religious norms, customs, and community beliefs. Even if sex is first done at a young age, around high school age or at the beginning of college, at the age range of 16 to 18 years, premarital sex behavior is now considered normative and is no longer taboo [12][13].

Forms and impacts of free sex behavior

Forms of free sex include kissing, necking (behavior of making out but not until the genitals touch), petting (behavior until the genitals touch but not until intercourse) and sexual intercourse. The impact of free sex on adolescent health is Unwanted pregnancy, abortion, STIs, HIV AIDS to psychological problems. [14][15]. There is a relevance relationship between the level of knowledge and free sex behavior. Teenagers with high knowledge can understand sexual behavior well, while students with low knowledge can also understand sexual behavior badly [9].

Risks of Early Marriage

Early marriage occurs because teenagers have less knowledge about the right age to marry and the impact of early marriage itself on their reproductive health [12]. Based on the research results, it can be seen from 185 respondents, the majority (41.6%) of respondents have a poor level of knowledge about the concept of early marriage and a small portion (4.3%) have poor knowledge about the concept of early marriage. According to information obtained from students who are respondents with good knowledge about the concept of early marriage because these respondents get knowledge through parents, teachers and existing information media such as social media, news on television and the internet. This

proves that in this study, the media is a factor that influences a person's level of knowledge [8].

Other factors that influence the decision to marry early include village classification, employment status, type of employment of women, education of women and parents, age of first marriage of parents, employment of parents, and poverty status [6][16]. Early marriage at a young age causes many problems, such as the desire of teenagers to try new things, lack of education, lack of knowledge, and difficulty in getting a job, which has an impact on family income. In addition, if they marry too early because they have had sex which results in pregnancy. Stress can arise from family rejection because of shame. The risk of suicide increases in young pregnant women [17][10].

High rates of child marriage cause various health problems. Mothers under 18 years old have a 35% to 55% higher risk of giving birth to babies with low birth weight (LBW) compared to mothers over 19 years old and infant mortality rates are 60% higher in mothers under 18 years old [18]. The results of the study showed that children under five years old have a 28 percent risk of death after children from young mothers survive to the first year. Poor maternal health, underdeveloped physical and mental conditions of mothers, lack of access to community and reproductive health services, and high risk of infectious diseases are the causes of this morbidity and mortality [15]. Babies born to mothers under 20 years of age are also at risk of giving birth prematurely, having low birth weight (LBW), and having congenital abnormalities or defects that have been present since the beginning of pregnancy [19].

In addition to socio-economic factors, education, and community habits or beliefs, there are internal factors that cause teenagers to marry at an early age. One of these internal factors is their own will. This is caused by free association, which allows them to marry at a young age and not have sufficient supervision over the role of parents for their children.

Therefore, teenagers who have free association will act as they please and can even do negative things such as free sex, which can lead to pregnancy at an early age. Teenagers are forced to marry at a young age to cover up the shame of their families and efforts to free themselves from the ridicule of their surroundings [11][12].

4. Conclusion

The results of the study showed that the majority of adolescents' knowledge levels regarding free sex and early marriage were in the poor category. There were no supporting factors and clear sources of information about the availability of services for adolescents which were the causes of problems experienced by adolescents. Early marriage behavior among adolescents can be caused by many factors, including lack of knowledge about sex and reproductive health, environmental conditions, lack of supervision, mass media and social media. The role of parents and the community in providing reproductive health education to their children is considered lacking, and facilities and equipment for adolescent reproductive health counseling are still limited. Adolescent reproductive health will experience problems due to this condition, so it requires special attention and handling from health facilities to work together with the education office to improve adolescent knowledge related to free sex and early marriage.

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6. References

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