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The Role of Social Media and Parental Interpersonal Communication with Premarital Sexual Behavior in Adolescents

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ABSTRACT

The phenomenon of premarital sexual behavior in Indonesia is increasingly prevalent among adolescents, including in the city of Baubau. One of the reasons is the easy access to pornography on social media. Therefore, the role of parents is needed in supervising and guiding adolescents. This study aimed to determine the role of social media and parents' interpersonal communication with premarital sexual behavior in adolescents in Baubau city. This study used a qualitative research method with a case study approach. Informants were selected by purposive sampling and snowball sampling, totaling 8 teenagers (5 male teenagers and 3 female teenagers) as a key informants. The results of this study show that both male and female adolescents admit that their sexual behavior is inspired or learned through the pornography they watch. However, exposure to pornography through social media is more dominant in contributing to the sexual behavior of female adolescents than male adolescents, because male adolescents prefer to watch pornography through online websites. Interpersonal communication generally went well, where there was empathy, support, and equality. However, the aspect of openness between adolescents and parents regarding sexuality issues does not seem to be fully explored. On the other hand, the positive attitude of parents who give too much freedom to children actually makes adolescents fall into bad sexual behavior. Other factors that influence premarital sexual behavior in adolescents are knowledge, attitudes, peers and level of religiosity. The conclusion in this study is that social media and parental interpersonal communication have a role in premarital sexual behavior in adolescents.

Keywords : Adolescents; Premarital Sexual Behavior; Social Media; Interpersonal Communication

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INTRODUCTION

Teenagers are expected to be a generation that is able to prepare themselves for their lives, but the facts and figures of problems in adolescents are still not encouraging. The phenomenon of premarital sexual behavior among adolescents is still a crucial topic to discuss. Globally, premarital sexual activity among adolescents continues to increase, especially in the Western world, where it is increasingly considered common in adolescents, with an average percentage reaching 29% in the male adolescent group and 23% in the female adolescent group.¹ Several countries in Southeast Asia have also reported on the proportion of adolescents who are sexually active, including Brunei Darussalam, 11.3% Malaysia 37.9%, Thailand, 24.1%.²

In Indonesia, the widespread phenomenon of premarital sexual behavior among adolescents is increasingly worrying. Based on the Indonesian Demographic and Health Survey (SDKI) conducted in 2017, reported that around 2% of adolescent girls and 8% of unmarried adolescent boys admitted to having had sexual intercourse at the age of 15-24 years.³ In Southeast Sulawesi, based on data by the National Population and Family Planning Board (BKKBN) in 2017, it shows that Southeast Sulawesi province is one of the regions with the highest percentage of adolescents who have fallen into premarital sexual behavior, with a percentage of free sexual behavior as much as 2% in adolescent girls and 5% in adolescent boys.⁴

In Baubau City, there is no official data on adolescent sexual behavior. This is because the National Population and Family Planning Board (BKKBN) and the Health Office in Baubau City do not collect data related to adolescent sexual behavior. Based on information from officers from both institutions, they only focus on activities in the form of youth development. This is certainly unfortunate considering that data is very important, especially for stakeholders to be the basis for policy making.

Premarital sexual behavior of adolescents in Indonesia can also be seen from marriage dispensation cases. Until 2022, various media have highlighted the number of cases of teenage marriage dispensation applications, which are dominated by pregnancy outside of marriage, which is increasing in several regions in Indonesia. Data from the Indonesian Religious Courts Body (Badilag) shows that there were 50,727 marriage dispensation cases in 2022. Of the total number of cases, Baubau city contributed 41 cases out of a total of 269 marriage dispensation cases in Southeast Sulawesi.⁵

Premarital sexual behavior of adolescents will make it easier for adolescents to be affected by the transmission of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS. In 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) stated that as many as 39.0 million people from all over the world were infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and 37.5 million of these were groups aged ≥ 15 years.⁶ In Indonesia, HIV cases based on data from Ministry of Health Republic Indonesia in 2021 reported that adolescents aged 15-24 years suffering from HIV were 7,350 people out of a total of 36,902 people with HIV throughout Indonesia. Southeast Sulawesi contributed 193 HIV cases with 63 patients aged 15-25 years.⁷ While HIV/AIDS cases in 2021 in Baubau City were 74 cases, 20 of which were adolescents. This

condition is certainly dangerous because according to the theory of several epidemiologists, the discovery of 1 case is equal to 100 cases in the field that have not been found.⁸

There are many factors that can cause adolescents to engage in sexual behavior, one of which is the dissemination of information through mass media. Because social media often shows a lot of negative content such as presenting sexual scenes. This can be proven the blocking of 312,639 negative contents on social media by Kominfo RI.⁹ Judging from the large influx of social media users among adolescents and their influence on increasing sexual behavior, parents are obliged to instill sexual education in children from an early age.

In actual fact, the majority of parents are not motivated and feel stoic in providing information about sexual education to adolescents. Besides, some adolescents also have a tendency to close themselves with their parents regarding the life they are living. This can actually be overcome by building good interpersonal communication between parents and adolescents. Because the better the interpersonal communication that exists between parents and children, it will be able to influence the decrease in free sexual behavior.¹⁰ The purpose of this study was to determine the role of social media and interpersonal communication with premarital sexual behavior in adolescents in Baubau city.

METHOD

This type of research is qualitative research with a case study approach. This research was located in Baubau City during one month. The informants were selected by purposive sampling and snowball sampling with the criteria: (a) Main informants are adolescents aged 10-24 years and unmarried, (b) The informant is a teenager who has already practiced premarital sexual behavior or first practiced premarital sexual behavior as a teenager, (c) The informant has social media, (d) The informant has parents (mother/father), (e) The informant lives in Baubau City. The total number of main informants is 8 adolescents consisting of 5 male adolescents and 3 female adolescents. In the process of collecting data, researchers conducted in-depth and semi-structured interviews and conducted non-participant observations to collect data. Then, to analyze the research data, the researcher used the Miles and Huberman model data analysis method. In developing the truth of the data that has been obtained, researchers use triangulation techniques. Testing the validity of the data was carried out by cross-checking the parents and peers of each research subject. Ethical feasibility approval letter No.015/KEPK-FKM/VI/2023.

RESULTS

In this study, the researcher presents a summary of the informant's answers related to the topic under study. Furthermore, the results of the interviews were analyzed and presented in narrative form.

Adolescents' Knowledge of Premarital Sexual Behavior

The interview results show that both male and female teenagers define premarital sexual behavior as limited to having sexual intercourse. While adolescents' knowledge about the impact of

premarital sexual behavior is that they will lose their virginity/virginity, experience pregnancy and get sexual diseases. The following is a representative statement from the informant:

“...Kalau untuk perempuan yang masih utuh da hilang mi itunya, untuk laki-laki juga kan begitu anunya. Dampak negatifnya ya menghasilkan anak (females and males will lose their virginity. The negative impact will be having children before marriage)...” (Informan L)

“...Hilang keperawanan, kena penyakit HIV sama hamil di luar nikah (Hilang keperawanan, terkena penyakit HIV dan hamil di luar nikah)...” (Informan P)

Adolescents' Attitudes toward Premarital Sexual Behavior

In regards to sexual behavior, Reiss in theory divides adolescents' attitudes regarding premarital sexual behavior into two groups, namely Permissive with affection, which means that the perpetrator justifies premarital sexual behavior on the basis of mutual love and Permissive without affection, which means that the perpetrator justifies sexual intercourse on the basis of having physical attraction even though they are not in love.¹¹

Based on the results of the study, it shows that there are differences in attitudes between male and female adolescents in justifying premarital sexual behavior. Male adolescents tend to justify their premarital sexual behavior not only on the basis of love, they can also do it only based on physical attraction even without love. While female teenagers tend to justify their premarital sexual behavior on the basis of loving their partner.

Meanwhile, in relation to informants' regret over their premarital sexual behavior, male teenage informants said that they did not regret their actions because they both wanted to do so. However, in contrast to the female informants, they admitted that they had some regrets but not big ones because they liked their boyfriend. The following is a representative statement from the informant:

“...masa ta menyesal begitu, sama-sama mau (I have no regrets, I did it because we both wanted it)...” (Informan 1L)

“...tidak tau juga iya atau tidak dih, karna itu tadi kita saling suka, sedikit itu pasti pernah, mungkin klo sa hamil pasti ada lah rasa menyesal, jadi kayaknya sa belum rasakan menyesal itu maksudnya yang penyesalan besar begitu (I don't know if I regret it or not, because my boyfriend and I love each other, maybe if I get pregnant I will definitely feel a little regret, at the moment I am not pregnant so I don't think I have a big regret for what I did.)...” (Informan 6P)

Premarital Sexual Behavior in Adolescents

Based on the information from the eight informants above, if referring to the category of forms of premarital sexual behavior according to Wahyudi in 2010 by Nurafriani et al., in 2022¹² it seems that male adolescents are more inclined to engage in all forms of premarital sexual behavior, such as fantasizing, masturbation, holding hands, dry kissing, wet kissing, cuddling, oral sex, petting, intercourse. While in adolescent girls there is only one significant difference in their sexual behavior which is that they do not masturbate.

In the practice of sexual behavior, there are variations in the sexual behavior of adolescents based on gender. Male adolescents tend to have a more open possibility to engage in sexual behavior

even with people who are not their lovers. While female adolescents tend to limit their sexual behavior to their partners.

The results of this study also revealed that all informants had their first sexual intercourse while in education with different educational backgrounds, namely junior high school, high school, and college. The reasons why informants engage in premarital sexual behavior also vary, including the biological urge to release desire (lust), curiosity (trial and error), juvenile delinquency, misuse of technology, and the influence of friends. However, there are similarities between male and female teenage informants in engaging in premarital sexual behavior, that is because of the urge of lust. The following is a representative statement from the informants:

"...Tidak tau atau mungkin karena kenakalan remaja atau bemana dih, kan masih SMP. Cuma gara-gara pengaruh nonton jadi penasaran mi, bagaimana rasanya ini barang (I don't know, maybe because of juvenile delinquency because at that time I was in junior high school, the influence of watching pornography so I wanted to feel what it felt like for people to have sex)..." (Informant L)

"...Intinya karna sering baku bawa sama pacarku jadi begitu mi ta ko nafsu akhirnya terjadi mi, habis itu gagara kita coba begitu to kita kesenangan karna kita sudah pernah rasa, ya kita terjerumus terus ke situ (The point is that because my boyfriend and I were often together, lust finally arose, after that we tried to have sex, finally I got addicted, so I fell into it)..." (Informant P)

The results showed that informants had sexual intercourse more than once and in having sexual intercourse, both male and female teenage informants never used safety (condoms). Alternatively, informants use the external spilling technique (ejaculation outside the vagina) as an alternative to having sex without using a safety device. Based on the results of the study, the impact on male teenage informant due to premarital sexual behavior is exposed to sexually transmitted diseases, namely syphilis. Other male teenage informants did not have any impact. While the impact experienced by female informants is only losing virginity and one of them besides losing virginity she also dropped out of school.

The Role of Peers with Premarital Sexual Behavior in Adolescents

Based on the results of the study, it shows that there are differences between male and female adolescents in sharing their sexual behavior. Male adolescents tend to prefer to share their sexual behavior with their friends because they believe that the information they get will be more than they share privately. Meanwhile, female adolescents tend to prefer to tell their friends privately because they are embarrassed if their behavior is known to many people. Therefore, it can be concluded that male adolescents tend to be more open with their peers than female adolescents.

Peer relationships can influence behavior, this behavior can be good or bad. Based on information from all informants, his friend never directly told them to engage in premarital sexual behavior. However, according to the informants, their friends normalized the act. The following is a representative statement from the informant:

"...Kalau suruh itu tidak sih, kalau masalah wajar itu pasti mi lah mereka juga mengerti itu (my friends never told me to have sex, but they think it's normal for me to have sex)..." (Informant L)

"...tidak, iya wajar(no, yes it's normal)..." (Informant P)

Based on the information from the eight secondary informants (informant's friends), it can be concluded that there are differences in views between male and female teenage friends regarding sexual

behavior. Friends of male adolescents tend to consider sexual behavior as something natural or acceptable, while friends of female adolescents tend to consider it as something that is not natural or should not be done. However, they showed reluctance to intervene in personal decisions related to their sexual behavior. Here is the statement:

"...Iya wajar, tidak pernah (Yes naturally, never)..." (male informant's friends)

"...Tidak wajar, tidak pernah (Not naturally, never)..." (female informant's friends)

The Role of Religiosity with Premarital Sexual Behavior in Adolescents

In general, religion requires a person to carry out his duties as a creature of God and unite himself with his God.¹³ This can be contained in the dimensions of religiosity. According to Glock & Stark, there are 5 dimensions of religiosity, which are belief, knowledge, religious practice, experience and consequences.¹⁴

Since all informants in this study have Islamic religious beliefs, the researchers used Islamic teachings, namely the pillars of faith in questioning the informants' belief in their religion. Based on information from male and female teenage informants, it seems that they cannot mention what is included in the pillars of Islam. However, when researchers mentioned what is included in the pillars of faith (faith in Allah SWT, angels, books of Allah, messengers of Allah, the Day of Judgment, Qada and Qadar) they believed it.

In performing their obligations in Islam, both male and female teenage informants said that they rarely pray, read the Qur'an and do not fast. Even male teenage informants considered smoking and drinking alcohol as their primary needs. However, all informants said that they are very respectful of their parents and friends. Perasaan seseorang terhadap nilai atau perintah agamanya akan mempengaruhi ketakutan seseorang untuk berperilaku di luar ajaran agama. A person's feelings towards their religious values or commandments will affect a person's fear of behaving outside of religious teachings. Based on information from all informants, they admitted that they felt sinful after committing this act. Even so, informants said they still did it because they could not restrain their sexual desires. Here is the statement:

"...Klo merasa berdosa merasa, tapi Tidak pernah takut, karna Itu mi tadi kita belum merubah diri kita menjadi lebih baik, percuma juga klo kita menyesal tapi klo kita ulang-ulang lagi, Yang namanya laki-laki sapa mo tolak barang enak begitu e (I feel sinful but not afraid of God, because I feel that I have not been able to change for the better, it is useless if I feel sorry but still repeat it. men may refuse to have sex)..." (Informant L)

"...Iya merasa, iya karna nafsu (Yes, I feel, yes because of lust)..." (Informant P)

Informants actually know what is prohibited and allowed in their religion. However, the informant's lack of strength of faith is the main factor that influences the informant to commit acts that are prohibited in religious teachings. Although religious teachings did not change his sexual behavior, the informant said that religious teachings made him behave better towards others. In this case, friends of the informant said that they never advised the informant because they felt they were not in a position to advise the informant in religious matters. Here is the statement:

“...Tidak, bagemana kita mo nasehati sedangkan kita juga ini belum benar (No, I can't give advice because I also lack religious knowledg.)...” (Informant's friends)

The Role of Social Media with Premarital Sexual Behavior in Adolescents

In this research, the researcher wants to explore the extent to which social media plays a role in adolescent premarital sexual behavior. Based on the results of the study, both male and female teenage informants admitted to having been exposed to pornographic content on social media. In addition, social media is also used by informants to communicate with the opposite sex to establish more intense closeness. The type of social media they often use in communicating with the opposite sex is *WhatsApp*.

There are interesting differences that are important to discuss, such as related to the type of media or platform used when watching pornography. The results of this study show that male teenage informants tend to prefer watching pornography through *Google links*, *the Si Montok application* and *the SNSX application* because the sexual scenes shown are more explicit than pornographic content on social media. While one of the male teenage informants admitted that social media was not used to watch pornography because he watched pornography from his friend's cellphone, he sometimes used *MieChat* to order girls to be sex partners. In this difference, female teenage informants tend to be exposed to pornographic content through sending pornographic videos from their friends on *WhatsApp*, *Messenger* and *Instagram*.

According to Del Bario from Indrawati and Nuswantoro in 2021, aspects of measuring the intensity of social media use include duration, frequency, attention and appreciation.¹⁵ In watching pornographic content, both male and female teenage informants said that the duration used to watch pornographic content was less than 30 minutes. For the frequency of watching pornography, male teenage informants have an average of watching pornography 1-2 times a week. The frequency of watching pornography in female teenage informants seems to depend on when the pornographic videos go viral or spread, but in general, they are usually watched 1-2 times a month.

When watching pornographic videos, both male teenage informants and female teenage informants said that they enjoyed or liked the pornographic content they watched. This shows that interest in such content exists among both of them. According to the confessions of informants, both male and female teenagers admit that the sexual behavior they do was inspired or learned from the pornographic content they watched.

Parental monitoring of online media use is essential to protect children from exposure to pornographic content in cyberspace. Unfortunately, the results of this study show that parents tend to give freedom to their children, both girls and boys, in using social media. This is what also makes teenagers more free in accessing pornographic content. This is as stated by one of the informant's parents:

“...Tidak, sa jarang juga den sa kepo den hp nya mereka ini, saya percaya lah den mereka (I rarely check my child's cell phone, because I trust my child.)...” (Informant's Parents)

The Role of Parental Interpersonal Communication with Premarital Sexual Behavior in Adolescents

Communication that is often carried out in families is interpersonal communication. the closeness of parents to children can be seen through the extent of interpersonal communication built by both. Based on the results of the study, it is known that female teenage informants are close to their parents, while male teenage informants say that they are closer to their mother than to their father.

Based on the results of the study, it shows that informants have minimal intensity of exchanging with their parents regarding the sexual lifestyles they live. This shows that adolescents still cannot actively open themselves to their parents. This condition is also exacerbated by the lack of sex education provided by parents to adolescents. According to adolescents' confessions, parents only give advice to stay away from premarital sexual behavior without providing intensive explanations related to these behaviors.

The results of this study also reveal that adolescents feel more comfortable exchanging ideas with their peers regarding sexuality issues. Meanwhile, adolescents only talk to their parents about economic matters such as education and pocket money. Even so, the empathetic attitude of parents in this study can also be seen from the attitude of parents who will feel sad when their children are in trouble. Likewise, according to adolescents, regardless of sexuality issues, parents always understand the problems they face. Children's empathetic attitude can also be seen from their feelings of guilt towards their parents for the sexual behavior they have done. In addition, informants said that their parents never impose their will if there are differences of opinion between themselves and their parents. On the other hand, the attitude of parents who admit that they have no problem when given criticism by the child.

Effective interpersonal communication also requires support. Based on the research, it can be seen that parents support the child's decision in terms of establishing a romantic relationship with the opposite sex. Parents give full trust to their children so that children are freed in dating, parents also never even ask about how the child lives their sexual life. This is as stated by one of the informant's parents:

"...Kalau saya terus terang sebenarnya tidak pernah sa mau larang-larang mereka klo da mo pacaran (honestly, I have never forbidden my child to date)..." (informant's parents)

DISCUSSION

Adolescents' Knowledge of Premarital Sexual Behavior

Based on the results of the study, it shows that both male and female adolescent informants still have low knowledge about premarital sexual behavior. Informants assume that premarital sexual behavior is only synonymous with having sexual intercourse. Informants assume that premarital sexual behavior is only synonymous with having sexual intercourse. As a consequence of this perception, informants tend to think that it does not matter if they engage in other sexual behaviors as long as they

do not have sexual intercourse. However, what informants do not realize is that all forms of sexual behavior will lead them to continue to try other sexual activities (until sexual satisfaction is achieved).

Knowledge can cause someone to behave in accordance with their knowledge. According to Sarwono, adolescents who lack knowledge about sexuality will have difficulty controlling stimuli that make them engage in sexual behavior. Half knowledge of adolescents will be more dangerous than not knowing at all, but ignorance is also dangerous. Half knowledge of sexuality not only encourages adolescents to try, but also causes misperceptions.¹⁶ The results of this study concluded that knowledge plays a major role in shaping premarital sexual behavior in adolescents. This is in line with the results of research Astuti in 2021, which states that there is a significant relationship between sexual knowledge and adolescents' perceptions of sexual behavior.¹⁶

Adolescents' Attitudes toward Premarital Sexual Behavior

Reiss said that adolescents who engage in premarital sex depend on their attitudes regarding how adolescents perceive premarital sexual behavior itself.¹⁷ Based on the results of the study, teenage informants who became research subjects had a positive attitude or perspective (support) towards premarital sexual behavior. This can be seen in how the attitude of adolescents justifies their behavior and does not feel sorry for their behavior. The informant's positive attitude towards premarital sexual behavior is based on the informant's assumption that they do this behavior because the informant and their partner both want it.

The growth of attitudes starts from knowledge that is perceived as positive (good) and not good (negative) which is then applied in itself. The more adolescents have a negative attitude towards sexual behavior, the smaller the intensity to engage in sexual behavior, otherwise the more positive the attitude of adolescents towards sexual behavior, the more intense the intention to engage in sexual behavior.¹⁸

This aligns with the results of research, which states that there is a relationship between attitudes and premarital sexual behavior in adolescents.³⁰ Based on Bandura's Social Learning Theory, an individual's personal factors include, in addition to cognitive factors, attitudes or self-efficacy, which is a person's belief in their ability to control their own functioning and events in their environment. Similarly, the results of this study indicate that adolescent informants have negative self-efficacy, making them unable to control their behavior with members of the opposite sex. Research found that a person's tendency to behave differently in the same situation is caused by differences in attitudes. An individual's tendency to act can be either positive or negative. If a person has a positive tendency toward an object, they will be attentive, helpful, and accepting. Conversely, if a person has a negative attitude toward an object, they will reject, criticize, and dislike that object.³¹

Premarital Sexual Behavior in Adolescents

Premarital sexual behavior is any form of sexual behavior engaged in to express sexual desires without the bonds of marriage according to law or religion, whether with someone of the same or the opposite gender. Sarwono (2011) states that the object of sexual behavior can be with another person, someone in fantasy or fantasy, or even with oneself.³²

Based on the research results, premarital sexual behaviors engaged in by male adolescent informants included fantasizing, masturbation, holding hands, dry kissing, wet kissing, hugging, oral sex, petting, and intercourse. While for female informants, the types of premarital sexual behaviors included fantasizing, holding hands, dry kissing, wet kissing, hugging, oral sex, petting, and intercourse.

The results of this study also revealed that all informants had their first sexual intercourse while attending school, with varying educational backgrounds: junior high, high school, and college. The informants' reasons for engaging in premarital sexual behavior varied, including biological urges to satisfy their desires (lust), curiosity (experimentation), juvenile delinquency, technology abuse, and peer influence. However, there was a similarity between male and female informants in engaging in premarital sexual behavior: lust.

Essentially, informants engaged in sexual behavior driven by lust, which made them forget about the potential consequences of premarital sexual behavior. Furthermore, what made them bold enough to engage in sexual intercourse repeatedly was their use of ejaculation outside the vagina as a way to avoid pregnancy. Therefore, they felt free from responsibility for the consequences of an unwanted pregnancy. Furthermore, this behavior was also triggered by the informants' feeling that they had not yet experienced the serious consequences of their behavior, which could have alerted them to their deviant behavior.

According to research results conducted at a top university in Semarang in 2019, it was found that the study subjects engaged in sexual relations during junior high, high school, and college. This behavior was influenced by promiscuity, curiosity, close friends, and partners.³³

As explained in Albert Bandura's social learning theory, a person's behavior is the result of a reciprocal interaction between three factors: the person, the environment, and behavior.³⁴ These three factors do not necessarily contribute equally. However, cognitive factors are usually the strongest contributor.³⁵

The Role of Peers with Premarital Sexual Behavior in Adolescents

Teenagers usually tend to always look for peers who have the same desires in satisfying their desires.¹⁹ This is in accordance with this study which shows that both male and female adolescents tend to prefer to hang out with people who have similar behavior, because it makes informants feel more comfortable and do not need to feel ashamed of their actions. Research conducted by Wulandari and Kusuma in 2019 found that the role of peers in adolescent boys is higher in value than women.²⁰ This is in accordance with this study that friends of female teenage informants tend to be more able to give positive advice than male teenagers. Even so, both male and female teenage friends said that they never prohibited informants from engaging in premarital sexual behavior.

Basically, although the informant was never directly invited by his peers to engage in premarital sexual behavior, the fact that his peers were indifferent by not prohibiting sexual behavior triggered the informant's confidence in his actions. This made the informant normalize the act even more, which in the end made it even more difficult for the informant to leave his sexual behavior. Therefore, the results

of this study conclude that peers play a big role in the sexual behavior of informants. This is in line with research conducted by Labego et al., in 2020 at SMA Negeri 1 Tagulandang with the results of the chi square test ($p\text{-value} = 0.017 < 0.05$) which means that there is a relationship between the role of peers and premarital sexual behavior at SMA Negeri 1 Tagulandang.²¹

The Role of Religiosity with Premarital Sexual Behavior in Adolescents

Based on the results of the study, the religiosity of the research subjects was generally in the low category. This means that in general, adolescents still do not adhere to the teachings of their religion. Therefore, the researcher concluded that the role of religiosity plays an important role in adolescent sexual behavior. That is, if the level of religiosity decreases, the sexual behavior committed by adolescents will increase. This is in line with research conducted by Firdaus and Ningsih in 2020 from Padang city with the results of the product moment test with a value of $p = 0.017$ ($p < 0.05$) which means that there is a relationship between religiosity and sexual behavior in adolescents dating in Padang city.

One of the important aspects in shaping adolescent behavior is peers. Positive support from friends is needed. However, in this case, friends of the informants said that they never advised or gave information to the informants because they felt they were not in a position to advise the informants in religious matters. In low religious observance and lack of support from the environment make informants increasingly fall into deviant behavior because they do not understand the boundaries of what is good and bad to do.

The Role of Social Media with Premarital Sexual Behavior in Adolescents

In this research, the researcher wants to explore the extent to which social media contributes to adolescents' premarital sexual behavior. Based on the results of the study, both male and female teenage informants admitted to having been exposed to pornographic content on social media. There are interesting differences that are important to discuss, which are related to the type of media or platform that is often used when watching pornography. The result shows that male teenage informants tend to prefer watching pornography through online websites because the sexual scenes displayed are more explicit than pornographic content on social media. Meanwhile, female teenage informants who tend to be exposed to pornographic content through sending pornographic videos from their friends on social media. This study is in line with the results of research conducted by Prihandini et al., in 2023 which states that men are more dominant in consuming pornography from online websites, while women are more interested in accessing pornography on social media. Pornographic content on social media is dominated by implicit content, while on the website site users are easier to access pornographic content with explicit content types.²²

Regardless of social media involvement, exposure to pornographic content that they watch through any media plays a role in forming sexual behavior. This is according to the results of this study that both male and female adolescents admit that the sexual behavior they do is inspired or learned from the pornographic content they watched. Cline in 1986 mentioned that once someone likes pornographic material, they will be addicted and will try to always get the material.²³ These results are also in

accordance with research conducted by Akhriansyah et al., in 2023 from SMA Negeri 1 Sungai Pinang with the results of the chi-square test obtained p value = 0.006 which means that there is a relationship between exposure to pornography and premarital sexual behavior at SMA Negeri 1 Sungai Pinang.²⁴

The measurement categories in this study adopted from the measurement criteria by Syahrudin et al., in 2023, that the frequency of exposure to pornography is in the often category if ≤ 1 time a week with a duration of >14 hours/week and rarely ≤ 1 time a month with a duration of ≤ 14 hours/week.²⁵ In this study, it shows that there are differences between men and women in the frequency and duration used in accessing pornography. Male adolescents tended to access pornography more frequently than female adolescents. In male adolescents, the frequency of accessing pornography is 1-2 times a week (often) with a viewing duration of <30 minutes (little), while in female adolescents the frequency of accessing pornography is 1-2 times a month (rarely) with a viewing duration of <10 minutes (little). This is in accordance with research Krejcova et al., in 2018 which shown that significantly, males consume pornography more frequently than females. This also proves that even though the level of teenagers' access to pornographic content is low, it can still affect teenagers' sexual behavior.²⁶

Regardless of the involvement of social media, the fact that exposure to pornographic content that they watch through any media plays a role in shaping sexual behavior because the messages in the pornographic content they watch will stimulate lust, this is further reinforced by adolescents' interest in the sexual activities they watch. Social media in this case also plays an important role in bridging premarital sexual behavior because social media is used as a tool to build communication with the opposite gender to form an intense closeness. The type of social media they often use in communicating with the opposite gender is WhatsApp.

The Role of Parental Interpersoal Communication with Premarital Sexual Behavior in Adolescents

Communication that is often done in families is interpersonal communication. Interpersonal communication is the connection between parents and children. According to Devito, interpersonal communication can be said to be effective if it meets five criteria, including positive attitudes, empathy, openness, support, and equality from both parties.²⁷ This can be realized if in a person there is a willingness to dare to interact with others so that it will open up opportunities for someone to get the desired feedback. From the five elements of interpersonal communication described, it is known that there are attitudes of empathy, support and equality between informants and their parents.

Mutual openness which is the most important key in fostering interpersonal communication seems difficult to practice. In relation to this problem, the researcher identified two reasons why parents have difficulty meeting the sexual education needs of adolescents, which are parents are still not ready and lack knowledge related to sexual education so that parents prefer to leave their children's sexual education to the school. Meanwhile, adolescents tend to prefer to be open about their sexual life to their peers because they feel embarrassed to tell their parents about their sexual life.

Based on the method used by the informants' parents, it can be concluded that parents tend to use the Abstinence Only Education approach in providing sexual education to adolescents. This approach adheres to the idea that sexuality should not be practiced before marriage. The prohibition is only conveyed dogmatically so that there is no explanation of why sexual behavior should not be done.²⁸

On the other side, the positive attitude of parents who give freedom to children in dating actually makes teenagers fall into bad sexual behavior. Researchers assume that as a result of the freedom given by parents in dating, children eventually have a negative attitude towards the advice given by parents about the limits of sexual behavior. Parents who give too much freedom to children in dating will lead children to risky dating behavior because adolescents will feel freer to do anything because they are not controlled in carrying out sexual behavior. This is in accordance with what Santrock in 2010 said that parents who have parenting patterns that give too much freedom and allow adolescents to do what they want will make adolescents never learn to control their behavior. This is reinforced by the results of research Menggasa in 2020 which states that adolescents who abuse the freedom given by parents will have a higher tendency to engage in sexual behavior.²⁹

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study concludes that adolescents generally have a low level of knowledge and attitudes about premarital sexual behavior, leading them to engage in behavior without prior consideration. Both male and female adolescents are inspired or learned about premarital sexual behavior through the pornography they watch. Girls gain greater exposure through social media, while boys view pornography through online websites. Interpersonal communication generally occurs well, with empathy, support, and equality. However, openness between adolescents and parents regarding sexuality issues appears to be incomplete. On the other hand, positive parental attitudes that allow children too much freedom can actually lead adolescents to engage in inappropriate sexual behavior. Other factors influencing premarital sexual behavior in adolescents include peers and religiosity. Many other factors can influence premarital sexual behavior. Therefore, it is necessary to examine other factors influencing premarital sexual behavior to optimize prevention in the future.

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