

Adolescents' Reproductive Health In North Coastal Line, West Java: Perceptions Of Adults

Juariah

INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a transitional period from childhood to adulthood. There is a rapid change physically, psychologically and socially during this period. There are three reproductive health issues that can be experienced by adolescents. That are sexuality problem, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) including Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/ AIDS) and drug and substance misuse including smoking.

Adolescents who reside in North Coastal Line Area of West java have a higher risk of having reproductive health problems. This is because in this area there are many hotels, motels and cafes that can give a negative influence on the teenagers. Adolescent girls trapped in promiscuity are at risk for experiencing an unwanted pregnancy. In addition, both adolescent girls and boys are at risk for infection with STD and HIV / AIDS.

Adults play a key role in shaping the attitudes and behaviors of young people. Through the intimate setting of the family environment, parents influence the opinions, behaviors and norms of their children. Interactions with adults who provide information and services to young people, such as health care providers, teachers and community leaders, also affect how young people view the world, and contribute to shaping their knowledge, attitudes and behaviors.

AIMS

- To explore adults' perceptions of issues related to adolescents reproductive health.
- To understand the difficult experiences of adults to help adolescents in dealing with their reproductive health problems.
- To assess perceptions of adults about solutions for adolescents reproductive health problems

METHODS

- This study used qualitative approach.
- Location : Pusakajaya, Subang District, West Java Province.
- Time of Data Collection: July 2017
- Informants selected purposively.
- Number of informants were 45 adults. They were parents, teachers and community leaders.
- Data collection techniques: Focus Group Discussions and in-depth interviews.
- Data Collection Tools: Guideline interviews and discussions.
- Data analysis: Content Analysis.

RESULTS

1. The mayor problems of adolescents reproductive health.
 - Girls: unintended pregnancy.
 - Boys: smoking and substance misuse.
2. Some difficulties of adults in interaction with adolescents.
 - The teenagers preferred their peers as role models.
 - There were some trouble in the adult-adolescent communication.
 - There were some diversity of teachers in providing information on reproductive health due to the limitations of reference in the curriculum, materials and teaching aids.
3. Some barriers and challenges impacting adolescent reproductive health.
 - Poverty,
 - residential environment of the adolescents,
 - Less attention from the local government .
4. Some solutions in facing adolescent reproductive health problems.
 - Strengthening the family.
 - Increasing the schools capacity to give reproductive health information.
 - Continuous sensitization that supported by government regulation.

CONCLUSION

Involving adults to find the issues of adolescent reproductive health provide an overview of adolescent reproductive health, difficulty in dealing with adolescents and solutions that can be done to solve the problem of adolescent reproductive health.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Barker,G. 2007. Adolescents, social support and help-seeking behavior. An international literature review and programme consultation with recommendations for action. World Health Organization: Geneva.
2. Asare, K.A., Bankole, A., Kyereme, A.K., 2008. Views of Adults on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health: Qualitative Evidence from Ghana. Occasional Report No. 34. Guttmacher Institute: New York
3. Kibombo, R., Neema, S., Moore M.A., Ahmed, H.F., 2008. Adults' Perceptions of Adolescents' Sexual and Reproductive Health: Qualitative Evidence from Uganda. Occasional Report No. 35. Guttmacher Institute: New York.
4. Kyereme, A.K., Asare, K.A., Darteh,M.K., Attitudes of Gatekeepers Towards Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health in Ghana. J Reprod Health 2014; 18[3]: 142-153)
5. Muhwezi W.W., Katahoire, A.R., Banura, C., Mugoodi, H., Kwesiga, D., Bastien, S., Klepp, I.K., Perceptions and experiences of adolescents, parents and school administrators regarding adolescent-parent communication on sexual and reproductive health issues in urban and rural Uganda. Reproductive Health (2015) 12:110

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank to the Agency of Research and Development, the Government of West Java Province for the funding support.