

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DATING BEHAVIOR OF ADOLESCENTS IN NORTH COASTAL LINE, WEST JAVA

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ABSTRACT

Background: Interest to the opposite sex is one changing that is happened in adolescence. Dating behavior of adolescents can be the beginning of premarital sex that will impact on the emergence of adolescent reproductive health problems such as unintended pregnancy and STDs/HIV/AIDS. The purpose of this study was to give description of factors related to dating behavior of early adolescents in North Coastal line, West Java.

Subject and Methods: Type of this research was descriptive analytic with cross sectional design. The research was conducted in *Pusakajaya* Public Junior High School 1 and 2, Subang Regency. Population of this study was all of students at class VII in the selected schools. Sample of the study determined by purposive sampling technique with criteria the students ever had a lover or currently they were having a boyfriend/girlfriend. Number of respondents were 269 students. Data collection was done by interview using questionnaire as a tool. Data was reviewed using univariate and bivariate analysis.

Results: Results of this study showed that 36.8% of the respondent had risky dating behavior, 25,7% did not live with their parent, 57.2% of them had low religiosity, 74.7% had lack of knowledge in sexuality, 47.6% had negative attitude toward risky dating, 53,9% ever accessed pornography content and 48.3% had friend with risky dating behavior. Using Chi Square test to analyze showed that factors related to risky dating behavior were low religiosity (OR=44.68 ;95%CI=15.65 to 127.56; p=0.000), lack of knowledge (OR=14.34; 95%CI=5.03 to 40.87; p=0,000), negative attitude (OR=34.73; 95%CI=16.01 to 75,35; p=0.000), accessed pornography content (OR=79.02; 95%CI=23.89 to 261,33; p=0.000) and negative behavior of friends (OR=201.3 ;95%CI=47.19 to 859.04; p=0.000).

Conclusion: There was a significant relationship between religiosity, knowledge, attitude, access to pornography content and dating behavior of friends with risky dating behavior.

Keywords: factors, risky, dating behavior, early adolescent, north coastal line

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BACKGROUND

Adolescence is a stage of transition from children to adults. The Indonesian Ministry of Health defines adolescents as someone who is not married and is in the age range of 10-19 years (Statistics Indonesia, National Population and Family Planning Board, Ministry of Health, MEASURE DHS, 2013). During

adolescence, there is rapid growth and development, including reproductive function. Therefore adolescent reproductive health is an important issue because it has implications for national development (Mubarokah, Shaluhiah and Widjanarko, 2011). This is possible considering that the number of adolescents aged 10-19 years in

Indonesia is estimated to have reached 46,218,571 million people or around 19.5% of Indonesia's total population of 237 million. (Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia, 2015). While the number of adolescents aged 10-19 years in West Java is 8,033,548 people, consisting of 3,921,592 girls and 4,111,956 boys, or around 18.7% of the total population of West Java, which amounts to 43,053,735 people (Badan Pusat Statistik Provinsi Jawa Barat, 2015).

Adolescents are characterized by physical and psychological changes known as puberty. Starting to function reproductive hormones in adolescent boys is marked by wet dreams. Meanwhile, in adolescent girls is menstruation. This hormonal change also affects psychological changes. Attraction to the opposite sex is one of the changes that occurs in adolescents. Having a boyfriend is a pride as an identity for a teenager. The thing that becomes a problem is when adolescents do not have adequate knowledge about the impact that will occur when having free sex. Dating behavior in adolescents can be the beginning of premarital sex which will have an impact on the emergence of adolescent reproductive health problems such as unwanted pregnancy and Sexual Transmitted Disease (STDs) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV / AIDS).

Complications from pregnancy and childbirth are the leading causes of death for women aged 15-19 years in developing countries (Save the Children, 2004). Adolescent girls have twice the risk of dying from pregnancy and childbirth than older women. Very young mothers, aged 10-14 years have a mortality rate 5 times higher than women aged 20-24 years. Babies born to mothers who are still teenagers have a 50% higher risk of death than babies born to women aged 20 years and over. Even though they do not die, the mother and the baby are still at risk because the

organs of the adolescent are not mature enough to give birth to a baby safely, so that usually there is an obstructed in labor. This condition has the potential to cause bleeding, which is the highest cause of maternal death. Meanwhile, babies born to teenage mothers may experience premature birth and low birth weight (LBW). Both of these conditions are predisposing factors for the occurrence of asphyxia in newborns which is the highest cause of perinatal mortality in Indonesia. (Badan Penelitian dan Pengembangan Kesehatan Kementerian Kesehatan RI, 2008).

Adolescents are a group at high risk of contracting HIV-AIDS. According to data from the Indonesian Ministry of Health (Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia, 2015), West Java is the province with the third highest HIV prevalence (3,740) after East Java (4,508) and DKI Jakarta (5,851). The number of AIDS sufferers in West Java is also in the third highest rank (4,191) after East Java (12,347) and DKI Jakarta (7,963). National data shows that out of 5,494 new cases of AIDS, 32.2% of cases occurred in the 20-29 years age group and even 3% were detected in the 15-19 year age group. 81.3% of AIDS transmission occurs due to sexual relations of the opposite sex (heteroseksual) (Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia, 2015). Early initiation of sexual activity exposes adolescents to an increased risk of STDs, HIV / AIDS and unwanted pregnancy and unsafe abortion (World Health Organization, 2008). Teenage girls are the ones who suffer more because of the risk of pregnancy and its effects, as well as other risks associated with reproductive organs as discussed previously.

Subang Regency is one of the districts in West Java that has relatively high social problems such as prostitutes, women who are vulnerable to socioeconomic conditions, high cases of environmental-based diseases such as the increase in people with HIV / AIDS from 182 in

2007 to 263 in 2008 (Pemerintah Daerah Kabupaten Subang, 2009) and until 2014 the number of HIV / AIDS sufferers was 893 cases (Husaeni, 2016). One of the triggering factors is that several sub-districts in this regency are traversed by the North Coastal Line (Pantura) which is in accordance with the research result of Heriana et al (2015) that districts / cities that have a high HIV / AIDS prevalence have the characteristics of having the national North coastal line (Heriana,C.,Nurjannah,S.N., Suparman, 2015). One of the sub districts that is passed through this line is the Pusakajaya Sub District. The large number of entertainment and tourism industries in this area has triggered the rampant prostitution business. Along this route, There are many stalls and cafes that also has function as sexual transaction places. This environmental conditions can have a negative influence on adolescents in this area to have risky dating behavior. This study aimed to describe factors associated with dating behavior of early adolescents in the North Coastal Line of West Java.

SUBJECTS AND METHOD

1. Study Design

This was a descriptive analytic study with cross sectional design. The research was conducted at Junior High School 1 and 2 *Pusakajaya*, Subang Regency.

2. Population and Sample

Population of this study were all seventh grade students in selected junior high schools. The sample was determined by using purposive sampling technique with the criteria of study at seventh grade of the selected schools, the age of students in early adolescents Group (11 to 14 years old), ever or having had a boyfriend/girlfriend. The number of samples was 269 students. They were 135 boys and 134 girls.

3. Study Variables

The dependent variable were gender, religiosity, current living arrangement,

knowledge, attitude, access to pornography content and behavior of friend. The independent variable was dating behavior.

4. Data Collection

Data collection was done by interview. Data collection tool used questionnaire. Interviews were done after got informed consent from the respondents candidates.

5. Data Analysis

The data that had been collected was processed with the stages of editing, coding, data entry and cleaning. Furthermore, the data were analyzed by univariate and bivariate analysis using the Chi Square Test.

RESULTS

Finding of this study showed that 36,8% of the respondents had risky dating behavior. The gender of respondents tended to be balance (boys 50,2%). 57,2% of respondents had low in religiosity. Current living arrangement of respondents, 74,3% lived with their parent. 74,7% of respondents had low knowledge about the risk of dating. 47,6% of respondents had negative attitude toward risk of dating. 53,9% of respondents had ever access to pornography content. Almost a half of respondents (48,3%) had friends with negative behavior on dating. Table 1 showed the results.

Table 2 showed that variables of sex and current living arrangement did not have relationships with dating behavior of the early adolescents (p value 0,275 and 0,297 respectively). While religiosity (p=0,000, OR= 44,68, CI=15,65 to 127,56), knowledge (p= 0,000, OR= 14,34, CI=5,031 to 40,87), attitude (p= 0,000, OR=34,73, CI= 16,01 to 75,35), acces to pornography content (p=0,000, OR= 79,02, CI=23,89 to 261,33) and behavior of friend (p= 0,000, OR= 201,3, CI=47,19 to 859,04) had significant relationship with dating behavior of the respondents.

Table 1. Description of dating behavior, gender, religiosity, current living arrangement, knowledge, attitude, acces to pornography content and behavior of friend.

Variable	Frequency (N=269)	Percentage (%)
Dating behavior		
Risky	99	36.8
Not risky	170	63.2
Gender		
Boy	135	50.2
Girl	134	49.8
Religiosity		
Low	154	57.2
High	115	42.8
Current Living Arrangement		
Other than parent	69	25.7
Parent	200	74.3
Knowledge		
Low	201	74.7
High	68	25.3
Attitude		
Negative	128	47.6
Positive	141	52.4
Access to Pornography Content		
Ever	145	53.9
Never	124	46.1
Behavior of Friend		
Negative	130	48.3
Positive	139	51.7

Table 2. The relation of sex, religiosity, current living arrangement, knowledge, attitude, access to pornography content and behavior of friend with dating behavior

Variabel	Dating Behavior				Total		OR	95%CI	p
	Risky		Not Risky		N				
	n	%	n	%					
Sex									
Boy	54	54.5	81	47.6	135	50.2	1.32	0.802 to 2.168	0.275
Girl	45	45.5	89	52.4	134	49.8	Ref		
Religiosity									
Low	95	95.9	59	34.7	154	57.2	44.68	15.65 to 127.56	0.000
High	4	4.1	111	65.3	115	41.8	Ref		
Current Living Arrangement									
Other than parent	29	29.3	40	23.5	69	25.7	1.34	0.770 to 2.35	0.297

Parent	70	70.7	130	76.5	200	74.3	Ref		
Knowledge									
Low	95	95.9	106	62.3	201	74.7	14.34	5.031 to 40.87	0.000
High	4	4.1	64	37.7	68	25.3	Ref		
Attitude									
Negative	90	90.9	38	32.4	128	47.6	34.73	16.01 to 75.35	0.000
Positive	9	9.1	132	77.6	141	52.4	Ref		
Access to pornography content									
Ever	96	96.9	49	28.8	145	53.9	79.02	23.89 to 261.33	0.000
Never	3	3.1	121	71.2	124	46.1	Ref		
Behavior of friend									
Negative	97	97.9	33	19.4	130	48.3	201.3	47.19 to 859.04	0.000
Positive	2	2.1	137	80.6	139	51.7	Ref		

DISCUSSION

The results of this study found that 36.8% of the respondents had risky dating behavior. The definition of risky dating behavior in this study was when these early adolescents did one, some or all of the physical touch including touching hands, kissing cheeks, kissing lips, hugging or touching sensitive body parts such as breasts. All of these actions are considered risky because when they are done it can trigger the desire to have premarital sex of the teenagers.

Finding of this study indicated that gender of the respondents was almost equal between boys and girls (each 50.2% for boys and 49.8% for girls). The results of statistical analysis showed that there was not a significant relationship between gender and dating behavior ($p = 0.275$). This means that the girls and boys had the same possibility of engaging in or not engaging in risky behavior of dating. This result was different from the results of research by Putra *et al* (2017), which found that male adolescents tend to engage in risky dating behavior than female adolescents (Putra *et al.*, 2017).

This study found that 23.5% of respondents did not live with their parents. Those who did not live with their parents mostly lived with their grandparent and some lived with their aunt. Results of statistical test showed that there was not a significant relationship between living arrangement and dating behavior ($p = 0.297$). This means that whether the respondents lived with their parent or they did not live with their parent, they had the same possibility to do or not to do risky dating behavior. The results of this study was different from finding of Saputri research that the role of parents had a significant relationship with adolescent dating behavior (Saputri, 2017). This was probably because even though the respondents lived with their grandmother or their aunt, they had the same responsibility as their parents in teaching ethical values to these teenagers.. Finding of this study showed that 57.2% of respondents had low religiosity. Religiosity was measured by the frequency of doing religious activities. Results of statistical tests found that there was a significant

relationship between religiosity and dating behavior (OR=44.68, 95%CI= 15.65 to 127.56, $p = 0.000$,). This means that respondents who had low religiosity had a 44.68 times higher chance of having risky dating behavior than respondents who had high religiosity. This finding was in accordance with the research of Saputri (2017) and Quinn & Lewin (2018) that adolescents who had good religiosity tended to choose dating without physical contact or did not have a boyfriend/a girlfriend (Saputri, 2017) (Quinn.D.A. and Lewin.A., 2018).

The respondents of this study, 74.7%, had low knowledge about the consequences that could occur from risky dating behavior. Results of the analysis showed that knowledge had a significant relationship with dating behavior (OR= 14.34, 95%CI= 5.031 to 40.87, $p = 0.000$,). This means that respondents who had low knowledge had a 14.34 times higher chance of having risky dating behavior compared to respondents who had high knowledge. This result was in line with the research findings of Meilani & Setiyawati (2017) and Putra et al (2017) that knowledge has a close relationship with dating behavior of adolescents (Meilani, N., Setiyawati, 2017), (Putra et al., 2017).

Result of this study showed that 47.6% of respondents had negative attitudes toward dating behavior. A negative attitude was shown by agreeing on risky dating actions. Attitude is a tendency to behave. When a teenager agrees with risky dating behavior, they are more likely to commit the action. The results of the analysis showed that there was a significant relationship between attitudes and dating behavior (OR= 34.73, 95%CI= 16.01 to 75.35, $p = 0.000$). This means that respondents who had a negative attitude had a 34.73 times higher chance of having risky dating behavior than respondents who had a positive attitude. This finding was in line with the results of research by Meilani & Setiyawati (2017) and Putra et al (2017) that adolescents who agreed

with sexual activity in dating tended to have risky dating behavior (Meilani, N., Setiyawati, 2017) (Putra et al., 2017).

Another result of this study found that 53.9% of respondents had ever accessed pornography content. Statistical analysis showed that there was a significant relationship between access to pornography content and risky dating behavior (OR= 79.02, 95%CI= 23.89 to 261.33, $p = 0.000$). This means that respondents who had access to pornography content had a 79.02 times higher chance of having risky dating behavior compared to those who had never accessed pornography content. This finding was in line with the results of research by Putra et al (2017) and Siyoto et al (2018) that adolescents who had access to pornographic content tended to engage in sexual activity when they were dating. (Putra et al., 2017). (Siyoto et al., 2018)

The results of this study also found that 48.3% of respondents had friends who had risky dating behavior. The results of statistical tests showed that there was a significant relationship between friend behavior and dating behavior (OR= 201.3, 95%CI= 47.19 to 859.04, $p=0,000$). This means that respondents who had friends with risky dating behavior had a 201.3 times higher chance of having risky dating behavior compared to respondents who did not have friends with risky dating behavior. This was similar with previous study that conducted by Saputri (2017) that adolescents who had friends that engaged in sexual activity in dating tended to do risky dating behavior (Saputri, 2017).

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