

Adolescent characteristics relation with premarital sex attitudes

Irene Febriani¹, Destinady Kadiser Miden²

¹DIII Kebidanan, Poltekkes Kemenkes Palangka Raya, Indonesia

²Sarjana Terapan Keperawatan, Poltekkes Kemenkes Palangka Raya, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Adolescence is an important part of individual development and begins with the maturity of the physical organs. Adolescents have the opportunity to obtain optimal health status, but adolescent behavior does not always support it. This study aims to analyze the relationship between age, education, gender and welfare with adolescent attitudes about premarital sex and risky behavior. Using secondary data from the 2019 Program Performance and Accountability Survey (SKAP) totaling 316 adolescents by *systematic random sampling* research design *cross-sectional*, carried out in 2020 with frequency distribution and *chi square test*. The results showed that 64.4% did not agree with premarital sex and did not engage in risky behavior. 91.2% of age related to premarital sex (P Value 0.005) and risky behavior (P Value 0.020). Gender is associated with premarital sex attitudes and risky behavior (P value 0.005). Family welfare variables are not related to premarital sex attitudes and risky behavior (P Value > 0.05). The content of information sources still needs to be considered, facilitators who disseminate information sources again need to be given training and the goals for providing information are adjusted and targeted.

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Corresponding Author:

Irene Febriani,
DII Kebidanan,
Poltekkes Kemenkes Palangka Raya,
On Jl George Obos No 30-32, Kalimantan Tengah, Indonesia,
Email: irene.febriani@polkesraya.ac.id

INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is defined as an important part of individual development and begins with the maturity of the physical organs. Experts state that to formulate a definition of youth is not an easy thing. Several references define youth as being in the age range of 11-21 years, WHO (*World Health Organization*) states that youth is in the age range of 10-19 years, the United Nations (United Nations) states that youth is in the age range of 15-24 years, and The BKKBN stated that teenagers are in the age range of 10-24 years and are not married. This is because during adolescence there are rapid changes psychologically, biologically, and in the environment. These changes cannot be determined exactly when adolescence begins and ends as an adult (Sebayang, Sidabutar, & Gultom, 2018).

Adolescents in a period of self-identity crisis will generally seek attention by taking actions that are detrimental to themselves, and assume that they are being done as adults (Sumara, Humaedi,

& Santoso, 2017). The problem experienced by adolescents is a form of juvenile delinquency, juvenile delinquency is a form of juvenile behavior that is not in accordance with the norms that exist in society. According to Jensen in the book "Adolescent Development and its Problems" there are three forms of juvenile delinquency, first is delinquency which causes victims such as fighting, rape, murder and robbery; secondly delinquency which causes material victims such as theft, pickpocketing, extortion and thirdly social delinquency such as prostitution, drug abuse and premarital sex (Gainau, 2015).

Attitude is one of the internal causes of premarital sexual behavior. Attitude will precede action even as a determinant of the occurrence of behavior and is formed after getting information, seeing or experiencing a situation. Premarital sexual behavior is also influenced by a shift in attitudes that are more permissive. Permissive attitude is defined as a response of readiness and willingness that is completely open, allowing and permitting stimulus. Attitudes toward premarital sex in adolescents consist of two types, namely positive and negative, the results of research by Agustina *et al.*, showed that out of 74 adolescents, 54.1% of them had positive premarital sex, research by Silfia *et al.*, out of 105 adolescents, 69.5 % were positive premarital sex. A positive attitude is defined as a tendency to support or have a favorable view of premarital sex, while a negative attitude is a tendency to avoid premarital sex.¹⁴ Positive and permissive attitudes in adolescents are directly proportional, if a teenager is more positive, the more permissive he is to have premarital sex (Halu & Dafiq, 2021).

The purpose of carrying out this research activity is to explore the potential for data analysis obtained from the survey, one of which is to analyze the relationship between variables such as age, education, gender and welfare with premarital sex attitudes. The data used is secondary data from the Performance Survey and Program Accountability of the Population, Family Planning and Family Development (KKBPK) program which is then termed SKAP.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a quantitative method with a *cross-sectional*, in line with the 2010 Population Census sample frame and 2015 SUPAS; proportional cluster enumeration by taking into account the number of households followed by a *systematic random sampling technique* in line with the 2019 SKAP. The samples in this study were male and female adolescents aged 10-24 years, single, in a family setting as biological children or stepchildren or adopted children or foster children. The research was conducted in Palangka Raya City using secondary data obtained from SKAP data in 2019 with a total sample data of 316 adolescents from Central Kalimantan province after *weighting* to avoid estimation bias. The questionnaire used was made in the form of an online form which was filled in via cellphone assisted by enumerators (BKKBN, 2019).

The variables analyzed were taken from the Adolescent Reproductive Health (KRR) questionnaire, the variable of premarital sex attitudes was defined by the opinion of adolescents about premarital sex and behavior that had undesirable consequences for adolescent reproductive health with answers that did not agree/disagree, variable age in years since adolescence born with answers 10-14 (beginning), 15-19 (middle), 20-24 years (end), variables of education currently being undertaken or last completed adolescents with elementary, middle or high answers, variable gender male or female and welfare variables with low, medium or high answers (Family Questionnaire). Data processing with *screening, editing, coding, tabulating, processing and cleaning stages*. Univariate analysis with frequency distribution percentage, bivariate analysis with chi square.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Results and discussion are presented in the form of univariate, bivariate analysis tables. Univariate analysis accommodated premarital sex, age, education, gender and well-being attitudes in 316

adolescents. Table 1 univariate analysis shows that 34.1% of adolescents choose to agree with premarital sex but not engage in risky behavior and there are also adolescents who do not approve of premarital sex but engage in risky behavior. Meanwhile, 1.5% agree with premarital sex and engage in risky behavior. The attitude of adolescents is expressed by the question "consent to whether women / men may have sex before marriage", risky behavior is expressed by statements that they have held hands, hugged, kissed on the lips, and touched or stimulated. Almost all adolescents (91.2%) have received information about Adolescent Reproductive Health (KRR). As many as 54.2% of adolescents are in the early adolescent age range of 10-14 years, and are still pursuing or have completed their last elementary school education as much as 65.7%. As many as 53.8% of adolescents are male and are in families with low welfare levels of 65.1%.

Table 1. The performance of frequency distribution adolescent characteristics

Variable	n	%
Premarital Sex Attitudes		
Disagree	203	64,24
Disagree, but engage in risky behavior	108	34,18
Agree and engage in risky behavior	5	1,58
Age		
20-24	40	12,66
15 - 19	105	33,23
10 - 14	171	54,11
Education		
High	20	6,33
Middle	88	27,85
Elementary	207	65,51
Gender		
Female	146	46,20
Male	170	53,80
Welfare		
High	58	18,35
Medium	52	16,46
Low	206	65,19

Table 2 shows the results of the bivariate analysis showing cross tables, *odds ratios* and *p values*. The results of the bivariate analysis showed that the variables associated with premarital sex attitudes and risky behavior were age, education and gender. This is indicated by the significance value of the P Value analysis of $\alpha \leq 0.05$. Middle adolescent age is significantly related to the attitude of "yes" to premarital sex and risky behavior, respectively, the p value of 0.045 and 0.020, the odds ratio value indicates a protective effect, or it can be interpreted that late adolescence is more at risk for "yes" premarital sex and risky behavior. Early adolescent age was not significantly related to premarital sex attitudes and risky behavior, p values 0.086 and 0.135. Gender has a significant relationship with premarital sex attitudes and risky behavior, each with a p value of 0.005. Male sex has 1.31 times the chance to have "yes" premarital sex and 17.89 times the chance to do risky behavior. Family welfare variables are not significantly related to premarital sex attitudes and risky behavior, each p value > 0.05.

Table 2. The performance of adolescent characteristics relation with premarital sex attitudes

Variable	Disagree	Disagree, but engage in risky behavior		Agree and engage in risky behavior		Total n (%)		
	(<i>reff</i>) n (%)	n (%)	Odd Ratio (95% CI)	P Value	n (%)		Odd Ratio (95% CI)	P Value
Age								
20-24 (<i>reff</i>)	10 (3.2)	27 (8.9)	0.045		3 (0.6)	0.007	0.020	40 (12.7)

15 - 19	43 (13.6)	60 (19)	(0.01-0.10)	0.005	2 (0.6)	(0.00-0.45)		105 (33.2)
10 - 14	151 (47.8)	20 (6.3)	0.483 (0.21-1.10)	0.086	0 (0)	0.224 (0,03-1.59)	0.135	171 (54.1)
Education								
High (reff)	4 (1.3)	15 (4.8)			1 (0.3)			20 (6.3)
Midlle	33 (10.5)	53 (16.8)	0.071 (0.02-0.21)	0.000	2 (0.6)	0.121 (0.00-2.66)	0.181	88 (27.9)
Elementary	166 (52.7)	39 (12.4)	0.484 (0.15-1.51)	0.211	2 (0.6)	0.467 (0.01-11.2)	0.640	207 (65.7)
Gender								
Female (reff)	100 (31.6)	46 (14.6)			0 (0)			146 (46.2)
Male	103 (32.6)	62 (19.6)	1.311 (0.82-2.11)	0.005	5 (1.6)	17.89 (0.31-20.7)	0.005	170 (53.8)
Kesejahteraan								
High (reff)	4 (1.3)	15 (4.8)			1 (0.3)			20 (6.3)
Medium	33 (10.5)	53 (16.8)	1.477 (0.77-2.81)	0.236	2(0.6)	1.447 (0.11-17.6)	0.772	88 (27.9)
Low	166 (52.7)	39 (12.4)	1.335 (0.59-3.01)	0.487	2 (0.6)	0.937 (0.03-28.5)	0.970	207 (65.7)

Premarital Sex Attitudes and Risky Behavior

Attitude is a reaction or response of someone who is still closed to stimulus. Attitude becomes a readiness to act so that it has a target, direction and intensity as well as the main predictor for behavior even though there are many other factors. It can be interpreted that attitude can determine action, but sometimes attitude does not materialize into action. Considerations of the impact of an action also determine a person whether the attitude becomes a real action or not. Factors that influence the formation of attitudes are personal experience, culture, people who are considered important, sources of information, and emotions from within. Attitudes should be formed and manipulated so that they are positive (Irwan, 2017).

The results of this study showed that 108 (34.1%) adolescents agreed with premarital sex and 203 (64.4%) adolescents disagreed. Research that supports these results is Ishak *et al.*'s research, 22 adolescents (22.4%) behaved unfavorably and 76 (77.6%) adolescents behaved well. Nurwati *et al.*'s research in 2018 showed that 112 (49.6%) agreed to premarital sex adolescents and disagree (114 (50.4%) adolescents and research by Ibrahim *et al* in 2019 that as many as 44 (69.9%) adolescents disagree with premarital sex, 19 (30.1%) disagree (Ishak, Adam, & Maramis, 2021). Based on the previous description it can be concluded that >50 % of adolescents from several studies have expressed disapproval of premarital sex.

But other studies that show different results, namely Pangaribuan *et al.*, found that 33 teenagers (44.6%) had bad attitudes and 41 had good attitudes (55.4)(Pangaribuan, Barus, & Siringoringo, 2022); Halu *et al.* found that 73 adolescents (69.5%) agreed to premarital sex and 32 adolescents (30.5%) disagreed (Halu & Dafi, 2021); research by Amalia *et al.*, stated that 40 teenagers (54%) agree with teenagers and 34 teenagers (46%) disagree (Amalia & Winarti, 2020); Kasmita *et al.* study showed that 69 adolescents (90.8%) agreed with premarital sex and 7 adolescents (9.2%) disagreed (Kasmita, Anam, & Fahrurazi). Based on this description, it can be stated that there are still teenagers who agree with premarital sex.

Premarital sex is closely related to *permissiveness*, even though attitude predisposes to behavior and will not always manifest behavior, but through attitude can be interpreted behavior. Therefore, the role of attitude, which in this case is attitude towards premarital sex, needs to be emphasized. If other people are able to understand the attitude of adolescents, it will be possible to understand/understand what behavior will be displayed. Percentage > 50% disapproval shows that

adolescents tend to stay away from or even avoid premarital sex. This attitude can be related to Eastern culture, in Indonesia, premarital sex is taboo. There is even research that states the level of religious awareness and the importance of social messages not to support premarital sex can influence adolescent attitudes, this is a preventive measure (Al-Shafai, Al-Romaihi, Al-Hajri, Islam, & Adawi, 2022).

Responding to the fact that there are still teenagers who agree with premarital sex, researchers argue that during adolescence sexual hormones slowly appear and there are changes in sexual organs, so that teenagers begin to feel an attraction to the opposite sex, bearing in mind that attitudes can manifest or not manifest into behavior. In China, there has been a shift in attitudes from being conservative to being open to premarital sex. Many influences from western culture, openness of the digital economy, policies on the age of marriage and early puberty support the agreeable attitude of premarital sex so that it is directly proportional to the prevalence of premarital sex behavior (Rong et al., 2022).

There is a gap between what is thought and what is done, where adolescents understand that they must disagree with premarital sex but still engage in risky behavior, this is shown by 5 adolescents (1.5%). Risky behavior is an activity associated with an increased susceptibility to certain diseases. In this study, risky behavior was holding hands, hugging, kissing on the lips, groping/stimulating and premarital sex. Teenagers have a fairly high curiosity, teenagers tend to be curious to try something that is driven by the desire to become an adult, including related to sexuality. The results of SKAP data analysis by Wahdini *et al.*, showed the results of 4752 adolescents, 286 of them (6.2%) carried out risky behavior (Wahdini, Indraswari, Susanti, & Sujatmiko, 2021); research Parihat *et al.*, of 967 adolescents, 564 adolescents held hands (58.3%), kissed 217 adolescents (22.4%), held breasts of 81 adolescents (8.3%), held genitals of 56 adolescents (5.7%) and had intercourse with 27 adolescents (2.7%) (Parihat, 2015); Nadirahilah *et al.* study showed that out of 135 adolescents, 74 adolescents (54.8%) had risky behavior and 29 adolescents (21.4%) had premarital sex (Nadirahilah & Nurdiansyah, 2019). Seeing this phenomenon the prevalence of adolescent risky behavior is increasing and the impact is also worrying. Teenagers who are physically and mentally unhealthy produce unhealthy offspring as well. Community moral and social sanctions become a burden for adolescents.

Early identification of risky behavior problems is needed to prevent other problems from arising so that they can be dealt with immediately. The root of the problem or in this case the factors that can cause adolescents to behave at risk are socio-economic, social support, lifestyle, upbringing of parents and peers. Some of the impacts of untreated adolescent sexual risk behavior include unwanted pregnancy, early marriage, abortion, sexually transmitted venereal infections and HIV/AIDS (Isnadia & Azinar, 2021).

Relationship between Age and Premarital Sex Attitudes and Risky Behavior

Age is related to premarital sex attitudes *P value* 0.045 and risky behavior *P value* 0.020, and late teens are more likely to agree with premarital sex and risky behavior. Age affects a person's acceptance and mindset, the older they get, the more their comprehension and mindset develop. Sexual maturity will lead to interest and desire about sexuality. Associated with developmental tasks compared to early and middle adolescents, late adolescents have the ego to try new experiences, develop sexual behavior in the form of heterosexual relationships such as dating the opposite sex. This heterosexual relationship can encourage adolescents to engage in sexual behavior. Teenagers have different ways of fulfilling sexual needs from the lightest behavior to *intercourse*. Limits of social norms suppress premarital sexual attitudes and risky behavior because they result in feelings of depression, guilt and even the impact of disease. A person's behavior is based on emotions and attitudes before acting. Such a large sex drive can increase premarital sex. It is hoped that in their late teens they can control or control it. The results of Mutiara *et al.* showed that out of 100 late adolescents, 100% touched hands, 90% kissed sensitive areas, 96% touched sensitive areas, 33% had

oral sex, 52% attached genitals, 34% *intercourse*. This shows the phenomenon that late adolescence is also at risk for agreeing to premarital sex and engaging in risky behavior other than early adolescence and middle adolescence (Mutiara, Komariah, & Karwati, 2015).

Relationship between education level and premarital sex attitudes

The results of this study indicate that there is a relationship between education and premarital sex attitudes $P \text{ value} < 0.05$, but education is not related to risky behavior $P \text{ value} > 0.05$. Education is related to knowledge, where good knowledge will affect one's attitude. Human behavior is in line with changes in knowledge and attitudes. It is stated that human attitude is actually difficult to change if it is already attached. Therefore the purpose of education is to change and even remove negative attitudes. Education will help youth understand the true meaning, essence, and purpose of life (Utami, Soedirman, & Devi, 2022). In this study, it was also found that adolescents with higher education are more at risk of agreeing to premarital sex. Adolescents with a high level of education are synonymous with independent conditions, namely going to school far from home (boarding), having the opportunity to make new friends, and also because they are far from family life, they also have the opportunity to engage in sexual activities.

Relationship between Gender and Premarital Sex Attitudes and Risky Behavior

The results showed that there was a relationship between sex and premarital sex and risky behavior $P \text{ value} 0.005$ and that adolescents with male gender were more at risk. In countries in Southeast Asia, such as Malaysia, 37.9% of those who are sexually active are male adolescents, in Thailand, 36.4% are sexually active male adolescents, in Brunei Darussalam, 13.2% of male adolescents are active in premarital sex. Adolescent boys are more likely to engage in risky behavior based on differences in social norms and lifestyles and cultural backgrounds. Freer social association and supervision that is not as strict as teenage girls. It is even stated that risky behavior is a male adolescent gender identity (Pidah, Kalsum, Sitanggang, & Guspianto, 2021). Male sex also interacts with age, that male adolescents are supported by increasing age, affecting more independence and maturity of the reproductive organs so that it affects sexual drive and is more at risk for premarital sex. In addition, the issue of male youth also has something to do with parental education. Parents who have high economic status tend to be busy working which results in worsening behavior of young men, lack of supervision and attention makes the risk of premarital sex even higher (Fauziah & Maesaroh, 2017).

Further results which are ironic facts are knowledge of male adolescents about reproductive health, knowledge influences the occurrence of attitudes and behavior. Adolescent boys with a sense of curiosity and inquisitiveness that is not matched by knowledge about reproductive health puts them in a dangerous situation. The results of the 2017 IDHS study found that 48.3% of male adolescents did not know that women could experience pregnancy with just one sexual intercourse. The results of the 2917 IDHS show that 11.3% of male adolescents in Indonesia are supportive of premarital sex and 41.2% of male adolescents in Indonesia engage in premarital sex (Murdiningsih, Rohaya, Hindun, & Ocktariyana, 2020).

Prosperity level

The results of the study showed that there was no relationship between the level of well-being and premarital sex attitudes and risky behavior, expressed by a $P \text{ value} > 0.05$. This is in line with the research by Defroyati *et al.*, which stated that there was no relationship, in this case it could be interpreted that other factors were more dominant in influencing premarital sex attitudes and risky behavior. However, in substance and theory, there is a link between well-being and premarital sex and risky behavior. Adolescents with low welfare tend to be aggressive, because when parents are busy earning a living, children have the opportunity not to get guidance and supervision. more potential for risky behavior because it's relatively easy to get everything you want. Research by

Farida *et al.*, stated that the higher the well-being of the adolescent, the higher the premarital sex activity (Farida, 2016).

CONCLUSION

The results showed that 64.4% of adolescents in Central Kalimantan disagreed with premarital sex and did not engage in risky behavior. Middle adolescent age is significantly associated with premarital sex attitudes and risky behavior, early adolescent age is not significantly associated with premarital sex attitudes and risky behavior. Gender has a significant relationship with premarital sex attitudes and risky behavior. Family welfare variables are not significantly related to premarital sex attitudes and risky behavior. The content of information sources still needs to be considered because of the ease of access that can be obtained by each teenager.

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