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AN EXPLORATORY STUDY ON HEALTH REPRODUCTION UNDERSTANDING AND COMMUNITY SOCIAL CONTROL TOWARDS PRE-MARITAL SEX BEHAVIORS AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN MAKASSAR

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ABSTRACT

Facts about premarital sex behaviors are found everywhere. Media, in addition, reported many cases of abortion, infanticide, and so forth. The Indonesian Center for Family Planning (so-called PKBI) in 2008 reported that abortion cases in Indonesia were no less than 2.5 million cases each year. The study, therefore, aimed at exploring factors triggering premarital sex behavior in Makassar. This research was quantitative and qualitative research. The quantitative method descriptively presented the data. Meanwhile, the qualitative method was an explorative technique to conduct in-depth interviews with respondents who have experienced premarital sexual intercourse (coitus). The sampling technique applied snowball sampling. The study samples were 300 people. The results suggested that there were 11 adolescents or teenagers (3.7%) who have experienced sexual intercourse (coitus). This study, moreover, found that teenagers used different media to access pornographic materials, such as electronic and printed media. It was found that 91 (30.3%) teenagers accessed it from the internet; 60 (20%) from mobile phones; 46 (15.3%) teenagers read the content from books/novels/comics; 14 (4.7%) from magazines; and only 11 (3.7%) teenagers accessed it by means of video discs. Another study related to the teenagers' knowledge about sex education revealed that there were 157 (52.3%)adolescents who were considered having good knowledge about sex education and the negative effects of free sex, 142 or 47.3% have fair knowledge and only 1 (0.3%) who did not know about sex education and the effects of free sex. Based on the study results, it is advised to the school authority to add sex education subjects, especially regarding the dangers of premarital sex and the negative effects of free sex and so forth. In addition, the school should build cooperation with formal health care teams to provide teaching, counseling, and important information about sex education and the dangers of free sex. Furthermore, it is highly suggested for the school to improve religious teaching-learning activities and counseling for the students and to provide constructive punishments when students did not participate or involve in the activities.

KEYWORDS: Reproductive Health, Social Control Society, Premarital Sexual Behavior of Youth

INTRODUCTION

The facts about premarital sex behavior are increasingly higher these current days. According to Seme & Wirtu (2009), it was found that the pre-marital sexual cases among adolescents have been reported to be inclining worldwide, for

instance in Taiwan and some parts of the world. Various media reported many cases of abortion, infant disposal, and so forth, which are all believed as the effects of premarital sex increasingly happening nowadays. The obvious effect of premarital sex, for instance, is the unexpected pregnancy, which mostly ended up with an abortion. Similar to what Assefa & Dessalegn (2008) argued that significant numbers of adolescents experienced sexual activities at an early age exposing them to the risk of unintended pregnancy, early marriage, and abortion.

According to the data released by The Indonesian Center for Family Planning (a so-called PKBI) in 2008, there were approximately 2.5 million abortion cases found in Indonesia each year. Ironically, the issues of premarital sex were found significantly high among adolescents, varying from the age of 10-24 years old. Following this, John, Opirite & Eme(2012) claimed that younger people always face with strong peer, social, and cultural pressure to involve in premarital sex behavior. Thus, significant numbers of adolescents are engaged in sexual activities at an early age. Sexual problems among adolescents, according to the survey conducted by Indonesian Children Protective Commission (KPAI) over 33 provinces from January to June 2008, surprisingly showed that 62.7 % of junior high school adolescents have already lost their virginity.

The data from National Family and Citizen planning, in addition, released that 2.4 million abortion cases in 2012 were committed by pre-married adolescents, or at the ages of senior and junior high school level. More ironically, those abortions were done unsafely. Therefore, approximately 30-35 % abortion led to death among young mothers. In addition, data from Basic Health Research (RISKESDAS) in 2010 depicted that the highest cases of abortion attempts were found among senior high school adults, approximately 4.8 %cases. This is in line with the study by Giorgis, Woldes, &Nilufar (2007) saying that youths tend to be sexually active, they even have more sexual partners.

Premarital sex behavior among adolescents is thus remarkably worrying, considering adolescents are the next generation of the nation. Furthermore, they are the biggest population in Indonesia. The results of the national census in 2010 showed that the number of adolescents aged 10-24 years old achieved 63.4 million of the total 237.6 number of population in Indonesia in 2007. The data released by RISKEDAS in 2010, in addition, depicted that abortion cases were found higher among adults who are living over urban areas. Among those groups, the abortion cases (or abortion attempt) ranked high position, particularly among senior high school students by 39.7 %.

A large number of adolescents is at the transition age from the time of childhood to adulthood, and therefore they have their positive self-entity in order to develop as healthy and productive young adults. This period of time can be considered as the most critical period for the next development stage. At this time, the possibility of diverging sex behavior over adolescents is widely large, considering the psychological, physical, and social changes to adolescents all happen at this particular period of time. One example of physical changes is the emergence of development and maturation process of their reproductive organs, in which it involves sexual hormones which psychologically influences their interest development to the opposite sex. The hormonal change, in addition, affects their psychological changes which lead to attitude changes. For example, they start to pay attention to their self-appearance, try to attract attention from the opposite sex and feeling of love, which all cause sexual urges. Due to that hormonal effect, they can be very vulnerable towards free sex behavior, or what so-called as premarital sex.

Not only does hormonal effects, but also social control plays an important role in causing premarital sex behavior. In this respect, social control is a good environment, varying from the family environment, school environment, community environment, as well as aspects of rapid technological development.

Makassar as the fifth metropolitan city in Indonesia is not certainly clear from the cases related to premarital sex behavior of adolescents. A study conducted by Maimunah, et al. at St. Hospital Fatimah Makassar recorded that there were 398 cases in 2013, with the highest cases of 65% at the senior high school level. It was actually still far from the actual figures, where this case was an iceberg phenomenon due to lack of data collection cases which were handled by the hospital or the police authority. Not to mention, the cases of illegal abortion aided by "dukunberanak" (traditional medical practitioner) or the cases done by the adolescents themselves were not all tracked, either by the government or related research.

This issue should not be allowed to constantly happen. The various aspects of deviant behaviors become an important thing which needs serious attention and therefore becomes a responsibility not only for the government but also society. This study, as a consequence, aimed at exploring factors which potentially triggered premarital behaviors among adolescents. There are spreading assumptions that the major cause of premarital sex is the lack of religious understanding among the younger generation. However, this assumption needs data, as it can be rejected because many cases of premarital sex behavior were committed by adolescents who actually have sufficient religious understanding.

Talking from the health perspective, it is argued that the emergence of teenagers' courage to commit premarital sex is due to their weak understanding of reproductive health. Nevertheless, this argument needs further investigation, since it surprisingly goes hand-in-hand with many cases of pregnancy caused by premarital sex, which were actually committed by adolescents or students from health educational background.

Among several presumption about the increasing cases of premarital sex, the factors which are needed to be deeply explored and investigated are social life of our society, which is now experiencing distortion, and also the loosing social control, especially the social life in a big city such as Makassar, in which social control from citizens seemed to decline due to the influence of individual attitudes over multicultural societies.

Research investigating premarital sex is actually not new although the current research, so far, is restricted to the behavioral aspects. The existing research is descriptive and analytical research, which is mainly aimed to test the suitability of the theory. What distinguishes this research from others is the use of the explorative method, that holistically explores all aspects, varying from the behavioral aspect, health, social control, and so forth. The results of this study are expected to widen academic information in an attempt to improve the moral quality of the younger generation in general. It is, furthermore, expected to offer a solution in reducing the abortion cases, infanticide, and other cases which are triggered by premarital sex. This study, moreover, will deeply explore health-seeking behavior, which is then expected to further investigate what actually leads the increasing phenomena of premarital sex behavior in Makassar.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research used both quantitative and qualitative method. On one hand, the quantitative method in this study was a descriptive. That is, to describe the characteristics of the respondents and to answer some parts of research purposes. A qualitative method, on the other hand, was through explorative technique, that is conducting an in-depth interview to the

respondents who have committed to premarital sex (coitus). The sampling technique, in addition, was snowball sampling, which means that the rolling sample was getting bigger in line with the result of the observation and the interview. Here, to achieve the right sample, a gatekeeper was needed to find out the other samples.

The focus of this study was adolescents aged 14 to 22 years old, whom most of them were senior high school students. Purposive random sampling was conducted to select the location of the school, in order to obtain various education-albackground. As mentioned, the number of rolling sample was getting higher in line with the sampling technique by means of snowballing sampling. The techniques of data analysis from the interview were by means of triangulations before drawing the conclusion.

RESULTS

The Quantitative Results

The Respondents Identity

In this research, the identity of the respondents was classified based on their gender, resulting from that most of them were women, 206 people (68,7%) while men were 94 respondents (31,3%). Meanwhile, the identity of respondents by age, showing that most of them at the age of 14-17 years old was around 248 people (82.7%), and the age 18-20 were52 people (17.3%). Based on their religion, furthermore, most of the respondents are Moslems, around 277 people (92.3%), followed by Christians, 23 people (7.7%) respectively.

The Information Access Toward Porn Content in Makassar

The data suggested that respondents who have accessed pornographic content were 171 people (57%), and who never accessed were 129 people (43%). Following this, the type of the mostly accessed pornography content was video by148 people (49,3%), picture by 138 people (46%), and written porn 37 people (12,3%) respectively. Not to mention, the type of media used to access pornographic content was mostly by the internet, 91 people (30.3%) while the least was through VCD, by only 11 people (3.7%). Furthermore, most of the respondents have been previously introduced to sex education, 275 people (91.7%) and who never get sex education as 25 people (8.3%). It is also found that most of the respondents got acquainted on sex education from their teachers at school, 239 people (79.7%) whereas the least source was surprisingly from health team, 81 people (27%).

Free Sex Knowledge and Behavior

Most of the respondents have sufficient background knowledge on free sex by 157 people (52,3%), fairly adequate knowledge by 142 people (47,3%), the lack of knowledge by only 1 person (0,3 %) respectively.

Adolescents who admitted to having experienced such affairs relation were 219 people (73%), while the rest never experienced dating with someone else, by 81 people (27%). Those who once held hands with their girlfriend were by 185 people (61.7%), while the rest never hold hands were by 115 people (38.3%). Following this, adolescents who had kissed/been kissed by their boyfriend were by 80 people (25.7%), and who never were confirmed by 220 people (73.3%). Those who had kissed/been kissed on the lips were by 44 people (14.7%) and who never were by 256 people (85.3%). Those who have flavored the ears of their girlfriends were by 35 people (11.7%) and who never were by 265 people (88.3%).

Adolescents who once embraced their girlfriends were by 76 people (25.3%) and never were 224 people (74.7%). They, furthermore, once touched the breast of their girlfriend were by 18 people (6%) and those who never were by 282 people (94%). Teenagers who once held their boyfriend's genitals were 16 people (5.3%) and who never were 284 people (94.7%). Adolescents who ever experienced masturbation were by 79 people (26.3%) and who never were by 221 people (73.7%). Teenagers who have done petting (i.e. stimulating the sexual desire of their partner by touching their sexual organs) were by 15 people (5%) while those who never were by 285 people (95%).

Following this, adolescents who have done oral sex were by 9 people (3%) and who never were 292 people (97.3%). Those who have done anal sex were by 8 people (2.7%) and who never were by 292 people (97.3%). Besides this, adolescents who had done coitus or sexual intercourse were 11 people (3.7%), while who never were by 289 people (96.3%).

The Role of Schools and Parents Regarding the Content of Adolescent Pornography in Makassar

The schools have actually attempted to reduce the percentage of watching a pornographic movie, by doing raid towards students, which was then confirmed by 206 respondents (68,7%), while those who said that school never anticipated the issue were by 94 people (31,3%). Furthermore, 94 respondents (31.3%) reported that the frequency of raids towards pornographic content in schools was quite intense. 59 respondents (19,7%) reported that the raid was done once in a week, while those who reported that once in a month were by 6 respondents (2%). So far, the punishment applied by schools for students who were suspected of accessing pornographic contents was confiscating their mobile phone, or their parents were to be called at school for advice or warning.

The role of parents with regard to the money they gave to their children was various. Parents who gave money were about 263 people (87,7%) while those who did not were merely 37 people (12.3%). Following this, parents who allowed their children to have a special relationship with someone were 95 people (31.7%) whereas who did not were 205 people (68.3%). Furthermore, parents who allowed their children to spend the night with the opposite sex were 128 people (42.7%) and who did not were 178 people (57.3%). Not only that, the limited time for hanging out at night was no later than 10 pm was applied by 98 people (32,7%), while parents who still allowed even 10 p.m afterward were 62 people (53,3%).

Qualitative Results (Interviews)

To further strengthen the quantitative data obtained in this study, the researchers conducted in-depth interviews among adolescents who were considered as the representatives in order to achieve the objectives of this study.

Respondents in this study were adolescents who haved one intercourse relation (Coitus). From the interviews, it was found that some the respondents have even experienced Coitus more than 10 times. Surprisingly, those who have had intercourse more than 10 times were driven by their curiosity, intercourse by loving each other, to prove their affection to their boyfriends, or because they expected to be married or be given money, and so forth. However, it is noteworthy that few of the respondents have done intercourse only once and three times.

Few respondents who got interviewed shared to the researchers that they were pregnant by accident/premarital course, more extremely, a respondent initialed Nn committed to abortion which was aided by a health practitioner who is notably as the relative of her boyfriend. She admitted to experiencing pregnancy several times due to free sex relation with her boyfriend. She, furthermore, shared that she has been in affairs with her boyfriend for two years, and done intercourse quite routine since the past year. She shared that she at the beginning did intercourse relation because of showing/proving her love to her boyfriend. She was completely aware of what she was doing was morally wrong, but she was promised by her boyfriend to be married afterward. As the time flies, she was then pregnant and ended up with an abortion. When she got pregnant for the second time, her boyfriend, aided by a relative who is working as a health officer, came to her house and forced her to commit to abortion by injection.

She actually lives in Makassar altogether with her parents and brothers. Surprisingly, her parents knew that she was in a relationship they even knew her boyfriend in person. However, her parents did not notice that she has several times done intercourse with her boyfriend. Her parents trusted her and her boyfriend much.

Following this, one of the respondents initialed AA shared her distant emotional relationship with her parents, particularly with her father. If she was at home, for instance, AA and her father would prefer to be more silent, and therefore AA fell that she was not really taken care of by her father. This was because her father was so busy with his daily job. Her mother, in contrast, always asked her especially to where AA always hanged out. According to AA, her mother seemed never suspicious to her, because she always went back home right after school time. If she would like to hang out, she asked for permission from her mother by a reason of doing homework at her friend's home. Therefore, she was never forbidden to do so by her mother. The same case was found in the relationship between AM and her parents.

DISCUSSIONS

According to Notoadmojo (2005)&Mwaba& Naidoo (2005), facilities might be a triggering factor that leads both the behavior and actions, just like mass media which is considered to be a possible factor that can increase the cases of free sex behavior. In addition, it is also plausible to say that the premarital sex increased because of lack of parents' surveillance. This is in line with what Giorgis et al. (2007), saying that the premarital sexual intercourse among youths could happen due to the lack of parental monitoring and guidance. Media is one major source of information for adolescents (Anderson, 2000). Good media brings a good effect for adolescents. Bad media, in the opposite, bring a negative impact on adolescents (Slameto, 2003).

In this study, the most popularly accessed pornography content was by means of video, by 148 (49.3%). Not only is video easily accessed by advance information and technology (so-called IT), but also it is easily shared via Bluetooth device, internet networking, and sharing data. Consequently, there have been many adolescents who accessed pornographic videos by

only using their mobile phone. Some of them even drew a couple who are doing intercourse while the lesson was still going on. By watching pornographic movies, the adolescents were able to commit to the action toward their opposite sex. Just like one respondent named AD, who shared that everything started by her friend environment, who always give her porn movies, which eventually discouraged her into a bad environment. It then ended up with a high curiosity to do Coitus or to actualize what she watched on movies. She said that she did intercourse for the first time at the first grade of senior high school.

CONCLUSIONS

To conclude, the number of adolescents who have experienced affairs was 73% while those who have committed to coitus were 11 people. Some of them ever did masturbation, petting, kissing, hugging, oral, and anal sex. The level knowledge of adolescents on free sex, in addition, was about 52,3 %. To access pornographic content, the mostly used media were internet media and handphone. Furthermore, the diverging behavior of adolescents toward free sex could not be separated away from the lack of parents' surveillance, and their attention to their children. Moreover, it was triggered by the support of parents who seemed to allow their children to have a special relationship with opposite sex.

SUGGESTIONS

This study suggests that the role of parents is such very crucial in strengthening surveillance and attention to their children. Here, every activity performed at home and with whom they always communicate in their daily activity should be always paid attention by parents. Not to mention, schools should widely acquaint the students about the danger of premarital sex, the effect of doing premarital sex, and also the need of improving spiritual counseling at school in order to develop students' attitudes. The last but not least, parents should limit the use of media among children in order to reduce their change in accessing pornographic contents by, for example, using a locking system via internet and handphone.

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