

The phenomenon of Premartial Sex Among Rulal Adolescents

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Abstract

This study aims to: (1) analyze the factors that contribute to the occurrence of premarital sexual behavior among adolescents in Kota Agung Village, Seluma Timur Subdistrict, Seluma Regency, Bengkulu Province; (2) examine the impacts of such behavior on adolescent girls in the same region; and (3) map out the preventive efforts undertaken by parents and the local community to mitigate and prevent the recurrence of such behavior in the village. This research adopts a qualitative case study approach. Data collection techniques include interviews, observations, and document analysis. Informants were selected through purposive sampling, and the data were analyzed descriptively using the interactive model developed by Miles and Huberman. The findings reveal that: (1) the primary factors contributing to premarital sexual behavior among adolescents in Kota Agung Village are addiction to pornographic films, weak parental supervision, negative peer influence, high curiosity, and limited understanding of cultural and religious norms; (2) the consequences of such behavior include early marriage, economic instability, psychological distress, disruption of family harmony, domestic violence, and a rise in child stunting cases; and (3) efforts to address the issue have focused on intensive communication between parents and their children, as well as community-led awareness programs and discussion forums. In conclusion, the phenomenon of premarital sex among adolescents in Kota Agung Village is largely driven by exposure to pornographic content and insufficient parental control. The dominant consequence is unplanned pregnancy outside of marriage. Meanwhile, preventive efforts mainly involve socialization activities and open discussions on the dangers of premarital sex and juvenile delinquency. Therefore, the active roles of parents, village authorities, educators, healthcare workers, and the wider community are crucial in promoting early education about the risks of promiscuous behavior and its potential consequences for the future of the youth involved.

I. Introduction

Teenage free sex is sexual behavior that is carried out by adolescents without commitment or serious relationships and often without adequate protection. Free sex is widely researched nationally and internationally. Free sex is synonymous with deviant teenage promiscuity and often leads to intercourse. So we as a society must provide education so that children can not have free sex, behind that children also need to be given the highest education so that they can become useful children (Tirang & Iadamay, 2019, p. 17).

The number of teenagers who are victims of a broken family vents their loneliness. In the end, venting this through association and even free sex. It all started from a poor family factor. There are other negative impacts for victims of Broken Home, for example children who are lonely and lack affection so they run away through free sex (Tari & Tafonao, 2019, p. 47).

Based on data from the National Population and Family Planning Agency (BKKBN), in 2023, there will be 60% of adolescents who have free sex. This percentage is distributed in the form of the number of children who are married and children who drop out of school.

Tabel 1.1 Top 5 Provinces Highest Number of Children Married

No	Province	Persentase
1.	Nusa Tenggara Barat	11%
2.	Jawa Timur	9,2%
3.	Jawa Tengah	8,9%
4.	Jawa Barat	7,5%
5.	Bengkulu	7,3%

Source: bkkbnri (2023)

From the data table 1.1 above, it can be seen that West Nusa Tenggara is the province with the highest number of married child cases, followed by East Java, Central Java, West Java, and Bengkulu Province.

According to data from the 2023 Indonesian Adolescent Reproduction Statistics (SKRRI), the proportion of women and men aged 15-24 years who have never been married and have premarital sex is 0.9% in women aged 15-19 years and 0.9% in women between the ages of 20 and 24. year. This figure is 2.6%, men aged 15-19 years old are 3.6%, and men aged 20-24 years are 14.0% (Warta & Andria, 2022). Based on the study, it can be seen that most adolescents start sexual activity at the age of 16 (Utami et al., 2021).

Furthermore, according to dr. Boyke, Dian Nugraha revealed, from year to year the data of adolescents who have free sex is increasing. From as many as 5% in the 1980s, to 20% in 2000 the range of this figure, said Boyke, was collected from various studies in several major cities in Indonesia, such as Jakarta, Surabaya, Palu, Banjarmasin, and even in Palu, Central Sulawesi, in 2000 it was recorded that teenagers who had had free sex reached 29.9% while a study conducted by Boyke himself last year (1999) on patients who came to the couple's clinic, It was recorded that around 18% of adolescents had premarital sexual relations, the group of adolescents included in the study was on average 17-21 years old, generally still attending high school or college level. However, some cases also occur in children who are in junior high school (SMP) (E. Yanti, 2017).

In a national *youth risk behavior survey*, 54% of adolescents in grades 3 through 3 said they had had sexual intercourse. Other studies show that adolescent boys are more likely to say they have had sex and are sexually active than adolescent girls (Suhaida et al., 2018).

In addition to children who have to get married, children who drop out of school as a result of promiscuity also have a worrying percentage. Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency in 2023, there are five provinces whose children have to drop out of school as a result of free sex.

Table 1.2 Five Provinces with the Highest Number of School Dropouts

No	Province	Gender		Persentase
		Man	Woman	
1.	Sumatera Utara	660	603	1.263 (14%)
2.	Sulawesi Utara	414	510	924 (12,4%)
3.	Nusa Tenggara Barat	302	612	914 (12,1%)
4.	Jawa Timur	519	323	842 (10,8%)
5.	Bengkulu	342	481	823 (10,4%)

Source: bpsri (2023)

The data 1.2 above illustrates the number of children who have to feel a drop out of school due to various factors. The main factor is because of the promiscuous sex in teenagers that causes their future to be ruined and their education has to be stopped.

Based on the distribution of regions, Cahaya Perempuan WCC Bengkulu recorded that in 2017 the highest rate of early marriage was in Seluma Regency. In the *age range* of 16-18 years, 40 people were recorded. Following Rejang Lebong Regency with 30 people and Bengkulu City with 23 people. The highest factor

causing child marriage was economic 145 cases, followed by socio-cultural factors with 63 cases, and unwanted pregnancy with 5 cases (Zulfa et al., 2022).

The Bengkulu Provincial Government implements Governor's Regulation Number 33 of 2018 concerning the Prevention of Child Marriage. In addition to the Governor's Regulation, local governments and related agencies also make strategic steps to provide reproductive and sexual health rights education to children and adolescents from an early age. However, until now, the incidence of early marriage continues to increase from year to year. So that it results in health problems, Maternal Mortality Rate (AKI) and Infant Mortality Rate (AKB) (Survey Sosial Ekonomi Nasional: Statistik Kesejahteraan Rakyat, 2013).

One of the regencies in Bengkulu Province that experiences the highest promiscuity phenomenon is Seluma Regency. Seluma Regency is a geographical area that has several sub-districts, East Seluma District is a sub-district with quite high cases of promiscuous sex. Of the 5 villages in East Seluma, Kota Agung village is a village with a very high case of early marriage as a result of free sex (Survei Demografi Dan Kesehatan Indonesia 2012 (SDKI12), 2012).

Demographically, the village of Kota Agung has a population of 1,033 people with 286 heads of families. The number of teenagers in Kota Agung Village is 94 people. Overall, the people in Kota Agung Village are professionals as oil palm farmers. Because almost the majority of parents work as oil palm farmers who work from morning to late at night, causing a lack of attention and supervision of teenagers in Kota Agung Village. Now the phenomenon of free sex in Kota Agung Village seems ordinary and commonplace to see. Dating, hugging, kissing and holding hands have become things that are often done by teenagers in Kota Agung Village. So the phenomenon of dating among teenagers is no longer a strange thing, even a story. Among men in Kota Agung village, promiscuous sexual behavior is considered a common thing and cases continue to increase.

Based on data from the Tais Religious Court in 2020, there were 23 marriage dispensations for adolescent girls and adolescent boys in the age range of 14-18 years due to free sexual activities carried out by these teenagers. The large number of promiscuous sex that affects adolescent girls who become pregnant out of wedlock must bear great risks, including they are forced to drop out of school and increase in early marriage and divorce, and children born stunted.

The condition of free sex in Kota Agung Village is very concerning because it results in many children having to get married at an early age. Based on data from the Tais religious court, the following data was obtained:

Table 1.3 Early Marriage Cases as a Result of Free Sex

No	Village	Year		Sum
		2022	2023	
1.	Rawa Sari	3	5	8
2.	Tenangan	7	5	12
3.	Talang Sali	6	7	13
4.	Kunduran	5	8	13
5	Kota Agung	6	8	14
Sum				60

Source: Pengadilan Agama Tais Kelas II (2023)

Based on the data above, cases of early marriage are experienced by teenagers who are still in education. The consequences of free sex and unwanted pregnancy have resulted in many marriage dispensations for minors in East Seluma District.

Based on the above statement, it is suspected that free sex in teenagers that occurred in Kota Agung Village, East Seluma District is very important to be addressed quickly and wisely for a better future for children, so it needs to be followed up seriously. Any promiscuous sex behavior that occurs will only have a lot of bad repercussions if it is not resolved properly because cases will increase. Many problems arise as a result of free sex, especially among teenagers such as early marriage, unstable economy, psychological disorders, domestic violence and children born in stunted conditions. Considering that adolescents are agents of change, good filter socialization is needed so that there are no deviations from agencies related to the prevention of free sex.

2. Research Method

This type of research is a type of qualitative research. This research is a scientific method that is often used and carried out by a group of researchers in the field of social sciences, including in the field of education. The reason researchers use qualitative research is because researchers want to understand a phenomenon in depth, find meaning, and interpret human experience in a certain context (Yusuf, 2016). This method is suitable for research that is exploratory, descriptive, and wants to explore rich and in-depth information, especially about the phenomenon of free sex among adolescents, especially adolescents in Kota Agung Village, East Seluma District, Seluma Regency. Data collection techniques are observation, interviews and documentation.

3. Results and Discussion

Factors Causing Promiscuous Sexual Behavior Among Adolescents in Kota Agung Village, East Seluma District, Seluma Regency, Bengkulu Province

Based on the results of the research carried out, the factors that cause the occurrence of promiscuity in AR consist of internal and external factors. Internal factors include curiosity, perceptions of free sex itself, and lack of understanding of free sex (Hermanto, 2018). External factors include environmental factors outside the school. Free sex in adolescents generally occurs because of emotional attachment that makes adolescents reach the stage of having free sex. AR counselors are students who have had sex repeatedly with their boyfriends, at least once a week. The AR counselor admitted that he did this initially out of curiosity and felt comfortable if he was alone with his girlfriend. This is in accordance with the opinion of Agustina & Idawati (2019) that relationships based on curiosity to make further physical contact make the attachment between couples closer and difficult to separate so that lust will be passionate if these couples meet.

This is in accordance with the opinion of Andirani et al. (2022) that promiscuity among adolescents occurs because nowadays it is easy to access things, seek their own knowledge and information about sexuality but are unable to take responsibility for what they see so that it is misinterpreted negatively which then forms the sexual libido drive in adolescents. Many teenagers think that the embodiment of love and affection is expressed by handing over their soul and body to the opposite sex, besides that teenagers with labile conditions are indirectly more easily plunged into doing things that are not in accordance with religious norms, customs, and rules of conduct in society (Nurihsan & Agustin, 2013). There are also things that are not suitable such as promiscuity, namely going out late at night, hanging out with the opposite sex without any restrictions, to having intercourse with the opposite sex without a marriage bond (Iradat & Abbas, 2023).

The Impact of Promiscuous Sex Behavior on Young Women

Based on the results of observations and interviews, the impact of promiscuous sexual behavior on adolescent girls includes three aspects, namely the physical aspect, the second emotional or psychological aspect, and the third aspect of education or economy. Young women who have had free sex feel the physical impact of unplanned pregnancies. Four out of two young women admitted to being pregnant out of wedlock because they had had sex several times with their boyfriends, making them pregnant at a very young age.

Family and Community Efforts in Anticipating Promiscuous Sex Behavior Among Adolescents

From the results of interviews and observations above, five out of six parents of adolescents who engage in free sex say that they give attention and affection to their

children. The form of attention is poured in opening positive communication with their children.

In addition to opening positive communication with their children, the six parents of adolescents who engage in free sex also provide values to prevent unwanted behaviors such as free sex. The parents of the teenager provide an understanding to focus on school and studies so as not to be affected by things that exist outside of it (Ginting et al., 2020).

This is in line with positive parenting theory that developing warm and open relationships can prevent promiscuous sexual behavior in adolescents (Anwar et al., 2019). In line with positive parenting theory, functional structural theory also says that the family as a social unit is able to teach values and norms to prevent promiscuous sexual behavior (Asmani, 2011).

In addition to the efforts of the family, efforts from the community also have a big contribution for adolescents to prevent the occurrence of promiscuous sexual behavior. From the results of the interview above, it has been explained that there are two efforts made by the community, namely preventive efforts and repressive efforts. Preventive efforts are carried out by providing socialization to adolescents about promiscuous sex and juvenile delinquency (Lickona, 2008). In addition, by opening access for teenagers to be involved in positive activities, the community is also involved. In addition to preventive efforts, enforcement efforts are also carried out to provide a deterrent effect. Such as holding a direct marriage if it is caught by the community if they engage in free sexual activities. This is so that teenagers avoid this behavior and maintain the name of the village (Hamzah, 2012).

This is in line with the theory of social construction developed by Goffmaan that society as a unit shapes adolescents' perceptions of sexuality and relationships (Rahayu, 2013). The same thing is also explained in the theory of social role where society teaches social roles and values to prevent promiscuous sexual behavior in adolescents (*Pengembangan Pendidikan Dan Karakter Budaya Bangsa: Pedoman Sekolah*, 2010).

As a common concern, so that adolescents do not fall into promiscuous sex, it is necessary to make preventive and educational efforts from various parties, including parents, schools, and the community. These efforts include strengthening character education, providing sex and reproductive health education, creating a conducive environment, and enhancing the role of religion and spirituality (Rondonuwu et al., 2024).

Promiscuity is a phenomenon that often occurs among students in Indonesia. This phenomenon can be interpreted as social relationship behavior outside the boundaries of norms determined by society, especially in terms of sexual relations outside of marriage (Rupawan & Febriani, 2024). Promiscuity can have a bad impact on students, such as teenage pregnancy, transmission of sexually transmitted

diseases (STDs), psychiatric disorders, and so on. The importance of the role of parents in preventing promiscuity among students has been recognized by many parties. Parents as caregivers have an important role in shaping the character of their children. Therefore, parents should be actively involved in the supervision and education of their children to avoid unwanted behaviors, including promiscuity (D. Yanti, 2021).

This shows that promiscuity is a serious problem that must be addressed immediately. One way to prevent promiscuity is with the role of parents. Parents have an important role in shaping the character and behavior of their children. Therefore, the role of parents in preventing promiscuity must be taken seriously (Fadlyana & Larasaty, 2016). Parents can help prevent promiscuity by providing proper supervision and monitoring of their children's activities. In addition, parents can also provide appropriate education and socialization regarding the dangers of promiscuity and its negative impact on students (Farida, 2009). However, not all parents have the same awareness and understanding of the importance of the role of parents in preventing promiscuity. Some parents may consider that the responsibility for preventing promiscuity is the responsibility of the school or the government. This can lead to a lack of parental role in preventing promiscuity, parents who are busy working cause less interaction between parents and children (Fatmawaty, 2017).

One of the solutions that can be done is to hold a socialization and education program about the dangers of promiscuity for students to parents. This program can be organized by the school or the local government by inviting experts or related resource persons. Through this program, parents can obtain better information and understanding about the dangers of promiscuity and their role in preventing it (Haisyusyi, 2019).

Parents play an important role in shaping the behavior and morals of their children. Parents can have a positive influence on their children by providing moral education and teaching good values. that the role of parents in educating their children greatly determines the formation of character and the development of children's personalities (Fatu et al., 2022). Parents should also pay attention to their children's activities and ensure that they engage in positive activities.

4. Conclusion

Based on the results of the study, it was concluded that:

- a. The factors that cause promiscuous sex among adolescents are internal factors and external factors. Internal factors include high curiosity and curiosity so that these teenagers are prone to promiscuous sex. The external factors include the influence of social media and association, families who lack attention and supervision, weak supervision from the community around the teenager.
- b. The impact of free sex on teenage girls is numerous. There are three main

impacts experienced by adolescent girls including physical impacts such as unwanted pregnancy, then there are emotional/psychological impacts such as feelings of guilt, shame, depression and stress, and finally there are educational/economic impacts such as educational disruptions, and expensive childbirth costs.

- c. Efforts made to anticipate promiscuous sex behavior by parents and society vary widely. Efforts made by parents such as opening communication with children, increasing awareness, encouraging independence, and monitoring social activities. Efforts are also made by the community, such as preventive efforts by socializing and repressive efforts by conducting marriages.

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