



DATING ADOLESCENTS DISTRIBUTION BY GENDER AND PLACE OF RESIDENCE (RURAL-URBAN AREAS): IDHS 2017 DATA ANALYSIS IN SOUTH KALIMANTAN PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

The majority of adolescents in Indonesia are already dating. However, the distribution of the dating phenomenon among adolescents varies between provinces in Indonesia. South Kalimantan is the province with the smallest percentage of boyfriend/girlfriend ownership in Indonesia. This study aims to determine the distribution of dating adolescents with comparative analysis of gender and place of residence in the form of rural and urban areas in South Kalimantan in 2017. This study uses secondary data as an analysis tool. Secondary data were obtained from the 2017 Indonesian Demographic and Health Survey (IDHS) on the Adolescent Reproductive Health component. The variables used include two aspects, namely the socio-demographic conditions and dating plus dating behavior in adolescents. The data were then processed and analyzed descriptively quantitatively. The results showed that adolescents in the rural had a greater percentage of boyfriend/girlfriend ownership than urban adolescents. Males are more permissive of sexual dating behavior to premarital sex than females. In this case, both males and females in urban areas are more permissive of premarital sex than males and females in rural areas.

Keywords: dating, gender, rural, urban, South Kalimantan

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia as the country with the fourth largest population in the world has a large composition of the adolescent population as well. The Demography Institute of FEB UI (2017, p.2) explains that adolescence is a transitional period between children and adults and there is no definite definition regarding the age group boundaries of adolescents. Meanwhile, according to the BKKBN, adolescents are residents in the age range of 10-24 years and have not been married. Data from the 2010

Population Census shows that the percentage of adolescents in Indonesia (population aged 10-24 years) is 27.34% (Bappenas, BPS and UNFPA, 2013) and decreased to 25.38% based on the results of the SUPAS or Inter-Census Population Survey in 2015 (BPS, 2015). Adolescence is a period where adolescents are vulnerable to delinquency as a result of changes in their physical, mental, and social dimensions (Prakitri & Zuhana, 2017; Swahn et al, 2013).

One form is sexual deviant behavior that can be started from dating. Sexual behavior is divided into 5 stages, namely touching, dating without kissing, kissing, touching sensitive parts (breasts and genitals), and finally having sexual intercourse (Zagoto et al, 2021). Dating can lead to violence (Wekerle & Tanaka, 2010), premarital sex, unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and so on (BKKBN, BPS, & Ministry of Health, 2018, p. 120). Adolescents are very vulnerable to pre-marital sexual behavior (Nisman et al, 2020). The younger the dating age, the younger the youth will have the potential to have premarital sexual relations, then this will increase the intensity of premarital sexual relations (Sari & Rokhanawati, 2018; Aryati et al, 2021).

Data from the 2017 Indonesian Demographic and Health Survey (IDHS) shows that 80% of females and 84% of males in Indonesia have been dating. Of the adolescents who are dating, 5% of females and 22% of males have been touched/touched on sensitive parts that can stimulate sexual activity. This is a deviant behavior, both religiously and morally and destroys the identity of the teenager himself. It is evident that 2% of females and 8% of males reported having had premarital sexual intercourse at the age of 17 years on average. In their research, Ilbert & Marfuah (2021) explained that there were 7 reasons why teenagers had premarital sex, namely loving each other; maintaining virginity is an ancient belief; premarital sexual behavior is natural and includes basic human needs; choosing to have sexual relations is a human right; instigated a friend's invitation; premarital sexual behavior is considered to provide experience for successful marriage; and the occurrence of sexual behavior is not because of intention but driven by instinct. This deviant behavior will eventually lead to unwanted pregnancies and abortions. Abortion is an act that is very dangerous for the health of the mother because it can cause death (Listiyana, 2012).

The distribution of dating adolescents in Indonesia is very diverse, between provinces and rural-urban areas. One of the provinces in Indonesia with the lowest percentage of dating adolescents in 2017 is South Kalimantan

Province (BKKBN et al., 2018). This area is becoming increasingly interesting to study due to the fact that in 2018, 17.63% of South Kalimantan females aged less than 18 years were married (BPS, UNICEF, & PUSKAPA, 2020). In other words, cases of early marriage in Kalimantan Province are high in Indonesia because they have exceeded the national average of only 11.21%. The 2017 IDHS data shows that the median age at first marriage for married females aged 20-49 years in South Kalimantan is 19.4 years. According to Law Number 16 of 2019 concerning Amendments to Law Number 1 of 1974 concerning Marriage, this age (19 years) is the minimum age that is allowed to marry. The fact in South Kalimantan indicate that the majority of adolescents still have a tendency to marry young.

So far, various studies on dating behavior and premarital sexual behavior have been widely studied. However, no one has investigated its distribution by rural-urban areas in certain provinces in Indonesia. Several previous studies conducted by Setiawan and Nurhidayah (2008) and Khaninah and Widjanarko (2016) only examined a narrow areas coverage. Oktriyanto and Alfiasari (2019) conducted research with a large areas coverage, even throughout Indonesia. Referring to these studies, this study presents a data analysis that is more focused on the coverage of the province with a rural urban comparison model and gender comparison. This research is expected to contribute to policy makers in determining the direction of development of Indonesian youth in accordance with spacial characteristics and gender. The formulation of the problem in this study are: 1) what is the general description of dating behavior in South Kalimantan by gender; and 2) how is the dating behavior of adolescents in rural and urban areas of South Kalimantan.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study used secondary data as an analytical tool. The data used are the results of the Indonesian Demographic and Health Survey (IDHS) in 2017. The IDHS is carried out by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in collaboration with the National Population and

Family Planning Agency (BKKBN) and the Ministry of Health (Kemakeskes). The IDHS is also part of the international Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) Program project, which is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The IDHS data consists of various components. In order to examine the relationship between dating behavior in adolescents, the Adolescent Reproductive Health (KRR) component of the 2017 IDHS was used. In it, there is a discussion about unmarried females and males aged 15-24 years. The total number of respondents used in this study was 98 for females and 147 for males in South Kalimantan Province. As for the distribution of rural and urban areas, there are 47 rural females and 51 urban females and 86 rural males and 61 urban males. The variables used in this study were the respondent's background as well as dating and sexual behavior. Respondent's background includes place of residence, age, and education. The variables of dating and sexual behavior include current boyfriend/girlfriend ownership, dating behavior, and attitudes towards premarital sexual behavior. All of these variables were then processed using descriptive statistics and analyzed descriptively quantitatively.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Adolescents

From a socio-demographic point of view, there are differences between male and female adolescents in South Kalimantan (Table 1). Female adolescents are dominated by those aged 15-19 years (67.9%), while males are dominated by those aged 20-24 years (50.9%). The average of female adolescents live in urban areas (52.5%). On the other hand, more male adolescents live in rural areas (58.4%). In terms of education, female adolescents tend to be more educated than male adolescents. This was caused by the lower percentage of male adolescents currently pursuing high school and tertiary education compared to female adolescents.

Table 1. The Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Adolescents in South Kalimantan by 2017

Socio-Demographic Variable	Percentage (%)	
	Male	Female
Age		
Age Group by 15-19 Years	49.1	67.9
Age Group by 20-24 Years	50.9	32.1
Total	100.0	100.0
Highest Education		
Elementary School	16.8	6.0
Junior High School	15.7	7.7
Senior High School	54.3	59.8
DI/II/III/Academy	2.4	5.9
DIV/University	10.7	20.6
Total	100.0	100.0
Residence		
Rural	58.4	47.5
Urban	41.6	52.5
Total	100.0	100.0

According to the distribution of residence, the characteristics of adolescents in Kalimantan are quite different between rural and urban areas. Males in rural areas tend to be dominated by those aged 15-19 years (51.2%). On the other hand, male adolescents in urban areas are dominated by those aged 20-24 years (53.2%). In terms of education, on average, males in rural areas have elementary, junior, and senior high school education (dominant), while males in urban areas have junior high school, senior high school (dominant) and university education. It means that there is a difference in the level of education between

male adolescents in rural and urban areas, where urban males tend to have higher education than those in rural areas.

In contrast to male adolescents, the age characteristics of female adolescents between rural and urban areas are not much different. On the average, females in both types of areas are dominated by those aged 15-19 years. However, in terms of education, the characteristics of female adolescents in the two areas are quite different. In the rural areas, females are dominated by those with junior high school, senior high school (dominant) and university education, while in the urban areas are dominated by those with senior high school education (dominant), DI/DII/DIII/Academy, and university. These characteristics indicate that the education of female adolescents tend to be higher than that of male adolescents, both in rural and urban areas.

Dating Behavior

In general, the results of the 2017 survey show that almost half of the adolescents in South Kalimantan admitted to having a boyfriend/girlfriend. However, the percentage of females who are dating is higher than that of males who are dating. Meanwhile, if viewed from a geographical perspective in the form of rural and urban areas, it turns out that adolescents in rural areas have more boyfriend/girlfriend than urban adolescents (Figure 1).

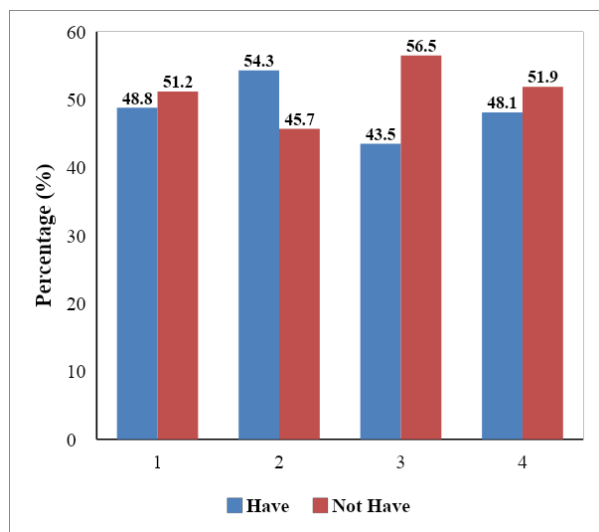


Figure 1. Distribution of the Percentage of Boyfriend/Girlfriend Ownership in Adolescents by Place of Residence and Gender in South Kalimantan in 2017

Adolescents whose not have a boyfriend/girlfriend at the time of the survey do not mean that they have never been in a dating relationship. Some of them claimed to have had a boyfriend/girlfriend. When dating, their sexual behavior also varies. The majority of the adolescents who were dating admitted that they had held hands. Some of them even hugged, kissed, and touched sensitive areas. Figure 2 is a breakdown of dating adolescents behavior by gender and place of residence.

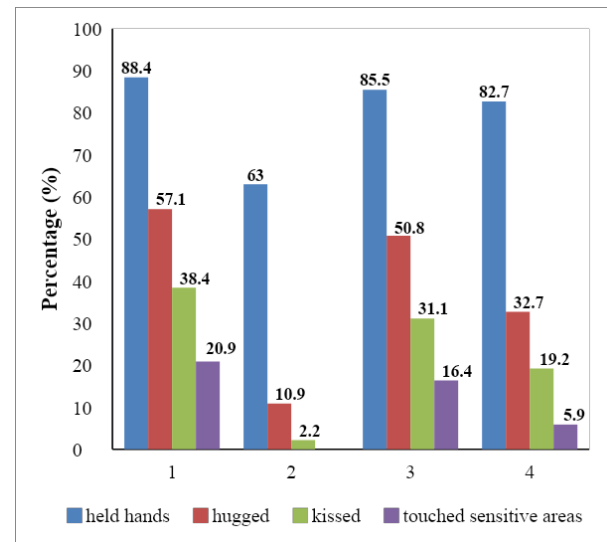


Figure 2. Distribution of Percentage of Sexual Behavior during Dating in Adolescents by Place of Residence and Gender in South Kalimantan in 2017

Figure 2 shows that compared to females, males are more permissive of sexual behavior during dating. This permissiveness is indicated by the high percentage of sexual behavior they have experienced while dating, from holding hands until touching sensitive areas. In fact, sexual behavior during dating will be very risky for the emergence of premarital sexual relations or commonly called intercourse (Setiawan and Nurhidayah, 2008; Oktriyanto and Alfiasari, 2019; Anesia C.P. and Notobroto, 2013). The high permissiveness of males to sexual behavior during dating is due to the implication of a higher sexual drive than females (Wulan and Muslihudin, 2003). Sari et al (2020) also explained that teenage boys have a 6.8 times greater chance of carrying out sexual behavior in a relationship than young girls, because it is related to the testosterone hormone they have

so that men are more sensitive to stimulation and easy to get erections. Males are constructed as more active, aggressive, competitive, dominant, superior, and full of self-confidence in terms of sexuality.

Apart from gender, sexual behavior during dating was also different in terms of place of residence. Rural males tend to be more permissive than urban males. On the other hand, rural females tend to be less permissive than urban females. This, of course, is closely related to society's view of gender itself. In the rural areas, males are still considered as superior beings who are free to do whatever they want, including in terms of sexuality. As for the urban areas, society tends to be more modern and considers males and females equal. This is what makes urban females more daring to engage in sexual behavior during dating than rural females, coupled with the fact that it is easier to hide these behaviors from modern society.

Although the majority of adolescents in South Kalimantan have engaged in sexual behavior during dating, in general they do not approve of premarital sexual relations. Table 3 shows that the permissive attitude (approving) of male adolescents towards premarital sexual relations is greater than that of female adolescents. This is in line with the findings of Faturochman (1995) and Setiawan and Nurhidayah (2008) which show that male adolescents tend to have a higher permissive attitude towards premarital sexual relations than female adolescents. The factor that causes this high permissive attitude is motivated by the still attached understanding that males can do as they please to have sex compared to females (Suwarni and Arfan, 2015). Males have a lower risk when having premarital sex compared to females. Females may experience forced sexual intercourse and are at risk of unwanted pregnancy which will later cause ridicule by society. As for Rosdarni, et al. (2015) in their research explains that male adolescents who have low knowledge, permissive attitudes towards sexuality, low self-esteem and self-efficacy, tend to be at risk of 16% of premarital sexual behavior. In fact, the findings show that males invite their girlfriends to have premarital sex. That is, the role of males in premarital sex is greater.

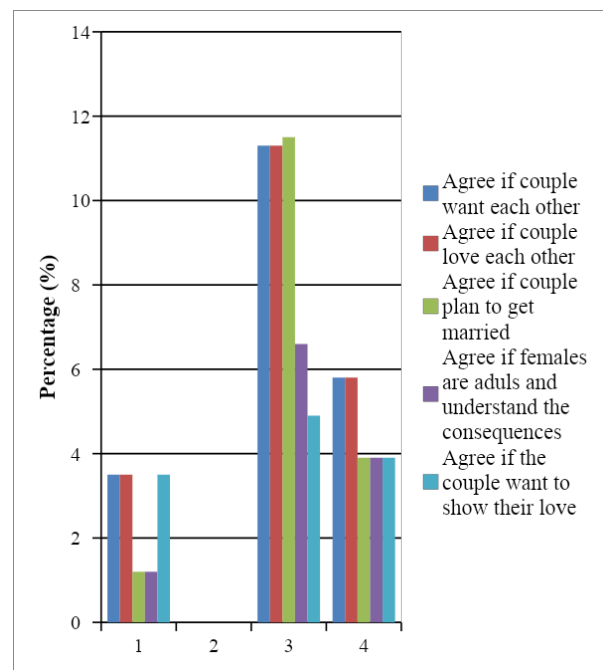


Figure 3. Distribution of the Percentage of Attitudes towards Premarital Sexual Relations in Adolescents by Place of Residence and Gender in South Kalimantan in 2017

Apart from being different in terms of gender, it turns out that attitudes towards premarital sexual relations also differ between rural and urban areas. The percentage of adolescents in rural areas who agree to premarital sexual relations is smaller than adolescents in urban areas. This is related to the spatial conditions of the urban areas where the population tends to consider premarital sexual behavior normal. Promiscuity in the urban areas is a common phenomenon as well. In addition, access to media information about premarital sex is very much, such as access to places of prostitution, cinemas to watch pornographic films, easy internet networks, etc. However, Table 3 also shows that there are rural males who agree to premarital sexual relations. This indicates that even in the rural areas there are still misunderstandings about premarital sexual relations. Wulan and Muslihudin (2003) explain that lack of knowledge about premarital sexual behavior causes adolescents in rural areas to tend to be reckless and daring to have sex before the marriage bond. In addition, they still believe in the existence of untrue myths related to premarital sexual relations which tend to be misleading. The influence of electronic media

such as the internet, which provides access to read and watch pornographic films, results in the desire of teenagers to practice what they watch, namely premarital sexual relations (Suwarsi, 2016; Khalesi et al, 2017). One of the efforts that can be made to intervene and suppress sexual behavior among adolescents is to incorporate information about adolescent reproductive health into the school curriculum, particularly in Biology subjects (Murdiningsih et al, 2020).

CONCLUSIONS

The distribution of the percentage of dating adolescents in South Kalimantan differs between gender and place of residence. Females are more dominant in dating than males. However, in terms of sexual behavior while dating, males tend to be more permissive to do things that are risky to premarital sexual relations than females. However, the distribution of cases between rural and urban areas still has quite a big difference. In rural areas, cases of dating adolescents are actually higher than in urban areas. Males in rural areas tend to be more daring in sexual behavior during dating than males in urban areas. On the other hand, females in urban areas are more courageous than rural females in sexual behavior. In general, the perception of premarital sexual relations among adolescents in urban areas is very different from that of rural adolescents. Urban adolescents in this case have a greater tendency to accept free sex behavior in the form of premarital sexual relations than adolescents in urban areas. If this is allowed, it will have an impact on the moral destruction of the nation's young generation and it is not impossible that it will spread to rural areas

RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of this study indicate that although the percentage is the lowest in all provinces in Indonesia, cases of dating adolescents in South Kalimantan still have a high risk of the emergence of free sex in the form of premarital sexual relations. Therefore, socialization of the dangers of deviant dating behavior is very necessary in order to educate the younger generation

so they will not harm themselves. Strengthening religion is also needed for the younger generation which can start from the family, community, to the state. The participation of the community in providing social sanctions for deviant dating behavior also makes a major contribution so that the younger generation is increasingly aware that sexual behavior during dating is not commalesdable and destroys the morale of society

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