

The Relationship between Adolescent Characteristics and Adolescent Health Knowledge in the RW 08 Area, Wetan Garut City Village

Iwan Shalahuddin^{1*}, Udin Rosidin²

^{1,2} Department of Community Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, Padjadjaran University, Sumedang, West Java, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Adolescents face very complex problems during their transition period. Sexuality problems such as premarital sex behavior, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, and drug abuse are the most common problems among adolescents. **Method:** This study uses a survey method with a quantitative analytical research design. The total population in this study is 79 adolescents aged 15 – 18 years. **Results:** As many as 24 adolescents (31%) still have insufficient knowledge about sexually transmitted diseases, 19 adolescents (24.1%) have insufficient knowledge related to HIV/AIDS and 8 adolescents (10.3%) have insufficient knowledge related to reproductive health, and as many as 11 adolescents (13.8%) have insufficient knowledge related to drugs. Adolescent gender and employment status have a significant relationship with adolescent knowledge levels. **Conclusion:** That the level of knowledge of adolescents in RW 08 Wetan City Village is still in the category of lack of knowledge about adolescent health knowledge. Characteristics of adolescents by gender and occupation have a significant relationship with adolescent health knowledge, while adolescent characteristics by age have no relationship with adolescent health knowledge level.

Corresponding Authors: (*)

Prodi Kesehatan Masyarakat, Fakultas Ilmu Kesehatan, Universitas Muhammadiyah

Surakarta, Jl. A. Yani Tromol Pos I, Pabelan Kartasura, Sukoharjo 57169, Indonesia

Email: yuli.kusumawati@ums.ac.id

INTRODUCTION

WHO says adolescence is the transition phase from childhood to adulthood. It occurs between the ages of 10 and 18 years. Adolescents experience significant physical, cognitive, and psychosocial development during this period, a critical time when a strong foundation for health can be built. This impacts the way they think, feel, and make decisions. During this period, adolescents develop specific behavioral patterns, including eating patterns, physical activity, drug use, and sexual activity. They experience rapid physical growth, hormonal changes, and sexual development. This includes increased height, voice changes in boys, and menstrual cycles in girls (Gancz et al., 2023).

Adolescence is the period between childhood and adulthood. According to the Indonesian Ministry of Health (2007), adolescents are people aged 10 to 19 years and unmarried. According to the BKKBN (2012), adolescents are people aged 10 to 24 years and constitute 27% of the total population of Indonesia in 2010 (BKKBN, 2014). Due to the vast adolescent population, the nation's next generation must be prepared to become physically, spiritually, mentally, and spiritually healthy individuals. The health status of adolescents must be maintained and improved so that the nation's next generation can be healthy and qualified (Nurkholis et al., 2023).

Adolescents face very complex problems during their transition period. Sexuality problems such as premarital sexual behavior, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, and drugs are the most common problems among adolescents (BKKBN, 2012). According to the 2012 Indonesian Demographic and Health Survey (SDKI, 2012), the number of adolescents in Indonesia who have sex before marriage is increasing. From 2002 to 2012, 8.3% of male adolescents and 1% of female adolescents did so (Farida, 2016).

Adolescence is when significant changes occur in a person's physical, psychological, and social life. This is the transition period from childhood to adulthood (Utami & Santoso, 2021). Adolescents develop more advanced thinking patterns and reasoning skills during this developmental phase, which focuses on forming self-identity, forming relationships with the opposite sex, and developing a sense of responsibility and independence. According to the Central Statistics Agency (2024), Indonesia has a population of 278.7 million, with 44.25 million adolescents, or around 15% of the total population (Pidah et al., 2021).

According to the Central Statistics Agency of West Java (2024), the population of West Java in 2023 is 49,405,810 million, with 851,590 thousand adolescents. Adolescents will face social problems such as a lack of educational opportunities, poor job opportunities, drug use, and sexually transmitted infections (Singh et al., 2019).

WHO estimates that each year, more than 1 million new cases of sexually transmitted infections occur worldwide. Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) include HIV/AIDS, syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, genital herpes, HPV, and hepatitis B. In Indonesia itself, according to the Indonesian Health Profile, in 2020, there has been an increase in cases of STIs such as HIV in Indonesia every year. Data shows that there are 41,987 cases of HIV, with 2.9% of them experienced by adolescents. Meanwhile, AIDS cases reached 8,639, with 3.8% of them occurring in adolescents (Kusuma, 2023).

Sexually transmitted infections are diseases that are transmitted through sexual activity involving the mouth, anus, vagina or penis. According to *Nationwode Children's* (2023), every day, more than one million cases of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) occur worldwide, and most of them do not show any symptoms. It is estimated that there are 374 million new cases of infection each year. Around 50 out of 100 STIs occur in people aged 15 to 24 years, including adolescents. According to the 2020 Indonesian Health Profile, it was reported that STIs such as HIV are increasing every year. Symptoms that may appear in STI sufferers are burning, itching, or discharge in the genital area; even some STIs do not show any symptoms (Cleveland Clinic, 2021).

Sensing such as sight, feeling, smell, taste, and touch can cause someone to know about something (Darsini et al., 2019). Knowledge is a person's understanding of facts, information, descriptions, or skills obtained through observation, discovery, or learning (Gilanie, 2022). Experience, observation, learning, reasoning, or information from others are some examples of sources of knowledge. All human traits and qualities are influenced by knowledge (Evridawati et al., 2020).

Increasing knowledge is one way to prevent STIs. According to Bertrand Russell, a philosopher, knowledge is known by someone who underlies an action. This is the basis for why researchers took the topic of the description of adolescent knowledge in RW 08, Kota Wetan Village. The purpose of this study was to determine the relationship between adolescent characteristics and adolescent knowledge about reproductive health, sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS, and drugs in RW 08, Kota Wetan Village, Garut City District.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Adolescence Concept

Adolescence is often equated with adolescence, a condition that describes a period of psychosocial change accompanying puberty (Halawa, 2020). Adolescence is a Latin term that describes adolescence as "growing or growing to reach maturity." *Adolescence* is a term that has a broad meaning that includes mental, social, emotional, and physical maturity (Dungga & Ihsan, 2023).

According to Halawa (2020), based on psychosocial and sexual maturity in their growth and development towards adulthood, every adolescent will go through the following stages: 1) Early adolescence 11-13 years; 2) Middle adolescence 14-16 years; 3) Late adolescence 17-21 years.

Miftahul (2017) categorizes adolescence based on its developmental stages, namely: 1) Pre-puberty (12-15 years). This pre-puberty period is a transition period from childhood to puberty. A child, at this time, has grown or experienced puberty (becoming big) and begins to have the desire to act like an adult; sexual maturity has also occurred, in line with the development of his psychological functions; 2) Puberty (15-18 years) Puberty is a period where psychosocial development is more dominant. A child is no longer reactive but has also begun to be active in activities to find his identity and life guidelines. They start to be idealistic and think about the future; 3) Adolescents (18-21 years). Children or adolescents during adolescence are psychologically more stable than before. They begin to know themselves, begin to think visionarily, begin to make plans for their lives, and begin to think, choose, and determine the path of life they will take.

Concept of Sexually Transmitted Infections

Adolescence is a transitional period between childhood and adulthood. Adolescence is characterized by physical, social, and psychological maturity that is directly related to the personality, sexuality, and social roles of adolescents. Adolescence consists of early adolescence (10 ± 14 years), middle adolescence (14 - 17 years), and late adolescence (17 ± 19 years) (Jose RL Batubara, 2016).

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are reproductive tract infections (RTIs) that are transmitted through sexual intercourse. Sexually transmitted infections can be caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi, protozoa, or ectoparasites. Sexually transmitted diseases include Syphilis, Gonorrhea, Bubo, Chicken Comb, Herpes, and others. The place of infection is not only around the genitals but can also occur outside the genitals (Matahari & Utami, 2018).

HIV/AIDS Concept

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is a virus that weakens the human immune system. AIDS (Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndromes) is a collection of symptoms that arise due to a weakened immune system caused by HIV infection (Kemenkes RI, 2020). AIDS is the leading cause of adult death in the world. Diseases caused by HIV have a case fatality rate approaching 100%. AIDS has devastated families and caused untold suffering in the worst-hit areas, including some of the poorest parts of the world; HIV has reversed the increase in life expectancy recorded in the last three decades of the 20th century. HIV/AIDS is a major global health emergency (Jamini, 2022).

Based on age group, the highest incidence of HIV is in the 20-49 age group (87%). Meanwhile, AIDS is highest in the 20-49 age group (81%) (AIDS Control Commission, 2016). Judging from the incubation period, which takes around 5-10 years, it is estimated that the first contact with HIV occurred in adolescence, so adolescence can be said to be an age that is vulnerable to HIV (Alfaresedes et al., 2021).

Adolescence is a time when individuals are at the highest social mobility. This high social mobility will open up opportunities for them to be exposed to various social, cultural, physical, and psychological changes. As a result, these adolescents have a high vulnerability to the transmission of various types of diseases, especially HIV/AIDS. Recently, there has been a tendency for an increase in HIV/AIDS cases, especially in the adolescent group, which is still a very productive age (Husen et al., 2023).

The concept of NAPZA

NAPZA is an abbreviation for narcotics, alcohol, psychotropics, and other addictive substances. NAPZA is sometimes also referred to as "drugs." Narcotics etymologically come from the Greek word Narkoum, which means to paralyze or numb. While in English, narcotics are more directed towards drugs that make their users addicted.

According to Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning narcotics, narcotics are substances or drugs derived from plants or non-plants, both synthetic and semi-synthetic, which can cause decreased or altered consciousness, loss of feeling, reduce to eliminate pain, and can cause dependence, which is divided into groups.

In the world of health, NAPZA provides considerable benefits for human healing and safety; however, currently, the use of NAPZA is often misused (Firdaus & Mahargia, 2018). Drug abuse is the use of drugs that are not used for medical purposes in excessive amounts, regularly and for a long time, resulting in physical health problems as well as disturbances in behavior and social life (Firdaus & Hidayati, 2019).

METHOD

This study uses a survey method with a quantitative analytical research design and a cross-sectional approach. The population in this study was 79 adolescents aged 15-18 years. The sampling technique applied in this study was total sampling. The questionnaire on the level of health knowledge is the instrument used in this study. The secondary data was carried out by PPN XLVI students, Faculty of Nursing, Padjadjaran University from January 17, 2024 - January 24, 2024.

The dependent variables in this study are gender, age, and occupation of adolescents, and the independent variable is about adolescent health knowledge. Data analysis was conducted using a univariate frequency distribution method, with a good category if adolescents answered ≥ 4 correct answers and a poor category if adolescents answered ≤ 3 correct answers. Bivariate analysis using the Chi-Square test, with the decision that there is a significant relationship if the p-value is smaller than the alpha value of 0.05 and there is no relationship if the p-value is greater than the alpha value at a 95% confidence level.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This study's results consist of a description of the research location, characteristics of respondents, and data from univariate analysis results. Data can be displayed in the form of narratives and tables. Kota Wetan is one of the sub-districts in Garut City District consisting of 23 RW. Kota Wetan is a stretch of rice fields used for farming. Still, several residents occupied the land to become a settlement that initially had no lighting or electricity with makeshift houses. Since 1985, Kota Wetan has begun to progress by having

lighting and electricity sources that help residents carry out activities, so more and more residents live in Kota Wetan, and it has become densely populated every year.

RW 08 Kota Wetan Village is divided into 5 RTs. Activities carried out in RW 08 include Posyandu Posbindu, which is carried out simultaneously every month. In addition, routine religious study activities are carried out in 2 mosques located in RT 02 and RT 05 RW 08. RW boundaries in the south border directly with RW 07. In the east of RW 08 are shops, and in the north, there are shops and a health center that directly faces the highway.

Table 1. Distribution of Frequency Characteristics of Adolescents (15 – 18 years) (N= 79)

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Man	35	44.8
Woman	44	55.2
Age		
15-16 Year	58	73.4
17-18 Year	21	26.6
Work		
Student/Unemployed	60	75.9
Employed	19	24.1

The result showed that 44 teenagers (55.2%) are female and 35 teenagers (44.8%) are male, and 58 teenagers (73.4%) are aged 15-16 years and have student status/ not working, 60 teenagers (75.9%), 19 teenagers (24.1%) are working (Table 1).

Tabel 2. Distribution of Knowledge Frequency for Adolescents (15 – 18 years) related to Sexually Transmitted Diseases, HIV/ AIDS Diseases, Reproductive Health and Drugs (N= 79)

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Sexually Transmitted Diseases		
Good	55	69
Less	24	31
HIV/AIDS Disease		
Good	60	75.9
Less	19	24.1
Reproductive Health		
Good	71	89.7
Less	8	10.3
NAPZA		
Good	68	86.2
Less	11	13.8

Based on Table 2, as many as 24 teenagers (31%) still have insufficient knowledge about sexually transmitted diseases, 19 teenagers (24.1%) have inadequate knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS, and 8 teenagers (10.3%) have insufficient knowledge regarding reproductive health. As many as 11 teenagers (65.6%) have inadequate knowledge regarding narcotics and illicit drugs.

Table 3 shows that the Gender variable and the Job variable have a significant relationship to adolescent knowledge with test results of 0.003 and 0.019, which shows that it is smaller than the alpha value of 0.05 (CI: 95%). Meanwhile, the test results of the age variable have no relationship to the level of adolescent knowledge, with test results of 0.810.

From these tables, this study aligns with the research of Maharati et al., (2024). The results of the study showed that adolescent girls have good knowledge and sufficient knowledge regarding sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Other research conducted by Mareti & Nurasa (2022) showed that adolescents still have moderate knowledge regarding reproductive health. The relationship between adolescents' understanding of reproductive health and well-being in this domain is solid. Adolescents who have good knowledge about reproductive health tend to make healthier choices regarding sexual behavior, contraception, and reproductive health care. This can reduce the risk of sexually transmitted infections, unplanned pregnancies, and other reproductive health problems. Conversely, adolescents who are less knowledgeable about reproductive health may be more vulnerable to these risks. Therefore, increasing adolescent knowledge about reproductive health can positively impact their overall well-being.

Table 3. Bivariate Analysis Between Gender, Age and Occupation of Adolescents on the Level of Knowledge Related to Sexually Transmitted Diseases, HIV/AIDS, Reproductive Health and Drugs (N= 79)

Variable	Knowledge		Chi-Square Test Results		
	Good	Less	P-Value	Lower	Uper
Gender					
Man	20	15	0.003	0.071	0.627
Women	38	6			
Age					
15-16 Year	43	15	0.810	0.376	3.495
17-18 Year	15	6			
Work					
Student/Unemployed	48	12	0.019	1.198	10.821
Employed	10	9			

Saputra (2021) reported that knowledge results from human sensing or someone knowing about an object through the senses (eyes, nose, ears, and so on). What is meant by understanding this is that adolescents can find out all forms of information about STIs. The results of this study indicate that most adolescents have a sufficient level of knowledge about STDs.

Several factors that influence adolescent knowledge related to STIs, HIV/AIDS, and Reproductive Health are sexual knowledge. The level of sexual expertise provided to adolescents by families, schools, or other institutions can affect their understanding of STIs. A comprehensive and targeted curriculum on reproductive health and STIs can improve adolescent knowledge. Access to information, including accurate and easily accessible information about STIs, can affect teenage knowledge levels (Veftisia, 2023). Knowledge related to sexual education is essential because it can provide the necessary understanding so that adolescents are expected to be able to make healthy decisions.

Parental education or experience of meeting people with STIs can affect adolescent knowledge about reproductive health and sexually transmitted infections (Hairil Akbar, S.KM., 2018). Social interaction with peers and family can also provide information and influence—access to health services. The availability of adolescent-friendly and easily accessible health services includes reproductive health services that provide information and testing for STIs.

Sexually transmitted infections are diseases that are transmitted primarily through sexual intercourse. The transmission of this disease is not only through sexual intercourse but can also be transmitted directly through direct contact, such as unsterile injection

needles (Sharafina Zatalini et al., 2018). In contrast to the results of previous research conducted by Habibah (2020) regarding the level of knowledge of adolescents in Italy about how STIs are transmitted, it is in the poor category; namely, only 14.2% of respondents knew that STIs could be transmitted through sexual intercourse. This is due to the low awareness of adolescents in Italy regarding the risks caused by STIs, as evidenced by the fact that 33.8% reported having had sexual intercourse at least once and the average age at first sexual intercourse was 16 years (Habibah, 2020)

Adolescence is an age that is vulnerable to drug abuse because their emotional and mental levels are still volatile, so they are easily influenced into deviant behavior. They tend to have a high curiosity about drugs and want to try them. Curiosity about narcotics and psychotropic drugs is one of the driving forces for someone to commit deviant acts.

Based on research by Prastidini et al (2018), knowledge and attitudes regarding drug abuse are the most vital preventive measures for adolescents, where adolescents are the majority of the age at which drug use begins. Drug prevention education must start during adolescence and must be able to prevent and inhibit drug use through changes in knowledge and attitudes. The results of this study are the results of Nurfajri's study (11), where most of the respondents (93.2%) had good knowledge, as well as the study by Muslihatun & Santi (2015) where most of the respondents (79.73%) had good knowledge.

Attitude consists of several components: beliefs, ideas, concepts about something, emotional life or evaluation of something, drugs, and the tendency to act (tend to behave). Various factors can influence these components and, in this case, are influenced by the influence of parents and teachers who provide information about drugs (Sumbung & Martha, 2020).

Information sources such as books, WEB sites, and educational programs can play an essential role in increasing their understanding of the risks and prevention of STIs and HIV/AIDS (Nurwati, 2018). The influence of social media, social media, and the internet play an important role in shaping adolescents' understanding of sexuality and sexual health. Misleading or inaccurate content can confuse adolescents, while educational and supportive content can help increase their knowledge (Putri et al., 2022). Cultural and religious norms: primitive cultural norms and religion in society can also influence adolescents' knowledge of STIs. Some communities may have a stigma against reproductive health topics, which can limit adolescents' access to correct and relevant information (Paulus, 2018).

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the study and discussion, the conclusion that can be drawn is that the level of knowledge of adolescents in RW 08, Kota Wetan Village, is still categorized as lacking in sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, and narcotics. Characteristics of adolescents with gender and occupation have a significant relationship to adolescent health knowledge. In contrast, characteristics of adolescents based on age have no ties to the level of teenage health knowledge.

For this, an approach and support system are needed for adolescents in the RW by constantly observing the surrounding environment providing education and health education related to the problem. Cooperation is needed with local government officials to make efforts to prevent the risk of problems related to adolescent knowledge, including an intensive approach, education, and creating activities that are positive for adolescents.

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