



Premarital Sexual Behavior Among Urban-rural School Teenagers in Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia: Comparative Study

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Abstract

Premarital sex among teenagers keeps soaring by the day across the globe. Indonesia is faced with high levels of sexual promiscuity among adolescents. This research aimed to examine the differences in premarital sexual curiosity between teenagers in rural and urban settings. The population for the research involved 266 senior high school students drawn from Kendari city and the rural area of Ladongi, Southeast Sulawesi, using the Proportional Stratified Random Sampling technique. The research method used a cross-sectional study with a comparative design using the Mann-Whitney Test. The results revealed differences in premarital sexual behavior ($p = 0.026$), media information ($p = 0.000$), school's roles ($p = 0.000$), and first age of dating ($p = 0.038$) between teenagers in rural and urban setting. However, there was no difference in knowledge regarding premarital sexual behavior ($p = 0.159$) and peer pressure ($p = 0.219$) between rural and urban teenagers.

INTRODUCTION

Premarital sex among teenagers continues to increase and reaches an alarming rate globally. They become an enemy of social crimes and are at high risk of increasing the incidence of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, HIV and AIDS, abortion, and early age pregnancy. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that sixteen million girls in low- and middle-income countries gave birth every year, and an estimated three million girls aged 15-19 have unsafe abortions every year. Complications from pregnancy and childbirth are the main causes of

death in pregnant teenagers. In addition, maternal and infant deaths are 50% higher in women aged 18-29 years (Dave et al., 2013).

Central Statistics Agency 2017 report describes a high prevalence of child marriage in 21 provinces out of 34 provinces in Indonesia and based on the distribution of provinces throughout Indonesia, today, the case has reached an alarming rate, with the percentage of 61% (sixty one percent). Meanwhile, several provinces showed an increase in child marriage rates. North Maluku and Riau Provinces are classified as provinces that showed a higher rate is above

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25%, while Southeast Sulawesi Province was the fifth out of 34 provinces experiencing the highest percentage of young marriages (Statistik, 2017). This is in line with the abortion rate in Indonesia which estimated to reach 2.3 million per year, and it is about 750,000 carried out by teenagers (Ministry Of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, 2017)

The government of Indonesia has done some efforts such as Reproductive Health programs were developed. However, the programs do not refer to the needs related to sexual health information, education, and service provision for teenagers. Most of unwanted pregnancy had been identified as one of the results of sexual curiosity among teenagers. This is a challenging due to the negative impact, both either maintaining pregnancy or ends it up with abortion. All of these actions have an impact both physically, psychologically, socially and economically (Yusran et al., 2018; Susanto et al., 2016).

At the same time, Sex Education initiative is still debatable and as a result, local government has less commitment to include it into a formal education agenda. Although, several efforts done through projects supported by international donors to fill the gap. However, once the project was over, no such follow up from government agenda in accommodating it into the existing program (de Castro et al., 2018; Yusran et al., 2018; Susanto et al., 2016; Chou et al., 2020).

The comparison between rural and urban teenagers has seen in several aspects, such as the implementation of education in the rural area less effective due to facilities barriers and obstacles such as computers, wifi, lab equipment and school infrastructure in general. At the same time, urban teenagers have many facilities supporting their education comparing them in the rural area. Apart from the aspect of education, the social aspect also shows the difference between rural and urban teenagers.

Urban teenagers have been influenced by western culture such as lifestyle, dress, and premarital friendship are common. Whereas, rural teenagers maintain the local culture, although some of them have been influenced by

current digital era and have also adopted the urban lifestyle. This is one of the impacts of using social media (Yusran et al., 2018; Susanto et al., 2016).

The initial survey in both urban and rural secondary schools show some cases of premarital sex experiencing by school teenagers. Sexual violence cases also occur in both urban and rural schools. Risk taking behaviour among them can be seen from their interaction. Premarital friendship started with good relationship; however, two students claimed that dating, holding hand and kissing are common among them. Unwanted pregnancy cases were reported by teachers, and they also mentioned bullying policy has been introduced in both urban and rural schools.

Therefore, researcher is interested in comparing premarital sexual behavior in rural and urban teenagers in order to have a comprehensive understanding the need of adolescents related to their sexual and reproductive health between urban and rural adolescent for future intervention.

METHOD

This is a comparative study design with a cross sectional approach conducted in urban and rural area of Southeast Sulawesi in 2018. There were 936 populations and 133 respondents; 58 teenage boys and 75 girls from rural Senior High School Ladongi, while 133 respondents: 68 teenage boys and 65 girls from urban Senior High School Kendari applying a Proportional Stratified Random Sampling technique. The type of data used in this study are primary data from the result of questionnaire, while secondary data took from related journals, formal report from the government and other project-based related programs.

Data analysis is used the 'Mann-Whitney Test' and is used to test the comparative hypothesis of two free samples if the data is ordinal. This is due to sensitivity of the research topic, the Ethical Clearance Letter No; 070/4675/Balitbang/2018 from Research and Development Agency, Southeast Sulawesi Province, Inform Concerned was provided.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Characteristics of the Participants

A number of variables have been analyzed in related to urban-rural differences on premarital sexual behaviour among secondary school teenagers starting with gender proportion of respondents' characteristics. The 266 respondents consisting of 133 respondents were rural and 133 respondents were from urban area. Male teenager is higher from urban with 68 or 54% than 58 or 46% rural teenagers. Proportion of female is higher in rural area with 75 or 53.6% comparing with urban teenagers with 65 or 46.4%. Age of 15-year-old is higher in rural area with 22 or 68.8 % comparing with respondent in urban areas with 10 people or 31.2%. The proportion of 16 years old was higher in urban area with 73 people or 54.4% than rural area with 61 or 41.5%. While, the 17 years old was higher in rural area, 47 (51.6%) than urban area with 44 (48.4%). The proportion of 18 years old is higher in urban with 6 (66.7%) than rural with 3 (33.3%).

Distribution of respondents is based on several categories on premarital sexual behaviour can be seen in tabel 1.

Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents based on premarital sexual behavior

categories. The proportion in the 'good' category is higher in rural with 21 teenagers (52.5%) than urban with 19 teenagers (47.5%). The proportion in the 'bad' category was higher in rural with 68 teenagers (57.1%) than with 51 teenagers (42.9%). While, the proportion in the 'very bad' category was higher in urban with 63 people (58.9%) than rural with 44 teenagers (41.1%). The Mann-Whitney Test results shows the Mean Rank for pre-marital sexual behavior in rural area was 123.16 comparing with the Mean Rank of Urban teenagers was 143.84. This identifies the Mean Rank (average rank) of urban teenagers is higher than rural teenagers. The results of the Mann-Whitney statistical test are $p = 0.026$, so p Value < 0.05 , therefore, H_0 is rejected and H_a is accepted. To sum up, there is a significant difference between premarital sexual behavior in rural and urban teenagers.

Table 2 presents 'knowledge differences' on premarital sexual behavior between rural and urban teenagers. The proportion in category 'Enough' is slightly higher in rural with 129 people (51%) comparing with urban with 124 teenagers (49%). The proportion in the 'Not Enough' category in urban was 9 teenagers (69.2%) than the rural with 4 teenagers (30.8%).

The results showed the Mean Rank for

Table 1. Pre-Marital Sexual Behavior Differences between Rural and Urban Areas in 2019

Pre Marital Sexual Behavior											
No	Name of School							Total		Mean Rank	P Value
		Good		Bad		Very Bad					
		N	%	N	%	N	%	n	%		
1	Rural	21	52,5	68	57,1	44	41,1	133	50	123,16	0,026
2	Urban	19	47,5	51	42,9	63	58,9	133	50	143,84	
Total		40	100	119	100	107	100	266	100		

Table 2. Knowledge Differences about Premarital Sexual behavior in Rural and Urban Areas on 2019

Knowledge Difference about Pre Marital Sexual behavior in Rural and Urban Areas on 2019									
No	Name of School	Knowledge Difference about Pre Marital Sexual behavior				Total		Mean Rank	P Value
		Enough		Not Enough					
		N	%	N	%	N	%		
1	Rural	129	51	4	30,8	133	50	140	0,159
2	Urban	124	49	9	69,2	133	50	127	
Total		253	100	13	100	266	100		

Table 3. Source of Information Differences between Rural and Urban teenagers in 2019

No	Name of School	Information Media								Mean Rank	P Value
		No Risk		Low Risk		High Risk		Total			
		N	%	N	%	N	%	n	%		
1	Rural	7	63,6	120	51,9	6	25	133	50	116,50	0,000
2	Urban	4	36,4	111	48,1	18	75	133	50	150,50	
Total		11	100	231	100	24	100	266	100		

knowledge of pre-marital sexual behavior in Rural teenagers was 140, comparing with the Mean Rankin urban was 127. This reveals that the Mean Rank (average rank) of rural teenagers is higher than the urban teenagers. The results of the Mann-Whitney statistical test p value = 0.159, so p Value > 0.05. This means H₀ is accepted and H_a is rejected, and can be said that there is no significant difference between knowledge of premarital sexual behavior of rural and urban teenagers.

Table 3 shows the distribution of respondents based on 'Source of information' categories. The proportion in the 'No-risk' category is higher in Rural with 7 teenagers (63.6%) than urban teenagers with 4 people (36.4%). The proportion of courses of information in the 'Low risk' category was higher in rural with 120 teenagers (51.9%) than urban with 111 teenagers (48.1%). The proportion of sources of information in the 'High risk' category was higher in urban with 18 teenagers (75%) than rural area with 6 teenagers (25%). The Mann-Whitney test results showed the Mean Rank for sources of information in rural teenagers was 116.50, while Mean Rank for Urban teenagers is 150.50. This shows that the Mean Rank of urban is higher than rural teenagers. The results of the Mann-Whitney statistical test p value = 0,000, and p Value < 0.05 so that H₀ is rejected, and H_a

is accepted, means that there is a significant difference between the sources of information of rural and urban teenagers.

Table 4 describes the distribution of respondents based on 'peer-pressure' on premarital sexual behaviour. The proportion in the 'positive' category was higher for urban with 90 teenagers (52.3%) than rural with 82 teenagers (47.7%). The proportion of peer influence in the 'Negative' category was higher in rural with 51 teenagers (54.3%) than urban with 43 teenagers (45.7%). The Mann-Whitney test results showed that the Mean Rank for peer influence in rural is 127.80, while for the urban is 139.20. This claims that the Mean Rank (average rank) of urban is higher than rural teenagers. The results of the Mann-Whitney statistical test p value = 0.219, so p Value > 0.05 meaning H₀ is accepted and H_a is rejected. This indicates that there is no significant difference between the influence of rural and urban teenage peers in premarital sexual behaviour.

Table 5 describes the distribution of respondents based on the 'first age of dating' category. The proportion in 'No-Risk' category is higher in rural with 55 adolescents (51.9%) than urban with 51 teenagers (48.1%). The proportion of the first dating age in the 'Low Risk' category was higher in urban with 15 adolescents (83.3%) than in rural with 3 teenagers (16.7%). The

Table 4. The Differences of Peer-pressure between Rural and Urban teenagers in 2019

No	Name of School	Peer-Influence						Mean Rank	P Value
		Positive		Negative		Total			
		n	%	N	%	N	%		
1	Rural	82	47,7	51	54,3	133	50	127,80	0,219

2	Urban	90	52,3	43	45,7	133	50	139,20
Total		172	100	94	100	266	100	

Table 5. First Age of Dating between Rural and Urban teenagers in 2019

No	Name of School	First Age of Dating								Total	Mean Rank	P Value
		No-Risk		Low Risk		High Risk						
		n	%	N	%	n	%	N	%			
1	Rural	55	51,9	3	16,7	75	52,8	133	50	116,50	0,000	
2	Urban	51	48,1	15	83,3	67	47,2	133	50	150,50		
Total		106	100	18	100	142	100	266	100			

proportion of the first dating age in the 'High Risk' category was higher in rural area with 75 teenagers (52.8%) than urban with 67 teenagers (47.2%). The results of the Mann-Whitney test showed that the Mean rRank for the first dating age in a rural teenagers was 124.03, whereas for urban was 142.97. This reveals that the Mean Rank (average rank) of urban is higher than rural teenagers. The Mann-Whitney statistical test results obtained $p = 0.038$, so p Value < 0.05 so that H_0 is rejected and H_a is accepted. This can be concluded that there is a significant difference between the age of the first dating of rural and urban teenagers.

The Differences of Pre-Marital Sexual Behavior between Rural and Urban Teenagers in 2019

Historically, premarital sex has been considered a moral issue which is taboo in many cultures and it is also considered a sin by a number of religions (Baek, 2018; Yusran et al., 2018; Susanto et al., 2016). Premarital sex behavior is a sexual behavior that is carried out without going through an official marriage process according to the law or according to the religion and beliefs of each individual. Premarital sex behavior is defined as behavior that increases a person's risk of contracting a sexually transmitted infection and experiencing an unwanted pregnancy that is intended to have sex at a young age, having multiple sex partners, having sex under the influence of alcohol or drugs and doing unsafe sexual behavior (Arviyah, 2012).

The result of this study demonstrates the differences between premarital sexual behavior among rural and urban teenagers. This can be

caused by the location of the school, SMAN 1 Ladongi is in rural areas that still have a high social cultural influence and level of shame, besides those teenagers in rural areas are still afraid to engage in premarital sexual behavior. This is due to the strong tradition adopted by rural community, comparing with urban teenagers who were in secondary school age, especially in SMAS Kartika XX-2 Kendari. There is an opinion that urban teenagers have been influenced by outsiders, as consequence, they hardly know the culture of shame anymore.

This difference is clearly described that 16 teenagers (84.2%) from urban who claimed to have had sex with their boyfriend or girlfriends because they believe that they would engage for future couple comparing only 3 teenagers (15.8%) in rural area. It is argued that teenagers in urban areas have more interactive relationship and access to many places and facilities that can accommodate their premarital sexual behavior comparing with rural teenagers. In addition, many other factors can make them curious on their sexual behaviour such as their knowledge, due to sources of information, media used, peer-pressure and also the first age of dating.

Similarly, previous research at Yapita High School Surabaya which represented urban adolescents showed that the majority of cases of free sex were 103 (100%) respondents with 'good' criteria, while in MA Roudlotul Muta'abidin Lamongan representing adolescents in rural areas, most of them were 67 (100%) respondents with 'Good' criteria. This means that there is no difference in sexual behavior at Yapita High School Surabaya and at MA Roudlotul Muta'abidin Lamongan. The findings of the

research conducted by Ida Susila differ from the results of this study, where there is a significant difference between the premarital sexual behavior of rural and urban adolescents. From the results of the analysis, the Mean Rank of urban adolescents is higher than the Mean Rank of rural adolescents. Therefore, it can be concluded that the premarital sexual behavior of urban adolescents is higher than that of adolescents in rural areas (Susila, 2018).

Differences of Knowledge about Pre-Marital Sexual Behavior between Rural and Urban Teenagers in 2019

Knowledge is influenced by one's experience, then that experience can be expressed, believed to cause motivation and other factors that affect knowledge are the environment, both physical and non-physical and socio-cultural. The source of knowledge is mostly obtained from sensing, which is the sense of sight and sense of hearing (Triwiyanto, 2021).

This study reveals that there is no difference between pre-marital sexual behavior of rural and urban teenagers. This can be concluded that knowledge about premarital sexual behavior of rural adolescents is almost the same than urban teenagers. The results of this study are in line with previous studies which showed a significant relationship between knowledge and premarital sexual behavior in adolescents at SMA Negeri 1 Indralaya Utara in rural areas (Nurhayati et al., 2017).

In line with the research carried out by Susila (2018), the results show consistently that knowledge about free sex in SMA Yapita Surabaya which representing urban teenagers was mostly 42 (40.8%) respondents with 'Sufficient' criteria, while in MA Roudlotul Muta'abidin Lamongan which representing Rural teenagers was 31 (46.3%) respondents with 'Sufficient' criteria. This means that there is no difference in free sex knowledge both SMA Yapita Surabaya and MA Roudlotul Muta'abidin Lamongan.

The level of knowledge on premarital sex is categorised similar and was in low category due to lack of disseminating information on the impact of risk-taking behavior among

adolescents. These two schools have less related subject on sexual and reproductive health information. A program was conducted by local government; they only got information about drugs, but lack of information about sexual health. Therefore, both rural and urban teenagers do not have significant differences.

This can be argued that teenagers who understand more about the negative impact of premarital sex, they will protect themselves (Yusran et al., 2018; Susanto et al., 2016). At the same time, for those who have lack of understanding may curious in experiencing premarital sex in fulfilling their sexual need. Therefore, preventive efforts that can be done by increasing adolescent's knowledge about premarital sexual behavior and its consequences. They might be aware in increasing their knowledge of how to control themselves, and of course knowledge about how to maintain reproductive organs. It is also important that reproduction health subjects need to be held or bring in health workers to provide them regular dissemination program.

Source of Information Differences of Teenagers in Rural and Urban Area

Currently the information media is growing very rapidly and greatly provides convenience to obtain information. Easy access information supported by facilities provided by the school namely the wifi area. Complete learning facilities, such as a free internet network, make it easier for students to find subject matter, but this results in teenagers being exposed to sex through audio-visual media. Both electronic and print media are currently being highlighted as one of the main causes of human moral decline, including teenagers. Various shows that greatly highlight aspects of pornography, such as pictures or photographs of women who are minimally dressed or not clothed in front cover, in magazines or printed media, stories that describe sex, sex scenes in films, cinemas, videos or video compact disk (VCD) and so on (Bleakley et al., 2018; Romyeni et al., 2016; Sujarwati et al., 2014; Arulogun et al., 2016).

This study shows a significant difference between rural and urban teenagers in information

media and indicates that source of information received by urban adolescents is more accesible comparing with rural teenagers. This analysis identifies a relationship between premarital sexual behavior of adolescents and isource of nformation or mass media used. The results of this study are in line with previous studies states that there was a significant relationship between exposure to sources of sexual information and adolescent sexual behavior in Padang City (Mahmudah et al., 2016).

The main problem in accessing information amogn rural teenagers was still lack of internet access dan there are some villages do not have internet networks. Therefore, they do not easily access to information. Unlike urban teenagers, they are easily to access any information using the network and internet provider is available in everywhere. Therefore, urban teenagers will find easier to access any information, including preamrital sex information.

Media information is one of the factors causing premarital sexual behavior both in print and electronic media. Along with the development of technology, electronic media is the choice for teenagers to access information. With the sophistication of the media, it is certainly very helpful for teenagers in completing tasks and looking for information needed. Unfortunately, it is not all information from the media could become educationl purpose. At the same time, accessing premarital sex information is very easy including access to pornography and video without control from parents and themselves. Therefore, prevention efforts for information media problems need to consider with government policy by reinforcing the law on pornographic media. In addition, parents and schools need to educate teenagers for not accessing porn videos.

The Differences of Peer-pressure between Rural and Urban Teenagers

Peer groups are some friends who give comfort for his friends, someone feels comfortable if they can tell stories with their peers, ranging from personal problems, experiences, to discuss about his career choice

after graduation. Peer groups as a social environment for adolescents have an important role in the development of their personalities and peer groups allow adolescents to develop their identities (Kharisma & Latifah; Agustin et al., 2018; Taufiq, 2020).

Peer-pressure on premarital sex life among urban teenager was slightly the same as rural adolescents. There were no significant differences between the influence of rural and urban teenage peers and this research shows that between premarital sex behavior variables and peer influence are interrelated. This research is in line with the research conducted by Nurhayati et al., 2017 who showed that peer influence is the most influential variable on premarital sexual behavior.

One of the reasons being pressure with peers was their curiocity on preamrital sexual behaviour. Peer pressure is one of the triggers for premarital sex life. This happens because they affect each other. At the same time, peer influence is also a good friendship because it fills each other and helps each other. But when talking about courtship or sex before marriage, then many fall victim because they do not have the concept of a healthy and responsible premarital sex life. The beginning of friendship is considered ordinary only as entertainment, but because of the influence of sex behavior from friends, eventually plunged into the perpetrator or as a victim of sexual abuse. It is argued that behavior and attitudes of adolescents are influenced by peers. It can be peer as source of information about premarital sexual behaviour in a positive way. In line with study conducted by Limbong & Sukarta, (2021) and shows that peer can become source of information, peer as a sourceof cognitive and peer as a source of emtional. This means peer-pressure is one of the triggering factors for premarital-pressure.

The Differences of First Age of Dating between Rural and Urban Teenagers

Dating is a limited association between young people by emphasizing compact and meaningful groupings, marked by feelings of excitement and meeting. Dating is a place or access to premarital sex. Most teenagers want to

know about interpersonal relations with each other, starting with wanting to know the opposite sex and going on special friendships and then this relationship continues to become more meaningful (Israwati, 2013; Aviles et al., 2020).

The results of the study showed that the first age of dating among urban teenagers was higher than rural teenagers. The results of the Mann-Whitney statistical test show that there are significant differences between the age of the first dating of rural and urban teenagers. This first age dating variable is in accordance with the variable premarital sex behavior which is higher in urban teenagers than in rural teenagers. This indicates that the first age of dating is related to premarital sexual behavior of adolescents were very young. This research is not in line with the research conducted by Wijayanti & Robi'i, (2017) which shows that most teenagers start dating at the age of 13 years (30%), the youngest age of adolescent's starts dating is 7 years old which is 1 person (0.8%). Respondents who had a positive sexuality attitude numbered 81 people (67.5%) while those who had a negative sexuality attitude were 39 people (32.5%).

It is argued that there is a need to provide sexual and reproductive health education better from at home. Parents need to be aware about their children's sex behaviour.

CONCLUSION

This study has analyzed five variables and the conclusions are; Firstly, there is a significant difference on premarital sexual behavior among teenagers between Rural and Urban area in Southeast Sulawesi. Secondly, there is no significant difference on the knowledge of premarital sexual behavior among teenagers, while the third variable shows there is a significant difference between the information media of adolescents in Rural and Urban. The fourth variable identifies there is no significant difference on the influence of peers in Rural and Urban. The last one underlines there is a significant difference on the age of first dating between teenagers in Rural and Urban in Southeast Sulawesi.

It is recommended that an urgent need to take into account as an input to the government especially for integrating the Sexual and Reproductive Health Education into current school-based curriculum for shake of adolescent journey on their sexual behavior into responsible and healthy life and this is for a long term benefit of human being on their sexual reproductive health.

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