



Correlation between Parental Communication Pattern and Teenagers' Sexual Behavior at Senior High School of Tamansiswa Mojokerto, Indonesia

Muhammad Sajidin^{a*}, Nursalam^b, Santi Martini^c, Putri Dwi Rahmawati^d

^{a,d}*Stikes Bina Sehat PPNI*

^b*Faculty of Nursing, Unair University, Surabaya Indonesia*

^c*Faculty of Public Health, Unair University, Surabaya Indonesia*

^a*Email: msajidin@yahoo.co.id*

Abstract

Teenagers' unpreparedness in facing the change within him or herself, including increasing inner sexual temptation, makes him or her harder to be controlled. It's not uncommon that those conditions eventually lead to teenagers' inner conflict. The situation is worsened by the easiness in accessing inappropriate information regarding sex through printed or electronic media as well as peer roles in providing information about sex. Combined, both have significant effects in shaping teenagers' knowledge, attitude and behavior toward sex. Communication between parents and teenagers regarding sexuality has the most important and significant influence toward their sexual attitude and behavior. Effective communication between both has been identified as core strategy in endorsing responsible sexual behavior with regard to teenagers' minimum sexual experience. Through communication, parents are expected to be main source of information and educator in relation to sexuality for their teenagers. The objective of this research is to analyze the correlation between parental communication pattern and teenagers' sexual behaviors at SMA Tamansiswa Mojokerto. This research is designed as correlative analytical design of cross sectional study. Sampling technique of the research is probability sampling i.e. cluster random sampling.

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: msajidin@yahoo.co.id.

Result of the research conducted between 26th - 30th of May 2014 suggests that there is a correlation between parental communication pattern and teenagers' sexual behaviors at SMA Tamansiswa Mojokerto. Chi Square data analysis with meaning value of 95% ($\alpha=0,05$) shows that p value is 0.0000 for parental communication pattern and teenagers' sexual behaviors at SMA Tamansiswa Mojokerto. Communication between parents and teenagers can avoid them from having negative sexual behaviors. This is due to intensive communication and relationship between both sides, which means they share each other and mutually solve their problems.

Keywords: teenagers; parental communication pattern; sexual behaviors.

1. Introduction

Teenagers' unpreparedness in facing the change within him or herself, including increasing inner sexual temptation, makes him or her harder to be controlled. It's not uncommon that those conditions eventually lead to teenagers' inner conflict. The situation is worsened by the easiness in accessing inappropriate information regarding sex through printed or electronic media like magazines, videos, and the Internet as well as peer roles in providing information about sex. Combined, both have significant effects in shaping teenagers' knowledge, attitude and behavior toward sex. There are very limited chances for them to discuss reproductive health. A number of parents and teachers even consider the topic taboo to be talked about [1].

Among those parenting style factors, communication between parents and teenagers regarding sexuality has the most important and significant influence toward their sexual attitude and behaviors. Effective communication between both has been identified as core strategy in endorsing responsible sexual behavior and with regard to teenagers' minimum sexual experience. Through communication, parents should be the source of information and main educator regarding sexuality for their teenagers. However, parents often feel difficult to utter sexual matters to them, and vice versa. They feel that they don't have enough knowledge about the matter, feel ashamed and have difficulties to find the most proper time and place to start communicating.

Latest national survey for teenagers' reproductive health released by National Family Planning Board (BKKBN) in September 2010 suggested that as many as 5,912 females aged 15-18 years old nationwide have ever been involved in sexual intercourse. While for males at the same age level, there are 6,578 or 3.7% who have ever been involved in sexual intercourse. BKKBN's data doesn't differ much from the one released by National Commission for Children Protection (Komnas PA) issued in June 2010. Komnas PA said that 62.7% of Indonesian junior high school students have lost their virginity. The commission said that it surveyed 4,500 teenagers in 12 big cities nationwide. It means free sex has been new ideology for teenagers and youths.

Based on initial study at SMA Taman Siswa Mojokerto in 5th - 6th of February 2014, it is known that 13 of 15 (86%) teenagers say that they get information regarding pre-marital sex by asking their peers and browsing the Internet. While 14% others admitted that they learn about pre-marital sex from school Biology books discussing reproductive systems (male and female reproductive organs, menstruation, pregnancy, and contraceptives) and their counseling teacher. None of them get the information from their parents (0%). 100% of the teenagers said that they have ever been involved in pre-marital sexual activities: 13.3% have had sexual intercourse, 20% did

oral sex, petting, or touching sensitive parts of the body, 40% kissed with lips, kissed cheeks or eyebrow, and 26.6% merely held each other's hand. Based on interviews with counseling teacher, it is suggested that in the last three years: 2 students were dropped out (DO) for pre-marital pregnancy, 1 student in 2011, and 3 students in 2013.

Conflicts between parents and their children often come up when they enter teen ages. Most of the problems are due to obstacles in communication between both sides. According to [2, 3], it is suspected that factors causing obstacles in communication are: 1) parents usually perceive themselves as superior against their just teenagers, it brings about crash of values between teenagers seeing themselves as adult and parents overly use their authority, 2) due to busy schedules of both sides, communication between parents and teenagers often takes place in a very short time and most of the instances are in formal atmosphere, 3) It's rare that teenagers are given enough opportunities and freedom to develop their creativity and express their ideas.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Research Design

This research is designed as correlative analytical design of cross sectional study.

2.2 Population, Sampling, and Sample

a. Population

Population of this research is all students of 10th and 11th grade students of Taman Siswa Mojokoerto, as many as 285 students. Of 385 students, 181 of whom are 10th grade while 204 are 11th grade.

b. Sampling

Sampling in this research is using *probability sampling technique*; particularly *cluster random sampling* [4].

c. Sample

The sample of this research is 196 students.

2.3 Data Gathering Method

Data gathering method in this research is by giving questionnaires to students of SMA Tamansiswa Mojokerto who have previously been appointed as sample [5].

2.4 Instruments

Instruments used in this research are questionnaires about paternal communication pattern and questionnaires regarding teenagers sexual behaviors given to the teenagers (students) of SMA Tamansiswa Mojokerto.

3. Results and Discussion

Results of this research are presented in term of tables and discussion as follow:

Table 1: Distribution of Frequency based on Parental Communication Pattern at SMA Tamansiswa Mojokerto, 26th-30th of May 2014

| No | Parental Communication Pattern | Frequency (F) | Percentage (%) |
|-------|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Functional | 125 | 63.8 |
| 2 | Dysfunctional | 71 | 36.2 |
| Total | | 196 | 100 |

Research results based on table 4.5 suggest that most parents-teenagers communication pattern of SMA Tamansiswa Mojokerto is functional communication pattern, i.e. 63.8%.

Communication pattern can be explained as relationship pattern between two people or more in delivering and receiving messages properly that the messages could be comprehended [6, 7].

Communication has been part of individual life and is an absolute need to build relationship with others, especially those in one family [8]. Sparing time together is a requirement in creating parents-teenagers communication. Communication must be effective; it means that the message delivered by the transmitter can be understood by the receiver. This opinion is supported by Stoner [8]. Open communicatuion can prevent misunderstanding between parents and teenagers. If teenagers can think and consider well about the problems they face, there will be mutual understanding in whole family members that everyone will understand their role and responsibility.

Table 2: Distribution of Frequency based on Teenagers' Sexual Behaviors at SMA Tamansiswa Mojokerto, 26th-30th of May 2014

| No | Teenagers Sexual Behaviors | Frequency (F) | Percentage (%) |
|-------|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Positive | 107 | 54.6 |
| 2 | Negative | 89 | 45.4 |
| Total | | 196 | 100 |

Results of the research in table 4.6 suggest that most teenagers at SMA Tamansiswa possess positive sexual behaviors. It means their behaviors fit their age development as teenagers. There are 107 respondents (54.6%) in this category.

Teenagers' sexual behaviors in the form of someone's sexual desire to have sex can be seen through several stages i.e: holding each others' hands, kissing, exploring partner's genital area, and having sex in intercourse level i.e. penetrating one's penis into one's vagina done by children aged 13-21 without any marital bond. That sexual desire and the feeling of getting attracted to the opposite sex lead teenagers to attract their opposite sexes' attention. In order to find out about sex, some teenagers openly do something about it i.e: attempting to experiment in their sexual life, e.g.: dating, expressing their feelings in the form of physically intimate behaviors like kissing, flirting, etc [9].

Teenagers' sexual behaviors is a form of juvenile delinquency which has grown into a serious problem really needs to be resolved. However, not all teenagers possess improper sexual behaviors. It suggests that they still behave normally in accordance to their age development. Factors that may cause the high number of negative sexual behaviors amongst students of SMA Tamansiswa Mojokerto, almost half of the respondents, can be due to other factors affecting them to have negative sexual behaviors because they are encouraged by huge curiosity to try everything they don't have the knowledge of. Teenagers are very curious of a lot of things. The curiosity can only be satisfied and materialized through their own experience besides certain motivation encouraging them to do things.

3.1 Analysis of the Correlation between Parental Communication Pattern and Teenagers' Sexual Behaviors

From results of research at table 4.7, it is suggested that of 125 students categorized as having functional communication pattern, 88 of whom possess positive sexual behaviors.

The results suggest that good communication pattern between parents and teenagers are in a dire need to guide teenagers to proper and appropriate behaviors. Sarwono mentions that parents are biological father and mother who mutually conduct the organization of the house. Parents are the source of children's needs of physical and spiritual. Children will accept any kind of goodness from their parents. It's also their parents that'll lead them to be acknowledged by the society. Children will also start to build relationship with wider social groups. In facing problems within the group, children will once again need parental support and encouragement. This can happen should there be good communication between parents and children. If parents do not pay good attention to this thing due to their being busy with their jobs, the relationship will worsen.

Sutdy in [3] suggested that effective communication between parents and teenagers will normally shape the basic pattern of teenagers' personality and the healthy psychological development. Because the foundation of teenagers' growth and development need parents' assistance. They are responsible for developing the whole existence of the teenagers including physical and psychological. It's expected that the children will grow into mature and harmonic personality. The correlation between parental communication pattern and teenagers' sexual behaviors is that through well managed and appropriate communication, the risk of teenagers possessing

negative sexual behaviors can be prevented or diminished that their behaviors can fit social norms.

Table 3: Analysis of the Correlation between Parental Communication Pattern and Teenagers Sexual Behaviors at SMA Tamansiswa Mojokerto, 26th-30th of May 2014

| | Sexual Behaviors | | Total |
|----------------------------------|------------------|----------|-------|
| | Positive | Negative | |
| Functional Communication Pattern | 88 | 37 | 125 |
| Dysfunctional | 19 | 52 | 71 |
| Total | 107 | 89 | 196 |

4. Conclusions

In conclusion that communication between parents and teenagers may give good contributions in avoiding of Negative behaviors associate of the fee sex. Intensive communication and relationship between both sides may generate a meaningful share and mutually each other in order to solve family problems.

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