

The Association between Knowledge and Sexual Harassment among Adolescents at Junior High School 2 City of Kediri

ABSTRACT

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Insufficient knowledge regarding sex education among adolescents may lead to a lack of awareness about sexual harassment, causing some adolescents to underestimate its seriousness. This study aimed to examine the relationship between adolescents' knowledge of sex education and sexual harassment among students at State Junior High School 2 Kediri. This study employed a correlational research design with a cross-sectional approach. Respondents were selected using a proportional random sampling technique. The study population consisted of 65 students, of whom 56 were included in the sample. Data were analyzed using the Chi-square test. The findings revealed that the majority of respondents (46; 82.1%) had a good level of knowledge regarding sex education. Furthermore, most respondents (53; 94.6%) reported no experience of sexual harassment. Statistical analysis indicated a significance value of 0.000, which was lower than the predetermined significance level ($\alpha = 0.05$). Therefore, the null hypothesis (H_0) was rejected and the alternative hypothesis (H_1) was accepted, indicating a significant relationship between adolescents' knowledge of sex education and sexual harassment. These findings suggest that higher levels of knowledge regarding sex education are associated with a lower likelihood of experiencing sexual harassment.

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INTRODUCTION

One of the most common problems among adolescents is sexual harassment (Dianawati, 2023). Cases of sexual harassment are increasingly prevalent, yet many adolescents still don't recognize its signs. As a result, it is very difficult to prevent such acts, whether experienced by themselves or others. A common problem is that many adolescents ignore and trivialize sexual harassment by perpetrators. However, this behavior cannot be tolerated. Many victims of sexual harassment experience prolonged trauma, such as psychological distress, shame, lack of self-confidence, reluctance to participate in social activities at school and in the community, even suicidal thoughts or attempts, and an inability to properly fulfill their obligations (Farid, 2021). The lack of knowledge or unwillingness of adolescents, who need guidance and education from educators (parents and teachers), makes them targets for sex offenders (predators) (Alatas, 2022). These crimes are prevalent in our environment, even through the media. Consequently, victims experience mental health problems in the form of trauma, fear, and anxiety about their experiences. The low level of understanding of sex education is due to the persistence of many misconceptions about it (Septi, 2022). Knowledge serves as a guide for shaping one's actions.

Therefore, the better an adolescent's knowledge, the better their attitudes and behaviors in preventing sexual harassment.

The World Health Organization (WHO) (2023) reported that a survey of sexual violence and harassment among adolescents in Kenya is a serious problem. The rate of sexual violence and harassment before the age of 18, as reported for 13-17 year olds, was 32% experienced by girls and 18% experienced by boys. The most common perpetrators of sexual violence and harassment were male partners, romantic partners, or friends. For 47%, neighbors were involved in 43% of sexual violence and harassment (WHO, 2023). In Indonesia, data released by the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) (2023), sorted by category of children in conflict with the law (ABH), has increased every year, where in 2021 there were 1,413, in 2022 there were 1,428 and in 2023 there was an increase to 2,208 cases of violence and sexual harassment against adolescents (KPAI, 2023). Data obtained from the Child Protection Agency of Kediri City (2023), obtained data on cases of violence and sexual harassment against adolescents has increased every year, data in 2021 there were 112 cases, in 2022 there were 124 cases and in 2023 there were 143 cases of violence and sexual harassment against adolescents. The initial data survey conducted by researchers on April 1, 2024 at Junior High School 2 Kediri City revealed that the number of students was 1,084 people, with 495 male and 589 female. The results of a preliminary study by interviewing 10 teenagers revealed that 5 (50%) adolescents said they had experienced sexual harassment in the toilet where the adolescent was held by a male friend, one female teenager also said she had experienced sexual harassment when shopping for vegetables at the market which was carried out by two buskers. One male teenager also said that he had been called a sex offender. 3 (30%) adolescents said their genitals had been touched by a classmate but the adolescent felt afraid to report it to the class teacher. One adolescent also said that one of his friends had sent him pornographic images via WhatsApp but the teenager immediately deleted the image. 2 (20%) teenagers said they experienced trauma and fear because of the sexual harassment they experienced. adolescents felt ashamed, lacked self-confidence and were reluctant to participate in social activities at school because they were bullied by friends. Adolescents also feel embarrassed when given sex education by teachers, and even feel that the material is a joke and doesn't focus on the sex education provided by their class teachers (Results of a Preliminary Study Using Interviews with respondents at Junior High School 2, Kediri City, 2024).

One factor influencing sexual harassment among adolescents is knowledge about sex education. Notoatmodjo (2019) explains that knowledge is the result of knowing, and this occurs after someone perceives a particular object. Sensing occurs through the five human senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. Most knowledge is acquired through the eyes and ears (Widiyanta, 2021). Knowledge serves as a guide for shaping one's actions. Therefore, the better an adolescent's knowledge, the better their attitudes and behaviors in preventing sexual harassment.

Notoatmodjo (2019) also states that sex education provided to adolescents is very effective in building a sexual foundation, increasing self-confidence, communication skills, and encouraging more careful behavior, especially regarding sexual health (Kumar, 2021). Sex education for adolescents is provided with factual knowledge, where information about sex education is delivered correctly and openly, without concealment (Widayati, 2019). Adolescents must learn how to put sex into perspective, namely that sexual issues are related to self-confidence. This instills self-confidence so they can understand their identity, such as men acting as men and women, and focuses on improving decision-making skills (Arma, 2021). Sex education for adolescents can help prevent sexual harassment (Syafuruddin, 2022). Early sex education is crucial as a step to prevent and address sexual violence against children and to prevent sexual harassment (Nirna, 2021). Early sex education, starting at home through the role of parents, is crucial and must be implemented, as parents play a key role as role models (Djiwandono, 2021). Sex education for adolescents extends beyond knowledge about marital relationships (Mas'ud, 2020). However, it focuses more on introducing anatomy, health, how to care for the body, and how to socialize based on knowledge about the body. Sex education must be provided across multiple dimensions: cognitive or thinking, emotional, physical, and social aspects, including how to interact with people of the same and different sex (Michael, 2020).

The solution to addressing the aforementioned issues requires the role of government, and more specifically, families and parents, to understand the importance of safeguarding and protecting their

children and preventing sexual abuse, both for boys and girls. Child protection measures from sexual abuse must also be implemented early. Parents must be the primary source of prevention and protection for their children. Furthermore, teachers and educators must facilitate access to information about sex education for adolescents. Health workers must also strive for effective prevention by consistently providing early sex education to children and parents through lectures, discussions, and brochures. This can help prevent sexual abuse among adolescents.

METHODS

The research design used in this study was a correlational study, with a cross-sectional approach. The population in this study was all eighth-grade adolescents at Junior High School 2 Kediri City, totaling 65 people. The sample used in this study was a portion of all eighth-grade adolescents at Junior High School 2 Kediri City, totaling 56 people. The sampling technique used was Proportional Random Sampling, rumusan alokasi proportional. The knowledge questionnaire was sourced from Farid (2021) with 14 questions, and the sexual harassment questionnaire was sourced from Tetti (2022) with 11 questions. In this study, the independent variable was knowledge about sex education, while the dependent variable was sexual harassment. The research has been ethical clearance tested with the ethical clearance number 001894/EC/KEPK/I/12/2024. The data collection process begins with the supervisor's approval of the title, followed by a preliminary study, sampling, obtaining a research permit, and conducting the research. After the questionnaire results are collected, data processing is carried out, including coding, editing, scoring, and tabulating. This research was conducted at Junior High School 2 Kediri City and was implemented on November 18-20, 2024.

RESULTS

Table 1. General Data (Age)

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
≤ 14 Years	7	12.5
14-15 Years	45	80.4
> 15 Years	4	7.1
Total	56	100.

Based on the table, it is known that almost all respondents are aged 14-15 years, namely 45 respondents (80.4%).

Table 2. General Data (Gender)

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	14	25
Female	42	75
Total	56	100

Based on the table, it is known that the majority of respondents are female, namely 42 respondents (75%).

Table 3. General Data (Residence)

Residence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Parents	50	89.3
Older Siblings /Grandparents /Uncles/Aunts	6	10.7
Distant Relatives	0	0.0
Total	56	100

Based on the table, it is known that almost all respondents live with their parents, namely 50 respondents (89.3%).

Table 4. Sources Of Information About Sex Education

Sources Information About Sex Education	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Electronic Media	4	7.1
Teachers/Parents	13	23.2
Peers	2	3.6
Healthcare Professionals	37	66.1
Total	56	100

Based on the table, it is known that the majority of respondents received information about sex education from health workers, namely 37 respondents (66.1%)

Table 5. Knowledge About Sex Education in Adolescents

Knowledge About Sex Education in Adolescents	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Not enough	3	5.4
Enough	7	12.5
Good	46	82.1
Total	56	100

Based on the table, it is known that almost all respondents, namely 46 respondents (82.1%) are in the good category.

Table 6. Sexual Harassment Of Adolescents

Sexual Harassment of Adolescents	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Sexual harassment occurred	3	5.4
Sexual harassment did not occur	53	94.6
Total	56	100

Based on the table, it is known that almost all respondents, namely 53 respondents (94.6%) are in the category that not sexual harassment occurred.

Table 7. Cross-Tabulation Between Variables

Sexual Harassment Occurred			Total	
			Not Occurred	Occurred
Knowledge About Sex Education in Adolescents	Not Enough	Frequency	0	3
		%	0.0%	5.4%
	Enough	Frequency	7	0
		%	12.5%	0.0%
	Good	Frequency	46	0
		%	82.1%	0.0%
Total		Frequency	53	3
		%	94.6%	5.4%

Based on the table, it shows that almost all respondents have knowledge about sex education in the good category so that there is no sexual harassment of adolescents at Junior High School 2 Kediri City, namely 46 respondents (82.1%).

Table 8. Data Analysis

	Value	df	Asymp.Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)	Point Probability
Pearson Chi-Square	56.000 ^a	2	.000	.000		
Likelihood Ratio	23.397	2	.000	.000		
Fisher's Exact Test	19.900			.000		.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	34.092 ^b	1	.000	.000	.000	
N of Valid Cases	56					

The results of the data analysis show that the significance level is $0.000 < \alpha = 0.05$ so that H₀ is rejected and H₁ is accepted, thus there is an influence of knowledge about sex education on sexual harassment in adolescents at Junior High School 2 Kediri City.

DISCUSSION

Knowledge of Sex Education Among Adolescents at Junior High School 2 Kediri City, The study revealed that almost all respondents (82.1%) at Junior High School 2 Kediri City had good knowledge of sex education. This is supported by the questionnaire responses, which stated that sex education is crucial for adolescents. Adolescents often lack adequate knowledge of sex education, putting them at risk of sexual harassment. Furthermore, one adolescent stated that sex education aims to develop a strong sense of identity and can help them be more aware of those around them. Knowledge of sex education can protect them from sexual harassment and can even shape their values and attitudes to be more positive in avoiding sexual harassment. Adolescents are particularly vulnerable to misinformation about sex education. The questionnaire results also indicated that sex education can provide knowledge about the physical and psychological impacts of sexual harassment, highlighting the importance of providing adolescents with reproductive health information as a way to prevent sexual harassment. One teenager stated that the lack of sex education for teenagers has led to an increase in cases of sexual harassment. Furthermore, this lack of sex education for teenagers occurs because talking about sex is considered taboo (prohibited words and actions). Therefore, to address sexual harassment, one teenager stated that positive activities must be implemented to prevent teenagers from experiencing sexual harassment, and that sex education should begin at an early age through parents at home. Furthermore, sex education in schools has been implemented indirectly through biology, religion, and physical education, involving 55 and counseling. The study also revealed that 3 (5.4%) respondents had insufficient knowledge about sex education for teenagers. This is due to adolescents' inadequate knowledge. Furthermore, knowledge about reproductive health and sexuality among adolescents is still relatively low. Very few schools educate students about consent, sexuality, and sensitive issues related to gender. Many consider sex education for adolescents to be taboo. To protect children and adolescents from sexual violence, they need to receive sex education as early as possible. They need to understand that any sexual act committed against them, whether verbal or nonverbal, requires prior consent, and if it is not, it constitutes sexual violence. This is where providing sexual education to adolescents is crucial. When Indonesian adolescents begin to understand the forms of sexual violence, they can take protective measures.

Based on the cross-tabulation between age and knowledge of sex education among adolescents at Junior High School 2 Kediri City, it was found that the majority of respondents aged 14-15, 42 (75%), were in the good category. This indicates that adolescents in this age group have received knowledge about sex education from their parents and health professionals, thus enabling them to protect themselves from and avoid sexual harassment. Furthermore, at this age, parents have provided adequate information, preventing adolescents from falling prey to negative impacts such as sexual harassment. Based on the cross-tabulation between gender and knowledge of sex education among adolescents at Junior High School 2 Kediri City, it was found that the majority of female respondents, 33 (58.9%), were in the good category. This indicates that female respondents have good knowledge of sex

education, thus preventing them from being victims of sexual harassment. Furthermore, adolescents are also able to restrain and protect themselves at school and in the community, thus preventing them from falling prey to sexual harassment. Based on the cross-tabulation between residence and knowledge of sex education among adolescents at Junior High School 2 Kediri City, it was found that the majority of respondents live with their parents, with 40 (71.4%) in the good category. This indicates that parents have provided good information, preventing adolescents from being exposed to negative impacts such as sexual harassment. This is because parents have a good education and are able to provide knowledge about sex education to their children.

Based on the cross-tabulation between information sources and knowledge of sex education among adolescents at Junior High School 2 Kediri City, it was found that half of the respondents received information about sex education from health workers, with 28 (50%) respondents in the good category. This demonstrates the importance of developing knowledge about sexual harassment and its prevention, supported by a variety of information, especially from health workers who actively provide counseling to adolescents about sex education. This can help shape adolescents' personalities and protect them from sexual harassment.

The theory supporting the researchers findings, according to Notoatmodjo (2019), states that knowledge is the result of knowing, and this occurs after a person perceives a specific object. Sensing occurs through the five human senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. Health knowledge is globally defined as a means of self-renewal, especially regarding health. Knowledge is related to conservative and progressive aspects (change). The conservative aspect impacts the previous generation on the next, while the progressive aspect provides positive effects from changes caused by knowledge. Therefore, a good level of knowledge in humans will lead to positive changes in attitudes going forward. Therefore, knowledge or cognition is a very important domain in shaping one's actions. Knowledge is the domain that shapes a person's actions or behavior. A person's behavior is born from a good or bad understanding. Therefore, good insight will result in a positive attitude, and this applies when people carry out behaviors regarding certain phenomena. Sensing occurs through the human senses, namely the eyes, ears, nose, and skin. The majority of a person's knowledge is obtained through sight and hearing (Nursalam, 2019). Knowledge is crucial for understanding the impact of sexual harassment on adolescents, so they can recognize it early and be alert to it. Adolescents' knowledge is one factor that can influence the rise in sexual harassment cases. A lack of knowledge about sex education can increase their risk of experiencing sexual harassment (Baroroh et al., 2023).

Sex education is a crucial topic to discuss with adolescents, who can often experience confusion when absorbing new information or experiences. Furthermore, sex education for adolescents plays a role in understanding gender roles and the nature of sexuality, as well as helping adolescents establish healthy relationships with the opposite sex. Sex education is a form of psychoeducation that can be provided to the community. Sex education is about teaching children about sexual behavior as early as possible so they can handle future incidents. Basic sex education aims to provide children with knowledge about aspects of sexuality, help them avoid unhealthy relationships, and provide understanding that can prevent the negative impacts of inappropriate sexual behavior (Baroroh et al., 2023).

Based on the facts and theories explained, the researcher concludes that almost all respondents have a good knowledge of sex education. Therefore, sex education should be provided to adolescents. Knowledge about reproductive health and sexuality among adolescents is still relatively low. Very few schools educate students about consent, sexuality, and sensitive issues related to gender. Many consider sex education for adolescents taboo. Therefore, to protect children and adolescents from sexual violence, they need to receive sex education as early as possible. They need to understand that any sexual act committed against them, whether verbal or nonverbal, requires prior consent, and that failure to do so constitutes sexual violence. This is where providing sex education for adolescents becomes crucial. When Indonesian teenagers begin to understand the forms of sexual violence, they can take self-protection measures.

Sexual Harassment of Adolescents at SMPN 2 Kediri City, The study revealed that almost all respondents (53 respondents, 94.6%) not sexual harassment at Junior High School 2 Kediri City. This is supported by the questionnaire responses, which stated that respondents did not make sexual

comments or jokes about peers' bodies, did not flirt with the opposite sex, did not make sexually suggestive remarks, did not whistle at others in public, did not invite friends of the opposite sex to have sex, did not spread rumors about others' sexual activities, did not touch themselves sexually in front of others, did not talk about their sexual activities in front of others, did not touch friends' bodies without permission, did not show sexual images, videos, stories, or objects to friends of the opposite sex, and did not make sexually suggestive gestures or gestures to friends. The study also revealed that 3 (5.4%) cases of sexual harassment occurred. This is due to adolescents' lack of supervision and protection from their immediate family, lack of parental concern, economic factors, and limited public awareness of how to prevent sexual violence against adolescents. Therefore, it is important for adolescents to know how to protect themselves from sexual harassment independently. One way to address sexual harassment is through providing adolescents with sexual education. Adolescence is the most important period for sex education.

Based on the cross-tabulation between age and sexual harassment among adolescents at Junior High School 2 Kediri City, it was found that almost all respondents aged 14-15, 45 (80.4%) respondents, were in the category of not experiencing sexual harassment. This indicates that adolescents in this age group do not experience sexual harassment by the opposite sex or even by peers. Furthermore, adequate information from health professionals and parents can help adolescents avoid sexual harassment at this age. Based on the cross-tabulation between gender and sexual harassment among adolescents at Junior High School 2 Kediri City, it was found that the majority of female respondents, 39 (69.6%) respondents, were in the category of not experiencing sexual harassment. This indicates that female adolescents do not experience sexual harassment. Sexual harassment can happen to anyone, regardless of gender or age. This can happen to children, adolescents, and adults, both male and female. However, good knowledge about sex education and information obtained from various sources, especially parents and health professionals, can help adolescents avoid sexual harassment. A cross-tabulation of the relationship between residence and sexual harassment among adolescents at Junior High School 2 Kediri City revealed that almost all respondents (47) lived with their parents (83.9%). This indicates that parents provided good information, preventing adolescents from falling prey to negative impacts such as sexual harassment. This is because parents are well-educated and therefore able to provide knowledge about sex education to their children. A cross-tabulation of the relationship between information sources and sexual harassment among adolescents at Junior High School 2 Kediri City revealed that the majority of respondents received information about sex education from health professionals, with 34 (60.7%) respondents in the category of no sexual harassment. This demonstrates the crucial importance of developing knowledge about sexual harassment and its prevention, supported by a variety of information, especially from health professionals who actively provide counseling to adolescents about sex education. This can help shape adolescents' personal development and prevent them from experiencing sexual harassment.

The theory supporting the researchers' findings, according to Notoatmodjo (2019), states that sexual harassment can occur when someone receives unwanted sexual signals or actions from that person. In reality, sexual harassment can occur in various contexts, both directly and indirectly. This aligns with the notion that sexual harassment typically occurs in person, such as in the workplace, public places, and educational settings. However, sexual harassment can also occur online, such as on social media and in online groups. Therefore, sexual harassment involves a variety of unwanted sexual behaviors, both directly and indirectly (Baroroh et al., 2023). Sexual Harassment Sexual harassment that occurs among adolescents includes any form of coercion or threat to engage in sexual activity. This sexual activity includes touching private and sensitive areas, and the most severe is rape. Sexual harassment can also take the form of non-verbal harassment, such as catcalling, which can make the victim feel uncomfortable. Conversations about sexual activity or personal matters are also considered non-verbal sexual harassment. Harassment can also take the form of negative comments or treatment based on gender, as sexual harassment is essentially a form of gender harassment that occurs because someone is female. Therefore, awareness of various forms of sexual behavior can prevent them from becoming victims (Baroroh et al., 2023).

Adolescents who experience sexual harassment, especially vulnerable girls and boys, are at risk of experiencing short-term and long-term health problems. The psychological, emotional, physical, and

social impacts include depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, eating disorders, low self-esteem, and personal identity disorders. Common psychological disorders include somatization, neurosis, chronic pain, changes in sexual behavior, and school/learning difficulties. and behavioral problems including drug abuse, self-harm, animal cruelty, criminality in adulthood, and suicide. Based on the facts and theories explained, the researchers concluded that almost all respondents did not experience sexual harassment. However, adolescents who did experience sexual harassment experienced impacts such as trauma, depression, suffering, becoming withdrawn, and losing their way. Therefore, given the prevalence of sexual harassment cases in Indonesia, it is crucial for everyone to know how to prevent sexual harassment, especially adolescents entering adulthood. Therefore, the purpose of this activity is to increase understanding and knowledge regarding sexual harassment prevention. Therefore, the impact of harassment on an individual cannot be underestimated or even ignored. Furthermore, it is crucial for adolescents to know how to protect themselves from sexual harassment independently. One way to address sexual harassment is through providing adolescents with sexual education. Adolescence is the most important time for receiving sex education, especially from health professionals and parents.

CONCLUSION

Almost all respondents at Junior High School 2 Kediri City knew about sex education, with 46 (82.1%) respondents in the good category. Almost all respondents at Junior High School 2 Kediri City knew about sexual harassment, with 53 (94.6%) respondents in the no-sexual-harassment category. Data analysis showed a significance level of $0.000 < \alpha = 0.05$, thus rejecting H_0 and accepting H_1 , thus, there is an effect of knowledge about sex education on sexual harassment among adolescents at SMPN 2 Kediri City. Health workers, teachers and parents will always provide information to adolescents so as to increase their knowledge about sex education.

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