



Adolescents' Risk of Different Sexual Orientation Tendency in Terms of Family Factors (Case Study in Padang and Agam Regency)

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Abstract

BACKGROUND: In the transition period, in adolescents occur the process of physical, cognitive, and social maturation. This period is essential in the formation of sexual identity, which related to gender and sexual orientation. Improper sexual identities will provoke sexual behavior problems. The problems with sexual behavior begin from differences in sexual orientation with a sexual orientation generally accepted by the public (heterosexual). In some adolescents, there is a change in sexual orientation that leads to homosexuality. The factors that play a significant role in adolescent sexual orientation are parenting.

AIM: This study aimed to examine the risk of different sexual orientation tendencies in adolescents and the families' factors in West Sumatra.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: This study's design was a cross-sectional study with 532 adolescents aged 13–18 years old as the respondents. It took 3 months to research by using a questionnaire as the instrument. The questionnaire's data were analyzed using Chi-square.

RESULTS: The results showed that the risk of different sexual behaviors in adolescents was 59.4% normal tendency, 26.7% low tendency, and 13.9% high tendency. Furthermore, family factors related significantly to the risk of different sexual behavior tendencies were gender and family intimacy factors ($p < 0.05$), while age, family type factors, and family income factors ($p > 0.05$) are not significantly related.

CONCLUSION: Based on that, it concluded that the parents expected to develop closer relationships with family members.

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Introduction

Adolescence is a transition from childhood to adulthood [1]. During this period, adolescents experience physical, cognitive, and social aspects [2]. The process of physical maturation in this period is faster than cognitive and social maturation. In this process, adolescents go through adaptations to recognize their identity, so they need adequate social support [3]. Mainly, support came from family and people around them, which crucial for their career decision-making [4].

Regarding the preferences in determining their future, adolescents are strongly affected by indicators such as gender, knowledge, and attitude [5]. Those attitudes relate to personal behavior that developed in the family and community. Risk behavior in adolescents happens because of several factors concerning the individual, family, and extrafamilial relations.

Puspitawati *et al.* [6] define families as groups related by kinship, residence, or close emotional attachments. The families' members show four features; intimate interdependence, selective boundary

maintenance, ability to adapt to change, maintain identity over time, and perform family tasks. According to Hurlock [2], factors influencing parenting in the family include economic conditions, family members, and the environment. Unappropriate parenting behavior may result in different behavior in adolescents.

At present, different sexual behavior like to rise in Indonesia. Many of which are known to occur in adolescents. Riset Kesehatan Dasar [7] also reported that the number of LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) is estimated to reach 750 million people globally. The estimated number of gays in Indonesia reaches 1,095,970 people [1]. In West Sumatra Province, according to a report by the West Sumatra VCT-HIV Counselors Association (PKVHI), LGBT behavior is identified mainly at the age of 15–25 years old, 43% of whom are still living with parents [8]. The different sexual behavior data in West Sumatra confirmed that the city of Padang has the highest number of LGBT, followed by the Agam Regency and Padang City, while in Padang City reported that 687 people are living with HIV (+), and 5000 people of whom do males who have sex with males (MSM) [8].

Based on that condition, the family's role could be the first way to improve adolescent self-resilience, especially parent role and responsibility on adolescent growth in 13–18 ages. It would significantly affect adolescents' different sexual behavior if the family's role not conducted well. Thus, it is necessary to find out which factors related to the family that leads to the risk tendency of adolescent different sexual behavior in Padang City and Agam Regency.

Materials and Methods

The research was a case study in Padang City and Agam Regency with a correlational and quantitative approach. It designed cross-sectional research. Determination Padang City and Agam Regency as the research place because the number of different sexual behavior in Padang City and Agam Regency was high. The respondents were adolescents aged 13–18 in whom students in junior high school and senior high school in Padang City and Agam Regency. The sample determined with stratified sampling and, based on that, determined 532 respondents in Padang City and Agam Regency.

The data collected using a questionnaire within 3 months in 2020. The variables of different sexual behavior tendencies on adolescent respondents measured with age, gender, type of family, family intimacy, and family income parameters. The data were categorized into three categories (high, normal, and low) to see the tendency of risky sexual behavior on the respondents. Then, data analyzed using univariate and bivariate Chi-square with IBM SPSS 23 Version.

Results

The characteristic of respondents in this research showed in Table 1.

Table 1: Characteristic of respondents

Respondent characteristics	Frequency	%
Age (years old)		
Early adolescents (13–16)	172	32.3
Late adolescents (17–24)	360	67.7
Gender		
Male	176	33.1
Female	356	66.9
Type of the family		
The large family (>5 family member)	97	18.2
The small family (<5 family member)	435	81.8
Intimacy		
Intimate	354	66.5
Less intimate	178	33.5
Family income		
Unknown	310	58.3
<2.5 million	69	13.0
More than 2.5 million	153	28.8

The distribution of the categories of risk different sexual behavior tendency on adolescent showed in Table 2.

Table 2: Distribution of risk of different sexual behavior tendency in adolescents

Categories	Frequency	%
High	74	13.9
Normal	316	59.4
Low	142	26.7

The respondents in the high category were 74 respondents, with 13.9%, which means that this category showed the highest risk of different sexual behavior tendencies if respondents' environment were favoring [9]. The respondents in the normal category were 316 respondents, with 59.4%, which means that they have heterosexual tendencies. The respondents in the low category were 142 respondents, with 26.7%, which means that respondents in this category have potential different sexual behavior if the respondents coercion.

The correlation between the risk of different sexual behavior tendencies with familys' factors showed in Table 3.

Table 3: Correlation of respondent different sexual behavior tendencies with familys' factors

Variable	Different sexual behavior tendency						P-value
	High		Normal		Low		
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	
Age							0.674
Early teens (13–16)	24	14.0	98	57.0	50	29.1	
Late teens (17–24)	50	13.9	218	60.0	92	25.6	
Gender							0.039*
Male	21	11.9	118	67.0	37	21.0	
Female	53	14.9	198	55.6	105	29.5	
Type of family							0.425
The large family (>5 family member)	12	12.4	54	55.7	31	32.0	
The small family (<5 family member)	62	14.3	262	60.2	111	25.5	
Family intimacy							0.001*
Intimate	51	14.4	226	63.8	77	21.8	
Less intimate	23	12.9	90	50.6	65	36.5	
Family income							0.074
Unknown	47	15.2	175	56.5	88	28.4	
<2.5 million	3	4.3	50	72.5	16	23.2	
More than 2.5 million	24	15.7	91	59.5	38	24.8	

*Significant = $p < 0.05$.

Discussion

Table 3 shows that the factors related significantly to different sexual behavior tendencies in adolescents were significant in gender and family intimacy ($p < 0.05$). On the other hand, the age, the person contacted when facing a problem, and family income showed a non-significant effect.

Sexual orientation, according to some experts, is the state of emotionally and sexually attracted to a particular sex. Many factors may cause different sexual orientations; biological, psychosocial, and family factors. Family factors are closely related to parenting. The tendency to have different sexual behavior categorized as;

Based on this study's results, 532 adolescents (26.7%) have a low risk of undergoing different sexual orientation. This matter is necessary to concern. We found that these teens saw their parents having arguments in

front of them (58%). Adolescent who do not understand the adult problem immediately witness their loved ones arguing. This problem can damage adolescents' psychological development. According to Bandura's theory in Abdullah [10], a family is a social learning place that will permanently influence every behavior, knowledge, and thinking skill gained through family experience. The adolescent will imitate every behavior of others around them (Modeling Theory). Parents' squabbling may cause a dilemma in children because they cannot choose which one of their parents if they are injured or lost in the fight. Besides, it will cause hatred to other parties so that communication within the family becomes ineffective. Hence, ineffective communication will disrupt the stage of adolescent development [11].

In addition to witnessing parents' quarrels, 41.5% of respondents also stated that they could not openly talk about their problems with their parents. Those children and adolescents tend to keep their problems secret. This condition will add pressure to them. At the age that faces plenty of problems, teenagers need an enjoyable person to share their burdens. If they could not find anyone at home, they will look for it from peers or others.

A study revealed that the highest risk behaviors among adolescents predominantly come from non-functioning families, low socioeconomic status (SES), and no support from people surrounding them. Those people, such as parents, other family members, people in their society, school, and religious leaders, are supposed to protect them. They are the main elements in determining the pattern of adolescent behavior to avoid any misconduct [12].

Adolescents, in its development, are a transition period from childhood to adulthood. Their attention began to focus more on peer groups. Therefore, in this period, they need to be taught how to communicate their problems and overcome them. During this time, parental control is very crucial. Therefore, teenagers will not be out of control with peers and make them trapped in undesired conditions. However, if they find a conducive environment, they will be responsible and independent individuals.

The high-risk tendency usually happens because of adolescents' factors in the previous stages of their development. The factors include feeling depressed due to bullying, suffering from sexual harassment, and having the desire or attracted to the same sex by trying to be together. In this case, they feel the longing to pay attention to those who care about them. Based on this research, 143 adolescents (27.2%) have a high-risk tendency of having a different sexual orientation. About 7.6% of respondents said they had experienced some form of sexual harassment before. About 49.6% of them said that they felt depressed due to being bullied and attracted to same-sex. Another 42.6% of the respondents want to be always together and have a sense of longing to give attention. This condition certainly requires various parties such as families, teachers, and the surrounding society.

Sexual harassment experienced by adolescents will disturb their psychology. Moreover, sexual harassment is one of the risk factors for different sexual behavior caused by undesired sexual experiences [13]. Furthermore, their psychology may be affected after being bullied by those around them, including friends. Bullying is a form of aggressive behavior by doing inappropriate actions using violence or coercion to influence others. Bullying is usually done repeatedly or has the potential to be repeated, involving an imbalance of power and authority. This behavior includes doing verbal harassment, physical violence, or coercion repeatedly to particular victims. Bullying happened usually based on race, religion, gender, sexuality, or ability. Victims of bullying will encounter tremendous pressure. Indeed, it caused them to be depressed and experiencing anxiety. They will feel sad, lonely and keep distancing themselves from others. It will also destroy the victims' confidence and self-esteem.

Consequently, they will feel insecure about themselves and resent separate sexes that affect their sexual orientation. On the other side, they feel safe and protected by people who do not commit violence. Considering the adolescents' development is integrated into adults, their childhood experience dramatically influences their behavior.

Someone's sexual orientation must be seen from their background in the past, because psychologically children no longer feel below the level of older people but are at the same level, especially in rights matters. The intellectual transformation typical of the adolescents' way of thinking enables them to achieve integration in adult social relationships, a common characteristic of this developmental period.

Desires and feelings of same-sex attraction on adolescents result from their intellectual transformation from the way they think due to past experiences. According to Sarlito [14], a person must make decisions for his future independently during adolescence. This fact needs to be a concern for parents to keep their kids away from the same sex. Hence, they will not have a different sexual orientation.

The dominant factor influencing adolescents' tendency of different sexual orientations is the intimacy with their family, $p = 0.004$. Intimacy with parents or family is a significant factor in finding the role models and idols toward their actions and behavior. According to Sinyo [15], a child takes the wrong role model due to being forced by family circumstances. For example, a boy takes a role model from his mother or vice versa. It will affect a child's sexual orientation towards the opposite sex and his/her personality. On the other hand, a child who can take any role model democratically (freely) can also cause the child to make a wrong role model for him/herself. This condition happens a lot in western countries that allow freedom, as in Europe and the United States.

Adolescents are entering a period of transition into adulthood. They begin to pay attention to their problems. More teenagers explore their strengths and weaknesses and tend to compare themselves with those around them. When expectations do not match reality, it will be a problem. The family should be the people who can understand them the most and help them to share their problems. If they could not get that attention, their attention will focus on the peer group. At this time, they need to understand how to express their problems and overcome them. Parental control is obliged so that they do not do any misconduct, which may cause them caught in the middle of unwanted situations when they are with peers. However, if adolescents find a conducive family situation, the environment's problems will not affect them. Hence, they will be able to act responsibly.

Conclusions and Suggestions

The conclusions and suggestions for this research are:

Conclusion

1. Most teenagers are late teens. The sex is female, and most of them do not know their family income
2. Family factors (family type and the person they look for when there is a problem) do not significantly affect adolescents' tendency toward differences in sexual orientation
3. The most dominant factor is adolescent intimacy with their family. It significantly influences the risk of different sexual orientations in adolescents.

Suggestions

Further research is needed to examine external factors that influence differences in sexual orientation in adolescents, such as peer influence, social control, and government policies related to penalties and rules, especially about different sexual behavior.

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