

ASSOCIATIONS OF PORNOGRAPHY EXPOSURE ON SOCIAL MEDIA, AND PEER INFLUENCE, WITH PRE-MARITAL SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IN STUDENTS IN SURAKARTA, CENTRAL JAVA, INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

Background: As technology and digitalization have become more pervasive, particularly with the widespread use of smartphones and other easily available digital media, exposure to pornography has become ubiquitous. Early exposure to pornography, as well as unregulated/excessive exposure to pornography during adolescence, has been predicted to have a variety of long-term negative impacts on sexual maturation, premarital sexual activity, internet addiction, and general personality development. This study sought to investigate associations of exposure to pornographic social media, and peer influence, with premarital sexual behavior in students in Surakarta.

Subjects and Method: A cross-sectional study was carried out in Surakarta, Central Java, Indonesia, from February to April 2022. A sample of 233 students was selected by purposive sampling. The dependent variable was premarital sexual behavior. The independent variables were peer influence and exposure pornographic social media. The data were collected using a questionnaire and analyzed by a multiple logistic regression.

Results: The risk of premarital sexual behavior increased with high exposure to pornographic social media (OR= 2.48; 95% CI= 1.34 to 4.56; p= 0.004) and strong peer influence (OR= 2.35; 95% CI= 1.26 to 4.39; p= 0.007).

Conclusion: The risk of premarital sexual behavior increases with high exposure to pornographic social media and strong peer influence.

Keywords: peer influence, pornography, social media, premarital sexual behavior

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BACKGROUND

Adolescence is the transition from childhood to adulthood. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), adolescence range in age from 10 to 19 years. Adolescents endure rapid physical, cognitive, and psychosocial development during this period. This has an impact on teenagers' interactions with the world around them, such as beginning to feel

attracted to the opposite sex, which is exhibited through dating (WHO, 2023).

Adolescent dating behavior is intimately linked to concerning sexual activity such as holding hands, embracing, kissing, caressing sensitive body parts, oral sex, and sexual intercourse (vaginal or anal) (ter Haar et al., 2022). Suwarni et al. (2015) reported that kissing (5.5%), petting (2.7%), oral sex (2.2%), anal sex (1.5%), and

intercourse (2.7%) were the most common premarital sexual behaviors among youths in Pontianak, Indonesia.

Premarital sexual behavior in adolescents has an impact on premarital pregnancy, unwanted pregnancy, abortion, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), HIV, and AIDS. Adolescents in developing countries, particularly Indonesia, are frequently entangled in early marriage, which results in high risk pregnancy. Pregnancy in adolescence is associated with a higher risk of maternal poor conditions, such as hypertension, eclampsia, premature birth, postpartum bleeding, and mother and to child transmitted infections. Adolescent pregnancy has been associated with a higher risk of neonatal complications, such as congenital birth abnormalities and probable neonatal sepsis (Eliner et al., 2022).

Adolescents have their initial sex experience between the ages of 15 and 19 years. According to the findings of Ochen et al., (2021), 90.3% of 480 female youths had sexual intercourse, 34.8% were married, and over half were still in school. Teenage sexual activity can trigger to early marriage and teen pregnancy. According to Surakarta data, petitions for marriage dispensation have surged dramatically, with 70 cases reported in 2019 and 139 cases reported in 2020 (Kusumastuti, 2020).

Globalization influences adolescent sexual behavior, increasing the risk of sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS. Surakarta is rated second in terms of HIV/AIDS cases, according to SIHA data from the

Ministry of Health, with a total of 2,860 HIV cases and 480 AIDS cases in 2020. HIV cases were 14.9% in the 20-24 age group, while AIDS cases were 27.8% in the 20-29 age group.

Adolescent premarital sexual behavior is typically associated with low levels of education, peer pressure, high exposure to pornographic content on social media, religiosity, and a lack of information about contraception. Mulugeta and Berhane (2014) discovered that among 1,123 unmarried teenage girls in Bahir Dar, North West Ethiopia, 30.8% reported having had premarital sexual relations. According to the findings of Taye and Nurie (2017), 39 (11.3%) of female participants had ever had sexual intercourse, 3 (3.8%) had been pregnant at least once, and 1 (1.3%) had a history of abortion. Frequent viewing of pornographic videos (AOR= 10.15; 95%CI 6.63 to 15.53) and peer pressure (aOR= 2.98; 95%CI 1.57 to 5.67) were the key factors associated with this sexual behavior (Mulugeta & Berhane, 2014).

The purpose of this study was to investigate associations of exposure to pornographic social media, and peer influence, with premarital sexual behavior in students in Surakarta.

SUBJECTS AND METHOD

1. Study design

This was a cross-sectional study conducted in Surakarta, Centra Java, Indonesia, from February to April 2022.

2. Population and sample

A sample of 233 undergraduate students was selected using purposive sampling.

3. Study variables

The dependent variable was premarital sexual behavior. The independent variables were peer influence and social media.

4. Data collection and data analysis

The data were collected using a set of questionnaire and analyzed using a multiple logistic regression

RESULTS

Table 1 reported frequency distribution of sample characteristics. It found that two-third of total sample were female (69.1%) with high risk of premarital sexual behavior (70.8%). As many as 56.7% adolescents were engaged with high exposure to pornographic on social media and 51.9% of them were influenced by peers.

Table 1. Frequency Distribution of Sample Characteristics

Variables	n	%
Gender		
Female	161	69.1
Male	72	30.9
Pornographic exposure on Social Media		
High	132	56.7
Low	101	43.3
Peer influence		
Strong	121	51.9
Weak	112	48.1
Sexual behavior		
High risk	165	70.8
Low risk	68	29.2

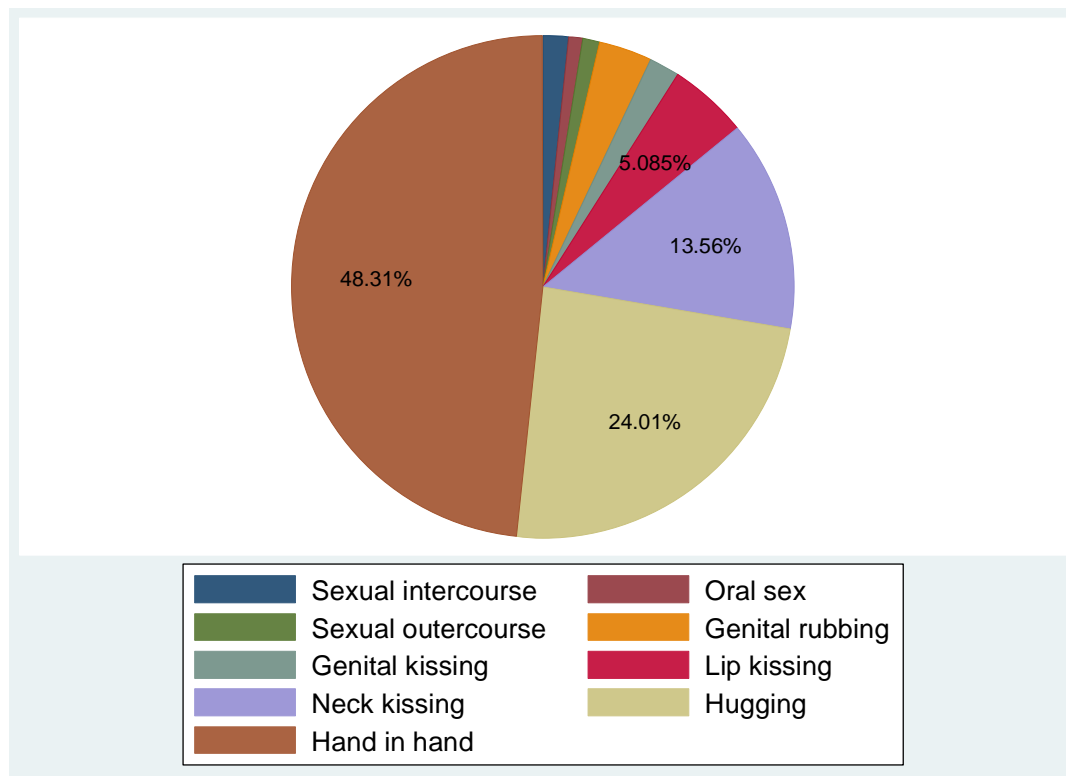


Figure 1. Sexual behavior in undergraduate students in Surakarta

Figure 1 depicts sexual activity among undergraduate students, which includes 171 (73.4%) holding hands with the opposite sex, 85 (36.5%) hugging, 48 (20.6%) kissing on the cheek, 18 (7.7%) kissing on the lips, 7 (3%) kissing the neck area, 12 (5.6%) touching the genital area and/or breasts, 4 (1.7%) genital rubbing, 3 (1.3%) had oral sex, and 6 (2.6%) had sexual intercourse.

Table 2 showed the results of bivariate analysis of associations between pornographic exposure to

social media, peer influence, and premarital sexual behavior using Chi square test. High pornographic exposure on media sosial (OR= 2.43; 95% CI= 1.36 to 4.33; p= 0.001) and peer influence (OR= 2.86; 95%CI= 1.58 to 5.16; p= 0.002) were independently increased the risk of premarital sexual behavior in undergraduate studens. Pornographic exposures were mostly obtained from WhatsApp stickers, photos, and videos.

Table 2. The results of bivariate analysis using Chi square

Independent variables	Premarital sexual behavior				OR (95%CI)	p
	Low risk		High risk			
	n	%	n	%		
Pornographic exposure in social media						
High	28	21.2	104	78.8	2.43 (1.36 to 4.33)	0.001
Low	40	39.6	61	60.4		
Peer influence						
Strong	23	19	98	81	2.86 (1.58 to 5.16)	0.002
Weak	45	40.2	67	59.8		

Table 3 showed the simultaneous correlations between pornographic exposure social media and peer influence on premarital sexual behavior using a multiple logistic regression. High pornographic exposure on media

sosial (OR= 2.48; 95% CI= 1.34 to 4.56; p= 0.004) and peer influence (OR= 2.35; 95% CI= 1.26 to 4.39; p= 0.007) were independently increased the risk of premarital sexual behavior in undergraduate studens.

Table 3. Multivariate analysis of correlation between pornographic exposure on social media, peer influence, and premarital sexual behavior

Independent variables	OR	95%CI		p
		Lower limit	Upper limit	
Pornographic exposure to social media	2.48	1.34	4.56	0.004
Peer influence	2.35	1.26	4.39	0.007

DISCUSSION

On average, teenagers begin dating at the age of 14. Female teenagers begin dating later than male teenagers. The onset of sexual conduct in adolescents during dating is frequently related

to biological development due to puberty and psychological development with high curiosity (Lesinskienė et al., 2023).

Premarital sexual activity that begins before the age of 18 can be

considered risky sexual behavior. According to the Declaration of Human Rights (HAM), persons under the age of 18 are considered children and are unable to make marriage or consent to sexual relations (Tampubolon, 2021).

Premarital sexual conduct has a harmful impact on the health of adolescent girls. Premarital sexual behavior increases the risk of HIV/ AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, as well as unwanted pregnancy, poor mental health, and maternal death. Furthermore, premarital sexual conduct increases the probability of academic failure, low academic performance, stigma, and discrimination among students (Abdulla et al., 2023).

Drug and alcohol use, the incidence of sexual initiation among peers, and parental education are all factors that contribute to the early access of adolescents into premarital sexual behavior. Religiosity, academic achievement, accomplishment, and parental supervision, on the other hand, are protective variables (Durowade et al., 2017).

This study found that exposure to pornography on social media had a significant relationship with premarital sexual behavior in undergraduate students. A study by Akibu et al. (2017) shows that high pornography exposure increased the risk of premarital sexual behavior than low pornographic exposure (aOR= 2.30; 95% CI= 1.60 to 3.27). Peter and Valkenburg (2016) stated that exposure to pornography is related to permissive sexual attitude in adolescents. Adolescents frequently participate in sexual intercourse, promiscuous sexual conduct, and sexual

aggressiveness, both as perpetrators and as victims. The onset of sexual activity is linked to early and frequent exposure to pornography. It may also be influenced by pubertal state and their curiosity (Lim et al., 2017).

WhatsApp, Instagram, and YouTube are popular social media platforms in adolescents. Most adolescents (39.4%) spend 1-3 hours per day on average (Saputra, 2019). Technology is a double-edged sword. It offers the advantage of making communication and obtaining information sources simple and rapid. However, it has a negative impact on easily accessible pornography (Naja et al., 2017).

Peer influence has significant effects on premarital sexual behavior (OR= 2.35; 95% CI= 1.26 to 4.39; p= 0.007). This is consistent with the findings of a study by Mayren et al. (2020), which reported that there was a significant association between peers and premarital sexual behavior (OR= 3.81; 95% CI= 2.00 to 7.27; p= 0.001). According to Suleiman & Deardorff (2015), peers motivated up to 45% of youth to begin sexual conduct. As many as 33% of female adolescents engage in romantic or sexual conduct to get intimacy and emotional relationships.

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