

# **SOCIAL COGNITIVE THEORY AND PREMARITAL SEX AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN YOGYAKARTA**

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## **ABSTRACT**

**BACKGROUND:** Globalization and modernization seemed to have profound impact on the behavior of teenagers, especially sexual behavior. Social-cognitive theory proposed by Albert Bandura is a theoretical perspective that focuses on learning by observing others. One of the assumptions in the social-cognitive theory puts that learners can acquire new behaviors and knowledge by simply observing a model. A model is a person who demonstrates behavior for someone else. A peer group of an adolescent may function as this model. This study aimed to explain the role of peer group and mass-media in premarital sex among adolescents in Yogyakarta.

**SUBJECT AND METHODS:** This was a cross-sectional study conducted in Yogyakarta, with quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. A sample of 47 teenagers was selected from Turonggo Wiro Budoyo community, Wirobrajan, Yogyakarta. The dependent variable was premarital sex. The independent variables were coercive initiative, exposure to pornographic mass-media, and reference to peer group model. The peer group under study was that with any member ever had experienced premarital sex. A set of questionnaire was developed and pre-tested to measure the study variables. Bivariate analysis with Odds Ratio and Chi-Square was used to analyze the data.

**RESULTS:** Incidence of premarital sex showed positive and strong association with coercive initiative (OR= 20.30; 95%CI= 2.21 to 186.00;  $p < 0.001$ ), exposure to pornographic mass-media (OR= 3.88; 95% CI= 0.09 to 21.70;  $p = 0.105$ ), and reference to peer group model (OR= 6.00; 95% CI= 1.06 to 33.95;  $p = 0.028$ ).

**CONCLUSION:** Coercive initiative, exposure to pornographic mass-media, and reference to peer group model, are risk factors premarital sex among adolescents in Yogyakarta. This study supports Albert Bandura's social-cognitive theory, which emphasizes the role of peer group that functions as a model for adolescents to observe and learn about premarital sex as a new behavior.

**Keywords:** social-cognitive theory, peer group, model, premarital sex, adolescent