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Reproductive Health Knowledge Correlated with Adolescent Attitudes Towards the Perception of Early Marriage



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^{CA}Mar'atus Sholichah Fitriah Hajar Kusnianto, Handayani, Intin Ananingsih, Siti Khoirul Fadila
STIKes Patria Husada Blitar, Indonesia

^{CA}Corresponding Author

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Abstract

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Adolescence is a transition period from childhood to adulthood to find identity. At this time there is a feeling of wanting to try new things. Early marriage is a marriage of a couple aged 19 years or can be categorized as adolescences. One of the serious problems faced by developing countries including Indonesia. The impacts of early marriage include low birth weight, spontaneous abortion, anemia and can cause defects in babies. This happens because the reproductive organs are not physiologically mature. This study aimed to determine the correlation between reproductive health knowledge and adolescent attitudes towards the perception of early marriage. This was correlation quantitative research with Cross-sectional approach. The population of this assessment was female adolescents at SMKN 1 Kademangan class XI. The sample was taken using the *simple random sampling* technique and obtained 48 respondents. The data analysis used *Spearman rank*. The research instrument used a questionnaire. From the study, it was found that there was a correlation between reproductive health knowledge and adolescent attitudes towards the perception of early marriage. Knowledge is one of the factors that can determine adolescents' attitudes towards perceptions of early marriage. Reproductive health education needs to be given to adolescents, especially female adolescents, to form attitudes and change perceptions of early marriage.


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✉Correspondence Address:

STIKes Patria Husada Blitar – East Java, Indonesia

Email: maratussholichahfitriah@gmail.com

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INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a transition period from childhood to adulthood to find identity. At this time there is a sense of wanting to try new things. In addition, adolescents have reproductive health needs related to genital organs, one of which is sexual health. In addition, psychologically, adolescents experience changes in emotions, social, cognitive and morals ([Winarno et al., 2025](#)). Adolescence is a critical period in sexual development, adolescents in their social life will always be faced with various roles offered by the family environment and peer groups ([Latifah & Yarni, 2024](#)). Teenage problems are closely related to reproductive health problems that originate from a lack of information, understanding, and awareness. Reproductive health is generally still taboo to talk about, especially by parents ([I. P. Sari et al., 2020](#)).

Marriage is a process for humans to continue their offspring. The National Family Planning Coordinating Board stated that the ideal age recommendation for women to marry is 20-35 years old. The ideal age for men to marry is in the age range of 25-40 years. Early marriage is a marriage of a couple aged 19 years or can be categorized as adolescences ([Adelia & Sulistiawati, 2023](#)). Early marriage is a marriage that is carried out when a man and woman are still minors or are still under the age stipulated in the Marriage Law. In Law No. 16 of 2019 it states that marriage will be permitted if the man and woman have reached the age of 19 years ([Rohana, 2023](#)). Early marriage can be interpreted as a registered or unregistered marriage in which one or both partners are under the age of 18 ([Naghizadeh et al., 2021](#)). Early marriage is the binding of a pair of children who are still minors through marriage. Categorized as underage when the child has not reached the recommended age limit for marriage, which is 19 years ([Distinarista et al., 2023](#)).

UNICEF data shows, Indonesia has the 37th highest child marriage rate in the world and the second highest in Southeast Asia. Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency, the total number of early marriages in 2019 was 10.82%. The Central

Statistics Agency registered 3.2% of women married at the age of 15 in 2020. While only 0.3% of men were married at that age. 27.35% of women married at the age of 16 to 18 years. While only 6.40% of men. Adolescent girls who marry early mostly experience pregnancy at the age of 17 (38.90%), 16 (17.53%) and 15 (4.70%) ([Ernawati et al., 2023](#)). Early marriage is a serious problem faced by developing countries including Indonesia. ([Rohana, 2023](#)).

Early marriage is a violation of human rights and children's rights. It increases the risk of domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape, and deprives them of access to education. ([Naghizadeh et al., 2021](#)). Marriage that is done at an early age is an unhealthy marriage. The risk of early marriage occurs a lot in teenage girls, because physically, mentally, psychologically. They are not ready and the condition of the uterus is not strong. The impact is low birth weight, spontaneous abortion, anemia and can cause defects in babies. This happens because the reproductive organs are not physiologically mature ([Winarno et al., 2025](#)). Early marriage is a major health risk, especially for the reproductive health of adolescent girls. The risks experienced by mothers such as female reproductive problems and the risk of dying during childbirth are around 35 (55%), abortion 32 (17.1%), risk of low birth weight babies 73% ([Ernawati et al., 2023](#)). Reproductive organs that are not ready are susceptible to cervical cancer when entering old age. Other impacts that arise are death and anemia. The younger a woman gets married, the greater the risk in the pregnancy and childbirth process, both in terms of the safety of the mother and the baby ([L. Y. Sari et al., 2020](#)).

From the description above, the researcher aimed to determine the correlation between reproductive health knowledge and adolescent attitudes towards the perception of early marriage carried out at SMKN 1 Kademangan; in English, Vocational School 1 Kademangan.

METHODS

This study aimed to see the correlation between variables using a quantitative approach.

The design used in this study is cross-sectional. Population in this study were 55 female adolescents in SMKN 1 Kademangan class XI. The sampling technique used *simple random sampling*. Determination of the number of samples using the Slovin formula obtained 48 respondents. The dependent variable in this study was reproductive health knowledge, and the independent variable was adolescent attitudes towards the perception of early

marriage. This research was conducted on May 2024. Respondents were given a questionnaire to be filled in and then data analysis was carried out using the *Spearman rank*. The level of significance $\alpha < 0.05$ means there is a correlation, if $\alpha \geq 0.05$ means there is no correlation between variables. This research has passed the ethical test on March 26, 2024 at STIKes Patria Husada with reference No. 06 / PHB / KEPK / 225 / 03.24.

RESULTS

Table 1. Frequency Distribution of Respondents by Age and Experience in Obtaining Information on Reproductive Health (n=48)

No	Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Age		
	>18 years	35	72.9%
	≤ 18 years	13	27.1%
	Total	48	100%
2	Information		
	Ever been	25	52.1%
	Never	23	47.9%
	Total	48	100%

The table above shows that 35 (72.9%) of the total respondents were aged >18 years. Twenty-five

(52.1%) of adolescents had received information about adolescent reproductive health.

Table 2. Frequency Distribution of Respondents Based on Reproductive Health Knowledge and Adolescent Attitudes Towards Perception of Early Marriage (n=48)

No	Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Knowledge		
	Good	17	35.4%
	Enough	24	50.0%
	Not enough	7	14.6%
	Total	48	100%
2	Attitude		
	Positive	37	77.1%
	Negative	11	22.9%
	Total	48	100%

The table above shows that 24 respondents or 50.0% of female adolescents' knowledge about health is sufficient. While the attitudes of female

adolescents towards the perception of early marriage mostly show a positive attitude, namely 37 respondents or 77.1%.

Table 3. Correlation between Reproductive Health Knowledge Variables and Adolescent Attitudes Towards Perceptions of Early Marriage (n=48)

		Attitude				Total		P value
		Negative		Positive		F	%	
		F	%	F	%			
Knowledge	Good	0	0	17	35.4	17	35.4	0.000
	Enough	4	8.3	20	41.7	24	50.0	
	Not enough	7	14.6	0	0	7	14.6	
Total		11	22.9	37	77.1	48	100.0	

The conclusion of the table above 37 has a positive or rejecting attitude towards the perception of early marriage. The results of the hypothesis test obtained p value = 0.000 $< \alpha = 0.05$ concluded that H_0 is rejected which means there is a correlation between knowledge about reproductive health and adolescent attitudes towards the perception of early marriage.

DISCUSSION

The results of the correlation test of reproductive health knowledge with adolescent attitudes towards the perception of early marriage p value = 0.000 $< \alpha = 0.05$ so that it can be concluded that there is a correlation between knowledge about reproductive health and adolescent attitudes towards the perception of early marriage. Table 4.3 shows that 17 respondents (35.4%) have good knowledge and have a positive attitude towards early marriage. The results of this study indicate that adolescents with good knowledge exhibit positive attitudes or reject early marriage. Conversely, adolescents with less knowledge exhibit negative attitudes or tend to approve of early marriage.

One of the main factors contributing to early marriage is lack of knowledge, which prevents adolescents from recognizing the dangers and risks associated with early marriage. Limited knowledge tends to foster negative attitudes, while increased awareness correlates with more positive attitudes and behaviors towards delaying marriage (Adhiyanti et al., 2025). Education is a process of transferring information from one person to another that lasts a lifetime. If someone has a higher education, they tend to be more able to think

rationally and will more easily accept new things that are considered beneficial to them. Likewise, if someone's education is low, it will be more difficult to accept new things compared to respondents with higher education. (Vidalia & Azinar, 2022). This result is supported by previous research which shows that most respondents are married with elementary education, amounting to 19 respondents (47.5%). The results of statistical tests show a significant correlation between education and early marriage p value = 0.037 (Yati & Citra, 2020). Similar research conducted on 64 students of SMPN 23 Bintan; in English Junior High School 23 Bintan showed that respondents who had 47 students (73.4%) had good knowledge, 33 respondents among them had a positive attitude. From the study it was concluded that good knowledge about the impact of early marriage has a positive attitude towards early marriage (Noer et al., 2022). Good knowledge will help shape and influence a person's mindset, then that mindset will form a positive attitude (Dwi & Sundayani, 2018). Adolescents from the cognitive dimension have their own thought patterns in dealing with their problems. They do not just accept information but they process the information first and adapt it to their own thinking. They also integrate past and present experiences to make conclusions, predictions and plans for the future (Noer et al., 2022).

Knowledge greatly influences the practice of early marriage. Adolescents who have a low level of knowledge or understanding of reproductive health and early marriage are still due to the lack of information about reproductive health. From the results of the study, it was found that information

about reproductive health is still difficult to obtain ([Adelia & Sulistiawati, 2023](#)). Lack of knowledge among adolescences regarding early marriage and reproductive health has resulted in many teenage girls getting married at an early age without considering the dangerous risks for the mother and the fetus she is carrying ([Krisnana et al., 2020](#)). Attitude is closely related to a person's knowledge. The better a person's level of knowledge, the more positive they are in responding to something, the worse their knowledge, the more negative their attitude towards something. Knowledge has a big influence in forming attitudes ([Yuli Bahriah & Yuni Kurniati, 2022](#)). The lack of information about reproductive health is closely related to the minimal access of adolescents to reproductive health care facilities that are youth-friendly. The chances of having an early marriage are higher in women who do not know the legal age of marriage compared to women who know the legal age of marriage. ([Kassa Tekile et al., 2020](#)). Knowledge is important in shaping a person's actions. Knowledge is obtained from personal experience, both individual and other people's experiences. This experience is one way to obtain the truth of knowledge. Age affects a person's understanding and mindset, thus forming positive and negative attitudes and behaviors ([Pusporini & Alifiani, 2024](#)).

Another factor that influences a person's knowledge is the receipt of information. Information received by a person can arouse interest in something. Information obtained helps a person to gain new knowledge ([Wijaya & Suyatmi, 2019](#)). The information obtained will form an opinion and shape a person's attitude, whether it is a negative attitude or a positive attitude ([Widiyawati & Muthoharoh, 2020](#)). The conclusion of this study is that adolescents' lack of knowledge is due to a lack of information about reproductive health. This influences their attitudes. The better the knowledge possessed, the more positive the attitude that arises. A lack of reproductive health knowledge leads to negative attitudes or a tendency to approve of early marriage.

CONCLUSION

After conducting research on the correlation between reproductive health knowledge and attitudes towards the perception of early marriage, the researcher concluded that: there was a correlation between knowledge and attitudes of adolescents about the perception of early marriage. The results of statistical tests showed a p value <0.05 for each variable. The more reproductive health information obtained, the more positive the attitude of adolescent girls towards the maturity of the age of marriage. Conversely, the less knowledge adolescent girls had about reproductive health, the more negative the attitude of adolescent girls towards the perception of early marriage.

SUGGESTION

Information is one of the factors that can influence a person's knowledge. Reproductive health education needs to be given to adolescents, especially female adolescents, to shape attitudes and change perceptions of early marriage. The development of educational programs aimed at increasing adolescent awareness of reproductive health is essential to encourage the formation of a critical attitude towards early marriage. This certainly requires support from various parties, including health workers, parents and schools, as well as other stakeholders to convey information and support reproductive health programs to adolescents.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

All authors are responsible in the writing process of this research until the publication.

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