



Conference Paper

The Role of Male Partners on Unintended **Pregnancy among Teenagers**

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Abstract

At present, 15-19 year olds account for 8.3% of the total population aged in Indonesia. As many as 58.8% of these adolescents aged 15-19 years have experienced pregnancy, while another 25.2% are expecting pregnancy. The number of unwanted pregnancies in Indonesia reached 34.1% in 2018. The purpose of this study is to analyze the role of male partners (or husbands) in caring for the children of unwanted pregnancies amongst adolescents. This research uses a qualitative method with the Rapid Assessment Procedure (RAP) design study. Data was collected from in-depth interviews, observation, and triangulation. This research found that the informant's knowledge about reproduction does not have as much influence as the role of male partners as well as support. The majority of the married informant's partners are excited when the pregnancy revealed, while if the pregnancy is outside marriage, most male partners are willing to marry the informants as a form of taking responsibility.

Keywords: early marriage, gender equality, maternal health, unwanted pregnancy

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1. Introduction

According to the Ministry of National Development Planning or National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) research last year, the percentage of Indonesian teenagers will reach 8.3% in 2019 [1]. This number estimated will rise each year. The role of teenagers has a significant impact on future development. Therefore, the life quality of teenagers can be a valuable asset if guided accordingly.

Risk-taking and huge curiosity are some of many teenagers' most important traits, and it includes in their sexual behavior. Teenagers are more likely to try out things that they are exposed into, thus exposure to unquided sexual education can lead to unprotected sex with a minimum amount of relevant knowledge. Some can lead to unwanted pregnancy that is prone to directly affect psychological, physical as well as social life among teenagers.

In Indonesia, talking about pregnancy is associated with early-age marriage. Central Bureau of Statistics (Badan Pusat Statistik) surveyed in 2016, one out of nine female teenagers married before they reached 18 [2]. In 2018, RISKESDAS (Basic Health

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Research) stated that 58.8% of married teenagers aged 10-19 have experienced pregnancy and 25.2% of them are expecting [3]. Among teenagers that have experienced pregnancy, about 67.1% do the fourth antenatal care. In the age group 15-19, about 27.8% experienced complications in their pregnancy, such as regurgitating and constant diarrhea. Among them, there are 33% complications in pregnancy that are not referred to as specialists. In addition to that, some teenagers are having childbirth without professional assistance, 17.5% are helped by midwife shaman, 1.2% from family members' help and even 0.2% have no assistance at all. The percentage of teenagers that have labored at a non-related health establishment such as their own homes (23.2%) are still higher than those who have labored at a state hospital (13.4%), private hospital (3.7%), clinics (3.7%), and public health centers or PUSKESMAS (14.6%).

Unwanted pregnancy not just exclusive for an unmarried couple but can also happen inside marriage. Among teenagers, unwanted pregnancy mostly happens outside of marriage [4]. Psychosocially, teenagers that have experienced unwanted pregnancy may feel ashamed, depressed, prosecuted which can lead to dropping out of school, finding recruitments for work hard, poverty and an unregulated increase of population [5]. Based on the observation in the Pakis area, unwanted pregnancy is found among teenagers, further interview with local midwives states that there was no research about unwanted pregnancy in the area before. Thus, resulted with minimum knowledge about sexual behavior and counter measurement is highly urgent.

Babies that are conceived by mothers that experience unwanted pregnancy tends to have weight lower than normal babies [6]. Delivery risks also have a higher tendency to happen in unwanted pregnancy (4.42%) while wanted pregnancy has a lower percentage (3.52%). Whereas according to research by Dini, et. al [7], unwanted pregnancy affects how women care about their pregnant self. The research conveys that women that have unwanted pregnancy incline to not seek medical advice 1.79 times more than women with expected pregnancy. Also, these groups of women tend to not paying much attention to basic immunization and skips some.

Male partners' gesture and demeanor as close (or trusted) friends play a huge role as a strengthening. In nurturing infants, both male and female counterpart has their part and has a significant effect if done right. Therefore, the role of the male part in parenting needs to be researched and analyzed, specifically in teenagers that experienced unwanted pregnancy. So shortly soon, experts can formulate efforts to reduce unwanted pregnancy among teenagers as well as counter measurement policy.



2. Material and Method

This research was done from February to April 2019. Rapid Assessment Procedure (RAP) is one of the methodologies being used in this qualitative research. In-depth interviews, observations, and triangulation are used to collect data from the field. Informants are selected through purposive sampling based on several criteria including females that have experienced unwanted pregnancy, habitants of Pakis Area, Kabupaten Malang, and give their consent to be informants for this research. The analysis technique used in this research include (1) data transcription; (2) data reduction; (3) data presentation; and (4) conclusion. Informed consent is also given from the informants to researchers before interviews.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Informants Characteristics

The majority of informants experienced pregnancy outside marriage with the time gap between marriage and birth in less than 3 months, while pregnancy normally occurs for 9 months before birth. The majority of the informants work as housewive, while one of them works as a laborer. Most of the informants' partners work as construction workers with a salary around Rp. 400,000,- per week or Rp. 1,200,000,- per month. Whereas, one informant states that her partner works odd jobs with uncertain salary. This data show that informants' partners acquire less than the average salary in the area which about Rp. 2.781.564,24 per month. The characteristics of informants stated in Table I.

All of the informants have a low educational background, 5 of them only finished junior high school while one other finished elementary school. The lowest education level that needs to be fulfilled is 12 years until Senior high according to the Ministry of Education and Culture (*Kementrian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan*) [8]. Teenagers that don't undergo education are much more prone to having intercourse outside marriage compared to those who finished elementary school or higher education level [9].

All of the informants have a toddler that approached low weight standard when birthed. Low weight standard is a condition when an infant is birthed below 2500 grams, and this condition is often seen in pregnancy in women below 20 years old [10]. Marriage at a young age affects the couple's psychological condition [11]. One of the conditions stated as unreadiness for a first pregnancy that can affect the child's condition at birth, such as low weight condition.

TABLE 1: Informants characteristics

Characteristics	Number	Percentage
Current Age		
a. ≤ 20	3	50%
b. 21-25	3	50%
Age when experienced pregnancy		
a. 17	3	50%
b. 18	1	16,7%
c. 19	2	33,3%
Marriage to birth time gap		
a. ≤ 3 months	4	66,7%
b. 4-7 months	2	33,3%
Occupation		
a. Housewive	5	83,3%
b. Laborer	1	16,7%
Partner's occupation		
a. Construction workers	5	83,3%
b. Odd jobs	1	16,7%
Last Education	Last Education	
a. Elementary Level	1	16,7%
b. Junlor High Level	5	83,3%
Children's age		
a. ≤ 6 months	1	16,7%
b. 7-36 months	4	66,7%
c. 27-60 months	1	16,7%
Childrens' weight after birth		
a. ≤ 2,5 kg	1	16,7%
b. 2,6-2,9 kg	3	50%
c. ≥ 3 kg	2	33,3%

3.1.1. Information Exposure about Healthy Reproduction

Reproduction health is a condition where a person has a healthy state of physical, mental, and social, holistically related to the functions and processes of the reproductive system. This is an important note because knowledge about reproduction health among teenagers can lead to their sexual behavior, the less they know, the riskier their action will be [12]. Interview results about the exposure of reproduction health among informants are stated in Table II.



TABLE 2: Exposure about reproduction health

	TABLE 2: Exposure about reproduction health
Informants	Statements
1	"sekolah, ya kayak luar-luar begini loh mbak teman dari pelajaran, kalo dari teman ya hanya berbincang-bincang begitu saja mbak, tidak ada dari media internet" " in school, only informations on the surfaces classmates from subjects, among classmates there's only casual talks, no additional information from internet or media"
2	"entah ya dari buku-buku begitu lohiya, ya golongannya buku IPA itu kan buku IPA, entah apa fisika begitu loh mbak, kan ada sih, ya sudah dari itu sajaadanya hanya sekali ketika ada program apa itu adadikumpulkan jadi satu di satu aula, entah itu paham entah itu tidak yadari puskesmastidak tahu, memang ya mulai kelas satu sampek kelas tiga laki-laki dan perempuan campur jadi satu begitu loh, disuruh menerangkan satu, hanya begitu sajainternet-internet? Tidak pernah membuka google"
	"i'm not sure myself, from subject books yes, that's it. Science books, I'm not sure, I think it's from Physics, is it, I think that's all there was once outside of school subject there was once we were gatherd in the school's auditorium, I'm not sure if I understood at that time from the public health center i'm not sure, from first grade to third, we were gathered into one crowd, and then asked to explain ome example, that's it internet? Never open Google"
3	"dulu pas waktu SMP dari pelajaran biologi ya kitaa diajari mulai dari masa pubertas, menstruasi terus apa itu alat reproduksi seperti itupetugas kesehatan? Nggak deh kayaknya oh ada kalo kita sesama teman kan biasanya ceplas ceplos kan mbak lha itumedia sosial? oh pernah mbak, kayak masa waktu SMP itu teman-teman kan banyak yang suka kayak lihat-lihat video-video yang unsur pornografi"
	" long time ago when ainwas in junior high from biology subject we were taught about puberty, menstruation and other reproductive organs there were no health officers? I think but among friends we used to joke around about it, you knowsocial media? I think there were one time in Junior High when we were exposed to videos with pornographic elements"
4	"dari guru ya guru ya dari orangmayoritas temanku semua pelacur mbak, jadi aku dulu ya tau, jadi aku mengerti seperti itu ya tahu salahnyapetugas kesehatan tidak adakalau TV Radio itu ada, tapi jarang saya dengarkan mungkin saya lewati hehe"
	"from teachers also from other peoplemajority of my friends are prostitutes, so I knew from them. But despite that, I know what the problem isthere were no health officers as well from TV or radio were also available, but probably I didn't put too much attention to it heehee"
5	"informasi? dari bidan kesehatanya ketika check up-check up hami begitu itukan aku nganu, ikut anggota kader posyandu, jadi kan, tahu dari Bu Parmi, atau Bu siapa itu, bidan dari apa itu Puskesmas langsungkalau sekolahan kan dari guru"
	"information?from midwives when we do check-up to them about pregnancy, that's it I participate in Integrated Healthcare Center, so I know, Bu Parmi or, I can't remember the lady's name, midwives from public health centers but from school, we get imformations from out teachers"
6	"tidak ada ii ya, tidak pernah dapat saya"
	"I don't think ai ever got one"



Informants	Statements
Male partner or husband of the first informant (triangulation)	"tidak pernah dibilangi tidak faham begitu-begitu mbak Iha iya seperti dijelaskan semua tidak pernah"
	"never I don't understand those things like I said before, I never got explainde about that never"

The result of the interviews from informants related to information exposure about risky sexual intercourse is detailed in Table III.

TABLE 3: Exposure about risky sexual intercouse

Informants	Statements
1	"dari pelajaran ada di buku, setelah itu diterangkan juga sama guru"
	"from subjects in the textbooks, after that the teachers explained it to us"
2	"tidak ada, di sekolahan ya tidak pernah dibilangi begitu-begitu itu mbak, ketika itu masih kecil, SMP juga, kecil lah"
	" none, at school we never got to be told thos things, we were little, junior high school, too young"
3	"iya ada dari sekolah udah mbak oh terus sama media sosial, kan sering searching a mbakkayaknya sih betul itu kalo dampaknya seks berisiko, soalnya itu kan biasanya kalo masa-masa remaja kan masih subur-suburnya kita dan itu juga banyak yang ganti-ganti pasangan dan itu juga bisa berujung HIV"
	"yes, from school yes I have, oh and social media, I used to search things yes, I think so I know sex is risky, because at time we were fertile and if somehow a person change sexual partners can lead to HIV"
4	"lha sudah mendengarkan ceritanya teman-teman sendiri, ya dari apa namanya, kadang ya dari begituan itu dari anu ketika periksa begitu itu"
	"I heard stories from my friend's experience, from what's it called, when from doing it from something then do some kind of examination something like that"
5	"anu dari guru, ya dari sekolahan itu kalau gurukan sekarang ini kan masih diterangkan begitu itu mbak, ketika perkumpulan begitutahu, kayak dari membuka youtube, tidak tahu apa begitu kan ada ya, banyak sekarang kan canggih HP"
	"mmm, from teachers, at school, definitely from teachers even nowadays it's still learned, right, when gather together I know, from youtube, I'm not sure, it's something like that, right, it's sophisticated nowadays"
6	"dari buku-buku begitudari ketika sekolah"
	"from textbooks at school"

The result of the interviews from informants related to information exposure about unwanted pregnancy is stated in Table IV.

Table II, III and IV show that all of the informants did not get the information about reproduction health, free sex, and unwanted pregnancy from their male counterparts.



TABLE 4: Exposure about unwanted pregnancy

Informants	Statements
1	"dari sosial media dari google, melihat-lihat berupa tulisan sudah jelas mbak" " from social media from google, looking around some writings it's
	pretty clear"
2	"tidak dari mana-mana"
	" nowhere"
3	"ya itu mbak, kadang ada dari tetangga, ada teman yang hamil diluar nikahpetugas kesehatan gak pernah"
	" that's the problem, neighbors sometimes share that information, there are several friends that are pregnant outside of marriage never from healthcare officers"
4	"tidak ada mbak"
	" nothing"
5	"ya kadang di lingkungan-lingkungan kan ya ada begitu, entah yang tidak diingkandari lingkungan, ya dari anu HP kana da saja orang uang tidak diinginkan, terus diberi jamu, terus dipijit begitu jika di lingkungan sekiranya bisa gugur"
	" sometimes around the neighborhood, whether it's wanted or not from neighborhood, and thern from cellphones because sometimes some people just don't want it, then medicated with herbal drinks, and then massaged, with that probably it can be miscarried according to neighborhood"
6	"ya, sejak menikah iniya sudah dari mana-manatidak kalau sosial media"
	" since this marriage yes, from everywhere not from social media though"

This statement strengthens by the first informant's husband. He stated that he never gives information about reproduction health because he does not understand about reproduction health. The majority of the informants got the information from school, teachers, and friends. This result aligns with Pupasari [13] that stated most sexually active teenagers receive information from various resources. Schools and health facilities have also provided information and programs related to reproduction health that are easily accessed.

3.2. Male Partners Response to Informants' Pregnancy

The result of interviews related to their male partners's reactions or responses about their pregnancy conveyed in Table V.

TABLE 5: Male partner's attitude towards pregnancy

Informants	Statements
1	"takut, tapi berani bertanggung jawab"
	"afraid, but willing to take responsibility"
2	"setelah itu anaknya itu masih mencari modal dahulu"
	"(after knowing) he was trying to look for fundings before anything"
3	"bingung karena kita itu belum nikah kita juga belum ada persiapan, tapi tidak dianjurkan untuk aborsi atau sejenisnya itu" " (he was) confused because we were not married yet we had no
	preparation, but (he) did not advocate abortions"
4	"ya senang mbak suami saya, kan statusnya saya sudah berhenti semuanya kan sudah ada di rumah ya diam di rumah begitu, sayang kebetulan ketika saya seperti dulu itu kok tidak hamil diluar nikah"
	" my husband was happy, my status was already free from everything, I am available at home whenever, unfortunate really when I was like that I didn't have pregnancy outside marriage"
5	"tidak apa-apa"
	"(he) it's okay"
6	"ya semakin sayang hehe"
	" (he) cares even more deeply hehe"
Male partner or husband of the first informant (triangulation)	"setengah bingung, kenapa karena masih belum saatnya kok sudah begitu, harus bagaimana, sangat bingung dulu sebenarnya, harus kemana, akhirnya sudah biar menunggu, menunggu ketahuan, nanti kalau masalah tanggung jawab biar saya tanggung jawab sebenarnya sebelum itu sudah siap siap tanggung jawab"
	" (I was) half confused, it wasn't the right time yet, but it happened, (I) don't know what to do, (I was) very confused actually, where (do I need) to go, in the end (I just) waited, waited to be caught, if busted (I will) take responsibility but actually, before that (I was) already ready to take responsibility"

Table V shows that 33% of the informants get a positive response from their male counterparts, which are happiness and care even more deeply. Whereas 33% other informants got neutral response, which are realistic to look for funding to support their future life. While the rest 33% got a negative response which are fear and confusions, but are willing to take responsibility, and this statement also strengthens by the first informant's husband from triangulation that he was confused at the time but were ready to take responsibility.

3.3. Willingness To Marriage

Result of interview with informants related to their partners' willingness to marriage is illustrated in Table VI.



TABLE 6: Willingness of male partner to marriage

Informants	Statements
1	"anaknya mau tanggung jawab kalau itu memang anaknya"
•	
	"(he) the boy was willing to take responsibility that's him"
2	"setelah mencari modal, uangnya sudah terkumpul baru anu, apa itu namanya baru memberitahu ke ibunya, setelah memberitahu ibunya langsung ditanyakanditanyakan ibu disini diberi tahu ibu disana kalau aku seperti itu terlebih dahulu itu" " after looking for fundings, the money was collected after that, (he)
	notified his mom, after (that) directly asked (my) mother was asked by (his) mom about all of (the pregnancy) that"
3	"karena saya kan hamil dan itu kan sudah menjadi tanggungjawabnya, berani berbuat kan harus berani bertanggungjawab, seperti itu"
	"because I was pregnant and (it's) his responsibility, if he's brave enogh to do (sexual intercourse) it then he must be brave enough to take responsibility of it"
4	"ceritanya menikah sah? Ya sudah anu hamil lima bulan itu setelah menikah siri juga itu terus hamil menunggu, kan setelah terkena musibah nenekku meninggal dulu, setelah itu nikahan, kan di tanyakan sama suamiku terus setelah itu nenek saya meninggal, otomatis kan menikah siri dahulu menyesuaikan harinya setelah itu menikah siri dapat lima bulan hamil itu, terus menunggu hari yang tepat, setelah itu dinikahkan sah itu besar-besaran itu"
	"the story of our legal marriage? I was 5 months pregnant, so we did the civil unregistered marriage first, and then (we) waited, and then my grandmother passed away first, after that we did the ceremonial marriage, I was asked by my husband, but my grandmother passed away before the planned marriage, so we did the unregistered marriage (first) at thite time my pregnancy was 5 months old, and then (we) waited for the right time, and after that (our) marriage ceremony was big and festive"
5	(Not asked)
6	"menikah sah? Ya anu, bagaimana ya, ya sudah biasa-biasa saja begitu"
	" (legal) marriage? Well, how to explain this, well, it was normal"
Male partner or husband of the first informant (triangulation)	"ya itu ketahuan ibu, eh ketahuan bapaknya, terus bapaknya bilang ke ibu anda, ibu kader terus mengajak ke Premban duluterus dibilangi itu begini begini begini begini, akhirnya mau menikah siri begitu loh, cuma di saya sendiri ini kalau menikah siri itu malah dua kali begitu loh, mending langsung menikah sah saja, akhirnya menikah itu"
	" well, (first) her mom knew, and then her dad, and then her dad told xxx, mam kader then invited us to Premban and then (we) were told this and that, after that uregistered marriage, but I think uregistered marriage is twice the effort, (it was) better to directly legal marriage, but in the end (we) married anyway"

Table VI shows that three of the informants or 50% that confessed about their unwanted pregnancy have responsible partners, and willing to proceed to marriage. Whereas two of the informants (33%) did the unregistered civil marriage. The fifth informant is not asked about this question because not stating to have unwanted



pregnancy. This data shows that 3 out of 6 informants confessed to conceive unwanted pregnancy during their teenage years and their male partners was willing to take responsibility. Whereas two others were doing the unregistered marriage first before taking further actions, one of them stated that the action was because there were unfortunate events took place first before planning on marriage. According to thr data, all of the informants' partners are willing to take further action such as proceeding to marriage even though the process of it is particularly different from each other. This result also aligns with Amalia & Azinar [14] that most unwanted pregnancy is followed with marriage.

4. Conclusion

The information about reproduction health that was received by mothers who have had teenage pregnancy does not come from their male partners, but they got the information from school, friends, and social media. This study also found that the exposure to reproduction health does not significate their prevention from unwanted pregnancy and does not come from their male partners' pressure only, but it was two willing sides that give consent to one another. The majority of the informants also got a positive response from their male partners about their pregnancy even though it was unplanned. This gesture is also supported by the willingness of the informants' partners to take responsibility and proceed to marriage.

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