

## The Correlation between Knowledge Level and Premarital Sexual Behavior in High School Students

Maya Lutfiana Ningrum<sup>a</sup> | Tria Eni Rafika Devi<sup>b\*</sup> | Septi Kurniawati<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a,b,c</sup> Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Kesehatan RUSTIDA

\*Corresponding Author: [enitria944@gmail.com](mailto:enitria944@gmail.com)

### ARTICLE INFORMATION

#### Article history

Received (4 March 2025)

Revised (4 June 2025)

Accepted (12 June 2025)

#### Keywords

Keywords must contain at least three to five keywords representing the main content of the article.

### ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** The consequences of premarital sexual relations, such as pregnancy at a young age, can bring physical, psychological, and social risks for teenagers, including the possibility of abortion.

**Objectives:** Analyzing the correlation between knowledge levels and premarital sexual behavior in high school students.

**Methods:** The number of research samples was 60 students, taken by purposive sampling, the research location was at Glenmore High School, and the analysis in this study was bivariate with the chi-square statistical test.

**Results:** The research results show that there is no relationship between the level of knowledge regarding premarital sexual behavior among students and female students at SMA PGRI 10 Glenmore. This result can be seen from the p-value of 0.848, so (H0) in this study is accepted. Thus, the level of knowledge has no correlation with premarital sexual behavior.

**Conclusions:** This study shows that there is no significant relationship between the level of knowledge and premarital sexual behavior. This research is expected to be a source of information to provide education to schools about reproductive health and the negative impacts of premarital sexual relations.

## Introduction

Lack of attention from parents, economic factors, free association, Inadequate knowledge concerning reproductive health, and the environment are factors that cause premarital sexual behavior in Indonesia. Engaging in premarital sexual behavior can lead to a multitude of adverse consequences for adolescents, encompassing significant psychological distress such as anxiety, sadness, depression, and diminished self-confidence. Furthermore, it carries substantial social repercussions, including the risk of unwanted pregnancies, feelings of social ostracism, and intense family pressure. Physically, adolescents are also highly vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections (Andriani et al., 2022).

In Indonesia, 2.4% of teenagers aged 10-19 years and 8.6% of teenagers aged 20-24 years with unmarried status have had premarital sex, and this is known to occur more in urban areas, according to the Indonesian Reproductive Health Survey (SKRI) Data (Aima & Erwandi, 2024). From the data of 40 teenagers, 22 teenagers had good knowledge of the following details: 11 teenagers (27.5%) were at negative risk of premarital sexual behavior, and 11 teenagers (27.5%) were at positive risk of premarital sexual behavior. Meanwhile, 18 teenagers (45.5%) with less knowledge, with details: 17 teenagers (42.5%) who were at negative risk of premarital sexual behavior, and 1 teenager (25.5%) who were at positive risk of premarital sexual behavior. With the Chi-square test analysis, the value of  $P = 0.002$  ( $P < 0.05$ ) was obtained, so adolescent knowledge is related to premarital sexual behavior (Wahyuni et al., 2023).



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The impact of free sexual behavior is the transmission of HIV/AIDS. According to WHO data, around 30% of the 40 million people with positive HIV/AIDS status (ODHA) where 10.3 million are aged 15-24 years. HIV/AIDS cases in Indonesia increase every year, with a total of 48,300 cases, with 20% of them being teenagers aged 15-24 years, including 9,280 cases of AIDS (Meylawati & Anggraeni, 2024). It is hoped that further research will use a variety of comprehensive research methods involving various parties, including parents, educators in formal schools, and health workers, to gain more profound and more holistic insights into the impact of premarital sexual behavior on adolescents and more effective and sustainable solutions (Riyanti et al., 2025).

Many factors influence the premarital sexual attitudes of adolescents. In addition to knowledge, they are profoundly impacted by a diverse array of external and internal factors. These include cultural norms, the influence of peers and role models (significant others), pervasive mass media, unique personal experiences, the frameworks provided by educational and religious institutions, and individual emotional states. An essential issue that teenagers will face is the adjustment period to physiological and psychological changes due to the influence of functioning reproductive hormones. One of the problems faced by teenagers when there is a lack of premarital sexual knowledge is unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and sexually transmitted diseases. (Alwi, 2023).

Information about sexuality is essential for teenagers to enhance self-awareness, adopt healthy sexual behaviors, and develop social skills to maintain their physical, psychological, and mental well-being in facing various pressures and temptations. Therefore, the researcher is interested in investigating the issue of the correlation between Knowledge Level and Premarital Sexual Behavior.

## Methods

This is quantitative descriptive study with observational analysis and applies a cross-sectional approach. The number of research samples is 60 students, taken by Purposive sampling using the formula :

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(d^2)}$$
$$n = \frac{150}{1+150(0.1^2)}$$
$$n = \frac{150}{1+(150 \times 0.01)}$$
$$n = \frac{150}{1+ 1.5}$$
$$n = \frac{150}{1.6}$$



$n = 60$

Information:

$N$  = Population Size

$n$  = Number of Samples

$d$  = Significance level ( $p$ ) of 0.1 or 10%

With Inclusion Criteria :

- a. Students of SMA PGRI 10 Glenmore
- b. Students of Class XII of SMA PGRI 10 Glenmore
- c. Willing to participate as respondents in the study.

Exclusion Criteria :

- a. Not Students of SMA PGRI 10 Glenmore
- b. Not Students of Class XII of SMA PGRI 10 Glenmore

The instrument in this study used a questionnaire

Reliability: This tool already has a consistent baseline of high confidence scores, so there is no need to retest for confidence (Cronbach's Alpha 0.84)

Validity: a P-Value of 0.00 is considered statistically significant and validity

The research location is Glenmore High School. The analysis in this study was bivariate, using the chi-square statistical test.

## Results

### 1. Frequency distribution of characteristics by gender

Table 1 shows the frequency distribution of characteristics by gender.

Variables	Frequency	Presentation
Man	25	41.7 %
Woman	35	58.3 %
Total	60	100%

### 2. Frequency distribution of characteristics by class

Table 2 presents the frequency distribution of characteristics by class.

Variables	Frequenc y	Presentation
Class X	31	52%
Grade XI	29	48%
Total	60	100%

### 3. Identifying the Level of Knowledge of High School Students About Premarital Sexual Behavior

Table 3 Level of knowledge of high school students about premarital sex

Category	Frequency	Presentation
Good	39	85%
Enough	11	17%
Not enough	10	18%
Total	60	100%

### 4. Identifying premarital sexual behavior in high school students

Table 4 Premarital sexual behavior in high school students

Category	Frequency	Presentation
Positive	8	13%
Negative	52	87%
Total	60	100%

### 5. The relationship between the level of knowledge and premarital sexual behavior in high school students

Table 5 Relationship between level of knowledge and premarital sexual behavior in male and female students

Level of Knowledge	Premarital Sexual Behavior					
	Positive		Negative		Total	%
	f	%	f	%	Σ	%
Good	5	8.2%	34	55.7%	39	63.9%
Enough	2	3.3%	9	14.8%	11	18%
Not enough	1	1.6%	9	14.8%	10	16.4%
ΣRespondents	8	13.1%	52	85.2%	60	100%
<i>Chi-Square p-value= 0.848</i>						

## Discussion

### 1. Identifying the Level of Knowledge of High School Students Regarding Premarital Sexual Behavior

Based on Table 3 above, most male and female students showed good knowledge, with 39 respondents (85%). On the other hand, only a few respondents, namely 10 people (18%), had poor knowledge. This result is in line with the research of Yundelfa & Nurhaliza (2019), which revealed that respondents with high knowledge reached 52 people (67.5%), much more than respondents with low knowledge, which amounted to 25 people (32.5%).



According to A. Wawan and Dewi M (2011), one internal factor influencing knowledge is age. With increasing age, individuals commonly experience a progression in their maturity and the sophistication of their thinking processes. Furthermore, educational background serves as a critical determinant; a more advanced level of education generally facilitates a greater capacity for acquiring and processing information and knowledge effectively in the learning process. The low level of knowledge is caused by the lack of information from the mass media and peers, where the information is often incomplete and inaccurate (Wulandari, 2020). In addition, according to Watofa (2019), the lack of knowledge and understanding of premarital sexual behavior can affect an individual's attitude and behavior towards this behavior.(Titik et al., 2022).

Knowledge greatly influences a person's way of thinking and behaving; with good understanding, they can behave well because they know the impact of inappropriate behavior. According to research by Yenni et al., 2023 States that after conducting the Chi-square test, a P value of 0.002 ( $P < 0.05$ ) was obtained, so adolescent knowledge has a significant relationship with premarital sexual behavior.

## 2. Identifying premarital sexual behavior

Based on Table 4 above, premarital sexual behavior among male and female students shows that the majority have negative behavior, with a total of 52 respondents (87%). Meanwhile, only a small number of male and female students showed positive behavior, namely 8 respondents (13%). This result aligns with Banepa et al. (2017), which showed that the number of respondents with risky sexual behavior reached 33 people (53.2%), higher than respondents who had non-risky sexual behavior, namely 29 people (46.8%).

Based on the results of the study, the majority of respondents showed negative behavior. From the distribution of data on premarital sexual behavior activities in high school, all respondents have been involved in activities such as looking at each other intimately to walking together with their partners.

Sarwono (2015) revealed that sexual behavior begins with a sense of attraction and develops into dating, kissing, and sexual intercourse. The manifestation of premarital sexual behavior is attributable to a confluence of multifactorial influences, including interactions with peers, where adolescents frequently engage in substantial periods of extensive interaction. Interactions between male and female adolescents often give rise to attraction, which is part of premarital sexual development and usually ends in a relationship. The majority of adolescents understand dating as a relationship between the opposite sex that involves affection and sexual attraction (Sari, 2012). Dating is essential in adolescent social development and can facilitate the formation of romantic relationships and marriage in adulthood (Santrock, 2014). Sexual urges and love make adolescents tend to want to be close and have physical contact with their partners. Intense physical contact, either with friends or family, can increase the risk of pregnancy outside of marriage.(Alifah Anisa P. et al., 2021).

Based on the explanation above, researchers assume that parents play a crucial role in increasing adolescent knowledge by providing information about sexual education to their children. However, many parents are busy and lack time to pay attention, including conveying the information at home. Premarital sexual behavior can be one way for children to express themselves due to a deficiency in parental attentiveness or a lack of comprehensive information provided by parents. According to research by Bagus et al., 2024 the statistical evidence (p-

value = 0.022) substantiates a clear association between parental involvement and adolescent sexual behaviour. This underscores the indispensable function of parents in mitigating risky sexual conduct during adolescence. Through affirmative support and the dissemination of appropriate sex education, parents can effectively facilitate adolescents' acquisition of accurate sexual health knowledge, foster healthy perspectives, and ultimately prevent engagement in undesirable sexual activities.

### 3. The relationship between the level of knowledge and premarital sexual behavior in male and female students of SMA PGRI 10 Glenmore

The findings indicated there was no relationship between the level of knowledge and premarital sexual behavior among male and female students at SMA PGRI 10 Glenmore. This is reflected in the p-value of 0.848, which resulted in the acceptance of the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) in this study. Thus, the level of knowledge does not affect premarital sexual behavior. This finding is in line with research conducted by Anggri & Yuliani (2020), which also recorded a p-value of 0.879, greater than  $\alpha$  (0.05), indicating no relationship between the level of knowledge and premarital sexual behavior.

Nurhayati et al. (2017) stated that adolescents with high level of knowledge tend to actively seek information about premarital sexual behavior from various sources, which can increase their risk of engaging in such behavior because they often imagine sexual experiences. In other words, the higher a person's knowledge, the more likely they are to engage in premarital sexual behavior. The parents' role is also vital in influencing adolescent sexual behavior. Lack of direct communication and information from parents, coupled with the child's less open attitude, can lead to deviant behavior, such as premarital sexual behavior (Anggri & Yuliani, 2020). Novianti (2018) added that knowledge about sexuality can provide a strong foundation for adolescents in facing and responding to increasingly complex sexual behavior. (Agung Indra Wijaya & Sam'un Mukramin, 2023).

According to the researcher's assumption, although more teenagers have high levels of knowledge than those with low knowledge, teenagers with high knowledge tend to engage in more risky sexual behavior than those with no risky behavior. This is due to the ease of access to information related to reproductive health through various media, such as websites that display pornographic content, television, books, and magazines. Although many teenagers have good knowledge, they are often exposed to information that is not entirely accurate or only partial, which can increase curiosity and the urge to experiment. As a result, even though they have high knowledge, teenagers can still engage in risky sexual behavior.

From the percentage results, it was found that out of 61 respondents who had good knowledge, 5 respondents (8.2%) showed a positive risk and 34 respondents (55.7%) who had a negative risk. Meanwhile, out of 10 respondents (16.4%) who had poor knowledge, there were 9 respondents (14.8%) who had a negative risk and 1 respondent (1.6%) who had a positive risk. Based on the results of chi-square statistical tests, which produced a p value of 0.848, it was determined that no significant association exists between individuals' knowledge levels and their premarital sexual behavior. This finding indicates that not all adolescents who have good knowledge show positive behavior in the context of premarital sex because of the nature of adolescents who tend to be curious and experimental. This findings are consistent with the findings of Rahmawati et al. (2017), which showed that the p-value (1,000) >  $\alpha$  (0.05), so there was no significant relationship between knowledge and premarital sexual behavior (Anggri & Yuliani, 2020).

Although many students have a high level of knowledge compared to low, this is due to the ease of access to information about reproductive health through various media. One of the enabling



factors of premarital sexual behavior is the development of technology and information. The development of technology makes it easy for teenagers to access sexual information, such as pornography, videos, and films, through social media, porn sites, and the internet. Exposure to this wrong information can be misused by teenagers who have minimal understanding and self-control. In addition, other factors that can influence premarital sexual behavior are dating status, low knowledge, peer influence, and low parental supervision. The results of Yenni et al. 2023 the chi-square test produced a p-value of 0.000 (with  $\alpha=0.05$ ), establishing a significant relationship between knowledge and attitudes in the context of premarital sexual behavior.

## Conclusion

The analysis shows that out of 60 respondents with good knowledge, 5 respondents (8.2%) have a positive risk of premarital sexual behavior, while 34 respondents (55.7%) have a negative risk. On the other hand, out of 10 respondents (16.4%) with poor knowledge, 9 respondents (14.8%) show a negative risk, and 1 respondent (1.6%) shows a positive risk of premarital sexual behavior. The chi-square statistical test generated a p-value of 0.848. Given  $p>0.05$ , the findings indicate no significant relationship between knowledge level and premarital sexual behavior.

## Acknowledgments

Hopefully, this scientific paper can be a basis, source, and consideration for further research.

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