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Research Article

Exploring the Impact of Family, Social Support, and Health Workers on Reproductive Health Behaviors Among Blind Adolescents in Sukabumi City and Regency

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Abstract

Aims: The purpose of this study is to investigate how family support, social support, and the involvement of health workers affect the reproductive health of blind teenagers in Sukabumi City and Regency.

Methods: This study is correlational and uses a cross-sectional technique. The population is made up of 42 teenagers from Sukabumi City and Regency who have visual problems. They were chosen via complete sampling. Multiple linear regression was used to do the statistical analysis.

Results: The results demonstrated that the sources of information had a considerable impact on the reproductive health behavior of teenagers with visual difficulties (p -value = 0.000). There was a relationship between knowledge and reproductive health behavior (p -value = 0.000), as well as a connection between attitudes and reproductive health behavior (p -value = 0.000). Furthermore, the reproductive health behaviors of teenagers with visual difficulties were simultaneously influenced by information sources, knowledge, and attitudes (p -value = 0.000).

Conclusion: The way teenagers with visual difficulties approach reproductive health is greatly impacted by their sources of information, knowledge, and attitudes. In order to better safeguard and assist teenagers with visual impairments, relevant authorities and the government can use the results of this study as a reference.

Keywords:

Blind Adolescents, Family Support, Health Workers, Reproductive Health, Visual Disabilities

INTRODUCTION

The issue of sexuality and reproductive health for people with disabilities (different abilities) is still being debated, especially in state policy related to this issue (1). Stanford Binne estimates that 2.75 percent of Indonesia's 280 million inhabitants, or

around 7.7 million, have impairments (2). It is clear that people with disabilities are at a higher risk of experiencing problems, particularly reproductive health concerns, given the vast proportion of people with impairments. According to UNICEF, teenagers with disabilities are more likely to experience violence than adolescents

without impairments in various countries. This was revealed in 2013. Adolescents with disabilities were 3.7 times more likely to experience violence, 3.6 times more likely to experience physical violence, and 2.9 times more likely to experience sexual violence (3).

When it comes to reproductive health, there are many issues that disproportionately affect adolescents with disabilities or special needs. The lack of education and support for reproductive health is a contributing factor. This leaves a gaping hole in the lives of disabled adolescents, particularly those who are visually impaired and thus struggle to keep their reproductive health in check (4).

Rather than merely referring to the absence of illness or impairment, the term "reproductive health" encompasses the full mental, emotional, and social wellness of a person's reproductive system, offspring, and reproductive processes (5). It might be challenging for adolescents with disabilities to keep their reproductive health under check. Adolescents who experience disability often face additional challenges, such as social isolation and a lack of resources to support their reproductive health (6).

Everyone, including those with disabilities, should prioritize their reproductive health. Other elements are necessary for reproductive health maintenance and can aid in obtaining reproductive health care. An example is having the support of one's family.

When parents or other family members provide their children with love, encouragement, and support, it is known as family support. Teens can look to their families for guidance on a variety of topics, including reproductive health. The explanation given by a parent has greater weight than what a child might learn from his or her classmates or from the media (7).

One form of family support is to direct adolescents by providing information or advice about reproductive health problems.

Where family is the closest unit and the most important place for adolescents, especially adolescents with visual disabilities to grow and learn (9,10).

In addition, the social support factor is also one of the factors that affect reproductive health behaviors in adolescents with visual disabilities. Social support is the joy, care, appreciation and support received from other people or groups. The source of social support is drawn from many parties directly involved in the daily interactions of adolescents with netra disabilities. One of the sources of social support for adolescents with visual disabilities is schools as institutions that provide educational services for people with visual disabilities (11).

Stated that schools are places where adolescents with disabilities formally receive knowledge through intermediaries, namely teachers. Adolescents with disabilities spend most of their time in school, so teachers play an important role in educating them about reproductive health. Adolescents with disabilities should be equipped with accurate and adequate knowledge of reproductive health to avoid the negative consequences of lack of knowledge about reproductive health (12).

The second factor that can affect reproductive health behavior is the role of healthcare workers. It is critical that health providers play a role in reducing reproductive health risks for adolescents with visual impairments. Health workers are educators who provide guidance, counseling, and education to clients, families, communities, and other health workers, including adolescents with disabilities. They help people learn how to overcome health problems, especially those connected to reproductive health (13).

The majority of teenagers with visual difficulties have a negative reaction to reproductive health. A lot of people with visual disabilities say that they do not know that they require education and assistance related to reproductive health.

Reproductive health is extremely important because it gives young people with disabilities the ability to overcome a number of health problems. As a result, it is important to keep offering reproductive health care and education to adolescents with impairments, while also considering the ability of adolescents with visual disabilities (14).

Sukabumi is a small town with a population that is made up of a variety of different tribes, religions, and races. It is also home to persons with special needs, including those with visual disabilities, as well as people who are not yet adults, including numerous teenagers. Individuals with visual difficulties frequently encounter a range of health issues, particularly those related to reproductive health. There are a number of factors that can inhibit the development of reproductive health outcomes in adolescents with visual disabilities. These include both environmental factors and the challenges that visually impaired adolescents face, such as the changes that occur during puberty and issues related to sexuality.

METHODS

Study Design

This work uses a cross-sectional correlational research design. The study intends to investigate the interactions of family support, societal support, and the function of health professionals on the reproductive health behaviors of teenagers with visual handicaps. The cross-sectional design lets one gather data at one moment in time to find any relationships between the variables.

Study Setting and Sample

The research was conducted in Sukabumi City and Sukabumi Regency from September 2021 to June 2022. The target population consisted of adolescents with visual disabilities living in these areas. The sample for this study included 42 adolescents with visual disabilities, selected using a total sampling technique. This

means that all adolescents with visual disabilities who met the inclusion criteria and agreed to participate were included in the sample. The inclusion criterion for participation was that the adolescents were willing to be part of the study.

Instruments

This study employed a non-standardized questionnaire as its data collecting tool. Adopted from past studies, the questionnaire was developed with consideration for the several indicators pertinent to the investigation. Among teenagers with vision problems, the instrument evaluated elements of family support, social support, the function of health professionals, and reproductive health practices.

Data Collection

Distributing the questionnaire to the participants who were chosen allowed for data collection to take place. Adolescents and their legal guardians (if appropriate) gave their written consent after being informed of the study's purpose. All participants were given enough time to complete the questionnaire, so the data was collected over several sessions.

Data Analysis

This study's data analysis was multi-stage. The data was first examined by performing univariate analysis using descriptive statistics to determine the means of each variable. This gave a picture of the data's distribution and central tendency. The next step was to use simple linear regression in bivariate analysis to look for correlations between two variables, such how family support affects reproductive health habits. Lastly, the impact of various independent variables on reproductive health behavior was examined by multivariate analysis using multiple linear regression. These variables included societal support, family support, and the function of health workers.

RESULTS

Table 1 displays the study's results, which show that the average age of the

respondents is 15 years old and that 24 out of 100 respondents (57.1%) are male. In table 2, we can observe that the family support variable has an average value of 29,71 (± 2.58), the social support variable of 28,74 (± 3.06), the health worker role variable of 8,88 (± 2.61), and the reproductive health behavior variable of 22,83 (3.76). Table 3 displays the study's findings, which demonstrate that health workers' roles can influence reproductive

health behaviors, social support influences these behaviors, and family support has the greatest impact ($b=1,390$, $p=0.000$, $R^2=0.909$). Reproductive health behaviors can be influenced by family support, societal support, and the involvement of health workers ($p=0.000$, $R^2=0.968$ with regression equation $Y=-4,085+0,444X_1+0,255X_2+0,722X_3$) all at once, as shown in table 4.

Table 1. Characteristics of Respondents

Characteristics	F	%
Age		
The average respondent is 15 years old		
Gender		
Woman	18	42,9
Man	24	57,1

Table 2. Univariate Analysis of Research Variables

Variabon	Mean	Standard Deviation (SD)	Min	Max
Family Support	29,71	2,58	26	37
Social Support	28,74	3,06	24	37
The Role of Health Workers	8,88	2,61	5	18
Reproductive Health Behaviors	22,83	3,76	18	34

Table 3. Simple Linear Regression

Variables	P-Value	Unstandardized Coefficients		R	R ²
		Constant	Variables		
Family Support	0.000	-18.483	1,390	0.953	0.909
Social Support	0.000	-9,948	1,141	0.928	0.862
The Role of Health Workers	0.000	10,387	1,401	0,971	0,943

Table 4. Multiple Linear Regression

Variables	P-Value	Unstandardized Coefficients B	R	R ²	P-Value Anova
(Constant)		-4.085			
Family Support	0.000	4.239			
Social Support	0.014	0.536	0.984	0.968	0.000
The Role of Health Workers	0.000	0.964			

DISCUSSION

Adolescents with impairments exhibited a direct relationship between family support and reproductive health practices, according to the data. This study's findings corroborate those of Sari (2019), who found that teenagers' reproductive health habits are influenced by family support (16). Based on his findings, Usonwu concludes that family support influences reproductive health habits through visual impairments (18).

Family support is a favorable condition for individuals that comes from others they can trust, so that a person knows that there are others who care for, respect, and love them. Families are the biggest support for people with disabilities. When a member of the family sees that another is having difficulty, they are more likely to show their support through their attitudes, actions, and acceptance (19).

Families provide support to assist adolescents with visual disabilities to form positive behaviors about reproductive health. Families, especially parents, understand everything that is felt by adolescents with visual disabilities. The research is in line with the research of M. Rahayu & Syafar (2015) which states that the family is the largest support center in the form of learning and self-confidence from an early age for people with visual impairments (21).

Providing information about reproductive health from an early age is very important and of course the role of parents is also very important along with the growth and development of adolescents in the family environment (22). Family support in providing reproductive health information to adolescents with visual disabilities is very important. This is because the family is a place of early education to know many things in life. Therefore, family support, especially the role of parents in providing reproductive health information, is very important to form positive behaviors regarding reproductive health.

The study's findings demonstrate that teenagers with visual impairments are more likely to engage in reproductive health-promoting practices when they have strong social support. According to Waiswa's research, which found that reproductive health practices of visually impaired adolescents are significantly impacted by social support, this finding is in agreement with her findings (24). An additional piece of evidence supporting the research was (25) which asserts that behaviors related to reproductive health are influenced by social support (26).

Social support is information from people who are loved, cared for, respected, valued, and part of shared relationships and commitments. Social support can come from parents, spouses, family, friends, communities, as well as communities. Loved and respected close people will be more beneficial to individuals in providing support sosial (27).

Sources of social support can come from parties directly involved in the daily association of adolescents with disabilities netra. One of the sources of social support for visually impaired adolescents is schools, which are institutions in providing educational services for the visually impaired (28). Schools are places where adolescents with visual disabilities formally gain knowledge through intermediaries, namely teachers. Teachers have a significant role in educating adolescents with visual difficulties about reproductive health because these students spend most of their time in school. It is essential to give adolescents with visual difficulties with accurate and sufficient information on reproductive health in order to prevent the negative outcomes that can arise from a lack of awareness on the subject (21).

The cognitive realm is where the development of new behaviors, particularly during adolescence, begins. This means that the subject has previous knowledge of the stimulus in the form of his external matter or object. This is then followed by fresh knowledge about the subject, which is

subsequently followed by behavior. Teenagers who have a strong understanding of reproductive health typically demonstrate improved conduct in this area, and the opposite is also true (22).

The findings of the study indicate that the participation of health workers has a direct impact on the reproductive health behavior of teenagers with impairments. According to Ramadani et al. (2019), there is a connection between the function of health workers and the development of reproductive health behaviors in adolescents (31). Marlina conducted research that supports this claim. Their study found that the role of health workers has a substantial impact on the health behavior of teenagers with visual difficulties (33).

Because being in the company of a health worker has positive emotional and behavioral impacts on the receiving party, particularly in matters of health, the health officer's duty can be defined as providing information and advice in a variety of forms, both verbal and nonverbal.

The influence of the role of health workers on reproductive health behavior is the provision of information about healthy reproductive health, including through counseling and education by health workers. So that adolescents with visual disabilities avoid the risks that occur when adolescents experience reproductive health problems.

Health workers make an important contribution to the formation of adolescent behavior. One of them is through a adolescent health program run by health workers. Increase awareness and motivation of visually impaired adolescents, help visually impaired adolescents identify the conditions and problems faced, and determine solutions and efforts to overcome reproductive health problems.

Additionally, the results demonstrated that reproductive health practices in visually impaired adolescents were impacted by

family support, societal support, and the participation of health workers all at once. For teenagers with visual impairments to understand the importance of reproductive health, it is crucial that they have access to reliable information from credible sources, such as health professionals, and that they have strong support from their families.

CONCLUSION

The study's findings indicate that most of the people who participated in the study are male and that their average age is 15 years old. The analysis indicates that the reproductive health behavior of teenagers with visual difficulties is influenced by family support, social support, and the role of health personnel. In addition, the reproductive health habits of adolescents with visual difficulties are influenced at the same time by family support, social support, and health workers. This research is expected to be a useful reference for relevant agencies and governments in providing protection and support linked to the mental and physical health of teenagers with visual difficulties.

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Conflict of Interest

We have no conflict of interest to declare.

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