

FACTORS RELATED TO STI-RISK SEX BEHAVIOR IN STREET PUNK CHILDREN

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the factors associated with STI-risk sexual behavior among street children in Batang District, Pemalang District, Pekalongan District, and Pekalongan City. The method used is quantitative research with a cross-sectional research design. The results showed that 62% of street punk children had STI-risk sex, and 58% did not have STI-risk sex. The bivariate analysis results showed no relationship between sex and recent education and sexual risk behavior for STIs. Still, there was a relationship between health risk behavior (drinking and drug use) and sexual risk behavior for STIs. In conclusion, gender and recent education were not significantly related to STI-risk sexual behavior. Still, health-risk behavior was significantly associated with STI-risk sexual behavior in street punk children.

Keywords: Street Punk Children, Sexually Transmitted Infections, Risky Sexual Behavior

INTRODUCTION

Children who become street children can be motivated by the parents' work which describes the family's economic conditions, adopted parenting patterns, and patterns of violence against children from family/sisters who want to be economically independent (Support, 2019). Child abuse is any form of ill-treatment, verbal or non-verbal, of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, neglect, commercial exploitation, or any other form of exploitation that harms the child's health, survival, development, and dignity—carried out within the framework of a relationship of responsibility, trust, or power (Andini et al., 2019).

The violence and abuse that children experience while in the home environment encourage children to seek attention outside the home, especially on the streets. Children who have wandered on the streets for a long time will find comfort and escape from the problems they face at home as a form of escape or compensation (Sugianto, 2019). Street children spend most of their time doing daily activities on the streets, including in markets, shops, and other crowded centers (Suryaningsih & Hendarsyah, 2019).

Street children are often defined as teenagers who do not have a permanent place of residence. Various factors make teenagers become street children, including family background, mental health, and living situations. These very complex factors drive a child to prefer to take to the streets and become street children (Zami & Rossa, 2021). Factors that influence street children to take to the streets or become street children are the family environment, social environment, and community. In terms of family environmental factors, these street children do not get attention and affection from their families, so their parents or family neglect them (Suryaningsih & Nur, 2020)

Street children are among society's most vulnerable and marginalized members, often without access to food, shelter, health care, security, and education (Zami & Rossa, 2021). Adolescents whom their peer's influence are more likely to participate in premarital sex than adolescents whom their peers do not influence, the study finds. This study also found that adolescents their peers influenced were 18.25 times more likely than those their peers did not influence to participate in premarital sex (Syafitriani et al., 2022). Research by Puspita et al. (2020) also shows that teenagers prefer spending weekends with friends rather than family. They are sometimes more comfortable talking about sex with friends than with other people and sometimes watch pornographic pictures/videos because friends see them; statistical results show that there is a relationship between the role of peers on premarital sex at risk of sig = 0.001 (sig <0.05).

Aprianti et al. (2020) also stated that the friend factor is the dominant factor in premarital sexual behavior, where friends who play a negative role are 2.743 times more likely to have premarital sex than those who play a negative role. In addition, adolescence has a considerable sexual attraction to the opposite sex, which leads adolescents to premarital sexual behavior; the development and sexual urges that are felt are considered biologically normal because of curiosity to try new things and great curiosity (Pidah et al., 2021; Misbahatul et al., 2020; Winingsih et al., 2019).

According to the research results of Hartmann et al. (2021) states that being on the street can intensify risky sexual behavior. While it cannot be said that sexual initiation took place in a street context, 40% had sex before the age of 12. The prevalence of unsafe sex in this study was 61.9%, in line with research that found a high prevalence of unprotected sex among people living on the streets. About 65.5% of the 165 people in the study reported that regular partners did not use condoms. This proportion was reversed among individuals who reported not having a regular partner, as 62.7% reported using a condom. The main reason for not using a condom between regular and non-permanent partners is not having a condom at the time of intercourse, indicating difficulty accessing a condom. Research by Do et al. (2020) states that the factors associated with risky sexual behavior among Vietnamese youth are gender, level of education, and use of alcohol and drugs.

The novelty of this research is that the sample is not only children who work on the street but also punk children who live on the streets. They spend more time with their community members on the streets. No handlers yet n specifically regarding the health of street punk children. The number of NGOs in Pekalongan City is limited, and they only deal with economic welfare problems and legal problems faced by street children. Examination of STI symptoms in street children has not been carried out because street children are not a risk group, which are included in the risk groups, namely FSW, PPS, Waria, MSM, IDUs, spouses, and customers. Based on this phenomenon, the researchers studied the factors associated with STI risky sexual behavior in street punk children.

RESEARCH METHODS

This type of research is a quantitative study with a cross-sectional approach. This research was conducted from March to April 2022 in the Batang District, Pemalang District, Pekalongan District, and Pekalongan City. The population used is street punk children in the four districts/cities with an unknown number. Sampling using incidental sampling with a total sample of 100 children.

The independent variables are gender, recent education, and the behavior of drinking and drug use, with the dependent variable STI risk behavior. Data was collected in Batang district, with nine respondents, and in Pemalang district, with 16 respondents. And Pekalongan district, with 45 respondents. And Pekalongan city, with 30 respondents.

The research data was tested using the chi-square test. Each variable that has a p-value <0.05 is considered significant. The researcher stated that all research procedures had been carried out according to ethics, and the Diponegoro University Ethics Commission had issued an ethical clearance.

RESEARCH RESULT

Table. 1
Frequency Distribution of Respondent Characteristics

Respondent Data	f	%
Gender		
Woman	88	88
Man	12	12
Last education		
Never School	2	2
Low (SD, SMP)	91	91
Height (High School)	7	7
Health Risk Behavior		
risky	42	42
No Risk	58	58

Based on the table above, most respondents were male (88%), had a low educational background, graduated from elementary and junior high school (91%), and had health-risk behavior, namely drinking alcohol and drugs 42%.

Table. 2
Frequency Distribution of STI Risky Sexual Behaviors

Risky Sexual Behavior	f	%
risky	62	62
No Risk	38	38

Based on the table above, it shows that the majority of street punk children have risky sexual behavior, namely 62% and those who do not have sex, have an STI risk of 38%.

Table. 3
Independent Variable Relationship with STI Risky Sexual Behavior
on Street Punk Kids

Independent Variable	STI risk sexual behavior				Total		P Value
	risky		No Risk		f	%	
	f	%	f	%			
Gender							
Woman	5	5	7	7	12	12	0,203
Man	57	57	31	31	88	88	
Last education							
Never School	1	1	1	1	2	2	0,821
Low	56	56	35	35	91	91	

Tall	5	5	2	2	7	7
last education						
NeverSchool						0,000
Low	35	35	7	7	42	42
tall	27	27	31	31	58	58

The bivariate analysis results for gender obtained a p-value of 0.203, and the respondent's education obtained a p-value of 0.821, meaning there is no significant relationship between sex and recent education with sexual behavior at risk of STIs. Meanwhile, for the variable behavior of drinking and drug use, a p-value of 0.000 was obtained, which means that there is a significant relationship between sexual behavior at risk of STIs.

DISCUSSION

Most street punk children in Batang District, Pemalang District, Pekalongan District, and Pekalongan City have sexual behavior at risk of STIs, which is 62%. Risky sexual behavior in question is having had sexual intercourse without using a condom or having experienced sexual harassment or having had sexual intercourse in turns, or having had sexual intercourse orally.

The results showed that the number of street children encountered was more male, namely 88 people (88%), and the number of female street children was 12 people (12%). This happened to each group where it was found that in one group, there were mostly men; the number of women in one group was only one or two people. This is also related to the data on street children in the 2021 PPKS and PSKS data distribution book for Central Java Province, which states that the number of street children recorded in the Batang district is 13 people consisting of 6 males and seven females, in Pekalongan District as many as three people and all male, in Pemalang district there were ten people consisting of 8 men and two women and in Pekalongan City there were 158 people consisting of 101 men and 57 women (Central et al., 2021).

Whereas in research on ordinary street children, usually, the numbers are not much different between male and female street children. In research in Medan, there were 55.0% male respondents and 45.0% female respondents (Sarmiati et al., 2020). Most studies in southern and West Africa report that girls' experiences of street violence are more severe than boys'. On the other hand, street girls were found to be more amenable than street children to being recruited into institutions, living with relatives, recruited into sex work, and tricked into falling into relationships with older male sugar daddies, making them less visible on the streets than boys. -men (Zami & Rossa, 2021).

However, the results of the bivariate test from this study obtained a p-value = 0.203 (p-value > 0.05). No relationship exists between gender and sexual risk behavior for STIs in street children. Both men and women have risky sexual intercourse. This is in line with a study by Whitton et al. (2022) on adolescents in Kampala, Uganda, which stated that overall there was no significant difference in the prevalence of risky sexual behavior in women and men (p-value = 0.08).

Regarding STI-risky sexual behavior, punk boys are more active and aggressive in having sex, supported by female characters who have attention, affection, and deep feelings that ultimately want to have risky sex. According to the respondent's narrative, if they have had sex, it is not uncommon for girls to want to have sex first. So from this description, it can be concluded that boys and girls are both at risk of having sex at risk of STIs.

Based on the results of the study, it was shown that the majority of respondents were elementary school graduates, namely 63%, who were included in the low education level. However, some respondents never attended or did not finish school at the elementary level, namely, 2%. However, 7% of respondents, namely high school graduates/equivalent, are highly educated. Dropping out of primary school is also a common characteristic among street children (more than 70% do so), although some have never attended school at all. The last reason is that families cannot afford school fees, and most children come from polygamous and large families with an average of 4 to 9 children per household (Zami & Rossa, 2021).

The results of the bivariate test between the respondent's last education and STI risk behavior obtained a p-value of 0.821 ($p\text{-value} > 0.05$), so there was no relationship between the respondent's last education and STI risk behavior in street children. According to research findings by Syafitri et al., adolescents with lower levels of education are more likely to participate in premarital sexual behavior than adolescents with higher levels of education. Adolescents with a low level of education are 1.82 times more likely to participate in premarital sexual behavior than those with a higher level of education. The lack of information about sexuality and reproductive health causes adolescents to want to try having sex without knowing the consequences; the higher the education, the easier it is to receive information from various sources, and the better the knowledge; so the lower the education, the more difficult it is to receive information from various sources and the lower the knowledge obtained. Vice versa, low education will hinder youth from receiving information and lower the knowledge obtained (Syafitriani et al., 2022).

The higher the education level of street punk children, it should prevent them from having sex at risk of STIs because their ability to absorb information about the adverse effects of free sex will be better than those with low education. However, this study found that 5 out of 7 punk kids (71.43%) who were highly educated had sex at risk of STIs. In this case, it can be assumed that education level has no significant relationship with STI risk behavior.

The health risk behaviors in this study were the behavior of consuming alcohol, the behavior of sticking to drugs, and the behavior of consuming drugs. Based on the univariate test, it can be seen that 42% of respondents are at risk. 82% of respondents consumed alcohol, 100% of respondents admitted that they never drank, and 43% of respondents took drugs. Respondents who consumed liquor (82%) said they had consumed beer 25.61%, 12.20% had consumed wine/vodka, 69.51% had consumed traditional alcohol, and 54.88% had consumed mixed types. The lowest age of the respondent who drank alcohol for the first time (young) was nine years, and the highest (old) was 18 years. Based on the frequency, most respondents started drinking at 13, 24.39%, while the least was at 18, 1.22%. Respondents who drink liquor daily as much as 28.05% Sometimes (per week), 68.29% very rarely (per month) 3.66%. The amount of liquor the respondent drank at one time was 1-3 glasses 40.24%, 5-10 glasses 21.95%, 1-2 bottles 12.20% and 3-5 bottles 25.61%

Respondents who consumed drugs (43%) said that the types of drugs they had consumed the most were comix in large quantities 51.16%, dextro pills 37.21%, hexamer 30.23%, but green pills 16.28%, extra 6.98%, submarine pills 2.33%, cannabis/geek 2.33%, and CTM 2.33%. The lowest (young) age of respondents taking drugs was six years, and the highest (old) was eight years. When viewed from the number, most are aged 13 years, equal to 32.56%. Respondents who consume drugs daily 4.65% sometimes (per week) 86.05% and very rarely (per year) 9.30%.

Some street punk kids have the principle that they are drinkers (consuming liquor) but not drug addicts. In general, they get the drug from their friends. Komix is the type of drug consumed the most, but now it is starting to be challenging to get comics in large quantities because shopkeepers and pharmacies already know that street children abuse Komix. According to research by Ayenew et al. (2020) in Ethiopia which involved 312 street children, 30.8% of respondents currently use substances. 39.1% of respondents used at least one substance in their life. 62.6% used khat, 11.5% used alcohol, 46.7% used cigarettes, and 45.9% used mastic.

The results of bivariate tests show a relationship between health risk behavior and sexual risk behavior for STIs. This is to the results of research by Aprilia et al. (2021) in Semarang, which showed a relationship between consuming alcohol and using drugs with sexual practices at risk of STIs. Street children explained that they drink alcohol and take drugs to relieve stress, and it is a habit in their group. In this unconscious state, risky sexual intercourse often occurs.

The research results on street children in Brazil stated that years of living on the streets, hours on the streets, sleeping on the streets, lifelong drug use, having regular partners in the past year, and having unprotected sex under the influence of drugs were significant. They were associated with risky sexual behavior. Those who reported having used illicit drugs in their lifetime were 2.19 times more at risk (95% CI 1.26–3.80) (Hartmann et al., 2021).

CONCLUSION

Gender and recent education were not significantly related to STI-risky sexual behavior, but health-risky behavior was significantly associated with STI-risky sexual behavior in street punk children.

SUGGESTION

There should be further research regarding the relationship between STI risk behavior and STI symptoms experienced by street children.

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