

## The analysis of student's junior high school perception of free sex behavior in terms of gender differences

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**Abstract** Students who are in the adolescence phase begin to show an interest in the opposite sex as shown by dating behavior. The phenomenon of dating behavior among adolescents today shows a wrong perception such as to prove love, they often engage in hand-holding, kissing, hugging and even having sex which is clearly prohibited in Islam. If the problem is not immediately revealed, it will cause serious moral damage to adolescents. The study aims to reveal students' perception of free sex behavior in terms of gender differences. The research method used was the comparative quantitative type with the research respondents of the State Junior High School 24 Kerinci which consisted of 78 people. The research Data were revealed with a scale of free sex behavior and analyzed by using the Mann-Whitney U test. The results showed that there were different perceptions between male and female students to free sex behavior namely the score was 0,005 sig.

**Keywords:** Adolescence; Free Sex; Perception

### Introduction

The development of an all-digital era requires humans to be able to adapt to today's environment and technology. If not, then humans will be left behind and will find the difficulty to reach progress in life, including the adolescents who are growing and developing into adults. Adolescents are experiencing a phase of gradual movement to maturity physically, intellectually, socially, emotionally and spiritually (Al-Mighwar, 2011). Therefore, in this transitional phase, adolescents are very easily confused in choosing the ego identity that will become their characteristics (Sartika & Yandri, 2019). This will make adolescents easy to experience the developmental problems both physically, physiologically, socially and psychologically (Prayitno, 2006). Thus, it is easy for anxiety, emotional disturbances, and stress happen (Juliawati et al., 2019). Even, If the developmental needs of adolescents are not fulfilled, they can fall into delinquent behavior such as skipping school, assaulting, brawling, destroying property, stealing, drinking alcoholic beverages, smoking, drug abuse, sexual behavior and bullying physically, mentally and verbally (Cuevas et al., 2007).

One of the adolescent physical maturity developments is signed by sexual changes. Fast physical changes and the increase of sex hormone activity will cause the changes in attitudes and behavior, so that, at this time, adolescents are prone to sexual, social, emotional and moral problems if they are not given good and correct information from adults (Faiz et al., 2019). It can be seen that most adolescents who are label in psychology problem, have excessive dating till do the forbidden relationship. If the knowledge and the information they need is not fulfilled from parents or other adults, then they tend to seek the information through peer social groups, because at this time, they tend to conform to their peer's behavior (Sartika & Yandri, 2019). The problem that occurs when they seek the information from adults is that they are presented with the rules and the restrictions, thus they tend to try in finding the information on their own with the availability of free accessed internet media with their peers (Aini, 2016). This will make them more likely wrong in taking the decisions, so that they fall into social deviations easily, especially free sex behavior deviations because

they do not have an identity, self-concept and values that they embrace in their lives (Alfaiz & Yandri, 2015).

The attraction of adolescents to the opposite sex accompanied by sexual urge is something that is certain to be experienced by adolescents; this will encourage them to be acquainted, mingle with the opposite sex, and get to know dating (Wahareni, 2006). Dating behavior among adolescents is increasingly unsettling; their views on premarital sex are changing, they start not to question pre-marital sex because every day they are presented with the information about dating from reading, soap operas, films, and even in everyday life, there are parents who support their children to have a boyfriend or girlfriend. Sexual behavior can be classified into four stages, starting from kissing, hugging, making out (petting), and having sex (Salisa, 2010). Free sex behavior is an activity carried out because of sexual urges to get sexual pleasure with the opposite sex that is carried out without a legal marriage bond (Novitasari et al., 2017).

Darmasih's research reveals that the factors of adolescents engaged in free sex behavior are knowledge, understanding of religion, sources of information, family roles, and bad perceptions (Darmasih, 2009). Then according to Susilawati, Nilakesuma, & Surya, (2019) there is a strong relationship between knowledge and perception with the information. Lack of knowledge, information about sex and the perception of adolescents about the ins and outs of wrong sex is one of the increasing indicators of free sex behavior among adolescents. Moreover, Kartono in Astrini (2007) reveals that there are differences in sexual behavior between men and women. The natures of adolescents boys are more open to sexual urges, have aggressive erotic fantasies, have had orgasms and know how to use their sex organs. While the nature of adolescent girls are full of doubts, emotional uncertainty, inner conflicts, willing to sacrifice everything for their loved ones, requires intimacy and girls are easily stimulated by touching from the opposite sex.

Furthermore, the initial study through the interviews with several junior high schools (SMP) students expressed their opinions about free sex behavior among adolescents because they wanted to prove love to their boyfriends/girlfriends, the desire to try, the influence of pornographic films, fear of losing their boyfriends/girlfriends, and curiosity. This is supported by the results of the research by Taufik, (2013) which revealed that the wrong perception of adolescents about free sex occurs because the love from parents has not been fulfilled, faith in Allah SWT that has not pierced the heart yet, excessive curiosity without filters, and promiscuity. This happens because teenagers' perceptions about sexual behavior will be formed through the exposure to the knowledge they get from school, social media, parents and other sources. Perceptions will form adolescent's opinion about something that is believed and then with the support of the intention or aim, it will be realized in the real action. If the adolescent's perception of sexual behavior is positive, means that it will affect the adolescents' intention not to engage in sexual behavior (Sumiatin et al., 2017).

From the previous data descriptions and from the results of previous literature studies, the researchers concluded that free sex behaviors in adolescents need to be disclosed. There are preventive actions from the authorities such as parents, scholars, teachers, counselors, and psychologists in handling the adolescent behavior that has fallen into free sex behavior and then, there are understandings from related parties so that it is able to provide appropriate treatment to the students. The purposes of this study were to reveal 1) male students' perceptions of free sex behavior, 2) female students' perceptions of free sex behavior, and 3) the differences in students' perceptions of free sex behavior between male students and female students.

This study used a quantitative approach with a comparative descriptive type of research, which aims to see the comparison between the two-target groups' research. In this case, the researchers compare the two-target groups' research in terms of gender. The respondents in this study were students of Junior High School 24 Kerinci, with the total number were 78 people consisted of 39 male students and 39 female students. The sampling technique used was the total sample. The instrument used consisted of twenty-two items scale. Then the research data were revealed by using a scale of free sex behavior that has been tested for validity by using Product Moment validity and reliability by a Cronbach's Alpha value of 0.839. Previously, the scale of free sex behavior had been carried out by an expert assessment by two (2) experts in the field of Guidance and Counseling (master). The results of the study were analyzed by using ideal scores and hypothesis testing by using the Mann-Whitney U test with the help of Statistical Product and Service Solution version 21.00 for windows.

## Results and Discussion

The results of this study indicated that the perceptions between male students and female students about free sex behavior show the differences. For further explanations, it will be described in the following table:

Table 1. Data on Percentage of Male Students' Perceptions of Free Sex Behavior

No.	Indicators	Categories		
		Good	Fairly Good	Bad
1	Knowledge	38%	41%	21%
2	Information Sources	44%	20%	36%
3	Religious Understanding	36%	36%	28%
4	Bad Ratings	87%	10%	3%
5	Family Roles	20%	49%	31%
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>29%</b>

Table 1 showed that the male students' perceptions of free sex behavior in terms of knowledge are in the good enough category when it viewed from the source of the information, they are in a good category, then in terms of religious understanding, they are in a good category, then in terms of their assessment of something, they are in good category and in terms of family roles, they are in a fairly good category. In general, their perceptions were in a fairly good category. Male students mostly gave the same argument that free sex is a relationship between men and women where social relations occur without any marital ties, but there is still a lack of knowledge and information about free sex, so that it makes a great curiosity to try everything that is not yet known by them, and there are also some students whose understanding of their religion is lacking, they think that free sex behavior is normal, but there are still some students who think free sex behavior is sinful or prohibited.

Table 2. Data on Percentage of Female Students' Perceptions of Free Sex Behavior

No.	Indicators	Categories		
		Good	Fairly Good	Bad
1	Knowledge	49%	23%	28%
2	Information Sources	41%	20%	39%
3	Religious Understanding	44%	36%	20%
4	Bad Ratings	41%	38%	21%
5	Family Roles	56%	13%	31%
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>33%</b>

From table 2, it can be seen that the perceptions of female students about free sex behavior in terms of knowledge, sources of information that they get, religious understanding, and their assessment of whether something is good or not and in terms of family roles are in a good category. Therefore, in general, their perceptions are in a good category. Female students view free sex behavior as something that is prohibited or sinful, in terms of knowledge and information they understand well the dangers of free sex behavior, then for them the role of the family is very important in monitoring their interactions and being open to their parents is one way to avoid it. The thoughts of adolescents about the dangers of free sex behavior will help them not to fall into free sex behavior (Susanti & Setyowati, 2013). Moreover, the higher of a person's religious attitude, the lower of the tendency for free sex behavior, and vice versa, the lower of a person's religious attitude, the higher of the tendency for a person's free sex behavior (Basit, 2017). Furthermore, the factors that can cause the casual sex are the availability of various misleading information that cause misperceptions about free sex and the emergence of deep curiosity about the issue of free sex (Rasyidillah, 2017).

Table 3. *Mann-Whitney U test* Data on differences in the perceptions of male students and female students towards free sex behavior

<i>Mann-Whitney U</i>	<i>Wilcoxon W</i>	<i>Z</i>	<i>Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)</i>
482,500	1262,500	-2,785	0,005

The analysis results by using *the Mann-Whitney U test* obtained the *asyp.sig* value of 0.005 or  $0.005 < 0.05$ , then  $H_0$  is rejected. Therefore, it can be concluded that there are differences in perceptions between male students and female students about free sex behavior. These differences can be seen that male students have a fairly good perception of free sex behavior while female students have a good perception of free sex behavior. According to Davidoff and Rogers, this can occur because perceptions are influenced by feelings, thinking abilities, and experiences passed, so that the results of perceptions between one individual and another will be different (Martiana, 2015).

Different life experiences will affect their perception of an object (Afiatin, 1993). Then, from the results of the research conducted by Taufik (2013) showed that adolescents engage in free sex because they have wrong perceptions about premarital sex, lack parental love, lack of faith so that they do not remember Allah SWT, excessive curiosity and free social relationships. This is also supported by the research conducted by Putri & Panjaitan (2018) which revealed that adolescents' knowledge of the dangers of free sex is still lacking, allow them to be wrong in behaving and acting then having free sex behavior. Furthermore, the research results from Salisa (2010) indicated that false information from wrong sources

about sex education, watching porn VCDs, easy to access porn sites on the internet, make adolescents' understanding and perceptions about sex become wrong. This data showed that adolescents need sex education to meet their changing needs for sex hormones and to fulfil their curiosity about the opposite sex in a good and trusted way from a better-informed adult.

### **Conclusions and Suggestions**

The conclusions from the results of this study generally reveal that male students and female students at Junior High School 24 Kerinci have a fairly good perception of free sex behavior. It means that they view free sex behavior as immoral behavior. However, there are still around 29% of male students and around 33% of female students still perceive that the free sex behavior is normal behavior nowadays. Then the results of the hypothesis test revealed that there was a significant difference between the perceptions of male students and female students on free sex behavior. From the results of this study, it is expected that guidance and counseling teachers in the schools can make special programs by providing services to the students about sex education and the dangers of free sex behavior, so that there is no negative nurturing effect on the sex perceptions of students. Moreover, for further researchers, it is expected to do another research that can give treatments for bad thinking to be a good thinking.

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