

Perception of Information Needs, Radiology Examination, and Health Services in Adolescents Based on Government Regulation No. 28 of 2024

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ABSTRACT

Adolescence is a transitional period characterized by rapid physical and psychological development, making it highly vulnerable to reproductive health issues. This study aims to analyze adolescents' perceptions regarding the need for information, radiological examinations, and reproductive health services based on Government Regulation No. 28 of 2024 in Genuksari Village, Genuk District, Semarang City. The research method used was descriptive qualitative, with data collected through in-depth interviews with adolescents aged 15–19 years and the use of supporting questionnaires. The study results show that the majority of adolescents (65%) require additional reproductive health information, particularly through social media platforms like YouTube and Instagram. Perception of radiology examinations remains low, as they are considered solely for detecting diseases in adults. Regarding services, adolescents prefer a combination of online and offline services for convenience and privacy. The study concludes that policy implementation needs to be strengthened through proactive information technology-based education strategies to improve the accessibility and confidentiality of adolescent reproductive health services.

Keywords: Reproductive Health; Adolescents; Radiological Examination; Government Regulation No. 28 of 2024; Genuksari

BACKGROUND

Adolescence is a crucial period in the human life cycle, marked by rapid physical, psychological, and intellectual development (1). This period marks the transition from childhood to adulthood, resulting in rapid emotional changes (2). This age group, generally defined by the National Population and Family Planning Agency (BKKBN) as 10-24 years old and unmarried, and by Indonesian Minister of Health Regulation Number 25 of 2014 as 10-18 years old, is considered to be at greatest risk (3), and (4). This is due to unpredictable sexual patterns, a tendency to try new things without careful consideration, and various barriers to accessing reproductive health services (5).

Adolescent Reproductive Health (ARH) is defined as a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, not merely the absence of disease or disability, but also mental and socio-cultural health in all matters relating to the reproductive system, functions, and processes (6). Research by Widarini et al. shows that utilization of reproductive health services among adolescents in Indonesia remains very low, at less than 10%. In fact, one study showed that only 7.93% of respondents utilized the Student Information and Counseling Center (PIK-M). This low utilization is often due to a lack of adequate information or promotion, leading adolescents to assume that reproductive health services are limited to family planning or consultations for married couples (7). Indonesian adolescents' knowledge of reproductive health is also low, particularly regarding how to protect themselves from risks such as unwanted pregnancy, STIs, and HIV and AIDS (8). The 2017 Indonesian Demographic and Health Survey (SDKI) showed that only about 34% of female adolescents and 33% of male adolescents knew about the Youth Care Health Service (PKPR), and even fewer (16% of female adolescents and 11% of male adolescents) knew about the R/M PIK. This lack of knowledge correlated with low service utilization (9).

The Indonesian government has implemented various programs to address this issue, including the development of the Youth/Student Information and Counseling Center (PIK R/M) under the Generation Planning (GenRe) program managed by the National Population and Family Planning Board (BKKBN), and the Youth Care Health Service (PKPR) managed by the Ministry of Health (10). However, barriers to utilizing adolescent reproductive health services persist. Factors influencing service utilization include low reproductive health knowledge and perceived need for adequate reproductive health information and services (9). Adolescents who perceive a need are more likely to access services (1.9 times more likely). However, many adolescents (70.6%) still perceive no need for reproductive health services. Access to health facilities, including long distances and difficulties in reaching them, and limited costs (for consultations, medication, and transportation) (11). Sociocultural factors, where sexuality and reproduction are still considered sensitive or taboo issues, contribute to stigma and shame among adolescents (12).

Regarding radiological examinations, the sources provided do not specifically address the need for radiological examinations as a routine part of adolescent reproductive health services. However, within the broader context of women's reproductive health (which is also relevant for adolescents with certain conditions or as preparation for the future), several diagnostic tests are mentioned. For example, ultrasound (USG) is used in pregnancy monitoring and imaging of ovarian masses. Furthermore, mammography, breast ultrasound, MRI, and PET scans are mentioned as tests for breast cancer detection, while Pap smears are used for cervical cancer screening (12). Government Regulation (PP) Number 28 of 2024 is the implementing regulation of Law Number 17 of 2023 concerning Health, one of which relates to Reproductive Health and Contraception. This PP regulates reproductive health services for school-age children and adolescents, including the provision of communication, information, education, and health services such as early detection and counseling. The article concerning the provision of contraceptives for this group has become one of the most widely discussed and controversial points in society (13).

Given the low utilization and knowledge of reproductive health among adolescents in general, as well as the existence of specific preferences and barriers in accessing information and services, this study is important. By analyzing perceptions of information needs, the role of radiology examinations as part of comprehensive reproductive health services, and preferences for reproductive health services among adolescents in Genuksari, Genuk District, Semarang City, this study is expected to contribute to the evaluation and formulation of more effective and youth-friendly strategies to improve reproductive health in the region.

The purpose of this study is to determine adolescents' perceptions regarding information needs, radiological examinations, and reproductive health services based on PP No. 28 of 2024. The novelty of this study that provides solutions to these problems includes: This study is one of the initial studies that directly links adolescents' perceptions with the implementation of PP No. 28 of 2024, so that it is not only descriptive, but also evaluative of the new policy and includes radiological examinations as part of reproductive health services, thus broadening the perspective of comprehensive reproductive health services.

METHOD

The population size is 35 and the sample size is 32. The inclusion criteria in this study are: Adolescents aged 15–19 years; Residing in Genuksari Village, Genuk District, Semarang City; Willing to be research respondents and sign informed consent. While the exclusion criteria are: Adolescents in unhealthy condition; Illiterate adolescents and adolescents who experience communication or cognitive disorders at the time of data collection.

This research is a quantitative descriptive study with a cross-sectional approach, meaning data collection was conducted at a specific point in time to describe adolescents' perceptions regarding information needs, radiological examinations, and reproductive health services. This design was chosen to accurately reflect the conditions and perceptions of respondents in accordance with the indicators stipulated in Government Regulation No. 28 of 2024 concerning the Provision of Health Services. The research instrument used a structured questionnaire. Data were collected through questionnaires completed directly by respondents and documents in the form of regulatory guidelines and health facility records in accordance with Government Regulation No. 28 of 2024. Data were analyzed using descriptive analysis. The data analysis technique, namely quantitative data, was processed using simple statistical software, and the analysis was conducted by linking the research findings to the principles of reproductive health service delivery as stipulated in Government Regulation No. 28 of 2024.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Results

The results of this study align with the research objectives. They show that:

1. Most adolescent respondents (around 65%) stated they needed reproductive health information, while the remainder felt they had "enough" additional education.
2. The reproductive health information adolescents most wanted to learn about was maintaining reproductive health (around 35%) and sexually transmitted infections (around 25%).
3. Social media, particularly YouTube (around 45%) and Instagram (around 20%), were considered the most effective medium for disseminating reproductive health information. Teachers (around 20%) and health workers (around 15%) were also considered important and preferred sources of formal information.

The most important findings of this study:

1. Adolescents' knowledge remains inadequate, despite the availability of information from various sources.
2. Service availability does not automatically translate to utilization.
3. Radiology examinations are not yet part of adolescents' understanding of reproductive health and are perceived as a specialized medical procedure.

The findings of this study answer the research objectives and research problems, including:

1. Identifying adolescents' perceptions of reproductive health information needs.
Research findings: Most adolescents stated that they still need reproductive health information, especially regarding maintaining reproductive health and sexually transmitted infections.
Conclusion: These findings directly answer the research problem formulation and the first objective by successfully describing adolescents' perceived information needs.
2. To determine adolescents' perceptions regarding the need for radiological examinations.
Research findings: Adolescents perceive radiological examinations as not routine and only necessary if there is a specific medical indication.
Conclusion: This finding addresses the second objective and research question by demonstrating adolescents' level of perception and understanding of radiological examinations.
3. Analyze adolescents' perceptions of reproductive health services.
Research findings: Utilization of reproductive health services remains low, although adolescents who have accessed services report being quite satisfied.
Conclusion: These findings address the research problem and the third objective by describing the actual state of service utilization and perceived quality.
4. To explore factors influencing adolescents' perceptions.
Research findings: Factors such as knowledge, access to information, privacy, social support, health worker attitudes, and sociocultural norms influence perceptions and service utilization.
Conclusion: These findings descriptively answer the fourth objective and research question.

B. Discussion

New findings from this study include: Preferences for "Hybrid" Health Services: It was found that the majority of adolescents prefer a combination of online and offline reproductive health services. Adolescents feel this combination of services offers flexibility, convenience, ease of understanding, and, most importantly, the protection of privacy before physically visiting a health facility. Furthermore, shifts in digital information access patterns have been identified, with findings indicating the effectiveness of social media as a primary source of information, considered the most effective platform for disseminating reproductive health information to adolescents compared to conventional formal methods. This aligns with Siregar's theory, which states that with correct information, adolescents can develop responsible attitudes and behaviors regarding the reproductive process, prepare for family life, and avoid risks such as unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV/AIDS, and drug abuse (14).

The findings in this study provide significant contributions to the development of science and policy, including: Development of Reproductive Health and Radiology Sciences, namely contributing to the integration of radiology as part of "supporting examinations" in Adolescent Care Health Services (PKPR), as well as enriching the theory regarding the perception of health service needs in transitional age groups; in addition, it can be a reference for Policy literature, namely being one of the first academic literature references to examine the implementation of PP No. 28 of 2024 in the context of local public health, especially for adolescents in urban areas such as Semarang; and as a Basis for the Development of Accessibility Theory, namely the results of this study become the basis for developing a new framework for thinking about the relationship between information technology, privacy guarantees, and access to health services. This shows that access is no longer just a matter of physical distance, but a matter of psychological and digital comfort. In addition, as an Evaluation of Educational Strategies, it can provide empirical evidence that future health education strategies must be proactive and innovative by utilizing social media to increase the effectiveness of disseminating knowledge to the younger generation.

Comparison of the study's findings with previous research

1. Reproductive Health Information Needs: This study places these information needs within the policy framework of Government Regulation No. 28 of 2024, thus strengthening the relevance of national policy to the real needs of adolescents at the local level.
2. Utilization of Reproductive Health Services: This study adds to the finding that adolescents prefer a combination of online and offline services, a finding that has not been widely emphasized in previous research.
3. Factors Influencing Adolescent Perceptions: This study examines these factors in light of the implementation of Government Regulation No. 28 of 2024, providing a stronger policy context.

In general, the results of this study align with previous research, which found that adolescents' need for reproductive health information remains high and utilization of reproductive health services remains low. However, this study differs from previous studies by specifically linking adolescents' perceptions of radiology

examinations and reproductive health services within the framework of implementing Government Regulation No. 28 of 2024, thus providing a novel contribution to the development of national policy-based adolescent reproductive health studies.

The new findings from this study include: Perceptions of Radiological Examination, namely linking radiology with adolescent perceptions and integrating radiology into the framework of adolescent reproductive health services.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

Most adolescents still need reproductive health information, particularly regarding efforts to maintain reproductive health and prevent sexually transmitted infections. This indicates that adolescents' knowledge of reproductive health is still suboptimal. Adolescents' utilization of reproductive health services remains relatively low, despite their availability. This low utilization is influenced by various factors, including limited information, the perception of not needing services, social stigma, and concerns about privacy. However, adolescents who have accessed reproductive health services tend to be quite satisfied with the services they received. Adolescents' perceptions of radiological examinations related to reproductive health indicate that they are not viewed as routine but rather as necessary only in certain circumstances with medical indications. This reflects adolescents' limited understanding of the role of radiological examinations in the context of reproductive health. Overall, this study shows that the implementation of reproductive health policies as stipulated in Government Regulation No. 28 of 2024 is in place, but has not fully reached and met the needs of adolescents. Therefore, ongoing strengthening of reproductive health education, the provision of youth-friendly reproductive health services, and the utilization of media and technology that align with adolescent preferences are needed to improve access to and utilization of reproductive health services.

B. Suggestion

Suggestions for further research include conducting further research related to social environmental behaviors that lead to reproductive health, by adding variables such as risky sexual behavior or adolescent attitudes about reproductive health. It also explores perceptions of needs with equal representation of both sexes.

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