

Knowledge and Perceptions of Muslim Adolescents Regarding Pre-Marital Sexual Relations: A Qualitative Study

Pengetahuan dan Persepsi Remaja Muslim Terkait Hubungan Seksual Pra Nikah: Studi Kualitatif

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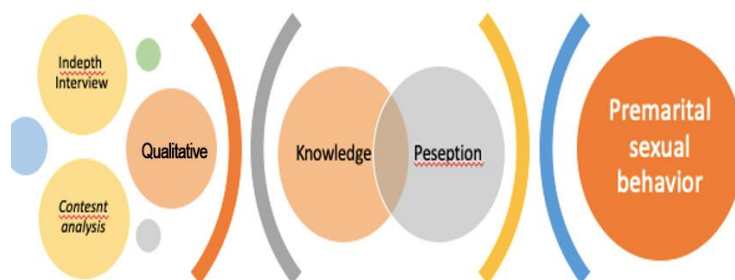
Abstract

Manuscript presents a study of the causes of accidents on the example of Ukraine in recent years, considering the peculiarities of the modern period. The relevance of this study is due to the high level of industrial injuries in Ukraine compared to the industrialized countries of the European Union. Data on the dynamics of the causes of accidents for the period from 2015 to 2022 are presented. Data for the study were taken from open sources of information. The most trauma-dangerous industries of the national economy are considered. Proposed measures to reduce the level of injury in Ukraine. The analysis of the obtained results showed a certain dependence of the causes of accidents on the coronavirus infection. An unchanging leading position in the organizational causes of accidents has been established. According to the results of the study, regularities were established regarding the most traumatic sectors of the economy in the presented years. The predominance of organizational causes of industrial injuries due to the low motivational component of occupational safety is shown. The need to improve training on occupational health and safety issues for employees at all levels was noted. It was established that the reduction of industrial injuries is impossible without the teaching of labor protection issues in institutions of higher education by future heads of structural divisions and leading specialists. Mandatory review and re-approval of the instructions, the violation of which led to an accident, is proposed. It is recommended to apply mandatory professional selection and more thorough control over periodic preventive medical examinations.

Abstrak

Perubahan perilaku seksual pada remaja di Indonesia sangat memprihatinkan. Perilaku seksual pranikah dapat menimbulkan berbagai dampak negatif pada remaja. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui pengetahuan dan persepsi remaja terkait hubungan seksual pranikah di Kabupaten Gowa. Metode pengumpulan data yang digunakan adalah wawancara mendalam. Sampel dipilih secara snowball sampling sebanyak 7 orang informan. Data dianalisis secara kualitatif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Pengetahuan informan tentang kesehatan reproduksi tidak berdampak positif terhadap perilaku seksual informan, dimana informan tidak membatasi perilaku hubungan seksual yang beresiko sekalipun informan telah mengetahui akibat dari perilaku seksual yang beresiko. Persepsi informan mengenai perilaku hubungan seksual (intercourse) yaitu untuk mencari kepuasan, bersenang-senang, pasangan harus menjadi milik seutuhnya dan juga sebagai ungkapan rasa sayang dan cinta. Studi ini merekomendasikan pentingnya pengawasan orang tua terhadap sikap dan perilaku remaja melalui komunikasi yang intensif dan berkualitas tanpa membatasi hak anak untuk bergaul dengan lingkungannya. Selain itu perlu peningkatan peran orang tua dan penceramah agama dalam memberikan solusi yang terbaik terhadap permasalahan yang dihadapi remaja yang dengan pendekatan persuasif.

Graphical Abstract



Keyword

accidents; industrial injuries; causes of accidents; occupational health; ukraine

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INTRODUCTION

According to the World Health Organization. in 2019, particularly in developing countries, an estimated 21 million girls aged 15-19 were pregnant and about 10 million had unwanted pregnancies (World Health Organization, 2023). The results of Indonesian Adolescent Reproductive Health Situation Survey (SKRRI) in 2018 stated that premarital sexual behavior in adolescents was reported at 4.5% in men and 0.7% in women aged 15-19 years. The results of Basic Health Research (Riskesmas) in 2018 showed that 1.97% of adolescents aged 15-19 years and 0.02% of adolescents aged less than 15 years had been pregnant (Ministry of Health RI, 2019).

In the 2018 SKAP report, it was stated that South Sulawesi Province found a number of adolescent boys involved in intimate activities before marriage by 3.2%, while adolescent girls were 1.3%. According to the 2019 SKAP report, there were a number of adolescent boys (3.3) who engaged in sexual activities before marriage, while no adolescent girls were detected involved in it (0.0%). There was a small increase in the number of adolescent boys engaging in sexual activity from 2018 to 2019.

Factors causing premarital sexual behavior in adolescents are knowledge, increased libido, information media, religious norms, family, and increasingly free association (Nursanti et al., 2022). The impact of premarital sexual behavior on adolescents can pose a risk of unwanted pregnancy, school dropout, abortion, sexually transmitted diseases, psychosocial pressure, and so on. arises because of feelings of guilt for violating religious rules and fear of being known by parents and society (Ngo-Thi et al., 2022). Adolescent reproductive health services are very important to provide, which aims to prevent and protect adolescents from risky sexual behaviors that can affect reproductive health (Ardianti, 2020).

Sexual behavior refers to any act triggered by sexual urges, whether involving the opposite sex or the same sex. This variety of behavior varies, ranging from attraction to interactions such as dating, making out, and sexual relations. Sexual subjects can be other people, thought people, or even oneself in imagination (Calabrò et al., 2019). Some sexual activities that fall into the category of premarital sexual behavior, where sexual activity is defined as activities carried out to satisfy sexual desire or actions to obtain pleasure in the genitals or sexual organs through various behaviors, such as fantasizing, masturbation, kissing, caressing, and so on, *intercourse* is an example of behavior (Joyal et al., 2015).

Knowledge plays a role in early adolescent sexual behavior. Knowledge is one of the domains that

shape a person's behavior. A person can perform an action because of the knowledge he has. Low adolescent knowledge can affect adolescent attitudes in responding to premarital sex. Such as research conducted for adolescents in Thailand which shows that low levels of premarital sex knowledge reflect the widespread of risky sexual behaviors, such as promiscuity, inconsistent condom use, and deliberate refusal to take HIV tests, among Thai adolescents (Yau et al., 2020). Good knowledge of sexual behavior, it is expected that each individual will be positive about sexual behavior and is expected not to fall into adolescent problems regarding sexual, including unwanted pregnancy, early marriage, abortion, sexually transmitted infections, HIV and AIDS and other sexual deviant behaviors

Several studies that also examine adolescent perceptions show that adolescents have negative perceptions about premarital sex, but consider dating and holding hands to be commonplace (Afriyanto et al., 2023; Eze & Adu, 2015; Ezumah et al., 2021). However, some adolescents consider premarital abstinence as an obstacle to achieving sexual satisfaction and reproductive capacity in marriage (Ezumah et al., 2021). Although the majority of research results show that premarital sex is a negative thing, but still have premarital sex because there are factors that encourage and encourage adolescents to have premarital sex, including peer pressure, low self-esteem, poor parenting, financial considerations and the influence of alcohol and hard pulling (Gbaa et al., 2022).

One of the regencies in South Sulawesi that borders directly with the city of Makassar is Gowa regency. The lifestyle of teenagers in Gowa Regency tends to follow the trend of youth fashion in Makassar which is a reference from the association of teenagers today. His association that tends to be oriented towards teenagers whose dating style is no longer shy shows his family or parents and his association always follows the current trend / imitation which is characteristic of big cities. The Gowa District Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (PPPA) noted that the number of children getting married at an early age in Gowa Regency continues to increase. If throughout the year there are 28 people, then in 2020 until May 2021 it has reached 32 people. Based on these data, researchers intend to make further observations on premarital intercourse behavior in adolescents in Gowa Regency.

METHODS

This research was conducted in Tompobalang Village, Somba Opu District, Gowa Regency with the consideration that this area has the highest number of

Table 1

Characteristic of informants

Informant	Age	Education	Work
I	21	SMA	Unemployed
S	21	SMA	Security Guard
T	24	SMA	Self-employed
W	20	SMA	Self-employed
P	24	SMP	Self-employed
N	18	SMA	Unemployed
U	18	SMA	Unemployed
K*	48	SMA	Village Employees

Note: * = key informant.

teenagers. The type of research used is qualitative with a case study approach with a data collection method through in-depth interviews. The main informants in the study were Muslim adolescents aged 10 to 21 when they first had sexual intercourse and adolescents who claimed to have had premarital sexual relations. Key informants are village imams, village officials and community leaders. Data sources on interviewees were snowball sampling,

Primary data collection is done through in-depth interviews, this is done because the issue to be discussed is so sensitive that informants are not willing to speak openly or unproductively will hinder responses and obscure the meaning obtained. The implementation of interviews concerning interviewees with interviewees is carried out in several stages, namely: In the implementation of the interview in this case the researcher tries to always keep promises, especially time promises that have been prepared and time contracts are carried out with informants. After meeting with informants, researchers introduce themselves first and explain the purpose and purpose of research activities. The interviewer gives a guarantee that the confidentiality of the interviewee will be guaranteed confidentiality. The interview begins by presenting a general topic around the personal identity of the informant and when in communicating it is comfortable then the interview continues on the topic of conversation to be researched.

Processing and presentation of data is carried out by content analysis (*content analysis*). The data processing and presentation techniques used in this study use the Milles and Huberman model, through the stages of data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and conclusions. To determine the level of truth of qualitative research data, a validity check of the data was carried out using *triangulation techniques*. Triangulation methods are utilized through triangulation of sources and methods.

RESULTS

Table 1 shows the characteristics of informants discussed in this study include age, gender, ethnicity, religion, education, occupation and place of residence of eight adolescent informants who had premarital intercourse and three key informants. The collection of information on informants is carried out through in-depth interviews.

Table 1 illustrates informant (I) is 21 years old, female, Muslim, Makassar tribe. The informant had completed his high school education, had not worked and lived in the same house with his parents. When interviewed admitted to frequent sexual intercourse (*intercourse*), but there has not been an unwanted pregnancy. The informant (S) is 21 years old, male, Muslim, Bugis tribe Makassar. The informant had completed his high school education, worked as security and lived in the same house with his parents. When interviewed, she admitted to having frequent sexual intercourse, and her boyfriend had four abortions because of unwanted pregnancies. Informant (T) is 24 years old, male, Christian, Bugis tribe Makassar. The informant had completed his high school education, worked as a self-employed person and lived in the same house with his parents. When interviewed admitted to frequent sexual intercourse, unwanted pregnancy occurred in girlfriends so that they had early marriage. The informant (W) is 20 years old, male, Muslim, Bugis tribe Makassar. The informant temporarily completed his education in college, has not worked and lives in the same house with his parents. When interviewed, she admitted to having frequent sexual intercourse, and her boyfriend had two abortions because of unwanted pregnancies. Informant (P) is 24 years old, male, Muslim, Bugis tribe Makassar. The informant had completed his junior high school education, worked as a self-employed person and lived in the same house with his parents. When interviewed admitted to frequent sexual intercourse, unwanted pregnancy occurred in girlfriends so that they had early

marriage. The informant (U) is 18 years old, male, Muslim, Bugis tribe Makassar. The informant had completed his high school education, had not worked and lived in the same house with his parents. When interviewed admitted to frequent sexual intercourse (*intercourse*), but unwanted pregnancy occurred. Key informant is someone who is very open and easy to collaborate with in the research process and helps a lot in providing information that researchers need as completeness in collecting data both primary and secondary data. The key informant (K) is an employee of the village where the researcher conducted the research. The informant is 48 years old with his last education which was High School (SMA).

Knowledge of Puberty

From the results of in-depth interviews about knowledge about puberty, informant statements were obtained about things that indicate a man and woman entering puberty and physical changes that occur in a man and woman when entering puberty / adolescence, namely wet dreams for boys and menstruation for girls, here is one informant's statement;

"..... If you grow up, one of them is a wet dream in the early days of junior high or high school, if the woman is one of them, it is called menstruation." (W, 20 years)

Some informants also mentioned that physical changes that occur in men when entering puberty / adolescence are voice changes, height growth, Adam's apple and mustache growth. Here is the informant's statement:

"Is it okay for adults to pastime, if ordinary men are getting faster" (W, 20 years)

Regarding the source of information about things that indicate a man or woman entering puberty and physical changes that occur in a man and a woman entering puberty, that is, obtained from friends and personal experience.

"Yes, Information about it from my own experience used to hear the same story as my friends" (I, 21 years)

In contrast to some informants who said they got information about it from school lessons. Here is the expression of the informant's statement;

"When I was in school, I used to study, my teacher asked....." (S,21 years)

It is also confirmed by key informants that adolescents know sexual behavior is not a taboo because

it can be known from association and media both print (magazines) and electronic (television, internet, mobile phones). Here is the expression of the informant's statement;

"If the sexual behavior of teenagers is now not like before which is still taboo, maybe they know from watching, on cellphones or the internet" (K, 48 years)

Knowledge of Sexual Behavior

From the results of interviews regarding knowledge of sexual behavior, almost the same statement was obtained in all informants interviewed defining that sexual behavior is having intercourse as done by husband and wife. Here is the expression of the informant's statement;

"In my opinion, sexual behavior is intercourse carried out by people in couples" (N, 18 years)

There are different informant statements regarding sexual behavior where the informant states that sexual behavior is masturbation without a partner as long as it can release the lust that exists in him.

"Obviously if sex anyway it is said to be sexual intercourse or masturbation" (U, 18 years)

The source of sexual behavior information both in understanding and form, most informants know from the environment, namely friends, and some other informants know about sexual behavior from personal experience. As the following informant stated;

"If I do, I know from the children, study my friends, is it normal to tell stories..." (P, 24 years)

Knowledge of Pregnancy

As a result of interviews regarding pregnancy knowledge, all female and male informants said that the process of pregnancy was due to the meeting of sperm and egg cells in the uterus.

"If I think people can get pregnant, if they keep coming out, the male sperm keeps going into the uterus to meet the egg." (I, 21 years)

Statements about the consequences of sexual behavior that some male informants and all female informants said the consequences of sexual behavior carried out at an early age are pregnancy, abortion, early marriage and elopement. Here is the informant's statement;

"As a result, yes, it must be automatically pregnant young, we can also marry early, marries early, eloping can also be tested maybe as I know. oh... abortion too". (S,21years)

In contrast to the statements of some informants who stated that the consequences of sexual behavior can be affected by diseases such as syphilis. The aftermath leads to physical impact. Here is the informant's statement;

"..... Several times I had contact with naughty women, I never wore a safety guard, I finally got a disease called syphilis." (T, 24 years)

Perception

The results of the interview met the perception of sexual relations, namely some male informants and some female informants have a perception that sexual relations are a satisfaction, pleasure, argue that their partners must be fully owned. Here is the informant's statement:

"If I myself have sexual intercourse just want to be satisfied and there is a sense of pleasure that cannot be expressed when I have done..." (P, 24 years)

Different things are expressed by some other informants who argue that sexual relations are carried out as evidence of expressions of love and affection.

"If I do, my reason is love and love, anyway, who knows who doesn't want to be followed, well, when he leaves me, the point is afraid to leave it." (I, 21 years)

This was confirmed by key informants who revealed that the reasons and encourage adolescents to have premarital sexual relations such as coercion from partners, encouragement from peers and as a sign of love for their partners, as revealed in the following narrative:

"...some of the things that drive them are first coercion from their partner,, then coercion from their peers, to trial and error....." (K, 48 years)

Almost all informants gave the same perception about the consequences of sexual intercourse, namely the occurrence of pregnancy which has implications for abortion and the occurrence of sexual diseases such as syphilis. Like the following statement:

"...so that we are sanctioned, we finally live like a husband and wife, and how many months later she is three months pregnant, I have been sought after by her family. Because I loved her so much, I was not willing to have an abortion, she ended up getting pregnant out of wedlock." (T, 24 years)

Getting pregnant out of wedlock is not only caused by accident but also caused by a strategy. The occurrence of pregnancy out of wedlock is not only due to intentional or unintentional sexual behavior but can also occur because of other intentions to do this, one of which

is the trust factor so that he carries out strategies to be together.

In addition, there are informants who provide statements other than abortion and abortion about perceptions about the consequences of sexual intercourse that can result in early marriage and elopement. Like the following statement:

"If I do.. that is, she marries young, she must be pregnant, early marriage and usually also definitely elope, otherwise elopement is usually abortion". (S, 21 years)

Sexual behavior and pregnancy among adolescents is one of the realities caused by the occurrence of sexual behavior among adolescents. In this study, some male informants and all female informants had the same perception that they were not ready to accept and experience the consequences of sexual relations. Like the following statement:

"If asked ready, not ready, yes, actually not ready, but we have a solution, such as abortion before the gestational age enters the age of 3-4 months" (W, 20 years)

But on the other hand there are also some male informants who claim to be ready to accept and experience the consequences of sexual intercourse without thinking about the consequences that occur on the grounds of doing the relationship which is important to create satisfaction in him. Like the following informant statement:

"Yes, automatically if we do, we must definitely be ready to accept the impact, but it's normal not to think the important impact is good first". (S,21 years)

The key informant in this case gave little exposure to statements about the impact or consequences of sexual relations, where adolescents are now less concerned about their future, a woman's virginity is no longer a problem until there is an effort from key informants to convey the risks of premarital sex behavior to their adolescents by jointly attending seminars related to adolescent reproductive health. As revealed from the following key informant:

"Today, teenagers themselves pay less attention to their future and they do what they can do now, they are not imagined without paying attention to their future with such conditions. Because for them today sex has become commonplace and when they get married even without disputing virginity and so on. In fact, if we look at some of the people in Indonesia in general, yes, especially there are

still many men who still want their partner to be a virgin". (K, 48 years)

DISCUSSION

Adolescence is a transitional phase from childhood to adulthood, where rapid growth occurs including in reproductive function, which affects physical, mental, and social development (Febriawati et al., 2019). In adolescence, significant physical changes are accompanied by unstable emotional development, resulting in adolescent tendencies to seek self-identity by expanding the social circle, which can cause them to fall into promiscuity behavior (Qomariah, 2020).

The results of this study showed that all informants already knew about reproductive health such as knowledge about puberty where the thing that indicates a teenager entering puberty is the start of functioning of reproductive organs characterized by menstruation in women and wet dreams in men and also forms of physical changes such as growing breasts that are getting bigger, growing Adam's apple in men, Voice changes and growth of pubic hair and height growth in males. Knowledge of the process of pregnancy, knowledge of the consequences of sexual intercourse carried out at an early age / adolescence, knowledge of sexual behavior and knowledge of the consequences of sexual intercourse by men and women who have reached puberty.

In this study, the reproductive health knowledge possessed by informants did not have a positive impact on the informant's sexual behavior. Where all informants do not limit risky sexual behavior even though the informant has known the consequences of risky sexual behavior. Because in addition to knowledge factors that affect adolescent sexual behavior, there are other factors that support adolescents so that they want to carry out sexual behavior, including the surrounding environment, peers or the role of mass media that influences behavior change in adolescents.

The results of research conducted by Tang et al. (2011) showed that unmarried migrant women workers have no sexual knowledge and most of them engage in premarital sexual behavior. Young people's lack of knowledge about sexual and reproductive health results in adolescents initiating sexual activities without accurate information about reproductive health, thus putting themselves at risk of safe sexual practices, resulting in unwanted pregnancies (Wong, 2012).

Information about reproductive health is obtained by adolescents from the environment of friends, personal experiences and at school. The life of adolescents is influenced by peers in the surrounding environment. Sex education is an effective program and

contributes to the psychosocial development of adolescents, where sex education can increase knowledge about health, prevent social hazards including STDs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases) and unwanted pregnancies (Zubaidah et al, 2023). In accordance with the results of research Andriani et al. (2022) and Dewi & Wirakusuma (2017) that the higher the understanding of adolescents about reproductive health, the lower their likelihood of premarital sexual behavior. Conversely, the lower their understanding of reproductive health, the higher their likelihood of engaging in premarital sexual behavior. In this case, it needs the attention of ministries or agencies related to educational issues about how dangerous sexual behavior is and the impact that will occur besides that, of course, the role of parents is very influential in supervision and guidance so as to avoid sexual behavior.

Most adolescent informants expressed their perception of sexual intercourse which they thought was a satisfaction, pleasure and argued that the partner should be fully owned and a small percentage of informants thought that sexual intercourse was a sign of love and affection. Premarital sexual relations are carried out by many teenagers just looking for pleasure and satisfaction obtained when they have sexual intercourse. Some teenagers also think that having premarital sexual relations as one technique so that couples can be fully owned because they assume that if they have had premarital sexual relations then the couple will not turn to other men.

In line with research conducted by Dewi & Wirakusuma (2017) based on the results of research found that most adolescent informants expressed their perceptions of premarital sex which they thought was a satisfaction, pleasure. In addition, the opinion that the partner should be fully owned and a small number of informants argued that sexual relations were carried out as a sign of love and affection.

Someone who is developing a special relationship with the opposite sex or *going steady*, is very vulnerable to various experiences that can influence them to have sex (Qomariah, 2020). This is because during courtship, a person will achieve a feeling of *security with* his partner. This *feeling of security* can cause sexual intimacy in them (Zhang, 2022).

The informant's perception of the consequences of sexual intercourse is the occurrence of pregnancy which has implications for abortion and the occurrence of sexual diseases such as syphilis and can also lead to early marriage and elopement. The occurrence of pregnancy out of wedlock is not only due to intentional or unintentional sexual behavior but can also occur because

of other intentions to do this, one of which is the trust factor so that he carries out strategies to be together.

Adolescents' understanding of premarital sex will influence their behavior, including the formation of prejudices, the formation of feelings, the formation of attitude patterns, emotional control, communication, and curiosity (Hadi & Muliani, 2020). In this study, these perceptions arise from environmental drives, peers and the influence of mass media. This is in line with the results of research conducted by Astuti (2021) that there is a significant relationship between the influence of mass media and peer groups with adolescents' perceptions of sexual behavior.

As part of Islamic teachings, the understanding of premarital sex has a lot of relevance. One verse that underscores the importance of keeping oneself away from premarital sex is Q.S Al-Isra/17:32, which is translated:

"And do not approach unlawful sexual intercourse. Indeed, it is ever an immorality and is evil as a way."

In line with this verse, the Prophet Muhammad also provided important guidance in this matter, namely in the hadith narrated by Bukhari and Muslim No. 5066 which means:

"O young people! Whoever among you can marry, should marry, because it helps him lower his gaze and guard his modesty (i.e. his private parts from committing illegal sexual intercourse etc.), and whoever is not able to marry, should fast, as fasting diminishes his sexual power."

The importance of understanding premarital sex in Islam is reflected in the Qur'anic verse and hadith of Prophet Muhammad which affirms the prohibition against zina and the importance of preserving the genitals. However, in research on Muslim teens' knowledge and perceptions of premarital sex, it is often found that despite being aware of the negatives of such acts, some teens still do so because of a boost in personal satisfaction and a desire to have a partner overall. The integration of Islam with this kind of research emphasizes the need for a holistic approach that includes an understanding of religion to provide a deeper understanding of the consequences of such acts and encourage adolescents to make wiser decisions in accordance with Islamic teachings. So in this case, the role of community leaders and the role of related agencies is needed to further instill customary cultural values or applicable norms so that adolescents are able to have a positive perception attitude towards sexual behavior.

Research on premarital sexual abuse in adolescents can be a sensitive and difficult topic to study.

Respondents were reluctant to talk about their experiences for fear of blame, shame, or stigma. Research can raise public awareness about premarital sexual abuse in adolescents, which can help encourage prevention and response efforts. The information gained in this study can be used to develop effective interventions to prevent premarital sexual abuse in adolescents and help victims.

CONCLUSION

The informant's knowledge of reproductive health does not have a positive impact on the informant's sexual behavior, whereas the informant does not limit risky sexual behavior even though the informant has known the consequences of risky sexual behavior. The informant's perception of sexual behavior (*intercourse*) is to seek satisfaction, have fun, the partner must belong as a whole and also as an expression of affection and love. Parental supervision of adolescent attitudes and behaviors through intensive and quality communication without limiting the child's right to associate with his environment. Increasing the role of parents needs to be done in providing the best solutions to the problems faced by adolescents with a persuasive approach. For future researchers, the results of this study can be used as a basis for research by examining one of the factors in this study in more depth.

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AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Aswadi formulated the concept, wrote and reviewed manuscript. Sukfitrianty Syahrir enrolled participants and collected and analyzed the data and revised the manuscript. Zainuddin and Andi S. Adha data analyzed the data and performed the field work. All Authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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COMPETING INTERESTS

The author(s) declare no potential conflict of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article

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