The Influence of Personal Factor, Parental Support and Perceived Value of Children on Early Marriage in Trowulan Subdistrict Mojokerto Regency

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ABSTRACT

Background: According to *United Nations Development Economic and Social Affairs*, Indonesia is 37th country in the world and 2nd in Southeast Asia after Cambodia with high percentage of early marriage. World Health Organization expects Indonesian government to be more committed to decrease maternal and infant mortality rates as the impacts of early marriage. This study aimed to discover the influence of personal factor, parental support and perceived value of children on early marriage in Trowulan Subdistrict Mojokerto Regency.

Subjects and Methods: This was an analytic observational study with case control design. Subjects were women of reproductive age as case (married at the age of ≤20) and control (married at the age of 21-25), each consisted of 60 women. The dependent variable was early marriage and the independent variables were levels of education, premarital sexual behavior, perceived behavioral control, perceived benefits, parental support and perceived value of children. The data were analyzed by path analysis.

Results: Perceived behavioral control (b= -1.27; CI 95%= -2.20 to -0.33; p= 0.008), perceived benefits (b= -1.06; CI 95%= -1.97 to -0.16); p= 0.020), parental support (b= -1.28; CI 95%= -2.16 to -0.39); p= 0.005) and perceived value of children (b=- 2.94; CI 95%= -5.20 to -0.68; p= 0.011) had direct influence on early marriage and were statistically significant. The levels of education had indirect influence on early marriage based on the figures of perceived behavioral control (b= 0.92; CI 95%= 0.17 to 1.68; p= 0.016) and perceived benefits (b= 1.31; CI 95%= -0.53 to 2.17; p= 0.001). Sexual behavior was influenced by perceived behavioral control (b= 1.35; CI 95%= 0.52 to 2.17; p= 0.001).

Conclusions: Early marriage is influenced by perceived behavioral control, perceived benefits, parental support and perceived value of children. Levels of education influence early marriage based on perceived behavioral control and perceived benefits. Premarital sexual behavior is influenced by perceived behavioral control.

Keywords: Personal factor, parental support, perceived value of children, early marriage.

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BACKGROUND

One of the targets of reproductive health is to eliminate any kinds of dangerous practices, such as child marriage, early marriage and forced marriage, and female circumcision (Kemenkes, 2015). In 2014, Secretary General of the United Nations recommended some special targets in the Sustainable Development Goals for 2015 to eliminate child marriage. These recommendations were supported by 116 countries including Indonesia (United Nations General Assembly as recorded in BPS, 2015).

Indonesia is the 37th country in the world and the 2nd in Southeast Asia after Cambodia as a country with high percent-

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age of early marriage (Kemenkes, 2015). As much as 31.72 percent of young female are married between the ages of 16-18, and as much as 7.96 percent between the ages of 25-30 (BPS, 2015).

The first marriage at young age will influence females' reproductive periods. The younger female's first marriage is, the longer her reproductive period will be. This will surely influence on population density. Based on the National Socioeconomic Survey in 2013, Mojokerto Regency had Total Fertility Rate 1.9 and 26 infants were given births by mothers between the ages of 15-19.

Based on the data from Central Bureau of Statistics East Java Province, the percentage of females who are above 10 years old to get married in under 17 years old tend to decrease. It was 31.82 in 2009, and in 2013 it became 26.33. However, the percentage of females who are above 10 years old to get married in under 17 years old in Mojokerto Regency tend to fluctuate. It was 25.14% in 2009, 24.31% in 2010, 18.89% in 2011, 20.49% in 2012 and 21.34% in 2013.

In a preliminary study conducted by Women Empowerment and Family Planning Agency of Mojokerto Regency, cumulative data between January and September 2016 indicated that marriage under the age of 20 still placed at the second place which was 21.5%. Among 18 subdistricts in the Mojokerto Regency, the highest percentage of marriage under the age of 20 occured in Trowulan Subdistrict (38.14). Similar result was also indicated by the preliminary study being sent to the office of Ministry of Religion Mojokerto Regency which showed an increased sum of marriage whereby the brides were under 16 years old. Such marriage was recorded to happen 4 times in 2015, and 5 times in 2016.

World Health Organization expects Indonesia to be more committed in the process of decreasing maternal and infant mortality rates. This is caused by the fact that Indonesia has experienced the leap on the figure of sum on early marriage. There has been a significant decrease in Indonesia which is 72% in maternal and infant mortality rates eventhough Indonesia is still a part of the 11 countries in Southeast Asia that have high maternal and infant mortality rates as the consequence of early marriage (ACDP Indonesia, 2016).

Females who are pregnant as teenagers tend to undergo varieties of risks during pregnancies and labour. The risks that may occur during pregnancies are abortion, preeclampsia, eclampsia, anemia, infection, uterine cancer and infant mortality. During labour, the risks that may occur are premature baby, low birthweight, labour difficulties, infant mortality and congenital anomaly (BKKBN, 2010). In Mojokerto Regency, the cause for infant mortality is low birthweight, asphyxia, congenital anomaly, infection, etc. There was a decrease in infant mortality rate in 2014 eventhough it was insignificant should it be compared to the rate in 2013 which was 129 and became 127 infants in 1000 live births (Depkes 2015).

Teen marriage also has a risk that leads to Maternal Motality Rate (MMR) in Indonesia. MMR in Indonesia is still high to compare it to the neighbouring countries. Some of the causes of maternal mortality are 3L (late in making decision, late in getting transportation and late in getting medical treatment in any health services) and 4T (too old, too young, too many and too closed between one pregnancy to the next one) (Depkes, 2015).

Several studies have been conducted related to the factors that lead to early marriage. A study in Sudan revealed a result that females who were married at the age of <18, mostly came from rural areas, had low levels of education and had siblings more than 5 (Ali et al, 2014). Besides socio demographic factor, culture and the value of viginity (Birech, 2013) and adolescence (Zuraidah, 2015) are other factors that also lead to early marriage.

A study conducted in South Borneo, Bangka Belitung, Central Sulawesi and West Java revealed the main problems to early marriage which were the impacts on modernization, low society interests on education, economic pressure and family poverty, culture, role of tradition and religion, role of parents as decision makers and the lack of coordination and government policy planning in controlling early marriage.

The value of a child in a family contributes to someone's decision making process to getting married and having children. Early marriage or married at a relatively young age makes the young couples tend to have more children. Based on the condition of residential area, parents who come from rural areas tend to have perceived value of children as part of economical benefits, whereas parents who come from urban areas (high levels of education) concentrate more on the emotional and psychological benefits (BKKBN, 2010).

This study aims to analyse the influence of personal factor, parental support and the perceived value of children on early marriage in Trowulan Subdistrict Mojokerto Regency.

SUBJECTS AND METHOD

1. Research Design

The method used in the study was analytic observational, using case control design approach. The study was conducted from February–March 2017 in 18 villages in Trowulan Subdistrict Mojokerto Regency.

The population of the case was the entire women of reproductive age who were married early and recorded in the Office of Religion Affairs in Trowulan Subdistrict Mojokerto Regency in 2016 and in January-February 2017. The population of the control was the entire women of reproductive age who were not married early and recorded in the Office of Religion Affairs in Trowulan Subdistrict Mojokerto Regency in 2016 and in January-February 2017.

2. Population and Sample

The subjects of this study were women of reproductive age (age of ≤25) who were married, resided in Trowulan Subdistrict Mojokerto Regency, and married in the year of 2016 and in January-February 2017, and were selected as the subjects in accordance with the inclusion criteria. Inclusion criteria in this study were the data of selected women of reproductive age as the subjects were real and their addresses were completed and registered clearly, their marriages were the firsts and they resided in Trowulan Subdistrict, Mojokerto Regency.

The subjects taken in this study were set using *fixed disease sampling* which is selecting the samples based on disease status, whereas exposure status was varied following the disease status that was "*fixed*" (Murti, 2016). 60 subjects of this study were taken for case, and 60 for control.

3. Research Variables

The dependent variable of this study was early marriage. The independent variables of this study were the levels of education, premarital sexual behaviour, perceived behavioural control, perceived benefits, parental support and perceived value of children.

4. Operational Definition

Operational definition of the levels of education was the last formal education of women of reproductive age before they were married which were proven by the di-

ploma certificate, premarital sexual behavior was a type of behaviour which was associated with sexual activities practised during the period of before marriage, perceived behavioural control was the beliefs of the subjects of this study on whether there were factors which facilitated or impeded marital behaviour, perceived benefits were the beliefs of the subjects of this study on the benefits of early marriage, parental support was the statements of the subjects of this study on informational supports/ helps on family lives given by the parents which influenced them in the decision making process of the married ages, and perceived value of children was the statements of the subjects of this study on the value of the child before marriage which influenced them in decision making process of the married ages.

5. Data Analysis

The instrument of this study was a set of questionnaires whose validity and reliability had been tested with the results stated in Table 1. Levels of education were measured by seeing the last diploma certificate obtained by the subjects of this study, the variable of premarital sexual behaviour was measured using an aspect of positive and negative premarital sexual behaviour, and the variable of parental support was examined using the aspect of information on reproductive rights, risks of premarital sexual behaviour, ages to get married and pregnant, impacts on early marriage and efforts to prevent early marriage. Whereas, perceived behavioural control, perceived benefits and perceived value of children were measured by examining the psychological, economical and social aspects.

Table 1. Reliability test results

Variable	Item Total Correlation (r)	Alpha Cronbach
Premarital sexual behaviour	≥0.28	0.83
Perceived behavioural control	≥0.35	0.92
Perceived benefits	≥0.22	0.90
Parental support	≥0.23	0.82
Perceived value of children	≥0.21	0.90

Categorization was needed for the sake of data analysis. Variable of levels of education was categorised as o for <SMA and 1 for ≥SMA. Premarital sexual behaviour was categorised as o for negative premarital sexual behaviour and 1 for positive. Perceived value of children were categorized as o for low perceptions and 1 for high. Perceived behavioural control and parental support were categorised as o for weak perceptions and 1 for strong perceptions, and perceived benefits were categorised as o for strong perceptions and 1 for weak perceptions.

Data analysis implemented bivariate analysis using SPSS version 22. Multi-

variate analysis implemented *path analysis* using stata 13.

RESULTS

Univariate Analysis

The characteristics of the subjects of this study in case were ≤20 years old and as many as 50%, whereas in control were 21-25 years old and as many as 50%. Based on the levels of education, it seemed that the case had the latest levels of education from Primary to Senior High Schools. The highest percentage was Junior High School graduates which was 60%. Control had the levels of education from Junior High to Undergraduates. The highest percentage

was Senior High School graduates which was 70%.

Based on the status of pregancies and infants, most of the subjects in case (61.7%) were not pregnant and had not had children (91.7%). A similar result was found in control which indicated that most of the subjects (61.7%) were not pregnant and had not had children (85%). Based on the work

status and monthly income, majority subjects (95%) in case did not work and their monthly family income was mostly Rp. 3,279,975.- (98.3%). A different result was found in control whereby most of the subjects worked with monthly family income under Rp. 3,279,975.- (76.7%). Those explanations can be figured as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Characteristics of the subjects of this study

Characteristics	Criteria	C	ase	Control		
Characteristics	Criteria	(Early N	(Early Marriage)		(Ideal Marriage)	
		n	%	n	%	
Age	≤ 20 years old	60	50			
_	21 – 25 years old			60	50	
Levels of Education	Primary	9	15			
	Secondary	36	60	3	5	
	Senior High	15	25	42	70	
	Associate Degree			5	8.3	
	Bachelor's Degree			10	16.7	
Pregnancy Status	Yes	23	38.3	23	38.3	
	No	37	61.7	37	61.7	
Parental Status	Having Children	5	8,3	9	15	
	Not Having	55	91.7	51	85	
	Children					
Occupational Status	Employed	3	5	32	53.3	
	Unemployed	57	95	28	46.7	
Monthly Income	< Rp. 3,279,975	59	98.3	46	76.7	
	≥ Rp. 3,279,975	1	1.7	14	23.3	

Bivariate Analysis

Table 3 indicated that women of reproductive age who had low levels of education (did not graduate from Senior High School) had possibilities of 42 times more chances to early marriage. The results of the analysis indicated that there was a statistically significant correlation between the current levels of education and early marriage (OR= 42.00; CI 95%= 13.03 to 135.41; p= 0.000). On the variable of premarital sexual behaviour, the results indicated that women of reproductive age who showed negative premarital sexual behaviour had possibilities of 1.77 times more chances to

early marriage. The results of the analysis indicated that there was a statistically insignificant correlation between premarital sexual behaviour and early marriage (OR=1.77; CI 95%=0.80 to 3.94; p=0.160). On the variable of perceived behavioural control, the results indicated that women of reproductive age with weak perceived behavioural control had possibilities of 5.06 times more chances to early marriage. The results of the analysis showed a statistically significant correlation between perceived behavioural control and early marriage (OR= 5.06; CI 95%= 2.27 to 11.23; p= 0.000).

Table 3. Bivariate analysis results between levels of education, premarital sexual behaviour, perceived behavioural control, perceived benefits, parental support, perceived value of children and early marriage in trowulan subdistrict mojokerto regency

	Category		Marriage					
Variable		Ea	Early		Ideal		CI 95%	p
		Mar	Marriage		Marriage			
		n	%	n	%			
Levels of Education	Did not finish	45	91.8	4	8.2			
	High School							
	Finish High	15	21.1	56	78.9	42.00	13.03 - 135.41	<0.001
	School							
	Total	60	50	60	50			
Premarital	Negative	18	58.1	13	41.9			
Sexual	Positive	42	47.2	47	52.8	1.77	0.80 -3.94	0.160
Behaviour	Total	60	50	60	50			
Perceived	Weak	35	72.9	13	27.1			
Behavioural	Strong	25	34.7	47	65.3	5.06	2.27 -11.23	<0.001
Control	Total	60	50	60	50			
Perceived	Weak	19	32.2	40	67.8			
Benefits	Strong	41	67.2	20	32.8	4.32	2.01 - 9.27	<0.001
Delicitis	Total	60	50	60	50			
Parental Support	Weak	44	62.9	26	37.1			
	Strong	16	32.0	34	68.0	3.60	1.67 - 7.74	0.001
	Total	60	50	60	50			
Perceived	Low	59	54.6	49	45.4			
Value of	High	1	8.3	11	91.7	13.25	1.65 - 106.22	0.002
Children	Total	60	50	60	50			

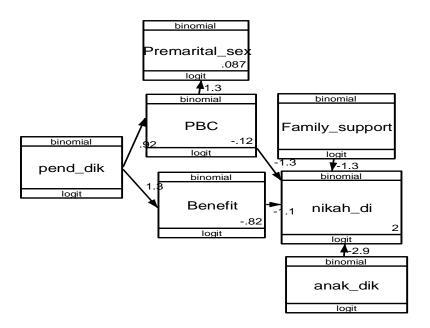
On the variable of perceived benefits, the results indicated that women of reproductive age who had stong perceived benefits on early marriage had possibilities of 4.32 times more chances to early marriage. The results of the analysis showed that there was a statistically significant correlation between perceived benefits and early marriage (OR=4.32; CI 95%=2.01 to 9.27; p <0.001).

On the variable of parental support, the results indicated that women of reproductive age who had weak parental support had possibilities of 3.60 times more chances to early marriage. The results of the analysis showed that there was a statistically significant correlation between parental support and early marriage (OR=3.60; CI 95%=1.67 to 7.74; p=0.001).

On the variable of perceived value of children, the results indicated that women of reproductive age who had low perceived value of children had possibilities of 13.25 times more chances to early marriage. The results of the analysis showed that there was a statistically significant correlation between the perceived value of children and early marriage (OR=13.25; CI 95%=1.65 to 106.22; p=0.002).

A. Multivariate Analysis

In Table 4, the results of path analysis indicated that early marriage in Trowulan Subdistrict Mojokerto Regency was directly influenced by perceived behavioural control, perceived benefits, parental support and perceived value of children.



Picture 1. Path analysis-structural model

Table 4. Path analysis test results on the influence of personal factor, parental support, perceived value of children on early marriage in trowulan subdistrict mojokerto regency

	Path -	CI 9		
Dependent and Independent Variables	Coefficient	Lower	Upper	p
	Coefficient	Limit	Limit	
Direct Influence				
Early Marriage				
Strong Perceived Behavioural Control on				
Ideal Marriage	-1.27	-2.20	-0.33	0.008
Weak Perceived Benefits on Early Marriage				
Strong Parental Support on Ideal Marriage	-1.06	-1.97	-0.16	0.020
High Perceived Value of Children	-1.28	-2.16	-0.39	0.005
Indirect Influence	-2.94	-5.20	-0.68	0.011
Perceived Behavioural Control				
Levels of Education ≥ High School				
Perceptions of Benefit	0.92	0.17	1.68	0.016
Levels of Education < High School				
Premarital Sexual Behaviour	1.31	-0.53	2.17	0.001
Strong Perceived Behavioural Control on				
Ideal Marriage				
	1.35	0.52	2.17	0.001

Women of reproductive age with strong perceived behavioural control on ideal marriage had log odds of early marriage 1.27 points lower than those with weak perceived behavioural control (b=1.27; CI 95%=-2.20 to -0.33; p= 0.008). Women of reproductive age with weak per-

ceived benefits on early marriage had log odds of early marriage 1.06 points lower than those with strong perceived benefits on early marriage (b=-1.06; CI 95%=-1.97 to -0.16; p=0.020). Women of reproductive age with strong parental support on ideal marriage had log odds of early marriage

1.28 points lower than weak parental support on ideal marriage (b=-1.28; CI 95%=-2.16 to -0.39; p=0.005). Women of reproductive age with high perceived value of children had log odds of early marriage 2.94 points lower than those with low perceived value of children (b=-2.94; CI 95%=-5.20 to -0.68; p=0.011).

Perceived behavioural control on marriage at ideal age and perceived benefits on early marriage were influenced by the levels of education. Women of reproductive age with levels of education ≥ High School had log odds of strong perceived behavioural control 0.92 points higher than those with levels of education < High School (b=0.92-;CI 95%=0.17 to 1.68; p=0.016). Women of reproductive age with levels of education < High School had log odds of strong perceptions of benefit on early marriage 1.31 points higher than those with levels of education ≥ High School (b=1.31; CI 95%=-0.53 to 2.17; p=0.001).

Premarital sexual behaviour was influenced by perceived behavioural control. Women of reproductive age with strong perceived behavioural control on ideal marriage had log odds of positive premarital sexual behaviour 1.35 points higher than those with weak perceived behavioural control (b=1.35; CI 95%=0.52 to 2.17; p=0.001).

DISCUSSION

A. Variables that Influenced Early Marriage Directly

1. Influence of Perceived Behavioural Control on Early Marriage

The results of this study indicated that most of the women of reproductive age who were married early had weak perceived behavioural control. This was mostly caused by the lack of parental support for them to get married at ideal age. Early marriage happens mostly because of the parents' decisions to marry off their daughters early. Correspond to the theory of planned behaviour which states that the more support and oppotunities, the stronger one's perceived behavioural control is, and vice versa (Ajzen, 2005). Social environment still considers that dating is negative activity, and early marriage is commonly experienced by teenagers and is safe in terms of health, and also influences perceived behavioural control of women of reproductive age that are weak (Qibtiyah, 2014).

In this study, perceived behavioural control that was weak could be observed from the answers given by subjects of this study which declared that early marriage they experienced was based on their own willingness. Decision for early marriage was taken by the subjects of this study because they needed to help with family's economic condition. By getting married early, those women of reproductive age can release their parents' burdens of them especially in terms of economy (Sepriana, 2015). Women of reproductive age who get married early, mostly presume that loving each other is considered to be enough to get married without knowing the further implications (Agustian, 2013).

2. Influence of Perceived Benefits on Early Marriage

The results of this study probably indicated that women of reproductive age who got married early were mostly influenced by the factor of unaffordable education expenses, then quit school to get married to help lightening their parents' burdens. The parents who marry off their daughters or let their daughters to get married early often expect them to help and improve their families' economic conditions (UNICEF, 2006).

Economic and social factors also influence the perceived benefits on early marriage for women of reproductive age who get married early. Women of reproductive age who get married early have the perceptions that by being married they can help their families' economic conditions and avoid themselves to be labelled as old virgins or no men want them (Fitrianingsih, 2015).

In this study, most of the subjects who got married early had husbands whose economic conditions were not far off different from their own. Correspond to the study conducted by Parsons et al (2015), whose finding indicates that women who get married early, commonly married to men whose economic conditions are not far off their own, thus makes new states of poverty.

3. Influence of Parental Support on Early Marriage

One of the forms of parental support is giving information on the impacts of early marriage. The results of this study indicated that most of the parents of the women of reproductive age who got married early had not given any information about the ideal age to get married and the negative impacts on early marriage. Most of these parents had only given information on the rights to reproductions and premarital sexual behaviour. Some parents of the subjects of this study allowed their children to get married early probably because of their lack of knowledge on reproductive health care. Parents who do not know the negative effects on early marriage commonly will marry off their daughters easily or allow their daughters to get married as teenagers (Utami, 2013).

The results of this study also indicated that most of the parents would feel relieved when their daughters had already had men as their husbands who would take care of them, regardless of the impacts on their daughters' reproductive health. These parents assume that by marrying off their daughters soon, their daughters will avoid immortality or promiscuity, and early marriage has been a tradition from generation to generation (Rusmini, 2015).

4. Influence of Perceived Value of Children on Early Marriage

The results of this study indicated that women of reproductive age with low perceived value of children tended to get married early. Perceptions of the child include perceived value of children psychologically, socially and economically. Perceived value of children has a lot to do with the desired numbers of children and their social environment. Children are their means to elevate women's social status especially those who have gotten married. Correspond to the results of a study conducted by National Institution of Population and Family Planning in 2010, which state that the low perceived value of children influence the first married age on women of reproductive age.

The influence of education cannot be put aside on the low perceived value of children. Parents or mothers who have low levels of education commonly have perceived value of children as economic benefits instead of psychological and emotional benefits. Thus, most of the women of reproductive age who get married early tend not to postpone any pregnancies for the lack of understandings on the importance of psychological preparation in nurturing children. This result is in accordance to the study conducted in East Borneo which indicates that the higher the women's levels of education are, the more rational and better prepared they are psychologically (Hatta, 2012).

Psychological readiness are very influencial to women of reproductive age in nurturing their children. Women of reproductive age who get married early are psychologically immature, thus they are precarious in dealing with problems in marriage. Some of the impacts on psychological immaturity are divorce and domestic violence (Fadlyana & Larasaty, 2009), child abuse and neglect (UNICEF, 2012).

B. Variables that Influenced Early Marriage Indirectly

1. Influence of the Levels of Education on Perceived Behavioural Control

The results of this study indicated that the levels of education were very closely related to individual thinking patterns. Low levels of education will influence women of reproductive age in terms of knowledge and the impacts of early marriage. Women of reproductive age with low levels of education tend to conform to their parents' wills easily to marry them off.

Correspond to this is the result of a study conducted by Rosilayati et al (2013) in District of Garuntang Subdistrict of Bumi Kota Bandar Lampung, which indicates that early marriage happens as the consequence of the high perceptions of benefit on early marriage to compare them to the parents' perceptions of obstacles on early marriage.

2. Influence of the Levels of Education on Perceived Benefits

The subjects of this study had low interests in education which caused the strong perceived benefits on early marriage. This result is in accordance with a study conducted by the National Institution of Population and Family Planning in four provinces. The result indicates that they seem to assume that it is not important to finish high levels of education because what matters for them are working and earning some money. By getting married, the subjects of this study expected to receive income from their husbands and thus, were not dependent on their parents. However, almost all of the subjects in this study who were married early still lived with their parents or other family members. This is also in accordance with a result study conducted by Jain (2011) which indicates that early marriage are the prime obstacle to the success of education in India.

Social factor also can influence one's perceptions. A person with high level of education will understand behaviour, behavioural changes and psychosocial happen in a group easily. Social change that has happened will influence one's psychological behaviour and the change of one's social behaviour, in this matter is the behaviour of a married person in the ideal age (Turner et al, 2004).

C. Other Variables

Influence of Perceived Behavioural Control on Premarital Sexual Behaviour

The results of this study indicated that premarital sexual behaviour of women of reproductive age was not the cause to early marriage in Trowulan Subdistrict Mojokerto Regency. Parents will soon marry off their daughters when they have boyfriends or have already had men to marry them. Correspond to a study conducted in Kenya, its results indicate that in order to keep their daughters' viginities, they must get married soon (Birech, 2013).

Sexual behaviour is strongly influenced by intentions, and intentions for sexual behaviour are influenced by several factors. Some of those factors are pornographic exposures and the characteristics of the teenagers themselves. In United States of America, about half of the teenagers at the age of 17 have had premarital sexual intercourse. It is strongly influenced by the characteristics of those teenagers who are always curious and tend to try something new (Martinez, Copen & Abma, 2011). Another study conducted by Zhang & Jemmot (2015) indicates that behaviour, norms and beliefs to self-control for teenagers are

strongly influenced by pornographic exposures either intentionally or unintentionally, and the surroundings factor (parents and friends). Mass media exposures, printed (newspapers, magazines, pornographic books) and electronics (TV, VCD, Internet) have direct and indirect influences on teenagers to do premarital sexual intercourse (Bryant, 2009).

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