

## Overview of the Level of Knowledge and Attitudes about Abortion in Students of the S1 Nursing Study Program, Faculty of Medicine Mulawarman University

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### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Abortion is one of the problems that often occurs in adolescents and young adults, including university students, due to lack of knowledge about reproductive health and the influence of the social environment. Based on data from the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS), adolescents aged 8-24 years accounted for 27.94% of Indonesia's total population. The increase in premarital sexual intercourse by 9.3% has led to an increase in unwanted pregnancy cases and abortion practices, both medical and non-medical. **Purpose:** Students as an educated group are expected to have a good understanding of this issue. **Methods:** This study is quantitative with a descriptive research design. The sample of this study is 52 respondents of S1 Nursing Students, Faculty of Medicine, Mulawarman University (total sampling). The measuring tool used was a questionnaire with 15 closed-ended questions. Data analysis in univariate. **Results :** It shows that the majority of respondents are 18 years old as much as 31 or (59.6%), the gender characteristics of the majority of women are 41 or (78.8%), the characteristics of the majority of father's education, namely high school as many as 30 or (57.7%), and the majority of mother's education, namely high school, as many as 20 or (38.5%). In the results of this study, it was found that the level of knowledge about abortion in s1 nursing students of the Faculty of Medicine, Mulawarman University was highly knowledgeable, namely 40 respondents (78.9%) and attitudes about abortion in s1 nursing students of the Faculty of Medicine, Mulawarman University had a good attitude, namely 43 respondents (82.8%). **Conclusions:** The level of knowledge and attitude about abortion in s1 nursing students of the Faculty of Medicine, Mulawarman University have high knowledge and a good attitude

**Keywords** : Student, Abortion, Knowledge, Attitudes

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Every year, many teenagers experience unwanted pregnancies, and most of them choose to terminate their pregnancies, despite the fact that abortion is illegal. Lack of knowledge about the dangers of abortion makes teenagers choose to have an abortion without considering what will happen. Unintended pregnancy in some circles in adolescents is one of the problems that can arise due to changes in sexual attitudes and behavior in adolescents. These changes are caused by the increasing number of adolescents and sex drive that is not balanced by sufficient knowledge. Therefore, it is important to have sufficient knowledge about free sex that results in abortion later (Fidawaty, 2018).

One of the main problems experienced by adolescents is the problem of abortion. This is supported by SDKI data (2012) which states that nationally there is an increase in the number of adolescents who have premarital sexual intercourse, which is around 9.3% or around 3.7% (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2012). This will have an impact on increasing reproductive problems in adolescents, such as sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), unwanted pregnancies, and even abortion. Hasanah & Setiyabudi (2020), stated that the number of adolescent age groups amounted to 1.2 billion or 18% of the total population in the world. Meanwhile, the results of the population in 2020 through the Indonesian National Statistics Agency (BPS) obtained data that the largest population composition was in adolescence, 27.94% with an age range of 8-24 years (Sintawati, 2021).

The large number of adolescents is a potential for the progress of the Indonesian nation which will require efforts to build healthy, smart, and cheerful adolescents starting with recognizing physical and psychological changes so as not to fall into deviant sexual behavior with all the consequences that arise scientifically in the behavior of adolescents because they want to try new things due to the growth of reproductive organs (sexual organs) towards maturity (BPS, 2020).

Abortion is one of the most serious and unaddressed problems among teenagers and university students. It can be seen from the high number of abortions that are increasing from year to year. Adolescence globally takes place between the ages of 13 and 21. Growth and development in the physical and sexual can take place starting from the age of about 12 years.

Abortion will have a very serious impact on adolescents, causing pain and even death to the mother. It is known that the main causes of death in pregnancy and childbirth are severe bleeding and infection. Abortion is usually performed by pregnant women, both married and unmarried, for a variety of reasons. The most common reasons for abortion are non-medical and include not wanting to have a child for fear of interfering with career, school or other responsibilities, not having enough money to care for a child, and not wanting to give birth without a father.

Other reasons often given by teenagers are that they are too young (especially for teenagers who become pregnant out of wedlock), and that it could be a disgrace to the family. These reasons are also given by teenagers in Indonesia who try to convince themselves that killing the fetus in their womb is permissible and right without knowing the risks that will occur later. These reasons only show her indifference as a woman, who is concerned with her own interests without thinking about the life of the fetus in her womb.

The frequency of abortions is very difficult to calculate accurately, because artificial abortions very often go unreported, unless complications occur, requiring hospitalization. According to Bearak et al (2020) in a research report published in 2020, it was explained that from 2015 to 2019, the incidence of unwanted pregnancies reached 121 million per year. This figure indicates that 64 unwanted pregnancies occur in every 1,000 women aged 15-49 years. This can be compared to the abortion demand rate, that the abortion rate is generally the same. In the period 2015-2019, 61% of unintended pregnancies ended in abortion. With this data, it can be shown that there are 73.3 million abortions each year, which equates to 39 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-49 years. From this figure, it can also be calculated that three out of 10 pregnancies end in abortion.

Few studies have been able to report on the need for safe abortion or termination of pregnancy by induction in Indonesia, as the law still completely prohibits abortion-related activities, with only limited exceptions. Only two studies have attempted to estimate the abortion rate for 1,000 women per year in Indonesia. In 2000, based on research conducted in six regions of Indonesia, the estimated abortion rate was 37 abortions for every 1,000 women aged 15-20 years. At 49 years old, this rate is high compared to Asia regionally. At that time in regional Asia, the abortion rate was 29 abortions per 1,000 pregnancies. Women who had abortions were aged 20-29 years old (46%) and most were married (66%).

Based on the results of a preliminary study conducted by researchers on 40 students of class 2024 in the Nursing Study Program at the Faculty of Medicine, Mulawarman University, it was found that some of them were not able to participate in the study. Most had little knowledge about abortion and attitudes toward it.

Based on the explanation described above, it encourages researchers to find out how far the respondents understand abortion and the attitudes that must be done to avoid abortion.

## **2. METHOD**

The type of research used is quantitative with a descriptive research design. Descriptive research aims to describe systematically, factually, and accurately about the facts or characteristics of certain populations.

The instrument used in this study was a survey approach, where data were collected through distributing closed questionnaires to all students who were respondents. The sample size was 52 students selected using the total sampling technique, namely all populations that met the inclusion criteria were sampled.

### 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study on the Overview of Knowledge Levels and Attitudes About Abortion in Undergraduate Nursing Study Program Students, Faculty of Medicine, Mulawarman University. Data collection was conducted through a survey or questionnaire in paper form (hard copy) with total sampling technique regarding the Overview of Knowledge Levels and Attitudes About Abortion in Undergraduate Nursing Study Program Students, Faculty of Medicine, Mulawarman University with 52 respondents selected according to inclusion criteria. The results of data collection that have been obtained are then tabulated and analyzed. The results of the data in this study are presented in tabular form and then will be interpreted in narrative form.

Table 3.1 Knowledge level about abortion

No.	Knowledge Category	F (n=52)	Presentase (%)
1.	High 7 – 9 soal	41	78,9 %
2.	Medium 4 – 6 soal	11	21,1 %
3.	Low 1 – 3 soal	0	0
Total		52	100 %

Based on the results of the study, it was found that out of 52 respondents, the number of respondents in the high knowledge level category was the first largest, namely 41 respondents (78.9%), followed by the second largest, namely the moderate knowledge level with 11 respondents (21.1%) and the last was the low knowledge level category, namely 0 respondents.

Adolescent knowledge in the good category can be explained because of the good knowledge of adolescents about the dangers of abortion, where adolescents get enough information about abortion caused by not being ready to have children. Therefore, it is very important to hold socialization about the dangers of abortion in the form of counseling so that adolescents can know and avoid free sex. Information can also be obtained from various sources such as television and other sources of information (Pratiwi, F., & Nursyamsi, L. 2021).

Based on these results, it can be concluded that the majority of respondents have reached an adequate level of knowledge about abortion. This of course can be attributed to the characteristics that have been analyzed, also related to the theory that knowledge is the result of people's interest in something and the desire to make life better by improving the quality of life, it occurs as an effort to meet current and future human needs. This happens when a person has good knowledge and can apply it in his life. Most human knowledge comes from curiosity and the desire to learn and understand. Knowledge or understanding is an important part in shaping human behavior. This knowledge comes from factors such as education, media, environment, socio-culture, experience and age (Fitria & Suryani 2020).

The results of this study are in accordance with the opinion of Notoatmodjo (2014), that the level of knowing a person is defined as recalling a specification of all the material studied or stimuli that have been received. He further said that in general, everyone, before behaving and acting on an object, first knows what the object is to be addressed and acted upon. However, often someone responds and even directly acts on an object without first knowing about the object to be addressed and acted upon (Notoatmodjo, 2014).

Table 3.2 Attitudes about abortion

No	Attitude Category	F (n=52)	Presentase (%)
1.	Good 23 - 30	43	82,8 %
2.	Medium 15 - 22	8	15,3 %
3.	Less 7 - 14	1	1,9 %
	Total	52	100 %

Based on the results of the study obtained data that out of 52 respondents, the number of respondents in the category of good attitude towards abortion was the first largest, namely 43 respondents (82.8%), followed by the second largest, namely moderate attitude, namely as many as 8 respondents (15.3%), and the last is the category of little attitude, namely 1 respondent (1.9%).

The attitude of adolescents in the good category can be explained because the respondents are good at summarizing statements about abortion attitudes, where adolescents get enough information about abortion caused by not being ready to have children. Therefore, it is very important to hold socialization about the dangers of abortion in the form of counseling so that adolescents can know and avoid free sex. Information can also be obtained from various sources such as television and other sources of information (Pratiwi, F., & Nursyamsi, L. 2021).

Based on these results, it can be concluded that the majority of respondents have achieved a good attitude regarding abortion. This of course can be attributed to the characteristics that have been analyzed, also related to the theory that attitude is an action that must know first know what the meaning or benefits of these actions for himself and his family. After a person realizes a stimulus or object, the next process is to evaluate the stimulus or health object and respond to it (Notoatmodjo, 2014).

The results of this study, it can be measured that a person's good attitude towards abortion is very good showing a high value, it can be concluded that the respondent really understands the actions that must be taken when facing abortion, and in this attitude there are also respondents who have little attitude towards abortion, it can be concluded that the respondent does not understand the actions that must be taken when facing abortion.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Research on the level of knowledge and attitudes about abortion in undergraduate nursing students of the faculty of medicine has been conducted. Based on the results of research conducted by researchers, it was found that most respondents had high knowledge as many as 41 respondents (78.9%), respondents who had moderate knowledge as many as 11 respondents (21.1%), and obtained good attitudes as many as 43 respondents (82.8%), respondents who had moderate attitudes as many as 8 respondents (15.3%), and respondents who had a poor attitude as many as 1 respondent (1.9%).

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