

# Relationship Between Age of Exposure and Media to Pornographic Exposure to Adolescents in Gorontalo City, Indonesia

Nour Arriza Dwi Melani<sup>1</sup>, Irwanto<sup>2</sup>, Ira Nurmala<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Student Master of Public Health at Airlangga University Surabaya, Indonesia, <sup>2</sup>Department of Child Health, Faculty of Medicine, Airlangga University Surabaya, Indonesia, <sup>3</sup>Departement of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences, Faculty of Public Health, Airlangga University Surabaya, Indonesia

## Abstract

**Context:** Pornography is a variety of communication media that contain elements of obscenity that are perceived as violating the norms of decency in society. Adolescents in the area of DKI Jakarta and Pandeglang have been exposed to pornography by 96.7%. Globalization and the development of science and technology, especially in the field of information and communication, has become one of the parts in the creation, dissemination, abuse and development of pornographic media. This study aims to determine the relationship between age of exposure and media with exposure to pornography in adolescents in Gorontalo City, Indonesian. This study uses primary data obtained from the standard questionnaire, namely the early detection pornography exposure questionnaire (family health directorate, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia) which is filled by respondents aged 15-17 years. Analysis shows that exposure age (p value = 0,000) and media (p value = 0,000) are related to exposure to pornography. Age of exposure and media can explain 72.2% for exposure to pornography. need to involve gender, peers, relationship status, and family to see other factors related to exposure to pornography.

**Keyword:** *Pornography, adolescent, exposure, media*

## Introduction

Various statistical evidence shows the exposure and access of children, pre-teens and adolescents to pornography. Reported that 90% of children (from ages 8 to 16 years) claimed to have seen pornography on the Internet.<sup>(1)</sup> Internationally, between 75% and 90% of teenagers living in developed countries have seen pornography on the Internet before they were 18 years old.<sup>(2)</sup> According to a screening survey conducted by the Indonesian Demographic and Health Survey in 2017, it shows that adolescents aged 15-19 years, as many as 61.36% have held hands with girlfriends,

hugged with boyfriends as much as 16.07%, kissed as many as 29.61%, fingering/ feeling boyfriend as much as 8.77% and having premarital sexual relations as much as 2.34% and as many as 96.7% of adolescents in the area of DKI Jakarta and Pandeglang have been exposed to pornography and experience pornography addiction by 3.7%.<sup>(3)</sup>

Free association of adolescents in the Gorontalo city environment results in an increase in the number of child marriages and the number of people with HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). According to data on underage marriage events in the Gorontalo provincial ministry's regional office in 2018, Gorontalo city ranks third most underage marriages with 89 underage children from 356 cases.<sup>(4)</sup> The high level of marriage in young age is influenced by several factors, namely the failure of the quality of education owned by the community, religious factors and encouragement from parents, and economic factors. Even more worrying, the factor of

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### Corresponding Author:

**Irwanto**

Department of Child Health, Faculty of Medicine,  
Airlangga University Surabaya, Indonesia, 60131.  
e-mail: irwanto@fk.unair.ac.id;

early marriage is caused by pregnancy before marriage. Reported of 356 cases, 70% of cases were caused by prenatal pregnancy. Pornography is one of the causes of rape.

In Indonesia, there is a legal basis and action on pornography, namely Law Number 44 of 2008, which states that pornography is a picture, sketch, illustration, photo, writing, sound, sound, moving image, animation, cartoon, conversation, motion body, or other forms of message through various forms of communication media and / or performances in public, which contain sexual obscenity or exploitation that violates the norms of decency in society.<sup>(5)</sup>

The internet is a space with a wider range of information. Various information can be obtained easily via the internet. The topics of information presented are varied, so that one of the sources of information that is popular with the public is the internet. This is offset by increasing internet users too, so information providers are increasingly interested and incentive to disseminate their information via the internet. The positive impact obtained from internet use is very abundant, but the negative impact is also not less numerous and destructive in nature. One of the most troubling effects is pornography. This impact can slowly damage some aspects of the individual who consumes it.

The scope of the causes of exposure to pornography is still very broad. Based on the description of the background, this study aims to determine the relationship between age of exposure and media with exposure to pornography in adolescents in Gorontalo City, Indonesia.

### Method

This study used a pornography early detection questionnaire by the directorate of family health, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia. The sample used is adolescents aged 15-17 years in the city of Gorontalo. This type of research is observational analytic using cross sectional design. The research variables are exposure to pornography, age of exposure and. Data analysis was carried out using nonparametric statistical test namely chi square and multivariable logistic regression analysis using SPSS.

### Results

Gorontalo City is the capital of Gorontalo Province, Indonesia. Gorontalo City has an area of 66.25 km<sup>2</sup> (0.55% of the total area of Gorontalo Province). High school students in Gorontalo City number 6099 students. The sample used in the study amounted to 350 respondents from the total sample taken as many as 400 respondents, because 50 respondents did not meet the sample criteria in the study. This figure exceeds the minimum sample that must be used for 348 samples based on the calculation of the 1997 Lameshow formula.

Table 1 shows the respondents aged <12 years old have the highest presetase of exposure to pornography which is equal to 100%, respondents aged 12-15 years old have the highest presetase exposed to pornography that is equal to 99.5% and respondents aged 16-18 years old have the highest presetase exposed to pornography namely 93.3%. Overall the age of exposure is significantly related to pornography exposure based on the calculation of p value <0.05.

**Table 1: Age of Exposure to Exposure to Porno graphy to Adolescents in Gorontalo City**

Age of Exposure	Pornography exposure				Total		P Value
	Exposed		Not Exposed		n	%	
	n	%	n	%			
<12 years old	42	100	0	0	42	100	0.000
12-15 years old	205	99.5	1	0.5	206	100	
16-18 years old	83	93.3	6	6.7	89	100	
Never seen	0	0	13	100	13	100	

Table 2 shows the internet sites have the highest percentage of exposure to pornography which is equal to 98.6%, social media has the highest presetase exposed to pornography that is equal to 98.4%, print media has the highest presetase exposed to pornography which is

97.1% and electronic media has the highest presetase of exposure to pornography at 97%. Overall, the media used by teenagers to access pornography is significantly related to pornography exposure based on the calculation of p value <0.05.

**Table 2: Media used by Teenagers to Access Pornography on Exposure to Pornography to Adolescents in Gorontalo City**

Media	Pornography exposure				Total		P Value
	Exposed		Exposed				
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Never seen	0	0	14	100	14	100	0.000
Print media	33	97.1	1	2.9	34	100	
Internet site	142	98.6	2	1.4	144	100	
Social media	123	98.4	2	1.6	125	100	
Electronic media	32	97	1	3	33	100	

Table 3 shows the R2 value of 0.722, which means that the ability of the independent variable to influence is the percentage of age exposed and the media to explain the amount of variation in the dependent variable, namely exposure to pornography at 72.2%, while the remaining 27.8% is explained by other variables that are not included in the variables studied.

**Table 3: Coefficient of determination pornography exposure test results**

Model	R	R Square
1	0,256	0,722

**Discussion**

The younger the age of exposure, the more often the person will often do it later on. This is because each individual experiences a period of development from year to year.

The results of statistical tests show that the age of exposure is significantly associated with exposure to pornography. The age range that is most exposed to first time when 12-15 years old is when the respondent is in the initial phase of puberty. This is consistent with research conducted by Weber (2012) that exposure to pornography was first related to child development, because children do not have maturity and sexual experience in real life, so they are very vulnerable to the internalization of portrayals of human sexuality.<sup>(6)</sup> Other studies show that the age at which pornography is exposed is related to sexuality in adulthood.<sup>(7)</sup>

The study also found that respondents were first exposed to pornographic material in the form of videos through internet sites. Most of them see pornographic material at home inadvertently with their peers.

Mass media is a tool used to convey messages from

sources to recipients using communication tools. The development of information systems and technology has led to more and more alternative mass media owned by the community. Directly or indirectly, the media is one place for the dissemination of pornographic material.

The results of the statistical test of this study indicate a significant relationship between the media used by teenagers to access pornography and exposure to pornography. Most respondents stated that they access pornographic material through social media that they access from the bedroom. This research is in line with the research conducted by Heidari (2012) who argues that sexual content circulating in the mass media will cause sexual deviations in adolescents.<sup>(8)</sup> Mass media shows that highlight aspects of pornography are believed to be very closely related to the increasing number of cases of sexual violence that occur in adolescents.

Strong stimuli from the outside in the form of sex films, soap operas, reading books and magazines with sexy images, and direct observation of sexual acts not only lead to peak sexual desire but also result in faster sexual maturity in children.<sup>(9)</sup>

Addiction to pornography can not only cause chemical changes in the brain but can cause anatomical and pathological changes that cause hypofrontal syndrome. Excessive consumption of pornography will cause consequences on the social life of adolescents. Other negative consequences may be the same as sexual addiction, thus affecting his personal life.<sup>(10, 11, 12)</sup>

Pornography is a visual representation of sexuality that is inadequate, causing an individual to have the wrong concept of a person’s sexual relationship with a sexual object that will slowly cause a change in a person’s sexual attitude and behavior. Some cases show, if someone sees pornography continuously, it will

cause mental problems / disorders especially in terms of sexuality.<sup>(13)</sup>

### Conclusion

The age of exposure and the media is significantly associated with exposure to pornography. The percentage of age exposed and the media is able to explain 72.2 percent for exposure to pornography as 27.8 percent of which are caused by other factors.

**Suggestion:** The cause of exposure to pornography needs to involve gender, peers, courtship status, and families to see other factors related to exposure to pornography..

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