

The Correlation Between Youth's Knowledge With Youth's Perceptions of PWHA (People With HIV/AIDS)

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ABSTRACT

Students' knowledge of PWHA (People With HIV/AIDS) affects their perception of PWHA in the form of positive and negative responses. This study aims to determine the relationship between knowledge and perceptions of University of Riau students towards PWHA (People With HIV/AIDS). This study used a descriptive correlation design with a cross-sectional approach. These research subjects are 391 people who were taken based on inclusion criteria using a stratified random sampling technique—data analysis using bivariate analysis using the chi-square test. Statistical tests showed that there was a significant relationship between knowledge and perception of PWHA with a p -value (0.000) < alpha (0.05). University of Riau students' knowledge of PWHA has a significant relationship with University of Riau students' perceptions of PWHA. We firmly suggest that foundations or peer support group organizations carry out educational activities for adolescents about sexually transmitted diseases, especially HIV/AIDS.

Keywords: HIV/AIDS; knowledge; perception; PWHA; teenager

ABSTRAK

Pengetahuan mahasiswa terhadap ODHA (Orang Dengan HIV/AIDS) mempengaruhi persepsinya dalam memandang ODHA yang selanjutnya diinterpretasikan dalam bentuk respon positif dan negatif. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui hubungan antara pengetahuan dengan persepsi mahasiswa Universitas Riau terhadap ODHA (Orang Dengan HIV/AIDS). Penelitian ini menggunakan desain deskriptif korelasi dengan pendekatan *cross sectional*. Sampel penelitian berjumlah 391 orang yang diambil berdasarkan kriteria inklusi menggunakan teknik *stratified random sampling*. Analisis yang digunakan adalah analisis bivariat menggunakan uji *chi-square*. Hasil uji statistik menunjukkan ada hubungan yang bermakna antara pengetahuan dengan persepsi terhadap ODHA dengan p value ($0,000$) < alpha ($0,05$). Pengetahuan tentang ODHA mempunyai hubungan yang bermakna dengan persepsi terhadap ODHA. Disarankan kepada yayasan ataupun organisasi kelompok dukungan sebaya untuk dapat melaksanakan kegiatan edukasi kepada remaja tentang penyakit menular seksual khususnya HIV/AIDS.

Kata kunci: HIV/AIDS; pengetahuan; persepsi; ODHA; remaja

INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is the age of transition from children to adults (Irianto, 2015). The World Health Organization (WHO) in 2015 stated that adolescents are children aged 12 - 24 years, while Santi and Pribadi (2018) defined adolescents in Indonesia as humans of age 11 to 24 years old and unmarried. The Central Statistics Agency in 2020 stated that the total population of teenagers in Indonesia was 67 million people, comprising 32.8 million girls and 34.2 million boys. About 25% of Indonesia's 268 million are teenagers. Pekanbaru City's teenagers are around 322,623 people, comprising 163,405 boys and 159,218 girls (Badan Pusat Statistik Kota Pekanbaru, 2020). Adolescents experience changes that occur in a relatively short time, causing various problems, including risky sexual behaviour has an impact on increasing the rate of transmission of diseases through sex such as HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) and AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) (Mustari and Indriyana, 2018).

HIV is a virus that attacks white blood cells, thereby compromising the human immune system can progress to AIDS with various disease symptoms. Based on UNAIDS, it is estimated that 38 million people were HIV positive in 2019, with the largest population

being the African population of 25.7 million people. Meanwhile, around 3.8 million people are living with HIV. The cumulative number of HIV in Indonesia in September 2020 was found to be 409,857 people. AIDS was reported as many as 127,873 people (Pusat Data dan Informasi Kementerian Kesehatan RI, 2020). In Riau Province, the number of HIV cases in 2020 was 6,833 people. Meanwhile, AIDS was 3,247 people, as many as 4,071 residents of Pekanbaru (Dinas Kesehatan Provinsi Riau, 2020).

Based on the report Director-General of Disease Prevention and Control 3,220 HIV/AIDS positive students (Hidayat, 2014). Data for PWHA (People with HIV AIDS) supported by the Sebaya Lancang Kuning Foundation in Pekanbaru City in 2020 stated that the number of positive teenagers was 155 people. The University of Riau has the highest number of students in Pekanbaru City, with 35,384 students enrolled. Among these 35,384 students, 6,879 of them are first-year students. Hence, the University of Riau has the highest number of teenagers in Pekanbaru City (Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan, 2020).

The HIV/AIDS prevention program in Indonesia has sought the form of

comprehensive and sustainable HIV-PIMS services that refers to the global Getting To Zeros policy, one of which is to eliminate discrimination against PWHA (Pusat Data dan Informasi Kementerian Kesehatan RI, 2017). PWHA are reluctant to do HIV testing, seek HIV care, and use HIV health services due to stigma (Bajunirwe *et al.*, 2018). The existence of the stigma is motivated by many things, including knowledge about HIV. The results of 2012 KRR IDHS show that the level of knowledge of adolescents about sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) is in the low category with a percentage of about 9.9% women and 10.6% men having comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS (Pusat Data dan Informasi Kementerian Kesehatan RI, 2017).

Sohn and Park (2012) in Korea stated that the common knowledge of adolescents about HIV/AIDS affects the high level of discrimination against PWHA. A Study by Paryati *et al.* (2012) also stated that the factors that influence discrimination against PWHA are knowledge and perceptions about HIV/AIDS. Perception is the view that a person has. Two factors that shape perceptions in students are the perception of vulnerability and the perception of acceptance (Dewi and Kardiwinata, 2021).

Students' perception of PWHA is an illustration of the extent of knowledge and information obtained by students about HIV/AIDS (Salsabila and Khoiriyah, 2019). There are many negative perceptions currently circulating about PWHA. Many think that diseases can be transmitted through shaking hands and wearing the same clothes, which result in discrimination for various reasons without explicit knowledge. Ibrahim and Awalya (2019) stated that if knowledge about HIV/AIDS is low, the higher the negative perception appears. Hence knowledge will significantly affect the mindset in looking at things.

This study aims to determine the relationship between students' knowledge and perceptions at the University of Riau on PWHA. This research helps develop nursing science and educational institutions by adding information related to HIV/AIDS in adolescents, maximizing activities that can increase adolescent knowledge about HIV/AIDS; hence the stigma and discrimination against PWHA can be reduced.

METHOD

This research is a quantitative study with a descriptive correlation research design. The

approach used for this research is cross-sectional. This study analyzed the relationship between knowledge and perceptions of University of Riau students towards PWHAs (People with HIV/AIDS). The research population of this study was active University of Riau students in 2020/2021, consisting of a class of 2018, 2019, and 2020 with 16,921 students in total. The research sample was 391 students chosen with the Proportionate Stratified Random Sampling technique, a sampling technique if the population is heterogeneous and has proportional strata (Sugiyono, 2019). This research was conducted from June 26th to July 6th, 2021.

Before the research was conducted, the researcher had submitted an ethical clearance at the Faculty of Nursing, The University of Riau 184/UN.19.5.1.8/KEPK.FKp/2021. This study used a questionnaire sheet to collect data by distributing closed statements to

respondents to acquire the answers. The questionnaire was divided into three parts. Those are demographic, knowledge, and perception questionnaire, which was distributed to the respondent using google forms. The questionnaire was tested for validity and reliability from June 14th to June 25th, 2021, to 20 students from The University of Riau. This study used both univariate analysis and bivariate analysis. Univariate analysis was used to describe the characteristics of respondents, including age, gender, religion, class, faculty, study program, knowledge of University of Riau students about PWHAs and University of Riau students' perceptions of PWHAs. In contrast, bivariate analysis is used to see the correlation between independent variables (knowledge) and dependent variables (perception). The statistical test used in this study is the Chi-Square test, which was used to understand the relationship between two variables whose data is categorical with a significance level of $\alpha = 0.05$.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the research, the following results were obtained:

Table 1. Distribution of respondent characteristics

Respondent characteristics	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age		
18-20 years old	280	71,6
21-24 years old	111	28,5
Gender		
Male	128	32,7
Female	263	67,3
Religion		
Islam	347	88,7
Christian	35	9
Buddha	2	0,5
Catholic	6	1,5
Confucian	1	0,3
Generation		
2018	116	29,7
2019	134	34,3
2020	141	36,1
Faculty		
Faculty of Nursing	15	3,8
Faculty of Law	17	4,3
Faculty of Medicine	11	2,8
Faculty of Engineering	45	11,5
Faculty of Agriculture	32	8,2
Faculty of Education and Teacher Training	86	22
Faculty of Fishery and Marine	32	8,2
Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences	32	8,2
Faculty of Economy and Business	46	11,8
Faculty of Social and Political Sciences	75	19,2
Total	391	100

Table 1 shows that most of the respondents (126 people) are 20 years old (32.2%). The majority of respondents were female consisted of 263 people (67.3%). Most of the respondents' religion is Islam consisting of 347 people (88.7%). The class of 2020 is the largest batch of this research sample consisting of 141 people (36%). The Faculty of Teacher Training and Science

has the most significant number of respondents, consisting of 86 people (22%). In contrast, most of the respondents' study programs consisted of 20 people (5,1%).

The study results found that most respondents were aged 20 years, consisting of 126 people (32.2%). The age range of respondents is 18-24 years, where this age

range is categorized as late adolescence (World Health Organization, 2015). Age influences acceptance, knowledge, attitudes, and actions that can change an individual's behaviour for the better. Their age influences a person's grasping power. The older someone gets, the individual's mindset in looking at things is improved (Sofni, Dewi and Novayelinda, 2015).

Women were the most common gender in this study because the student of The University of Riau had 21,483 female students and 14,302 male students. This study has agreed with Nadek, Agrina and Misrawati's (2014) research regarding the gender characteristics of the respondents. The majority are women. The samples were taken randomly, resulting in an imbalance in the proportion of sex between women and men.

Irnawati (2011) states in her theory of 9 health tips that health culture is much more accessible to women. Those are what cause most women to have superior health knowledge than men. Gender also influences a person's perception of the

affective and emotional components. Men tend to control their emotions easier compared to women. Thus women are more sensitive and easily empathize with others (Dewi and Kardiwinata, 2021).

The majority of respondents in this study were Muslim. Based on the results of The Indonesian Population Census in 2018, 86.7% of the total 267,670,543 Indonesians are Muslim (Indonesia is the country with the largest Muslim population in the world). Religion plays a role in forming the concept of health, illness, and discrimination against PWHAs (Varas-Díaz *et al.*, 2012). Ahwan (2012) states that one of the causes of discrimination against PWHAs is a religion that significantly influences personal views and behaviour. Religion is used as a guide to provide attitudes and actions to individuals. This statement is supported by Sofni, Dewi and Novayelinda's (2015) findings, who claim that religion impacts people's lives because religion teaches individuals how to behave and act. Religion has its own set of rules to follow.

Table 2. Frequency distribution of respondents based on knowledge.

Knowledge	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Good	91	23,3
Sufficient	195	49,9
Deficient	105	26,9
Total	391	100

Table 2 illustrates that most respondents have sufficient knowledge about PWHA, with 195 people (49.9%). The category of good knowledge was 91 people (23.3%), and the category of lack of knowledge was 105 people (26.9%). We assumed that students' knowledge was sufficient because there were no counselling and education carried out by the campus or university hospital. Also, no particular organization or agency is tasked with promoting health regarding HIV/AIDS and PWHA at the University of Riau. Many students still think that discussing HIV/AIDS and PWHA is taboo.

This research follows Parut's (2016) research, which describes the percentage of adolescent knowledge about HIV/AIDS and PWHA, primarily included in the excellent category consisting of 38 people (51%). Furthermore, Parut (2016) stated that the respondents had never previously received knowledge about HIV/AIDS. Ibrahim and Awalya (2019) found the same thing that the majority of research respondents (240 people) had sufficient

knowledge (93.8%). Furthermore, they stated that the lack of knowledge among adolescents was caused by the lack of information obtained about HIV/AIDS and PWHA. Basic knowledge about HIV/AIDS and PWHA needs to be clarified so that each individual has a clear understanding and perspective in perceiving PWHA around them.

Nopitasari, Wahid and Baharudin (2020) also found that the knowledge of students belonging to the category of sufficient dominated the other knowledge categories consisting of 63 people (64%). The cause is the activeness of students who still lack information or socialization and counselling efforts carried out by the University and the faculty of health sciences. Knowledge is a result of understanding from an object that passes through the sensory process of the eyes and hearing. The most binding domain for fostering open behaviour is knowledge. The majority of knowledge-based behaviour is permanent (Donsu, 2019). Budiman (2013) discovered that a person's level of education

impacts their knowledge. The higher an individual's educational attainment, the easier it will be for the individual to obtain information. Knowledge about PWHA can be obtained from formal and non-formal education. As a form of knowledge, information serves as the cognitive foundation.

The results of this study are quite interesting because there is not too large a percentage of students who understand

what HIV/AIDS and PWHA are. The solution to this problem can be done by maximizing organizations or agencies that can provide education and counselling to students about HIV/AIDS and PWHA. The provision of counselling and education to students is carried out in advising. Students want to seek information about HIV/AIDS through various media and form perceptions by assisting student activities in organizations and unique bodies (Salsabila and Khoiriyah, 2019).

Table 3. Frequency distribution of respondents based on perception

Perception	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Positive	259	66,2
Negative	132	33,8
Total	391	100

Table 3 shows that most respondents positively perceive PWHA, with 259 people (66.2%). The researcher assumes that the positive perception obtained in this study is because most of the respondents' knowledge is included in the reasonably good category regarding HIV/AIDS. Two things influence a person's perception of an object. First is the object's appearance, the second is understanding the object. Sense recording, recognizing patterns, and paying attention are three aspects of perception closely related to human cognition (Rismalinda, 2017). Translating

information collected through the human sensory system is known as perception. When people see, read, or hear a given object, they interpret it based on their knowledge and what it means to them (Donsu, 2019). Ibrahim and Awalya (2019) stated that teenagers had a fairly good perception of PWHA. Many factors influence individual perceptions, such as sensory organs and attention to something, resulting in a unique technique of collecting perception for each person. Individuals who grow up in a PWHA-aware setting will have different understandings and attitudes

than those who have never encountered PWHA.

This study contradicts the research of Dewi and Kardiwinata (2021), which states that most adolescents have negative perceptions about PWHA. They stated that perception

is influenced by the intensity of interaction with PWHA, study programs and student faculties, semesters, and participation in organizations regarding PWHA, which can increase the opportunity to interact with PWHA to interact with HIV/AIDS and PWHA closely.

Table 4. Relationship between knowledge and perceptions of University of Riau students towards PWHA

Knowledge	Perception				Total		P-value
	Positive		Negative		N	%	
	n	%	n	%			
Good	83	91,2	8	8,8	91	100	0,000
Sufficient	129	66,2	66	33,8	195	100	
Deficient	47	44,8	58	55,2	105	100	
Total	259	66,2	132	33,8	391	100	

Table 4 shows the results of the relationship analysis between knowledge and student perceptions of PWHA at the University of Riau. The result showed respondents who were categorized in good knowledge with positive perceptions were 83 people (91.2%), and respondents who were categorized as good knowledge with negative perceptions were eight people (8.8%). Respondents categorized insufficient knowledge with positive perceptions were 129 people (66.2%), and respondents categorized insufficient knowledge with negative perceptions were 66 people (33.8%). Meanwhile, respondents who are categorized as having poor knowledge with positive perceptions are 47 people (44.8%), and respondents

who are categorized as having poor knowledge with negative perceptions are 58 people (55.2%). The results Chi-Square test obtained p-value $0.000 < \alpha (0.05)$, which means it was significant and H_a is accepted while H_o is rejected. It can be concluded that there is a relationship between knowledge and perceptions of University of Riau students towards PWHA.

According to Ibrahim and Awalya's (2019) research, a person's view of PWHA is influenced by their understanding of the disease; if a person's knowledge of PWHA is limited, the negative perception would be more substantial. Furthermore, they claim that a person's level of knowledge has a

significant impact on how they approach a problem. Salsabila and Khoiriyah (2019) discovered the same thing, namely that the description of HIV/AIDS-related knowledge or information gained by students influences how students perceive PWHA. A person's level of knowledge influences positive perception and stigma reduction. According to research by Shaluhayah, Musthofa and Widjanarko (2015), people who are well-informed about the definition, risk factors, routes of transmission, treatment, and prevention of HIV/AIDS have a favourable opinion of PWHA.

In this study, it was also found that respondents with good knowledge category still had a negative perception of PWHA consisting of 8 people (8.8%), and vice versa, respondents with poor knowledge category also had a small positive perception of PWHA consisting of 47 people (44, 8%). It is not only knowledge related to HIV/AIDS and PWHA that plays a role in forming a person's stigma and perception, but there are many other factors such as behaviour and customs (Badawi, 2015). The presence of norms and the surrounding environment impacts a person's perception of PWHA. Knowledge of PWHA has results that contribute significantly to students' perceptions of

PWHA. Knowledge of students who are classified as good is still relatively small. There are various reasons, one of which is the reluctance of students to discuss everything related to HIV/AIDS because it is considered sensitive and taboo to talk. Knowledge about PWHA is essential to students since knowledge is the basis for forming a perception.

An interesting result was found in this study. The indicator of HIV/AIDS transmission was low because many students thought that the transmission of HIV/AIDS was effortless, such as through eating on the same plate and living closely with PWHA. Sulkarnaen and Ronoatmodjo (2017) mentioned that the level of education and media exposure plays a role in a person's knowledge and attitudes. Health education and increased exposure to the media are needed to reduce the attitude of rejection towards PWHA. Bhagavathula *et al.* (2015) said that respondents with insufficient knowledge would have negative attitudes, perceptions, and views that result in discrimination and stigma against PWHA. Wachdin, Murti and Demartoto (2016) also mention that the leading cause of discrimination and stigma against PWHA is the lack of knowledge about HIV/AIDS and vice versa. Misconceptions about PWHA often occur

due to lack of knowledge, causing fear that can lead to rejection of PWHA (Winarni and Aulia, 2018). The statement above shows that a person's knowledge greatly influences his perception of looking at something. In this study, the researcher did not find any significant limitations but found a few obstacles, such as a long time to fill out the questionnaire because it coincided with the final semester exam and community service program schedule.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that there is a relationship between knowledge and perceptions of University of Riau students towards PWHA. If students' knowledge about PWHA is in a suitable category, the student's perception of PWHA is also positive. This study also found something quite interesting. The indicator of HIV/AIDS transmission is relatively low because many students still think that the transmission of HIV/AIDS is effortless, such as through eating on the same plate and living at home with PWHA. Steps that can be taken to increase student knowledge, especially the adolescent age group, are through providing education and counselling about PWHA by particular organizations or foundations to overcome the emergence of wrong perceptions about

PWHA. Thus PWHA discrimination by students could be avoided.

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