

Sexuality in the Frame of Christian Ethics: Student Perspectives and Its Implementation

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ABSTRACT

Sex is something special and most important in human life. God wants people to enjoy sexual activity but only in the marriage environment, God forbids sex before marriage to protect people from unwanted pregnancies, save lives, protect babies, and most importantly honor God. However, in reality it is difficult to control yourself in avoiding the temptation to have sex outside of marriage. This research was conducted with the aim of shaping students to be role models for the community and the surrounding environment in empowering Christian education, as well as making premarital sexuality an education and vision with persuasive power for young people's intelligence. This research was conducted using a quantitative approach supported by data analysis and theories related to this research. This research technique was carried out by the questionnaire method (statements to respondents). This study proves that the effect of Christian Ethics education on sex is 42.9%. Thus, we suggest that we better understand or explore the risks of premarital sex and how good relationships should be in accordance with God's teachings.

Keywords: sexuality; Christian ethics; student perspectives; implementation

1. INTRODUCTION

Young people are people who are often regarded as the next generation of the nation, as well as the next generation of the church. But over time, the next generation in the era of globalization at this time was trapped in a life of promiscuity.¹ They often make wrong decisions, get drunk, have promiscuous sex, drugs, brawls, and so on. Emotionally and physically, adolescent children are generally more vulnerable to high risk. Health

¹ Z. R. Zurrahmi, P. E. Sudiarti, and R. R. Lestari, "Hubungan Pengetahuan Dan Sikap Mahasiswa Baru Prodi S1 Kesehatan Masyarakat Terhadap Pencegahan Seks Pranikah Di Universitas Pahlawan Tuanku Tambusai," *Jurnal Ners* 6, no. 1 (2022): 134–138.

damage including heart, character, and early sexual involvement will be increasingly impactful over the long term and make them more likely to become addicted to their unhealthy habits.²

Education is a process carried out to educate, foster, control, supervise, influence, and transmit knowledge to students through educators. Christian ethics is one part of education. Christian ethics is concerned with an effective way of life, both in a person and in a community or a group. This is closely related to the norms that apply to everyone. Christian ethics describes a teaching, rule or command of God written in the Bible so that every believer applies it in their daily lives.³ Christian character is essentially god-willed behavior and is based on biblical truth, and Christ is an example. This character is a must-have and should be a characteristic of Christians in performing actions without losing the personality that God has created in each individual.⁴

With regard to premarital sexuality, Christian ethics greatly influences character and behavior. Where, we know that sexual is how humans get erotic experiences and express themselves as sexual beings based on the individual's own experiential abilities.⁵

Free sex has become familiar and has become a new habit for young people. In addition, the influence of technological developments including social media also greatly affects the character and behavior of young people.

In fact, they should have realized that sexuality is part of the creation that God has given man to develop or pass on his offspring. God designed sex for this. He wants men and women to enjoy sex, but it only applies to couples who have been blessed by the Lord

² N. A. Khafsoh, "Pemahaman Mahasiswa Terhadap Bentuk, Proses, Dan Pandangan Penanganan Kekerasan Seksual Di Kampus," *Marwah: Jurnal Perempuan, Agama Dan Jender* 20, no. 1 (2021): 61–75.

³ R. Nurdianti, L. Marlina, and S. Sumarni, "Hubungan Pengetahuan Dengan Perilaku Seksual Pada Remaja Di Smk Mjps 1 Kota Tasikmalaya," *Healthcare Nursing Journal* 3, no. 1 (2021): 90–96.

⁴ Sandy Ariawan, *Etika Guru Pendidikan Agama Kristen* (Jawa Tengah: CV. Pena Persada, 2020).

⁵ N. R. J. Sianturi and H. Sidabutar, "Perilaku Seksual Pranikah Di Kalangan Mahasiswa Program Studi Pendidikan Agama Kristen," *Ilmiah Religiosity Entity Humanity* 1, no. 1 (2019): 72–86.

through marriage. Nevertheless, the main purpose of the sexual act is not for physical pleasure, but rather on the basis of the purpose of reproduction or passing on off spring.

God forbids people to have sexual relations before marriage. Similar to fornication, God views the act as fornication, adultery, because the sexual intercourse performed before marriage is based on lust and lust of the flesh alone. God declares this in the Bible, namely Acts 15:20, 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6; 13; 18; 7:2; 10:8, 2 Corinthians 12:21, Galatians 5:19, Ephesians 5:3, Colose 3:5, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, and Jude 7. Therefore, ethics is indispensable in all situations and places because from this students can be viewed as educated individuals.⁶

Based on this description, premarital sexuality is very important to be used as an education in sexual education according to their respective paths. Higher education does not guarantee a high level of morality of a person. Thus, how important it is for students to be able to improve an open mindset in educating premarital sexuality to the surrounding environment. So the author's objectives in this article are as follows: (1) improving the mindset of students towards sexuality education, (2) increasing knowledge related to reproductive health, especially adolescent sexual behavior, (3) inviting and realizing the younger generation who participate in the participation of the shift in morals, (4) being an example for the community in the empowerment of Christian education, (5) making premarital sexuality an education and vision with strength persuasive for the intelligence of the nation's next generation.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

⁶ A. Aggasi, "Perilaku Seksual Pranikah Mahasiswa Pada Salah Satu Universitas Di Kabupaten Sumbawa," *Jurnal Tambora* 4, no. 2 (2020): 28–36.

In this study, the approach taken was through a quantitative approach. Research that uses the data collected in the form of numbers in the form of questionnaires as a data collection technique that is conducted. The results of measuring research variables are operated using instruments and are linear. The characteristics of quantitative research consist of: 1) classifiable, concrete, observable, and measurable, 2) independent, 3) there is causation, 4) tends to form generalizations and value-free.

Based on the characteristics of quantitative research above, this research was conducted using a comparative causal method. This method is used to find out the differences in the variables studied, with the aim that the data produced are really accurate and know the possible cause-and-effect relationship to this study.

This research is a campus action research conducted in a planned manner to observe the consequences of implementing these actions on the research subjects. The research was carried out in universities with approximately 50 research subjects. The object of this study is the dexterity of understanding premarital sexuality, characteristics, and student responses. The procedure for conducting this research is carried out through planning, conducting questionnaires, evaluations, and speculations.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the study contain answers to research problems that are described in a concise, clear, precise, and complete manner in the form of narratives, images, graphs, or tables, in actual. For research with quantitative methods, the data displayed are the results of analysis. The description of the results of the study does not use citations, either library citations or interview conversations.

The following is the result of data processing of Christian Ethics' understanding of premarital sexuality:

Based on the research data in the table above, it can be concluded that the influence of Christian ethics on premarital sexuality is 42.9% while 57.1% is influenced by other factors such as the environment, family, association and development of science and technology. It turns out that students' understanding of premarital sexuality is predominantly influenced by the environment, family, association, and the development of science and technology.

The word Ethics comes from the Greek discussion *Ethos* and *ta ethika*. *Ethos* which means habit, existence, habitat, and disposition. The word *ta ethika* means decency, inner feelings, or inclination of the heart with which a person performs a deed. Briefly, it can be concluded that ethics is humane behavior that has moral standards, and provides advice on how to act and be moral in certain situations.⁷

Christian ethics encompasses the entirety of human life and is not only limited to ecclesiastical things, but includes worldly things as well. Christian ethics is not limited to personal life but concerns other areas such as economics, culture, politics and government. In living their daily lives, Christian ethics is needed to support a healthy, good, and full of love.⁸

Based on the description of the results of the study above, it can be seen that from 15 statements answered by 50 respondents, data was obtained that the understanding of Christian ethics towards the understanding of premarital sexuality is still said to be lacking. This happens because of the lack of attention to the existing problems of premarital sexuality.

⁷ K. Debora and C. Han, "Pentingnya Peranan Guru Kristen Dalam Membentuk Karakter Siswa Dalam Pendidikan Kristen: Sebuah Kajian Etika Kristen [The Significance of the Role of Christian Teachers in Building Students' Character in Christian Education: A Study of Christian Ethics]," *Diligentia: Journal of Theology and Christian Education* 2, no. 1 (2020): 1–14.

⁸ Astry Conny Simorangkir, Betty A S Pakpahan, and Sandy Ariawan, "The Role of Leadership In Improving Employee Discipline" 5, no. 1 (2021): 125–132, <http://e-journal.iakntarutung.ac.id/index.php/humaniora>.

Factors That Influence Premarital Sexuality

Premarital Sexuality is an act performed by a pair of individuals driven by sexual desire without having marital ties. Premarital sex behavior is never separated from life, especially in the student environment. Premarital sex behavior is often the reason why students don't finish their studies or stop halfway.

In addition, premarital sex behavior is also often used as a medium to earn money for those who have a high standard of living but with a low parental economy.⁹

Milieu

Environmental influence is a factor that plays an important role in the formation of an individual's behavior patterns. For example, if a person lives in a good, safe environment then he will have a good dominant attitude according to his environment and vice versa if he lives in an unhealthy environment such as many drunks, thieves and others then he will have a bad temperament.

Family

The failure of the family's function in establishing its role as the starting place for children's lives is a factor in the occurrence of premarital sex behavior among young people today. This happens because the family is the first and foremost environment that a child has. The relationship built by parents and children good and bad will affect the circumstances and attitudes possessed by the child.

Associations

⁹ M. Qudsiya, "Analisis Pengaruh Kontrol Diri Terhadap Kecenderungan Perilaku Seksual Pranikah Ditinjau Dari Mahasiswa," *PSIKOVIDYA* 24, no. 1 (2020): 8–15.

Association is often a contributing factor to the occurrence of premarital sex in a student's life. Not much different from the environment, an individual's association can also encourage him to do negative things that can ruin his own life.

Development of Science and Technology

Advances in technology and science are of great benefit to those who make effective use of them. However, sometimes the use of science and technology in everyday life can also contain negative things such as opening pornographic sites, storybooks or adult novels online and so on.

Forms of Premarital Sexual Behavior

Forms of sexual behavior are divided into two categories, namely sexual behavior carried out by oneself and sexual behavior carried out together with others. Based on the above categories, then the forms of sexual behavior can be explained as follows.

Sexual behavior by oneself

Sexual behaviors carried out by oneself include: masturbation, sexual fantasies by imagining an object that is voluptuous or tempting, reading books, viewing pornographic images, and watching porn videos.

Sexual behavior carried out in conjunction with other people

Sexual behaviors carried out together with others include: holding hands to stimulate each other's partners, hugging, kissing, necking, petting, and having sex.

How to Overcome Adolescent Sexual Behavior

Christian youth should have a sense of responsibility for every deed and make Christ a suri tauladan who has full authority in every believer's life. If in his youth a person is formed and directed to be a young man who does not waver easily and has

Christian values, then in his old age he will have a good and intense relationship that forms an integrity so that their attitude and morals can be consistent. Some experts argue that this perversion of adolescent sexual behavior can be overcome in diverse ways. The following are some ways that can be done in overcoming adolescent sexual behavior are as follows.¹⁰

- 1) Eroding poverty because poverty makes many parents make their children prostitutes.
- 2) Providing information about reproductive health due to the unavailability of accurate and correct information about reproductive health that forces adolescents to exploit themselves, both through information media and from peers.
- 3) Increase access to health services accompanied by counseling facilities.
- 4) Increase youth participation by developing peer education.
- 5) Review any regulations that open the possibility of a reduction in child marriages.
- 6) Maximizing information about mass media sex freedom and entertainment is instrumental in this information. Creating a strong, conducive, and informative environment so that adolescents are no longer reluctant to ask about their reproductive health with their own parents.

4. CONCLUSION

Sexuality is a good thing if it is in accordance with the provisions and rules made. God bestows this upon man so that man may have offspring and fill the contents of the earth. However, sometimes sexuality is misused by people, including among students.

¹⁰ Z. Nazara, "Peranan Etika Kristen Dalam Membangun Pranikah Yang Kudus Bagi Remaja Kristen," *Ra'ah: Journal of Pastoral Counseling* 1, no. 1 (2021): 29–34.

The understanding of Christian ethics towards premarital sexuality in a student environment has not been well realized so that there are still many students who do not understand what are the causes and effects of premarital sexuality. In addition, there are several factors that cause the occurrence of premarital sexuality in student life, including: environment, family, association and science and technology.

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