

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENT-CHILD SEXUALITY COMMUNICATION WITH AUTISTIC ADOLESCENTS' SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IN SURAKARTA

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Abstract

This study aims to: a) assess teachers' understanding of assistive technology, and b) explore the benefits of assistive technology in the education of children with special needs in inclusive schools. The research was conducted in an inclusive elementary school located in Boyolali, involving both teachers and children with special needs in inclusive education. Data collection methods included closed and open-ended questionnaires and interviews with teachers in inclusive schools. Data analysis employed both quantitative and qualitative descriptive techniques. The research findings indicate that a) 33% of teachers do not yet comprehend the use of assistive technology in education, and b) 48% of teachers require assistance in utilizing assistive technology for the education of children with special needs in inclusive schools. It is expected that the results of this research will serve as a reference for all stakeholders to pay more attention to the importance of utilizing assistive technology in the education of children with special needs in inclusive schools.

Keywords: assistive technology, children with special needs, inclusive education

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui hubungan antara komunikasi seksualitas orang tua-anak dengan perilaku seksual remaja autis di Surakarta. Penelitian ini termasuk dalam jenis penelitian kuantitatif dengan desain penelitian korelasional. Subjek dalam penelitian ini adalah 37 orang tua dari remaja autis di Surakarta yang sudah dipilih dengan teknik *purposive sampling*. Pengumpulan data dalam penelitian ini dilakukan dengan penyebaran skala secara *online* dan *offline*. Instrumen yang digunakan terdiri dari skala komunikasi seksualitas orang tua-anak ($\alpha=0,930$) dan skala perilaku seksual ($\alpha=0,680$). Data dianalisis menggunakan teknik analisis regresi linier sederhana dengan taraf signifikansi 0,01. Berdasarkan hasil analisis data didapatkan nilai koefisien korelasi sebesar 0,517 dengan nilai $t_{hitung} > t_{tabel}$ yaitu $3,572 > 2,723$ dan $p = 0,001 (<0,010)$. Adapun nilai koefisien determinasi (R_{square}) sebesar 0,267 hal tersebut berarti bahwa dalam penelitian ini komunikasi seksualitas orang tua-anak terhadap perilaku seksual remaja autis berkontribusi sebesar 26,7%. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian tersebut dapat disimpulkan bahwa terdapat hubungan antara komunikasi seksualitas orang tua-anak dengan perilaku seksual remaja autis di Surakarta

Kata kunci: Komunikasi seksualitas orang tua-anak, perilaku seksual remaja autis

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INTRODUCTION

Leo Kanner (as cited in Aziz, 2015) explains that the term "autism" is derived from the Greek word "autos," which signifies a focus on oneself. Autism, or Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), refers to a complex developmental disorder that affects an individual's brain function, leading to variations in communication, social interaction, and imaginative capabilities (Mulyati, 2019). Individuals with autism face various challenges, particularly during adolescence, which is a critical period for expressing

signs of puberty and achieving sexual maturity (Zaldin, 2020). Although the physical development of adolescents with autism is generally comparable to that of their peers, their emotional and sexual development may be uneven, exhibiting either accelerated or delayed progress. Research by Jannah (2016) highlights certain sexual behaviors observed in autistic children during learning activities, such as frequently touching their genitals, using their sense of smell on their hands, directing their hands towards the genitals of the opposite sex, pressing their bodies against peers, hugging those around them, holding their own breasts, and often rubbing their genitals against the floor.

The communication regarding sexuality between parents and children can lead to deviant sexual behaviors in children with autism, primarily due to the parents' limited knowledge about essential topics that their children need to learn concerning sexuality (Pamoedji in Sholihatina et al., 2012). Alizanovic (2019) reported instances of sexual violence against individuals with autism, including a case in 2016 where a 13-year-old autistic girl was found in a psychiatric hospital without clothing, exhibiting facial bruises and scratch marks on her wrists. In 2018, another case involved a 9-year-old autistic girl who became a victim of sexual abuse. Furthermore, in 2019, a case emerged involving a 1st-grade junior high school girl with autism in Surabaya, who was also a victim of molestation by a 53-year-old neighbor. These various issues highlight that one contributing factor is the nature of sexuality communication between parents and children. The lack of adequate knowledge among parents regarding what their children should learn about sexuality can result in inappropriate sexual behaviors in autistic individuals (Pamoedji in Sholihatina et al., 2012).

Muzayyanah (in Jannah, 2016) indicates that parents often lack sensitivity to the circumstances of adolescents, which can lead to their children becoming vulnerable to cases of sexual abuse. This vulnerability arises from the children's discomfort and reluctance to discuss such matters with those who are more knowledgeable, resulting in inappropriate attitudes towards their reproductive organs. Erni (2013) notes that some mothers exhibit hesitance in discussing issues related to sexuality with their children due to the belief that such topics are taboo and that information on this subject is unnecessary at that age. Furthermore, Ballan (in Holmes et al., 2015) explains that many parents appear hesitant to engage in sexual communication, possibly due to uncertainty about their ability to convey information effectively and ensure that their children comprehend the details provided, especially considering that physical development often outpaces emotional development in autistic youth. In this study, the sexual behavior of autistic adolescents is assessed through sexual communication as perceived by their parents. Sari (2013) elaborates that perception is something that is a sign that someone has the ability to recognize and give meaning to objects found in their environment. Through their perception, parents recognize and give meaning to the sexual behavior of autistic adolescents. If communication between parents and autistic adolescents regarding sexuality is good, then autistic sexual behavior can be well controlled. Conversely, if communication between parents and autistic adolescents regarding sexuality is poor, then autistic sexual behavior is less controlled. The results of a study conducted by Soetjningsih (2008) regarding adolescent sexual deviations showed that if the

relationship between parents and their autistic adolescents is better, then their children's sexual behavior will be more controlled. A preliminary study conducted by researchers in a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) in March 2021 with 16 autistic parents in Surakarta resulted in sexuality problems experienced by autistic adolescents and parental problems in communicating about sexuality to children. Parents said that autistic teenagers when at home began to be interested in the opposite sex, the child approached the mother's face, stimulated the genitals vulgarly until sperm came out, shook his body until climax, masturbated continuously until his genitals were injured, hugged the mother from behind, kissed the mother's or father's breasts, kissed the mother's cheek, licked the mother's cheek, held the genitals, the child had difficulty communicating about sexuality so that he expressed his emotions by banging on the wall, screaming, or being restless. When the child does this, the parents as the closest people to the child should provide education related to sexuality to the autistic. However, there are problems that make parents confused when they want to teach sex education to their children. Some of the problems experienced by parents related to children's sexuality are the lack of information or knowledge about sexual education making parents not understand how to teach sexuality to children, some parents feel taboo to explain sexuality to children, parents have difficulty communicating with children about sexuality, minimal communication from parents to autistic adolescents regarding sexuality which is usually done by parents only saying "don't" to children when doing something inappropriate and holding genitals while saying "don't", in addition, parents' busy work makes their communication with children decrease. Based on this background, the researcher is interested in exploring this problem further.

METHOD

The design employed in this research is a quantitative correlational study utilizing the Pearson product-moment correlation. The population targeted in this study consists of all parents (either fathers or mothers) in the Surakarta region who have adolescent children diagnosed with autism. The sample comprises 37 parents (either fathers or mothers) from the Surakarta area who meet the criteria of being parents of autistic children aged approximately 10 to 20 years and residing in Surakarta and its surroundings. The sampling technique applied is purposive sampling. Data collection is conducted using a Likert scale, while data analysis is performed through simple linear regression.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study found that if parent-child sexuality communication is good, then the sexual behavior of autistic adolescents can be well controlled and vice versa, if parent-child sexuality communication is bad, then the sexual behavior of autistic adolescents is less controlled. This can be seen in the hypothesis testing carried out by comparing the t-count value to the t-table and comparing the p-value where the significance level is 0.010.

Tabel 4.15. Hasil Uji Hipotesis Regresi Linear Sederhana

		<i>Coefficients^a</i>			
Model		<i>Unstandardized B</i>	<i>Coefficients Std. Error</i>	<i>Standardized Coefficients Beta</i>	<i>t Sig.</i>
1	<i>(Constant)</i>	99,662	18,400		5,416 ,000
	Komunikasi Seksualitas Orang Tua-Anak	,409	,114	,517	3,572 ,001

a. *Dependent Variable: Perilaku Seksual Remaja Autis*

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Tabel 4.16. Uji Korelasi

<i>Model Summary^{b1}</i>				
Model	<i>R</i>	<i>R Square</i>	<i>Adjusted R Square</i>	<i>Std. Error of the Estimate</i>
1	,517 ^a	,267	,246	12,640

a. *Predictors: (Constant), Komunikasi Seksualitas Orang Tua-Anak*

b. *Dependent Variable: Perilaku Seksual Remaja Autis*

Based on the calculations presented in the table above, the correlation coefficient (R) between the predictor variable and the criterion variable is 0.517, with a significance level of 0.001. The coefficient of determination (R-squared) for the parent-child sexual communication variable in relation to the sexual behavior of autistic adolescents is 0.267. This value indicates that the effective contribution of the predictor variable (parent-child sexual communication) to the criterion variable (sexual behavior of autistic adolescents) is 26.7%. The remaining 73.3% is influenced by other variables (100% - 26.7%). The next step involves analyzing the regression equation.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this study indicates a relationship between parental sexual communication and the sexual behavior of autistic adolescents in Surakarta. When the sexual communication between parents and children is positive, the sexual behavior of autistic adolescents tends to be positive as well. Conversely, if the sexual communication is poor, the sexual behavior of autistic adolescents is likely to be negative.

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