

Church Youth Sexuality in Surabaya: Teachings, Attitudes, and Behaviors

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The aim of this study is to describe the teachings regarding sexuality among Christian churches in Surabaya, sexual attitudes, and sexual behaviors of the church youths. Six church leaders from six churches were interviewed and 267 church youths filled anonymous sexual attitude and sexual behavior questionnaire. The result shows that most of the churches adopt conservative teachings. These teachings are consistent with sexual attitudes of the church youths. However, the behaviors are not always consistent with the attitudes, mainly on the autonomous sexual behaviors. In term of sexual abstinence, 85.8% of respondents report never engaged in sexual intercourse in their lifetime. The implications and limitations are discussed.

Keywords: sexual attitudes, sexual behaviors, church youth, Surabaya.

Penelitian ini bertujuan mendeskripsikan pengajaran tentang seksualitas, sikap seksual, dan perilaku seksual remaja-pemuda gereja Kristen di Surabaya. Enam pemimpin dari enam gereja diwawancarai dan 267 remaja-pemuda gereja mengisi kuesioner anonim tentang sikap seksual dan perilaku seksual. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kebanyakan gereja partisipan mengadopsi pengajaran yang konservatif. Pengajaran ini konsisten dengan sikap seksual remaja-pemuda gereja. Namun perilaku seksual remaja-pemuda gereja tersebut tidak selalu konsisten dengan sikapnya, terlebih pada perilaku seksual otonomus. Terkait pemantangan seksual, sejumlah 85.8% responden melaporkan tidak pernah melakukan hubungan seksual (*intercourse*). Implikasi dan keterbatasan penelitian didiskusikan.

Kata kunci: sikap seksual, perilaku seksual, remaja-pemuda gereja, Surabaya

"Religion is an enormously powerful part of American culture, almost as powerful as sex"

David Kelsey (as cited in Haffner, 2004)

Many large-scale sexual behavior surveys have been conducted in North America – from Alfred Kinsey's survey in 1949 involving 16,000 participants, to *National Health and Social Life Survey* (NHSL) in 1990s which is claimed nationally representative to US population (as cited in Kelly, 2006). The NHSL survey concludes that most Americans are relatively satisfied in their sexual life. Several surveys have been also conducted in various countries outside North America and Europe, such as in Iran (Mohammadi et al., 2006), Taiwan (Lo & Wei 2005), and Ghana (Addai, 2000).

In Indonesia, there are a number of surveys regarding sexual behavior. World Health Organization (WHO)

surveyed global sexual behavior, including in Indonesia (Wellings et al., 2006). The survey studied the age of first intercourse and the age of first marriage. The result indicated that in Indonesia, the median age of first intercourse is 24.5 year for male and 18.5 year for female. The median age of first marriage is 24.1 year for male and 18.1 year for female. Another study conducted by Pisani, Dadun, Suchaya, Kamil, and Jazan (2003) focused on sexual behavior of 650 drug users in three big cities in Indonesia. The result revealed that two third of the participants are sexually active, 48% have more than one sexual partner, 40% have made contact with sex worker during the last one year, and only 10% use condom consistently. In Surabaya, a study on 87 college students by Hartono (2004) showed that 7.2% of female respondents and 27.7% of male respondents has engaged in sexual activity at a time in their life.

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