

Identification Sexual Behaviour Children with Autism Age 12-18 Years

Rakhma Muslikhah
 Yogyakarta State University
 Yogyakarta, Indonesia
 Rakhma.2017@student.uny.ac.id

Sari Rudiwati
 Yogyakarta State University
 Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Abstract— Sexual behavior shown in adolescence is a sign of children experiencing puberty. The task of child development in the face of adolescence is to begin to adjust the changes experienced in him with the surrounding environment. Changes when children experience puberty occur in physical, psychological, social, and emotional. In autistic children who have obstacles in the aspects of interaction, communication, and language patterns also need guidance so that they can adapt the environment. The purpose of this study was to identify sexual behavior that occurs in children with autism aged 12-18 years. This study was designed using a systematic review method based on a database of scientific journals. The data of this study were obtained from the results of 10 journal analyzes. Data analysis used in the study is descriptive analysis. The results showed that the presence of sexual behavior in autistic children who are experiencing puberty. Based on the analysis obtained, the sexual behavior shown by autistic children tends to experience irregularities, for example: some autistic teenagers who always pursue their friends, both men and women with autistic teenagers to channel their sexual drive. The effort to avoid inappropriate behavior is to identify observations that occur in the environment then provide appropriate, consistent, and involving children into positive activities so that children who experience puberty can control the sexual drive that arises.

Keywords— *identification, sexual behavior, autism, adolescent*

I. INTRODUCTION

Teenagers are a transition period from the age of children to adults. At this time various changes occur both changes physical, sex, psychological, and social. The period of adolescence lasts 11 to 18 years and experiences puberty, namely changes in physical form and sexual maturity, the mindset of being critical of something and the main developmental task in this era is the achievement of identity as described Santrock in [1]. Developments found in adolescents as well as psychosocial aspects of sexuality. The aspect of sexuality develops along with hormones that continue to develop so that the reproductive system functions perfectly. Haditono, *et al* in [2] argue that adolescence is faced with two main tasks, namely achieving a measure of freedom or independence from parents and forming an identity to achieve self-integration and personal maturity. The adolescent period which begins with changes in body shape and sexual maturity will be faced with circumstances that require adjustment in order to accept the changes that occur as described by Santrock in [1]. The situation experienced in adolescence is very unstable because this period is a transition period from the period of the children to the adult period. The need for information or insight to

prepare for the phase of the child's development so that children are better prepared and able to adapt the environment to the changes experienced. The role of parents is very important in participating in providing learning to prepare children for developmental stages so that children understand what must and should not be done according to their age. Developments in adolescence b erkaitan with adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviors. Curiosity and sexual fantasy cause teenagers to practice what adults do, besides teenagers will face several conflicts that occur because of inequality, incompatibility, and disagree because adolescence has a critical mindset [3]. Sexual attitudes and behaviors that occur in adolescence have a major influence on behavior and activities carried out, therefore before the child enters the adolescent stage there needs to be information or knowledge that is conveyed and parental assistance in guiding children to face adjustments in the environment. The stages of human sexuality, namely sexuality in adolescents refers to sexual feelings, behavior, and development, by Zastrow and Kirst-Ashman, in [4]. Sexuality is an important point in the transition of children to adolescence in life. Adolescent sexual behavior is in some information influenced by cultural norms and customs, their sexual orientation, and social control issues such as the law of adult age [3].

The growth of sexual desire starts from the age of 3 to 4 years marked by a child's gender identity begins to develop. Children begin to understand the meaning of "I am male or female." Children at this age begin to like touching the genital organs. Children begin to build the foundation of gender identity and explore the role of adults by doing "role playing games", for example playing homes. At the age of 5 to 7 years, children begin to understand the roles of men and women through parents or through the media (TV, Internet, magazines, etc.) . At the age of 8 to 12 years, this stage the child begins to feel physical changes before puberty. These feelings can have a positive impact and negative example in the form of guilt, confusion, and shame. Some children at this age begin to masturbate. In the developmental stage of the age of 12 years and over, the production of sex hormones causes physical and emotional changes in children including secondary sexual characteristics, such as the growth of hair on the genitals and breasts begin to enlarge. Greater interest in sexuality, such as prepubescent children who begin to experience sexual fantasy as a way of preparing themselves to understand sexual roles. At this age, curiosity about sexual matters is increasing, such as starting to access the media (internet, video, TV, etc.) because of curiosity about images of sexuality. The presence of embarrassment and the need for

privacy at this age, for example, no longer dressed in front of people and began to show sexual interest with children his age National Sexual Violence Resource Center [5].

Explanation of the stage of sexual development above is also experienced by children with autism. Emotional changes for special needs children (including autism) the process tends to be more difficult because interest in the opposite sex is often challenged by the environment Schwier & Hingsburger in [6] otherwise autistic children withdraw themselves altogether from association because they are unable to translate so many 'implied messages' and confusing social rules [7]. According to DSM V autism is a developmental disorder that involves various problematic behaviors including aspects of perception, motoric, and social development by James and Susan in [8]. Barriers that autistic children have have an impact on playing patterns, communication, and language so that the lack of ability to interact and adapt to the surrounding environment. As with other normal developmental stages of children, autistic individuals also experience the puberty phase. According to Santrock in [1] (7) puberty is a period in which the maturity of the sexual skeleton occurs rapidly, especially in early adolescence. Puberty experienced in children with autism can be addressed appropriately, even errors can occur if it is not appropriate in providing understanding, especially about sexuality and self-abuse that occur in the developmental process in adolescents with autism.

Alimin, *et al.* in [7] explained in his findings in several schools, there were several autistic teenagers who always chased their friends, both men and women with autistic teenagers to channel their sexual urges. Children show a variety of expressions when they feel happy and calm when they meet a friend who they like or are interested in. Autistic children have the same sexual drive as children when they experience puberty, but they cannot communicate and control them properly like other teenagers. Puberty phase at the age of 11 or 12 years to 16 years each individual has its own variations [9]. In this phase adolescents experience changes in the working system of hormones in their bodies, as well as those experienced by autistic children. Physical changes that occur in girls during puberty include: growing breasts, growing hair around the armpits and vagina, whereas in males, growing Adam's throat, growing hair around the type and genitals, and changes in sound become heavier. Changes that occur at this time are not only physical, but also psychological changes. Psychic changes that are often encountered in adolescents include wanting to be independent, wanting to be recognized maturity, not wanting to be regulated, and often acting and. Autistic children who have limitations in social aspects, will have difficulty distinguishing between the public and personal space and the limitations of their ability to think [10].

Gillberg & Schaumann in [11] in their study explained that in some autistic children there would be improvements in symptoms after adolescence, but when autistic adolescents showed worsening behaviors such as behavioral disturbances, destructiveness and anxiety. Various forms of behavior that are raised by autistic children at puberty in understanding sexuality attract special attention to the environment such as parents, siblings, and surrounding

communities in order to be able to direct positive things, but in autistic individuals it takes a long time to provide insight into what must be done when the child begins to have signs of puberty so as to prevent sexual behavior irregularities. The limitations of autistic children result in frequent sexual behavior that most people consider sexual behavior. Some literature reveals cases where an individual with autism has committed an offense or inappropriate sexual behavior. This inappropriate behavior is that an autistic individual kisses a stranger, is infatuated then interferes with the personalities of others and acts masturbating in a public place [12].

The need to recognize sexual behavior when experiencing puberty in order to be able to identify the behavior correctly or less precisely experienced in children with autism. Various forms of behavior of autistic children in experiencing the process of puberty can be accepted and considered as sexual deviations by the community. This occurs in children with autism because of a lack of self-control [13]. The role of parents, teachers, therapists is needed in guiding and directing children about the independence and proper sex education in a contextual way and adapted to the needs and abilities of each individual autism to be easily understood by children, therefore this study focuses on identifying child sexual behavior autism aged 12-18 years. Based on the above, this study aims to identify the sex of my peril a child with autism aged 12-18 years with a research question: What are the Sexual Behaviors shown to autistic children in adolescence?

The rest of this paper is organized as follow: Section II describes the data used and proposed methodology. Section III presents the obtained results and following by discussion. Finally, Section IV concludes this work.

II. MATERIAL & METHODOLOGY

This section presents the material used and the proposed method.

A. Method

This study uses a systematic literature review through research articles and journals related to the development of adolescence, understanding of children with autism, development of autistic sex, and sexual behavior. Literature review was obtained through an online data base namely: Garuda portal, proquest, and Google scholar using keyword: adolescent development, sexual behavior, development of autism and identify sex for special children. The research criteria used in this review are (1) participants or subjects used are autistic children aged 12 to 18 years, (2) research involves identifying sex behavior as a discussion of dependent variables, (3) articles published in the range of 2008-2018. In this study data analysis is descriptive. The results obtained in this study are presented in narrative form

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A review of the review literature that fits the criteria of 10 journals. Each has a discussion related to the research variable. The results of the findings were obtained from journal analysis adjusted to the topics raised from the background discussion. The articles reviewed focused on identifying sexual behavior for children with autism. The

purpose of the articles that became the data in accordance with the objectives in this study is to facilitate the identification of sexual behavior in children with autism so

that children avoid sexual deviations and self-control. (Table I)

TABLE 1 ARTICLE RESEARCH DATA

Author	Action	Participant	Results
Widyasti [13]	Describe the development of the subject's sexual understanding.	2 subjects with autism	Subjects in this study had low self-control because of lack of understanding of ways to hide their curiosity and how to channel sexual desire.
Yakub and Kusrin [14]	Analyzing the implementation of sexual behavior interventions for autistic teenagers.	11 GPPKI (Teachers of Special Integration Education Programs)	Sexual behavior that is not appropriate occurs in adolescents and is dealt with by reprimanding and then transferring to other activities.
Harden and Mendle [15]	Analyze and compare adolescent sexual activity and juvenile delinquency to early adulthood.	Longitudinal genital data aged 13-15 years 16-18 years	Sexual behavior of early adolescents and late adolescents affects delinquency. The results show consistent with showing the sexual psychological correlation of adolescents.
Alimin and Roehyati [7]	Analyze the perspective of handling the distribution of sexual drive for autistic adolescent children.	Relevant speakers include parents, teachers, orthopedists, psychologists, psychiatrists, doctors, and religious experts.	The development of autistic adolescence ages 8-21 years regarding characteristics that experience changes due to puberty. Preventive measures can be taken to control the interaction of autistic children with themselves and the surrounding environment.
Wardhani [3]	Describe adolescent development and sexuality.	Scientific literature data.	The need for sex education to prepare children to enter adolescence so that they avoid sexual harassment. Knowing sex education appropriately can direct their sexual behavior to positive and responsible things.
Gunawan [16]	Make experiments by applying parental therapy	1 child and parent, the experiment was conducted for 30 days	The therapeutic results applied are very positive and significant, where the child has calm in the mental condition and negative sexual behavior has decreased (there is a change in behavior).
McLay, <i>et al.</i> [10]	Review systematic interventions for child sexual behavior and adolescents with special needs.	Database search, reference lists and scientific journals.	From the results of the data reported drop in n targets behavior as a result of intervention. An ideological shift towards the sexual behavior of individuals with special needs as deviant behavior. They have difficulty expressing sexual behavior in the right time, way and place. The importance of increasing understanding of care through sexual behavior interventions.
Dewinter, <i>et al.</i> [17]	Compare data related to sexual experience in groups of men aged 16-20 years.	Teenagers with autism spectrum disorder as many as 43. A total of 30 boys aged 16-18. Participants are Dutch or Belgian children who are diagnosed with autism or Asperger disorder.	This research shows that sexuality is part of the development of adolescents, mostly autistic boys. Dominant problems in view of sexuality. Fewer autistic boys with kissing or caressing partner control.
Fernandes, <i>et al.</i> in [18]	Describe the literature on sexuality in autism with inappropriate sexual behavior based on age, verbal ability, intellectual ability.	Autism with early adolescence aged 15-39 years.	One quarter of sexual behavior and deviations from autistic individuals. The majority of autistic individuals have a sexual interest with the opposite sex, although a minority of sexual interest in the same sex. Smaller minorities show interest in both sexes. The behavior that is often experienced by autism is masturbation in public.
Werling [19]	Describe the sexual abilities of men and women.	Autistic men aged 6-10 years and autistic women aged 11-21 years.	The strong impact of sex on the prevalence of autism is made to find out the risk factors when through interaction points. Increased attention, and sexual awareness in biology will increase understanding of gender differences.

Research shows that in autistic adolescents who experience puberty there are emerging sexual behaviors including:

- The age of autistic children who experience puberty varies from child to child. Basically, the characteristics of changes that occur in autistic adolescents with adolescents in general, both primary and secondary traits are the same, only that distinguishes the lack of understanding about sexuality. Autistic adolescents do not understand how to conceal their curiosity and how to channel sexual desire due to limitations in emotional control and control of their biological drives. Information conveyed to autistic children in a simple way so as to make it easier for children to

understand something, one of them is sex education. The development of autistic adolescents also varies in showing sexual behavior at puberty. Some children are ready to adjust to the surroundings, but some children have not received guidance from the teacher or parents about sexual education so that the behavior that appears is less acceptable to the surrounding environment.

- Different handling of the p Sexual Behaviors autistic adolescents are not in accordance with the norms prevailing in the neighborhood. Submission is adapted to the ability and simple ways so that the objectives can be achieved. Autistic adolescents need to prepare for puberty as early as possible to avoid sexual abuse or

abuse. Some handling is given by reprimanding if the child shows deviant behavior and then diverts to another activity.

- The effect of sexual behavior is caused by several factors, including, psychological individual. Adolescent sexual activity is influenced by delinquency which usually has a negative impact due to lack of directional urge for sexual desire. In autistic adolescents who show inappropriate sexual behavior can be caused by limitations in controlling emotional and patterns of interaction and communication experience problems such as those described in the characteristics of autistic children. Guidance and direction for adolescents, especially autistic adolescents who experience puberty can be given by parents, teachers, siblings, and the community.
- The development of autistic adolescence ranges from 8-21 years. This development is characterized by characteristics that experience changes due to puberty. The impact of puberty is shown by the emergence of positive and negative sexual behavior. For autistic adolescents who have limited emotional control, there needs to be direction, such as: from a young age they are given understanding by inviting them to talk about hygiene, the concept of shame, toilet training, introducing gender, prevailing norms, and maintaining an attitude and self. Sexual behavior that arises in autistic adolescents is: masturbation, looking at the opposite sex with a smile, holding the pubes with frequent intensity, rubbing the penis, taking hugging hugs, prone and inserting hands into his genitals, rubbing the sexes to the Lantau, her genitals twitched, wanted to hold the teacher's breasts, put hands into her pants, and chase the opposite sex because it was comfortable with something (body scent etc.). Identification of sexual behavior is based on field observations.
- The effort to prepare for autistic adolescence is the same as teenagers in general. Children are advised to avoid sexual harassment. Knowing sex education appropriately can direct sexual behavior in positive and responsible ways. Positive impact if the child has been given sexual education early on, it is easier to adjust and able to control sexual drive by diverting to beneficial activities.
- Handling in children who experience inappropriate sexual behavior can be applied by therapy. Behavioral therapy in autistic children is suitable to practice emotional control, communication, and interaction with the surrounding environment. The therapeutic results applied are very positive and significant if done consistently. Children have calm in mental conditions and negative sexual behavior has decreased.
- In general, autistic adolescents who experience deviant sexual behavior are caused by difficulties in expressing sexual desire at the right time, place, and manner. In this problem the importance of increasing understanding of sexual care through indenting and intervening about behavior raised by children.
- Several studies have explained that sexuality is part of the development of adolescents, and autistic adolescents are predominantly problematic in terms of sexuality. A

small number of male autistic children with kissing or caressing partner control. From this statement that male autistic adolescents experience more dominant sexual behavior problems than female autistic adolescents.

- Sexual behavior arises because child development enters adolescence. Autistic teens also experience development like teenagers in general. Most autistic individuals have sexual interests with the opposite sex, but a minority of autistic individuals also have sexual interest in the same sex. In the study also mentioned the behavior that is often experienced by autistic teenagers is masturbation in public, it is a sexual behavior that is less appropriate when done in a public place.

The strong impact of sexual development that occurs in adolescence based on the prevalence of autism is made to determine risk factors when going through the stages of interaction. If an understanding of sexual development is good, then sexual awareness in biology will enhance understanding among sexes.

IV. CONCLUSION

Inappropriate sexual behavior experienced by autistic adolescents must be given prompt treatment. Prevention can be done by providing an understanding of sex education early on. The method used is adapted to the child's ability, so that the child is easy to understand. The provision of early sex education is useful to provide understanding for children, besides avoiding behavioral irregularities that occur today. Autistic teens show that behavioral irregularities often occur in public places. This is due to the limitations of autistic teenagers who find it difficult to control their emotional and sexual drive desires, so that they are channeled in times and temples that are not right.

Handling that will be given to overcome the problem is identification of problems. Identification for sexual behavior when a child experiences early adolescence around the age of 10-18 years that shows inappropriate behavior. Such inappropriate behaviors include masturbation in the public space, looking at the opposite sex with smiles, holding the pubes with frequent intensity, rubbing the penis, taking hugging hugs, prone and inserting hands into his genitals, rubbing the genitals to the Lantau, his genitals twitch, want to hold the teacher's breasts, put hands into pants, and chase the opposite sex because it is comfortable with something (body scent etc.). The purpose of the identification was to be able to provide and prepare appropriate treatment when autistic adolescents committed sexual deviations.

REFERENCES

- [1] Santrock, J.W. (2009). *Perkembangan Anak (Jilid 2) (Edisi 11)*. Jakarta: Penerbit Erlangga.
- [2] Haditono, S.R, Monks F.J, & Koners A.M.P. (1994). *Psikologi Perkembangan*. Yogyakarta: Gajah Mada University Press.
- [3] Wardhani, D.T. (2012). *Perkembangan dan Seksualitas Remaja. Informasi*. Volume 17 Nomor 03 Tahun 2012. Bandung: Sekolah Tinggi Kesejahteraan Sosial Bandung.
- [4] Zastrow, C.H., and Ashman, K. (2012). *Understanding Human Behavior and the Social Environment (Sixth ed)*. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole.

- [5] National Sexual Violence Resource Center. (2013). *It's time to talk about it! Talk Early, Talk Often, Prevent Sexual Violence. Prevent sexual violence: An overview of healthy childhood sexual development*. Diunduh pada tanggal 25 Agustus 2018 pukul 10.00 WIB dari http://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/saam_2013_an-overview-of-healthy-childhood-sexual-development.pdf.
- [6] Schwier, K.M., Hingsburger, D., & Hingsburger, D. (2000). *Sexuality: Your sons and daughters with intellectual disabilities*. Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes.
- [7] Alimin, S.Z., & Rochyadi, E., (2010). Penanganan Penyaluran Dorongan Seksual Remaja Autis. *Jurnal Penelitian Ilmu Pendidikan*, 3(2), 2010.
- [8] Butcher, J.N., Hooley, J.M., & Mineka, S.M. (2013). *Abnormal Psychology 16th edition*. US: Pearson. Gillberg, Christoper & Schaumann, H. (1981). Infantile Autism and Puberty. *Journal of autism and Developmental Disorder*, 11(4), 365-371.
- [9] Hurlock, E.B. (1993). *Psikologi Perkembangan: Suatu Pendekatan sepanjang Rentang Kehidupan*, Penerjemah: Istiwidayanti. Jakarta: Erlangga.
- [10] McLay, L., Carnett, A., Tyler-Merrick, G., van der Meer, L. (2015). A Systematic Review of Interventions for Inappropriate Sexual Behavior of Children and Adolescent with Developmental Disabilities. *Review Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 2(4), 357-373.
- [11] Gillberg, C., & Schaumann, H. (1982). Infantile autism and puberty. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 11(4), 365-371.
- [12] Katz, N., & Zemishlany, Z. (2006). Criminal Responsibility in Asperger's Syndrome. *The Israel Journal of Psychiatry and Related Sciences*, 43: 166-173.
- [13] Widyasti, F.T. (2009). *Seksualitas Remaja Autis Pada Masa Puber: Pendekatan Studi Kasus*. Semarang: Universitas Diponegoro Press.
- [14] Zuraini, Y., & Kusrin, Z.M. (2015). Amalan Intervensi terhadap Perilaku Seksual Remaja Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) oleh Guru Program Pendidikan Khas Integrasi (PPKI) Menurut Syarak Islamiyyat. *International Journal of Islamic Studies*, 37(2) 163-172.
- [15] Harden, K.P., & Mendle, J. (2010). Adolescent Sexual Activity and the Development of Delinquent Behavior: The Role of Relationship Context. *J Youth Adolescence*. 40:824-838.
- [16] Gunawan, R. (2016). Parents Therapy sebagai Pendamping Layanan Konseling Bagi Perkembangan Seksual Anak Berkebutuhan Khusus. *JDP*, 9(9), 2016, 93-98.
- [17] Dewinter, J., Vermeiren, R. J.M., Vanwesenbeeck, I., & Van Nieuwenhuizen, C. (2016). Parental awareness of sexual experience in adolescent boys with autism spectrum disorder. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 46(2), 713-719.
- [18] Fernandes, Lucrecia Cabral., I, Carina., Gillberg., Cederund, Mats., Hagberg, Bibbi. Gillberg, Christopher., Billstedt, Eva. (2016). Aspect of Sexuality in Adolescent and Adult Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Childhood. *J Autism Dev Disord*, 46, 3155-3165.
- [19] Werling, M.D. (2016). The Role of Sex-differential biology in Risk for Autism Spectrum Disorder. *Werling Biology of Sex Differences*, 7:58.