



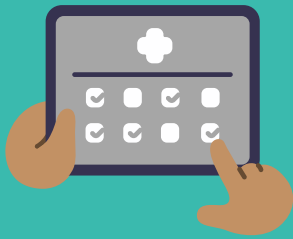
CONCERNS AND EXPERIENCES OF YOUNG ADOLESCENTS IN THE ERA OF COVID-19

RESULTS FROM THE 2020 GLOBAL EARLY ADOLESCENT STUDY IN SEMARANG, INDONESIA

Key Findings

- Knowledge of COVID-19 and adherence to preventive measures are high in Semarang
- Remote education has caused particular challenges for adolescents
 - Loss of income in the family has made it difficult for adolescents to afford the necessary internet data for online classes
 - Adolescents are less able to understand the material and are thus concerned about their personal performance
 - These issues have led to high levels of anxiety, especially for girls

Semarang, Indonesia



Quantitative Data collection:

Dates: July 14th to September 10th, 2020

Sample size: 321

Methodology: Remote CASI (computer assisted self-interview)

Qualitative Data collection:

Dates: July, 2020

Sample: 4 focus group discussions with 6 to 8 participants in each, stratified by gender and socioeconomic status

The state of COVID-19 in Semarang

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Indonesia was reported on March 2nd. As part of nationwide containment, schools in Central Java were closed on March 16th, 2020 and most adolescents transitioned to online education.

Other containment measures included mandatory mask-wearing and stay at home orders that were enforced by local authorities. The government also closed the border to all foreign nationals, thus cutting off the prominent tourism economy. To date, there have been 1.5 million cases and 42,227 deaths.

Methods

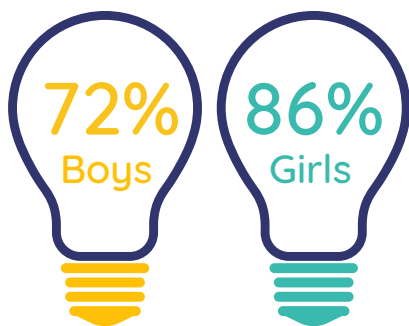
This study about adolescent experiences during COVID-19 is part of the Global Early Adolescent Study, a multi-site study on how gender impacts the health and well-being of young adolescents living in poor urban communities in 11 countries across 5 continents. In Indonesia, participants were located in Semarang and Denpasar. Their baseline GEAS survey was conducted in 2018 when adolescents were aged 10 to 14. Data collection for the COVID-19 module was conducted online in the summer of 2020 with a sub-sample of the GEAS cohort. The participants had an average age of 14.3 at the time of the study.



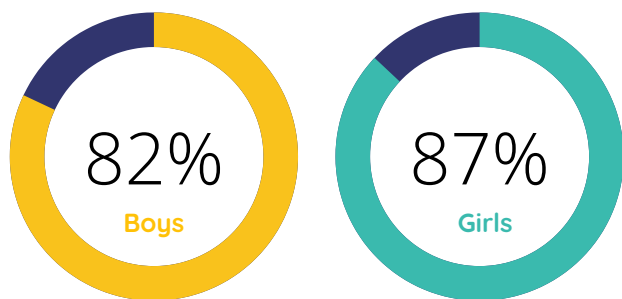
Knowledge and Behavior

Key Takeaways

- Girls report higher knowledge about COVID-19 than boys, but all adolescents report high levels of adherence to recommended preventative practices.



% of boys and girls that felt they were well informed about COVID*



% of boys and girls that actually practiced preventative measures**

Participants were asked: Which of the following actions can reduce the risk of catching the Coronavirus (COVID-19)?



Items in green are not scientifically proven to prevent COVID-19



When I hear about COVID, what I think about is a deadly virus that attacks the respiratory system. (Girl)



There is a health protocol, like when we go out for competition we use mask and keep distance. (Boy)



We stay at home and not visiting red zone. It is government order, we're just following order. (Boy)



Structural Impact and Education



23% of boys

25% of girls

Report income reduction within the family



43% of boys

25% of girls

Report household food insecurity



83% of boys

84% of girls

Are concerned about completing their current grade



Usually when I have to buy data [for school], I've yet to have the money.

(Girl)



My father is a fisherman, then the fish price is decreasing, so the economy is decreasing.

(Boy)



I'm scared of not passing my exams, because the lessons given are incompatible, are unclear...

(Girl)



Key Takeaways

- Adolescents who report income reduction believe it prevents them from accessing online education
- Boys report significantly more food insecurity than girls
- The change to remote education has been particularly challenging for adolescents and is causing high levels of concern about the future of their education



Health and Wellbeing

Overall health has increased during COVID for adolescents in Semarang***

72%



70%

Boys



60%



59%

Girls



I eat a lot at home, the food is healthier at home.
(Boy)



Both boys and girls report anxiety****

26%

Boys



40%

Girls



The most challenging thing is the laziness and boredom from being at home. Like feeling too lazy to read the materials... (Girl)



Key Takeaway

- While overall health remains unchanged for adolescents, about a quarter of boys and almost half of girls experience anxiety

Conclusion

The results of the GEAS show the vulnerability of adolescents living in poor urban settings in Semarang, Indonesia during the COVID-19 pandemic. Adolescents report high levels of knowledge about COVID-19 transmission, symptoms, and prevention, which translates into high levels of adherence to prevention methods. However, the change to remote education proved particularly challenging. Structural challenges like lack of access to internet, coupled a perceived decline in personal performance in the new format, led to high levels of concern in all adolescents. For girls, these concerns also led to high levels of anxiety.

