



Factors Associated with Dating Violence among Adolescents

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Abstract

Dating violence among adolescents is a public health problem that continues to increase in Indonesia, South Tangerang is an area with a high incidence rate, recorded as many as 226 cases. The purpose of this study was to analyze factors related to dating violence among adolescents in South Tangerang in 2025. The study used a mixed methods design with a sequential explanatory approach. Quantitative data were obtained through a survey of 266 adolescents with a purposive sampling technique. The results showed a significant relationship ($p < 0.05$) between age ($p = 0.019$), knowledge ($p = 0.005$), attitude ($p = 0.009$), experience of violence ($p = 0.0001$), social support ($p = 0.018$), length of relationship ($p = 0.044$), relationship inequality ($p = 0.005$), and gender inequality ($p = 0.0001$) with the incidence of dating violence among adolescents in South Tangerang. The most dominant factor in dating violence among adolescents is social support with a POR value of 0.323. Qualitative findings from in-depth interviews revealed that adolescents tended to normalize possessive and controlling behaviors, and that peer social support significantly influenced their decision to exit unhealthy relationships. These findings underscore the critical role of social support as a protective factor against adolescent dating violence and provide empirical evidence for the development of school-based, peer-focused prevention programs that integrate knowledge enhancement, gender-awareness training, and social support strengthening.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Dating violence among adolescents is a social phenomenon that is gaining increasing attention in various countries, including Indonesia. Dating violence is a form of interpersonal violence that seriously impacts mental, physical, and social health, particularly among adolescents and young adults (WHO, 2021). This form of violence can occur in various types of premarital romantic relationships and includes physical, emotional, and sexual violence, as well as psychological control and cyber-dating abuse (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2022). Generally, violence is defined as any act that causes physical, psychological, or material harm, including to children and adolescents, and can hinder their growth and development. Adolescents are individuals aged 10–24 who are in a transitional period toward adulthood, characterized by the search for identity, emotional changes, and an increased interest in interpersonal relationships, including dating (Febryana & Aristi, 2019). During this phase, adolescents do not yet fully develop the skills to build healthy and equal relationships, making them more vulnerable to dating violence. Data show that victims of dating violence are generally women aged 18–24 years with secondary to higher educational backgrounds (Komisi Nasional Anti Kekerasan terhadap Perempuan, 2025).

Globally, dating violence among adolescents has become a significant public health issue. The WHO (2021) noted that nearly 27% of women aged 15–49 have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner, with the highest prevalence in Southeast Asia and Africa at 33%. This violence often begins in adolescence and continues into adulthood. In the United States, approximately 26% of women and 15% of men experience dating violence before the age of 18 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2022). Furthermore, approximately 20–30% of adolescents also experience digital violence, such as forced password sharing and excessive surveillance (Suvada & Morelli, 2018).

In Indonesia, dating violence is a serious issue for public health and youth protection. Data from the National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan) shows an increase in cases from 1,685 in 2021 to 3,950 in 2022, and remains high in 2023 with 3,878 cases, even surpassing cases of violence against wives and daughters. In 2024, 2,209 cases of dating violence were recorded, with the most dominant forms being physical violence (32%), sexual violence (28%), and digital and psychological violence (18%) (Komisi Nasional Anti Kekerasan terhadap Perempuan, 2025). Based on SIMFONI-PPA data from 2025, there were 1,026 cases of violence in Banten Province, with 907 female victims and 191 male victims, indicating that approximately 88% of victims were women. South Tangerang was recorded as the region with the highest number of cases, namely 226 cases, followed by Tangerang Regency with 211 cases and Tangerang City with 200 cases, while the lowest number of cases was in Serang City with 55 cases and Pandeglang Regency with 66 cases. Of the total cases, sexual violence ranked highest with 597 cases, followed by psychological violence with 331 cases and physical violence with 301 cases. The data also show that the most victims came from the 13–17 year old age group, with 353 cases, with the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator generally being a boyfriend or girlfriend or peer (Kementerian Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak, 2025).

Based on data from the South Tangerang Central Statistics Agency (2025), the population of adolescents aged 15–24 in 2024 was recorded at 217,995 (Badan Pusat Statistik Kota Tangerang Selatan, 2025). This age group falls into the late adolescent to early adult category, which is vulnerable to various developmental dynamics, including interpersonal relationships such as dating. Various factors are known to contribute to dating violence, including gender inequality, a history of family violence, substance use,

peer influence, and permissive social and cultural norms toward violence (Lestyoningsih, 2024). Based on initial observations and qualitative findings, many adolescents in South Tangerang still lack an adequate understanding of the boundaries of healthy and equal dating relationships. Adolescents tend to normalize possessive behavior, excessive control, and verbal abuse as forms of attention or affection. Victims often go unnoticed by the power imbalance in dating relationships, especially when the perpetrator has emotional or social dominance. Furthermore, adolescent victims of dating violence are generally reluctant to report their experiences due to fear, shame, and the perception that violence is a normal part of relationships. Based on the description, this study aims to analyze the factors related to and influencing the occurrence of dating violence among adolescents in South Tangerang in 2025, including the forms of violence experienced and adolescents' understanding of healthy and equal relationships. While prior studies on dating violence in Indonesia have predominantly employed single-method, quantitative designs, the present study addresses this gap by integrating logistic regression analysis with phenomenological in-depth interviews. This mixed-methods approach allows for both the identification of statistically significant risk factors and a deeper understanding of adolescents' lived experiences of dating violence. The study is further distinguished by its theoretical grounding in social learning theory and the Social Ecological Model, which together frame dating violence as a product of individual, relational, and sociocultural factors. Specifically, the conceptual framework posits that individual factors (age, knowledge, attitudes, prior experience), relational factors (social support, relationship length, relationship inequality), and structural factors (gender inequality) jointly predict adolescent dating violence, with social support serving as a key modifiable protective factor.

2. METHODS

This study uses a mixed methods approach, which is an approach that combines quantitative and qualitative methods in one study to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the problem being studied. The design used is an explanatory sequential design, where the study begins with a quantitative approach using a cross-sectional method, then continues with a qualitative approach through a phenomenological approach to deepen the results obtained. This study was conducted in the South Tangerang area, Banten Province, from October to December 2025. This location was chosen because it is an urban area with a large number of teenagers and has complex social dynamics, including high cases of dating violence based on reports from related institutions.

The population in this study was adolescents in South Tangerang, with a population of 217,995 adolescents aged 15–24 years, according to data from the South Tangerang Central Statistics Agency (2025) (Badan Pusat Statistik Kota Tangerang Selatan, 2025). Quantitative data were collected using questionnaires to measure the independent and dependent variables, while qualitative data were obtained through in-depth interviews to explore adolescents' experiences and interpretations of dating violence. The independent variables in this study included individual factors (age, gender, knowledge, attitudes, and experience regarding violence), relational factors (peer social support, length of relationship, and relationship inequality), and social factors (gender inequality). The dependent variable was the incidence of dating violence.

Quantitative data analysis was conducted in stages: univariate analysis to describe the frequency and percentage distribution of each variable, bivariate analysis using the Chi-Square test to determine the relationship between the independent and dependent variables, and multivariate analysis using multiple logistic regression to identify the factors most influential in the incidence of dating violence. Variables with a p-value ≤ 0.25 in the

bivariate analysis were entered into a multivariate model, and the final model was determined based on a p-value < 0.05 and the highest Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR) as the dominant factor. Meanwhile, qualitative data were analyzed thematically to identify patterns and meanings of respondents' experiences. This study has obtained ethical approval from the Health Research Ethics Commission (KEPK) of Respati Indonesia University with Number 713/SK.KEPK/UNR/X/2025 Prior to data collection, the research instruments were subjected to validity and reliability testing. Content validity was assessed by expert review, while construct validity was confirmed using Pearson product-moment correlation ($r \geq 0.30$). Reliability was evaluated using Cronbach's alpha ($\alpha \geq 0.70$), with all subscales meeting the acceptable threshold. For the qualitative component, data saturation was reached after six in-depth interviews, as no new themes emerged in subsequent sessions. Thematic analysis followed Braun and Clarke's (2006) six-phase framework, familiarization, initial coding, theme generation, theme review, theme definition, and write-up. Methodological triangulation was applied by cross-validating qualitative themes against quantitative findings to strengthen the credibility and transferability of results.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Univariate test results.

Variables	Frequency (N=266)	Percentage (%)
Violence		
Yes	139	52.3
No	127	47.7
Forms of Violence		
Physical Violence	82	30.8
Sexual Violence	71	26.7
Emotional Violence	73	27.4
Digital Violence	87	32.7
Age		
15-18 Years	62	23.3
19-24 Years	204	76.7
Gender		
Male	66	24.8
Female	200	75.2
Knowledge		
Poor	41	15.4
Sufficient	109	41.0
Good	116	43.6
Attitude		
Accepting	153	57.5
Rejecting	113	42.5
Experience		
Yes	136	51.1
No	130	48.9
Social Support		
No	128	48.1

Yes	138	51.9
Length of Relationship		
<6 months	44	16.5
6-12 months	83	31.2
>1 year	139	52.3
Relationship Inequality		
Yes	161	60.5
No	105	39.5
Gender Inequality		
Yes	162	60.9
No	104	39.1

Table 1 shows that 52.3% of respondents experienced dating violence, with the most common forms being digital violence (32.7%), physical violence (30.8%), emotional violence (27.4%), and sexual violence (26.7%). The majority of respondents were aged 19–24 (76.7%) and female (75.2%). Most had good knowledge (43.6%), but 57.5% had an attitude of accepting violence, and 51.1% had experienced violence. Fifty-one percent of respondents had social support, with the majority having relationships lasting more than one year (52.3%). Furthermore, most respondents experienced relationship inequality (60.5%) and gender inequality (60.9%).

Table 2. Bivariate test results.

Variables	Violence				Total		p-value	POR	95% CI	
	Yes		No						Lower	Upper
	n	%	n	%	n	%				
Age										
15-18 Years	41	66.1	21	33.9	62	100	0.019	2.112	1.167	3.822
19-24 Years	98	48.0	106	52.0	204	100				
Gender										
Male	33	50.0	33	50.0	66	100	0.779	0.887	0.508	1.547
Female	106	53.0	94	47.0	200	100				
Relationship Duration										
<6 months	16	36.4	28	63.6	44	100	0.044	2.051	1.019	4.125
6-12 months	48	57.8	35	42.2	83	100	0.574	0.854	0.494	1.479
>1 year	75	54.0	64	46.0	139	100				
Knowledge										
Poor	16	39.0	25	61.0	41	100	0.005	2.858	1.372	5.954
Sufficient	48	44.0	61	56.0	109	100	0.002	2.325	1.359	3.976
Good	75	64.7	41	35.3	116	100				
Attitude										
Accepting	91	59.5	62	40.5	153	100	0.009	1.988	1.214	3.255
Rejecting	48	42.5	65	57.2	113	100				
Experience of Violence										
Yes	113	83.1	23	16.9	136	100	0.000	19.652	10.561	36.570
No	26	20.0	104	80.0	130	100				
Social Support										
No	77	60.2	51	39.8	128	100	0.018	1.851	1.137	3.014
Yes	62	44.9	76	55.1	138	100				

Relationship Inequality										
Yes	125	77.6	36	22.4	161	100	0.000	22.569	11.505	44.275
No	14	13.3	91	86.7	105	100				
Gender Inequality										
Yes	125	77.2	37	22.8	162	100	0.000	21.718	11.091	42.529
No	14	13.5	90	86.5	104	100				

Based on Table 2, it is known that factors related to the incidence of dating violence in adolescents include age ($p=0.019$), duration of dating <6 months ($p=0.044$), insufficient knowledge ($p=0.005$) and sufficient ($p=0.002$), acceptance ($p=0.009$), experience of violence ($p=0.000$), social support ($p=0.018$), relationship inequality ($p=0.000$), and gender inequality ($p=0.000$). Meanwhile, gender did not show a significant relationship ($p=0.779$).

Table 3. Multivariate test results.

Variables	Violence				Total		Adjusted POR (95% CI)	p-value
	Yes		No					
	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Experience of Violence								
Yes	113	83.1	23	16.9	136	100	0.072 (0.032-0.163)	0.000
No	26	20.0	104	80.0	130	100	Ref	Ref
Social Support								
No	77	60.2	51	39.8	128	100	0.323 (0.144-0.724)	0.006
Yes	62	44.9	76	55.1	138	100	Ref	Ref
Relationship Inequality								
Yes	125	77.6	36	22.4	161	100	0.156 (0.063-0.383)	0.000
No	14	13.3	91	86.7	105	100	Ref	Ref
Gender Inequality								
Yes	125	77.2	37	22.8	162	100	0.117 (0.047-0.289)	0.000
No	14	13.5	90	86.5	104	100	Ref	Ref

Table 3 shows that the incidence of dating violence among adolescents is influenced by experiences of violence, social support, relationship inequality, and gender inequality. Based on the final multivariate analysis model, the most dominant variable is social support with an adjusted POR value of 0.323 (95% CI: 0.144–0.724). This indicates that adolescents with social support are less likely to experience dating violence compared to adolescents without social support. In addition, other variables such as experiences of violence (POR=0.072), relationship inequality (POR=0.156), and gender inequality (POR=0.117) also show a significant relationship with the incidence of dating violence. It is important to note that the adjusted POR values reported in Table 3 are less than 1.0, indicating a protective direction. Specifically, a POR of 0.323 for social support means that adolescents who received adequate social support had a 67.7% lower odds of experiencing dating violence compared to those without support. Similarly, relationship inequality (POR = 0.156) and gender inequality (POR = 0.117) show that adolescents without these conditions had substantially lower risk. These findings are consistent with the protective role of social support theorized in Cobb's (1976) social support framework and the risk-amplifying role of structural gender inequality as described in feminist theory (Pratama, 2024).

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study indicate that age was significantly associated with dating violence among adolescents. Dating violence was more commonly experienced by respondents aged 15–18 years (66.1%) than by those aged 19–24 years (48.0%), with a Chi-Square test yielding a p-value of 0.019 ($p < 0.05$). This finding differs from the WHO statement that dating violence is more common among individuals aged 19–24 years, which may be associated with longer relationship duration and greater emotional dependence (Surya, Ikhwanasyah, & Gavin, 2024). Nevertheless, the present finding is consistent with Bonomi et al. (2013), who reported that age was significantly associated with dating violence and that older adolescents tended to engage in more serious relationships, potentially increasing the risk of conflict and relationship inequality. Conversely, other research has found no significant association between age and stress related to dating violence, suggesting that the effects of dating violence may be influenced by other factors, including social support and coping mechanisms (Ayu, Sofiana and Sabrina, 2021). These variations suggest that the relationship between age and dating violence may depend on developmental stage, relationship characteristics, and the social context in which adolescents form intimate relationships.

Gender, in contrast, was not significantly associated with dating violence in this study. More than half of female respondents (53.0%) and half of male respondents (50.0%) reported experiencing dating violence, with a Chi-Square test yielding a p-value of 0.779 ($p > 0.05$). This finding suggests that dating violence may affect both males and females and that gender alone may not be a primary determinant of its occurrence. This is consistent with social learning theory, which emphasizes the influence of environmental exposure, previous experiences, and prevailing social norms on violent behavior. The finding is also supported by Hutami, Susilo and Suryawati (2021), who found no significant differences between males and females in experiences of dating violence. However, Dosil et al. (2020) reported gender-based differences in patterns of dating violence, particularly in relation to physical and psychological violence. Similarly, a study published in the *Journal of Adolescent Health* showed that adolescent girls were more likely than boys to report experiencing dating violence, particularly emotional and sexual violence, reflecting women's greater vulnerability in relationships characterized by power imbalances and unequal gender norms. These contrasting findings indicate that gender may interact with the type and context of violence rather than uniformly determining whether dating violence occurs.

Knowledge was significantly associated with dating violence. In this study, 64.7% of respondents with good knowledge experienced dating violence, compared with 44.0% of those with sufficient knowledge. Dating violence can have serious consequences, including post-traumatic stress, anxiety, and depression (Hasmayni, 2015). Previous research has shown that better knowledge, particularly concerning reproductive health and healthy relationships, is associated with a lower risk of dating violence ($p < 0.05$), whereas adolescents with limited knowledge may be more vulnerable because they have difficulty distinguishing between healthy and unhealthy relationships (Umroh, Soraya & Qomariyah, 2024). However, this finding differs from research that found no significant relationship between knowledge and dating violence ($p = 0.111$). One possible explanation is that knowledge alone may not be sufficient to prevent violence because adolescents may remain emotionally attached to their partners and therefore have difficulty avoiding or rejecting violent behaviors (Ariestina, 2009). Thus, knowledge should be accompanied by practical skills, assertiveness, self-efficacy, and awareness of healthy relationship boundaries.

Attitudes toward dating relationships were also significantly associated with dating violence. The proportion of respondents who experienced dating violence was higher among those with accepting attitudes (59.5%) than among those with rejecting attitudes (42.5%), and the Chi-Square test produced a p-value of 0.009. This finding is consistent with research demonstrating that permissive or justifying attitudes toward dating violence are closely related to involvement in violent relationships, either as perpetrators or victims, indicating that attitudes that normalize violence represent an important risk factor (Valdivia-Peralta et al., 2021). The finding can also be explained by Albert Bandura's social cognitive theory, which proposes that attitudes are formed through observation, experience, and imitation, while cognitive factors such as perceived self-control, self-efficacy, and expected behavioral outcomes influence the formation and maintenance of attitudes (Sulistiyawati, 2022). Conversely, this study differs from Indah's research, which found no significant relationship between attitudes and dating violence ($p\text{-value} > 0.05$). Differences may be related to adolescents' perceptions of behaviors such as pinching, teasing, or restricting partners as normal relationship behaviors, as well as to previous experiences that shape unhealthy relationship patterns. Consequently, interventions should not only improve adolescents' knowledge but also challenge attitudes that normalize controlling or aggressive behavior.

Previous experiences of violence showed the strongest bivariate association with dating violence. Among respondents who had previous experience of violence, 83.1% also experienced dating violence, compared with 20.0% among those without such experience, with a Chi-Square p-value of 0.000 ($p < 0.05$). This finding supports research indicating that adolescents exposed to violence within their families or immediate environments are more likely to experience dating violence because previous exposure can shape expectations, behavioral patterns, and responses within intimate relationships (Febryana & Aristi, 2019). Similarly, the assessing the effects of the safe dates program on adolescent dating violence perpetration and victimization study showed that previous experiences of violence, including domestic violence, harsh physical discipline, and witnessing violence between parents, were significantly associated with adolescent involvement in dating violence (Foshee et al., 2013). However, not all forms of experience demonstrated a significant association. In particular, the length of a dating relationship was not significantly associated with violence in some studies ($p > 0.05$), suggesting that relationship quality and interaction dynamics may be more important than duration alone (Manoppo & Kanai, 2024). These findings emphasize the importance of considering adolescents' broader violence exposure and family environment when designing preventive interventions.

Social support was significantly associated with dating violence, with 60.2% of adolescents who lacked social support experiencing dating violence compared with 44.9% of those who received social support ($p = 0.018$; $p < 0.05$). This finding is consistent with research showing that low social support is associated with a greater risk of dating violence ($p < 0.05$). Peer support is particularly important because adolescents who receive supportive responses are more likely to disclose their experiences and make decisions to leave unhealthy relationships, although the quality of support may vary from positive emotional support to negative responses such as blaming, which may influence the victim's decision to remain in the relationship (Salsafania, 2021). Research in the United States also indicates that support from family and friends acts as a protective factor, whereas social isolation increases vulnerability to dating violence (Foshee et al., 2013). In addition, social support can reduce the risk of violence in intimate relationships by providing emotional security and access to sources of assistance (Coker et al., 2000). Nevertheless, social support alone may not eliminate the risk because adolescents with

strong support networks can still experience violence, particularly when emotional dependence and relationship imbalances are present. This indicates that strengthening social support should be accompanied by assertiveness and interpersonal skills training.

Relationship length was also significantly associated with dating violence in this study. Dating violence was reported by 57.8% of respondents whose relationships lasted 6–12 months, 54.0% of those in relationships lasting more than one year, and 36.4% of those in relationships lasting less than six months, with a Chi-Square p-value of 0.044 ($p < 0.05$). These findings are consistent with previous research showing that longer relationships may involve greater emotional attachment and the repetition of aggressive interaction patterns, increasing the risk of violence (Ermalinda & Kiuk, 2025). Relationship duration may also influence partner dynamics and tolerance of aggressive behavior, particularly when couples lack healthy conflict-resolution skills. However, other research found no significant relationship between dating duration and violence ($p=0.968$), which the authors attribute to differences in respondent characteristics and relationship contexts (Manoppo & Kanal, 2024). This finding also contrasts with Straus' theory, which suggests that relationships lasting ≥ 1 year may carry a higher risk of violence because of increasing conflict complexity (Tunisa & Damaiyanti, 2021). Therefore, relationship duration should be interpreted together with the quality of communication, conflict management, emotional dependence, and patterns of control within the relationship.

Relationship inequality demonstrated a highly significant association with dating violence. In this study, 77.6% of respondents who experienced relationship inequality also experienced dating violence, compared with only 13.3% among those who did not experience relationship inequality ($p = 0.000$; $p < 0.05$). These findings indicate that unequal relationships characterized by differences in power, control, and decision-making may create conditions conducive to dating violence. Research reported in *Dementia: Journal of Sociological Studies* suggests that gender inequality can trigger violence through dominance by one partner, often reinforced by patriarchal norms that normalize dominant behavior in romantic relationships (Sari, 2018). Likewise, power imbalances have been associated with increased aggression in dating relationships, particularly when one partner exercises greater psychological or relational dominance (Cucci et al., 2020). However, relationship inequality does not always result in violence because emotional regulation and conflict dynamics may modify the relationship between power differences and aggressive behavior (Giordano et al., 2010). Inequality may therefore manifest not only through physical violence but also through domination, controlling behavior, and emotional pressure, underscoring the importance of promoting equality, mutual respect, and healthy communication.

Gender inequality was likewise significantly associated with dating violence. The results showed that 77.2% of respondents who experienced gender inequality also experienced dating violence, whereas only 13.5% of those who did not experience gender inequality reported dating violence, resulting in a highly significant Chi-Square p-value of 0.000. Attitudes that are unsupportive of gender equality may contribute to dating violence because gender norms and prescribed roles can influence aggressive and controlling behavior in romantic relationships. Men with negative attitudes toward gender equality may be at greater risk of perpetrating violence against female partners (Azmiyani, 2016). This finding is consistent with research showing that unequal power relations can reinforce dominance and control, particularly among couples who maintain traditional gender norms (Rinja, Jaya & Laxmi, 2024). From a feminist perspective, these conditions may reflect patriarchal structures that place women in more vulnerable positions in relation to control and violence (Pratama, 2024). Nevertheless, gender roles are not always significantly associated with dating violence because the relationship may also be shaped by

education, personality, and broader social norms (Pratama, 2024). Therefore, gender inequality should be understood as a multidimensional risk factor whose effects depend on the social and interpersonal context.

Multivariate analysis identified social support as the most dominant factor associated with dating violence among adolescents. Logistic regression showed that adolescents with low social support were more likely to experience violence than those with high social support (p -value = 0.006; POR = 0.323; 95% CI: 0.144–0.724). The interview findings further indicated that adolescents commonly preferred confiding in peers because peers were perceived as more understanding and less judgmental. The support they received ranged from positive emotional encouragement to negative responses, such as blaming, which could affect victims' perceptions and decisions to remain in or leave unhealthy relationships (Salsafania, 2021). These findings are consistent with studies showing that social support can improve psychological well-being and resilience among adolescent victims of violence (Rusyidi & Hidayat, 2020), enhance psychological well-being (Hendriyanti, 2024), and improve the ability to cope with emotional stress (Wijaya & Wahyuni, 2024). Other studies have demonstrated that peer support can reduce the risk of subsequent dating violence (Febriana, Kusmawati & Novrika, 2024) and that social support within school settings is associated with a lower risk of becoming a victim of violence (Jankowiak et al., 2020). From the perspective of Social Support Theory, social support functions through emotional reinforcement, validation of experiences, and assistance in decision-making (Thoits, 2011). In contrast, the absence of support may reinforce the normalization of violence and create psychological barriers to leaving abusive relationships. The prominence of social support as a protective factor may also reflect the collectivist sociocultural context of Indonesian society, in which peer relationships and family bonds play an important role in individual decision-making and self-worth. Adolescents embedded in supportive social networks may be better able to recognize, name, and resist abusive dynamics because their social environment provides emotional validation and practical guidance. Conversely, socially isolated adolescents may lack the reference points needed to distinguish healthy from unhealthy relationship behaviors, increasing their susceptibility to the normalization of violence. The strong associations observed for relationship inequality and gender inequality further indicate that patriarchal norms and unequal power structures may create conditions that facilitate dating violence, particularly by legitimizing dominance and control within romantic relationships.

The findings demonstrate that dating violence among adolescents is a multidimensional phenomenon influenced by individual, relational, experiential, and social factors. Although gender was not significantly associated with dating violence, age, knowledge, attitudes, previous experiences of violence, social support, relationship length, relationship inequality, and gender inequality showed significant associations. Among these factors, social support emerged as the dominant factor in the multivariate analysis, highlighting the importance of strengthening supportive peer, family, and school environments as part of dating violence prevention. Preventive programs should therefore move beyond knowledge-based education and incorporate healthy relationship education, assertiveness, conflict-resolution skills, gender-equitable attitudes, early identification of violence, and accessible support systems for adolescents experiencing unhealthy relationships.

This study has a limitation in that its cross-sectional design identifies associations between the examined factors and dating violence but cannot establish temporal or causal relationships. In addition, the use of self-reported information may have introduced reporting or recall bias, particularly because dating violence is a sensitive topic that

adolescents may be reluctant to disclose fully. Therefore, future studies should consider longitudinal designs and triangulation using multiple data sources to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the factors that contribute to dating violence among adolescents.

4. CONCLUSION

This study concludes that dating violence among adolescents in South Tangerang is influenced by multiple individual, relational, and social factors, including age, knowledge, attitudes, previous experiences of violence, social support, relationship length, relationship inequality, and gender inequality. Among these factors, social support emerged as the most influential protective factor, while qualitative findings highlighted the important role of peer support in helping adolescents recognize unhealthy relationship patterns, seek assistance, and make decisions to leave harmful relationships. These findings underscore the need for comprehensive and multidimensional prevention strategies. Health workers and schools should strengthen peer-led education and support programs focusing on healthy relationships, gender equality, communication, assertiveness, and early recognition of dating violence. Local governments should integrate dating violence prevention into adolescent protection policies, school-based health programs, and youth development initiatives. The findings should, however, be interpreted in light of the study limitations, particularly the cross-sectional design, which limits causal interpretation, and the use of purposive sampling, which may restrict the transferability of the findings to the wider adolescent population. Future research should employ longitudinal approaches and probability-based sampling to strengthen evidence on the determinants and prevention of dating violence among adolescents in urban Indonesia.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Wirdatul Jannah contributed to the conceptualization and design of the study, data collection, formal analysis, interpretation of the quantitative and qualitative findings, and preparation of the initial manuscript draft. Lusyta Puri Ardhiyanti, as corresponding author, contributed to the study design, methodological supervision, interpretation of the findings, and critical revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content. Laily Hanifah contributed to the validation of the research instruments, data analysis, and critical revision of the manuscript. Een Kurnaesih contributed to the qualitative data collection and thematic analysis, interpretation of the findings, and critical revision of the manuscript. Dyah Utari contributed to the literature review, interpretation of the findings, and critical revision of the manuscript. All authors reviewed and approved the final version of the manuscript for publication and agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

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DECLARATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE USE

No generative artificial intelligence (AI) was used to generate the scientific content, data, analysis, interpretation, or conclusions of this manuscript. The authors take full responsibility for the content of the manuscript.

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