

**WHY DO WIVES REFUSE TO HAVE SEX
WITH THEIR HUSBANDS? :
THE OPINIONS OF INDONESIAN WOMEN**



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ABSTRACT:

This study aims to determine factors influencing Indonesian women's opinions on their refusal to have sexual intercourse with their husbands if the husbands had STI, or if the husbands had sex with other women, or if wives has recently given birth, or if wives was tired or not in the mood.

Secondary data from the Indonesia Demographic and Health Survey (IDHS) in 2007 was used. Total number of sample in this study is 7,696 currently married women aged 15-49 years. Binary logistic regressions were used to examine the effects of demographic, socio-economic and health factors on women's opinions to refuse having sexual intercourse with their husbands if the husbands had STI, or if the husbands had sex with other women, or if wives has recently given birth, or if wives was tired or not in the mood. The results show that women in different age groups, occupation and AIDS's knowledge had different opinions on refusal to have sexual intercourse with their husbands.

Therefore, women's empowerment programs are very important to improve women abilities to communicate about sexual behavior and safe sex with their husbands. Information, education and communication (IEC) and behavior change communication (BCC) programs, which target both men and women, are needed to increase their knowledge on STIs and HIV/AIDS leading to have safe sexual behavior. It can also encourage gender equity and reproductive health rights.

**KEY WORDS: REFUSE TO HAVE SEX/ NEGOTIATION/ KNOWLEDGE ON
HIV/AIDS/ STD/STI / SAFE SEX/ WOMEN EMPOWERMENT/
SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR**

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