Demographic Characteristics Related to First Married Age in Indonesia

Najib✉, Urip Triwijayanti, Wahyu Utomo

Badan Kependudukan dan Keluarga Berencana Nasional

Article Info

Abstract

Quantitative population growth but does not compensates with the quality will be a problem. One of the efforts to reduce the population growth rate is the age of first marriage. Based on BPS data in 2017, early marriage in Indonesia is 25.71 percent, meaning that in every 100 marriages, there are 25 couples less than 18 years. This study aims to study the factors affecting the age of first marriage (UKP) in Indonesia. The data used were the results of the 2017 RPJMN Survey with a sample of 51,493 people. The data was taken by systematic random sampling, then the unit of analysis was taken FAW (15-49 years) married as many as 40,268 respondents. The variables studied included residence, wealth quintile, education level, employment status, and age at first marriage. The analysis was performed using descriptive and inferential methods using binary logistic regression models. The results showed 21,405 (53.2%) women at first marriage were more than 20 years old. Meanwhile, those under 20 years of age totaled 18,863 people (46.8%). Statistically, there is a significant relationship between the variables of age at first marriage and residence, wealth quintile, education level, and employment status. Women aged 15-49 years tend to marry or have a high risk of experiencing the age of first marriage over 20 years are those who live in urban areas, high economic status, highly educated, and working.

Introduction

Very high population growth will harm the socio-economic life of the community. When it is not followed by the increase in human quality. Therefore, it is necessary to control the population so that there is no population explosion resulting in a demographic disaster. The Central Statistics Agency (BPS) and Bappenas predicted that from 2000 - 2025 young people will dominate Indonesia's population structure. Of the 66.8 million reproductive-age female population (15-49 years), around 10.7 million are adolescent girls aged 15-19. In 2025, the reproductive-age female population will be 70.8 million, and the number of girls aged 15-19 will increase by 10.1 million (BPS et al., 2013).

The increase in population in an area is caused by, among others, fertility, mortality, and migration. Fertility is a factor that most plays an important role in population growth. The term fertility is the same as live birth, which is the release of a baby from a woman's womb with signs of life; for example, screaming, breathing, heart beating, and so on (Muharry et al., 2018). Based on IDHS data, trends in the total birth rate (TFR) show a decrease in the average birth rate from 1991 to 2017. Indonesia's TFR figures fell from 3.0 (1991 IDHS) to 2.6 (2007 and 2012 IDHS) and 2, 4 (2017 IDHS). Although the total birth rate has decreased by 0.4, it has not yet reached the target of 2.1 as stipulated in the 2015-2019 RPJMN to achieve a balanced population growth.

One of the factors causing the high or low fertility of women is the age at first marriage (UNICEF, 2005). In his research, Muharry (2018) stated factors affecting fertility are demographic and non-demographic, including

the age of first marriage. Studies in Uganda showed that age at first marriage has a higher effect on fertility changes (Ariho & Kabagenyi, 2020). Research in Manipur has a significant relationship between age at first marriage and fertility (Kameih & Kshatriya, 2018). The age of first marriage is the age of first marriage for a woman through a legal and biological marriage bond, which means that the reproductive period of fertilization begins (BPS et al., 2013). According to BKKBN, the age at first marriage is the age a woman married for the first time. Age at first marriage and fertility are inversely related. If the younger the age of first marriage, the woman tend to have more children because she experiences a longer reproductive age. And the opposite applies to women who marry at adulthood have a short reproductive age and have the opportunity to have fewer children.

The age at a first marriage under the age of 20 in Indonesia is still high. We can see this situation from the results of the 2017 SRPJMN of 20 years. But in 2019, it became 19.6 years (SKAP 2019). This means that there is a tendency for WUS to marry under 20 years of age in 2019. The 2012 IDHS data shows that the median age at first marriage has increased from year to year, from 17.7 years in 1991 to 20.1 years in 2012. The median age at first marriage for women age 25-49 years is 20.4 years, while for women who have been married age 25-49 years is 20.1 years. The median age at first marriage for currently married men aged 25-54 years is 24.3 years. In general, women aged 25-49 who live in urban areas marry two years later than women who live in rural areas, namely 21.5 years compared to 19.1 years. (BPS et al., 2013).

Meanwhile, based on data from the Central Statistics Agency in 2017, the rate of early marriage in Indonesia is 25.71 percent, meaning that 25 out of 100 or 1 in 4 marriages in Indonesia are less than 18 years old (Adi, 2016). Marriage is an important part of a person's life. It increases the responsibility of each partner. Such as meeting daily needs, both material and non-material. For couples marriage at a young age is usually not ready psychologically, socially, and economically. It is in line with Blom and Reddy's (1984) statement mentioning the age at marriage has

a strong influence on demographic, social, and economic phenomena.

In society, there is a belief that girls who are not married soon will become spinsters. It will be difficult to find a spouse. So that most parents, especially in rural areas, marry off girls at a relatively young age. It aligns with what Wahyuni expressed, the culture positions a young woman who is not married as a spinster (Wahyuni, 2013). Parents tend to encourage their daughters to marry even though they are still children. They hope that the marriage will be financially and socially beneficial. In general, the phenomenon of young marriage is difficult to change because it is related to tradition and culture (Fadlyana, 2009).

Ketut Sudibia mentioned in his research that factors affecting the decline in age at first marriage in Bali province are education, access to mass media, the value of parental assets, and work status. Each has a positive effect on age at first marriage (Sudibia, 2015). Meanwhile, research conducted by Nazilatur Rohmah regarding "the factors that influence the age of first marriage of women in Sidayu sub-district, Gresik Regency" shows that there is a significant influence between education, work status, and knowledge on a young marriage. There is a difference in the research conducted by Lia Kurniawati in 2017 related age at first marriage in Malang. It said no significant relationship between work status and the age of a woman's first marriage (Lia Kurniawati, 2017).

The National Population and Family Planning Board (BKKBN) has a marriage age maturity program (PUP). The goal is to increase the age of first marriage, 20 years for women and 25 years for men. It is different from previous studies that examine factors of age at first marriage in certain areas. This study was broader. It examined the factors affecting it in Indonesia and how much effect of each factor. The information gained will be used to form an effective and targeted solution in dealing with the age of first marriage in various countries. The purpose of this study is to analyze the relationship between age at first marriage in Indonesia concerning the following factors: residence, education, work status, and economy (wealth quintile).

Method

This type of research is quantitative. The data source is from the 2017 BKKBN National Medium Term Development Plan (Rancangan Pembangunan Jangka Menengah Nasional/ RPJMN) Survey. The population is women of reproductive age 15-49 years in Indonesia. A sample of 51,493 people was taken by systematic random sampling, while the unit of analysis was fertile age women (15-49 years) who were married, namely 40,268 people. The data collection used a structured questionnaire.

In this study, there is a dependent variable, namely the age of first marriage. The independent variables are demographic characteristics include the residential area, education, work status, and economic status (wealth quintile) of the household. The residential area is urban and rural. The education is whether or not they have never attended school, SD, SLTP, SLTA, D1 / D2 / D3 / Academy, and Higher Education. Employment status is obtained from work or not work. Meanwhile, the economic status variable (wealth quintile) is categorized into five groups, namely lowest, lower-middle, middle, upper, and upper-middle class.This research carried out processing and data analysis in three parts. First, univariate analysis. Second, bivariate analysis using cross-tabulation (crosstab) through the chi-square test. Third, multivariate analysis with logistic regression to see whether the variables used significantly affect the first marriage age.

Result and Discussion

In this study, the dependent variable was the women's age on first married and grouped by age. Researchers have categorized it into two groups: first, women with first marriage under the age of 20 years and the second, women with first marriage aged equal to or above 20 years. This grouping is by the age limit of first marriage for women programmed by the BKKBN, namely 20 years old, while men aged 25 years.

Table 1 shows that almost half of the ever-married women are married at the age below 20 years. This situation is not in line with the BKKBN program target in its efforts to decrease young marriages. It was related to the marriage age maturity (Pendewasaan Usia Perkawinan/ PUP) program release implemented in the Planning Generation (Generasi Berencana/ Genre) program expecting women to get married at the age of ≥ 20 years and men aged ≥ 25 years both in urban and rural areas.

From the regional characteristics view, of 15,412 women who live in urban areas, 9,873 or 64.1% were age at first marriage was equal to or over 20 years, and 5,539 women (35.9%) had first marriage age under 20 years. Meanwhile, in rural areas, 11,532 women (46.4%) had their first married age equal to or more than 20 years and 13,324 women (53.6%) had their first married under the age of 20. Thus based on the residential area of women whose age at first marriage was under 20 years, the percentage occurred more in rural than urban areas. Research results in Nepal also show that early marriage and early motherhood are relatively common among Nepalese women, especially in rural areas (Choe et al., 2005). In Bangladesh, one of the major determinants of early marriage is residence (Kamal et al., 2015). In line with this research, Blom and Reddy's stated that the age of marriage has a strong influence on demographic, social, and economic phenomena (Bloom & Reddy, 1986).

When viewed from the formal education level, the higher the level of education or length of schooling, the higher the percentage of a woman's first-marriage age. Of the women whose education level only primary school, 35.5% had their first marriage on over 20 years, while 64.5% were married under 20. Meanwhile, at the tertiary level, women whose age at first marriage was above 20 years amounted to 89.6%, and the remaining 10.4% were married under the age of 20. It is in line with Ketut Sudibia's research in 2015 regarding factors affecting the decline in age at first marriage in Bali province, which stated that education, access to mass media, parental assets value, and work status have a positive effect on first-marriage age. Other research found first-marriage age was significantly positively related to the education level of men and women with employment status in Iran (Mahdaviazad et al., 2019). Aryal's study mentioned education and age are the most influenced factors in determining the age of first marriage in Nepal

Table 1. Percentage Distribution of First Marriage Age (FMA) on Ever-marriage Women Age 15-49 Years Based on Individual Characteristics

Variable	FMA Category		Total	P value
	FMA ≥ 20 years	FMA < 20 years		
Age	53,2%	46,8%	100%	
	21405	18863	40268	
Residential area				
Urban	64,1%	35,9%	100%	
	9873	5539	15412	0.0000
Rural	46,4%	53,6%	100%	
	11532	13324	24856	
Welfare Quintile				
Bottom-low	44,80%	55,20%	100%	
	3282	4040	7322	
Bottom-middle	47%	53%	100%	
	3618	4079	7697	
Middle	50%	49,90%	100%	0.0000
	4012	3992	8004	
Middle-up	55,40%	44,60%	100%	
	4669	3757	8426	
High-up	66,10%	33,90%	100%	
	5825	2994	8819	
Education				
No education	37,90%	62,10%	100%	
	248	406	654	
Elementary	35,50%	64,50%	100%	
	5114	9293	14407	
Junior High	43,60%	56,40%	100%	
	3981	5159	9140	0.0000
Senior High	69,50%	30,50%	100%	
	8092	3549	11641	
Diploma	89,80%	10,20%	100%	
	1227	139	1366	
Graduate	89,60%	10,40%	100%	
	2744	317	3061	
Employment Status				
Working	58,40%	41,60%	100%	
	8168	5814	1392	0.0000
Not working	50,40%	49,60%	100%	
	13237	13049	26286	

*significant on p-value< 0,01

Source: SRPJMN Data Process Result, 2017

(Aryal, 2007). Statistically, education, work, place of residence, and poverty are associated with early marriage (Wahyudi et al., 2019).

Women who undergo higher education will indirectly delay their marriage. Education hinders a woman's desire to marry. Education is the most important thing for a person to be able to improve his quality of life. Related to education, BKKBN is involved in providing various kinds of access and information and

facilities related to welfare programs. One of which is reproductive health education and eight family functions.

In terms of working status, women who were first married under 20 years of work were 41.6%, while those who did not work were 49.6%. Research conducted by Nazilatur Rohmah regarding "the factors affecting first-marriage age of women in Sidayu sub-district, Gresik Regency" shows significant influence between education, work status, and knowledge on a young marriage. Aryal also stated work is the most influential factor in determining the first-marriage age in Nepal (Aryal, 2007). In Bangladesh, a study found employment status and parent's decisions are factors determining early marriage (Rahman et al., 2005). Findings in Iran mentioned that age of the first time married is significantly related to work status (Mahdaviazad et al., 2019)

The regression model suitable for this study is to test the influence between the Y and X variables, namely using binary logistics. Before carrying out binary logistic regression, a model fit test is needed to determine whether the model formed is correct or not, using the Hosmer and lime-show test. The test was able to meet the adequacy test of mode 1, namely 66.9 percent and a significance value of 0.000. This section describes the differences in the tendency or risk of ever-married women aged 15-49 years to have the age of first-marriage based on the demographic and socio-economic factors studied. The variables tested, Y is the age at first-marriage classified into two categories, namely ≥ 20 years and <20 years. Whereas for variable X, namely residence, wealth quintile, education level, and work status.

Table 2 presents the results of multivariate data processing using a binary logistic regression model. The result of multivariate analysis data processing using binary logistic regression models showed that all independent variables used in the study had a significant effect (p-value <0.05) on the chance of the incidence of age at first marriage in ever-married women aged 15-49 years. Women who live in cities tend to experience marriage (first marriage age/FMA) at maturity (≥20 years), 1.411 times greater than women who live in villages. Therefore, the age at first marriage for women in the city is more than/equal to 20 years. It is in line with the results of the IDHS reporting conducted by the BKKBN. It mentioned women aged 25-49 who live in urban areas marry two years later than women living in rural areas, namely 21.5 years compared to 19.1 years (BKKBN,2013). Women with low welfare or low wealth quintile tend to marry at maturity (≥20 years), 0.016 smaller than the most prosperous. Women with middle and upper-middle welfare levels tend to be 0.048 and 0.033 less than those with the highest income. The interpretation of it that of all welfare levels, the ones most likely to marry at mature age are those with the highest, middle, upper-middle, and lowest welfare levels. Research in Pakistan showed that early marriage is significantly associated with indicators of low social justice. Namely poverty, rural residence, and no formal education (Nasrullah et al., 2014).

The women's tendency who do not work to marry at a mature age (≥20 years) is 0.891 smaller than women who work. It means that working women are more likely to marry at a maturer age than those who do not work. Women who do not work tend to marry under the age of 20. The tendency of women who have not or do not go to school to get married at the mature age is 0.078, less than those who go to college. The tendency of women who graduated from elementary school to get married at a mature age is 0.072, less than those with graduate education. The tendency of women who graduated from high school to get married at a mature age is 0.279, less than those with graduate education. The tendency of women with D3 (diploma 3) education to get married at a mature age is 1.032, more than women with higher degrees education. So we can conclude that the possibility of women getting married over the age of 20, sequences from highest to lowest, are D3, graduate, senior high, junior high, not going to school, and the smallest being elementary school graduates. It is the leading role of the government as the policymaker. They must be able to open up as much access as possible for women to obtain higher education. Education often being seen as the key to preventing child marriage (UNICEF, 2005). The results of this study show that ever-married women aged 15-49 years who have the

highest tendency or risk to experience FMA at the age of ≥ 20 years have some characteristics. They are: living in urban areas, coming from families with the highest economic status, educated relatively high, and at the time of the survey stated work. A study in China mentioned education is one of the factors significantly affecting the age of first marriage for both men and women (Jin et al., 2005). A study result in Madagascar mentioned that education and parent's wealth have a significant influence on school and marriage (Glick et al., 2015).

Overall, the results relatively the same as the results of other national and international researchers. As Wahyudi et. al. find employment, education, housing, and poverty are associated with young marriage (Wahyudi et al., 2019). From an economic point of view, it turns out that the younger the woman, the more expensive the dowry. So it will indirectly affect the wealth quintile of a household. But in terms of reproductive health, women aged less than 20 years of marriage have a high risk, both physically and psychologically. For parents, the faster a child gets married, the less burden on the parents. It will change the stages of welfare from the lowest quintile to the higher quintile.

The results showed that the level of education affects young marriage. Lack of family understanding of adolescent reproductive health exacerbated it. Which will result in the inability to establish good communication between parents and children, especially concerning things that are still considered taboo, such as fertility, menstruation, puberty, etc. Muharry's research results et al. stated that women with low father's education and poor family background have a greater chance of getting married earlier (Muharry et al., 2018).

Table 2. Logistic Regression Model for First Marriage Age of Women Age 15-49 Based on Demographic, Education and Social-economic Characteristic.

Variabel	B	S.E.	Wald	Sig.	Exp(B)
Tempat tinggal					
Perkotaan	.346	.025	191.993	.000	1.414
Perdesaan					
Status Bekerja					
Tidak bekerja	-.115	.024	23.870	.000	.891
Bekerja					
Jenjang Pendidikan			3933.392	.000	
Belum/tidak pernah sekolah	-2.546	.102	626.997	.000	.078
SD	-2.625	.064	1697.923	.000	.072
SLTP	-2.303	.064	1279.696	.000	.100
SLTA	-1.278	.064	401.927	.000	.279
D1/D2/D3/Akademi Perguruan Tinggi	.031	.108	.083	.773	1.032
Kuintil Kekayaan			29.865	.000	
Terbawah	.094	.039	5.847	.016	1.098
Menengah Bawah	-.016	.037	.183	.669	.984
Menengah	-.071	.036	3.923	.048	.932
Menengah Atas	-.074	.035	4.540	.033	.928
Teratas					
Konstanta	2.027	.064	997.203	.000	7.595

Source: SRPJMN data process result, 2017

Conclusion

The results of the bivariate analysis showed that there is a significant relationship between each independent variable and the dependent variable. Related variables include residence, wealth quintile, education level, and employment status. The binary logistic regression test results showed that the most significant variable affecting women on the age of marriage is residence OR = 1.414, wealth quintile OR = 1.098, education level OR = 1.032, employment status OR = 0.891. Women who live in rural areas and have low education, namely women who have graduated from elementary school, are not working, and have low economic status have a greater tendency and risk to experience the age of first marriage under the age of 20. On the other hand, women who live in urban areas, have a higher education level, have a job, and have high economic status have a higher chance of experiencing first marriage at over 20 years old.

The government must provide greater access for women to formal education and aggressively promote 12-year compulsory education. Besides, the government and the private sector are expected to create more job opportunities. So they can encourage women to enter the world of work in both the formal and informal sectors, especially in rural areas. Also, there are more basic efforts to protect women's interests to achieve gender equality and empower women. One of which is by ratifying existing regulations. Finally, to promote the Marriage Age Maturity program and the need for legal support in its application to reduce the level of FMA under 20 years of age for women.

References

Ariho, P., & Kabagenyi, A., 2020. Age at First Marriage, Age at First Sex, Family Size Preferences, Contraception and Change in Fertility Among Women in Uganda: Analysis of the 2006-2016 Period. BMC Women's Health, 20(1), pp.1–13.

Aryal, T.R., 2007. Age at First Marriage in Nepal: Differentials and Determinants. Journal of Biosocial Science, 39(5), pp.693–706.

Bezie, M., & Addisu, D., 2019. Determinants of Early Marriage Among Married Women in Injibara Town, North West Ethiopia: Community-based Cross-sectional Study. BMC Women's Health, 19(1), pp.1–6.

Bloom, D.E., & Reddy, P.H., 1986. Age Patterns of Women at Marriage, Cohabitation, and First Birth in India. Demography, 23(4), pp.509–523.

BPS, BKKBN, DK, & Macro International., 2013. Survei Demografi dan Kesehatan Indonesia 2012. SDKI.

Choe, M.K., Thapa, S., & Mishra, V., 2005. Early Marriage and Early Motherhood in Nepal. Journal of Biosocial Science, 37(2), pp.143–162.

Glick, P., Handy, C., & Sahn, D.E., 2015. Schooling, Marriage, and Age at First Birth in Madagascar. Population Studies, 69(2), pp.219–236.

Jin, X., Li, S., & Feldman, M.W., 2005. Marriage form and Age at First Marriage: A Comparative Study in Three Counties in Contemporary Rural China. Social Biology, 52(1–2), pp.18–46.

Kamal, S.M.M., Hassan, C.H., Alam, G.M., & Ying, Y., 2015. Child Marriage in Bangladesh: Trends and Determinants. Journal of Biosocial Science, 47(1), pp.120–139.

Kameih, G., & Kshatriya, G.K., 2018. Determinants of Demographic Characteristics of the Lamkang Tribe, Manipur. Homo, 69(5), pp.273–279.

Lia Kurniawati, D., 2017. Hubungan antara Tingkat Pendidikan, Status pekerjaan, dan Tingkat Pendapatan dengan Usia Perkawinan Pertama Wanita di Kelurahan Kota Lama Kecamatan Kedungkandang Kota Malang. Preventia, 2(1).

Mahdaviazad, H., Malekmakan, L., Sayadi, M., & Tadayon, T., 2019. Trends in Age at First Marriage in Women and Related Factors: A Population-based Study in Southwestern Iran. Women and Health, 59(2), pp.171–180.

Muharry, A., Hakimi, M., & Wahyuni, B., 2018. Family Structure and Early Marriage on Women in Indramayu Regency. Jurnal Kesehatan Masyarakat, 13(3), pp.314–322.

Nasrullah, M., Muazzam, S., Bhutta, Z.A., & Raj, A., 2014. Girl Child Marriage and Its Effect on Fertility in Pakistan: Findings from Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey, 2006-2007. Maternal and Child Health Journal, 18(3), pp.534–543.

Nour, N.M., 2009. Child Marriage: A Silent Health and Human Rights Issue. Reviews in Obstetrics & Gynecology, 2(1), pp.51–56.

Rahman, M.M., & Kabir, M., 2005. Do Adolescents Support Early Marriage in Bangladesh? Evidence from Study. JNMA; Journal of the

Nepal Medical Association, 44(159), pp.73–78.

Stark, L., 2018. Early Marriage and Cultural Constructions of Adulthood in Two Slums in Dar es Salaam. Culture, Health and Sexuality, 20(8), pp.888–901.

Sudibia, D., 2015. Faktor-faktor yang Mempengaruhi Menurunnya Usia Kawin Pertama di Provinsi Bali. Piramida, XI, (2)pp.43.

Tey, N.P., Lai, S.L., & Ng, S.T., 2019. Age at Menarche and Sexual Debut among Young Filipino Women. Journal of Biosocial Science, 51(1), pp.77–94.

UNICEF., 2005. Early Marriage A Harmful Traditional Practice.

Wahyudi, T., Hasanbasri, M., Kusnanto, H., & Hakimi, M., 2019. Social Determinants of Health of Child Marriage (Analysis of IFLS 2000, 2007, 2014). Jurnal Kesehatan Masyarakat, 15(1), pp.62–68.

Wahyuni, D., 2013. Penelitian Operasional : Pengembangan KIE Pendewasaan Usia Perkawinan di Tingkat Kab/Kota. Skripsi. Fakultas Kesehatan Masyarakat, Universitas Jember

Yaya, S., Odusina, E.K., & Bishwajit, G., 2019. Prevalence of Child Marriage and Its Impact on Fertility Outcomes in 34 Sub-Saharan African Countries. BMC International Health and Human Rights, 19(1), pp.1–11.